



THUTO

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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Deputy Minister Surty *In Pursuit of Dignity*



Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, has just released his debut book, titled *In Pursuit of Dignity*, which has succeeded in drawing attention amongst a wide variety of South Africans across various sectors.

During the Rustenburg launch on 23 April 2019, the book kept Deputy Minister exceedingly occupied as readers lined up for the author's signature, as well as photographic opportunities with this enigmatic politician. Deputy Minister Surty is currently embarking on a four city launch to Rustenburg, Pretoria, Johannesburg and Durban.



Deputy Minister Surty announced that the net proceeds of the book will be donated as an endowment for the benefit of the early childhood development of children with disabilities and the promotion of young black writers.

On *In Pursuit of Dignity*, Mr Surty explained: "This book is a culmination of recreational writing over several years, most of which was written whilst travelling between Johannesburg and Cape Town. In conversation with friends, I gradually came to the realisation that I had something to communicate, specifically, my experiences and perspectives of momentous occasions in which I was one of so many participants".

The author uses the memoir to depict the contributions made by various political figures in the fight against the Apartheid Regime. He further outlines the importance of human dignity and social cohesion in a non-racial and non-sexist society in building a united South Africa.

Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, applauded Deputy Minister Surty on the release of his book, saying that it would add value to the education system as it acknowledges the importance of strengthening quality education at Early Childhood Development (ECD) level. Minister Motshekga then thanked Deputy Minister Surty for having been her pillar of strength in improving quality education in the country, and described him as "someone with a sharp sense of humour and a strong character who always treats people with respect and humanity".





Boreholes handed over to six Mpumalanga schools



Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty and Awqaf South Africa recently unveiled six boreholes which brought, for the first time in over a year, running water to the learners of Ekwenzeni Primary School in the Mpumalanga Province.

A stone's throw away from the Kruger National Park and in close proximity to the Mozambique and Swaziland borders lies the seemingly sleepy township of Steenbok. Famed for its wildlife reserves and wilderness, Steenbok for all its beauty is an area plagued by an unreliable water supply.

"A few weeks ago we dug two boreholes, installed a water tank and a reticulation system that pumps the water into the municipal supply. The school now has drinkable water, flushing toilets and food for the newly established food garden, which supplies vegetables for the school's feeding scheme," said Faizal Essack, a volunteer for Aqwaf South Africa.

The partnership has seen six schools benefit from the construction of boreholes. "Education is a societal issue, and considering all the challenges that face education, by working together, across Government, private and the NGO sector, we can indeed improve the lives of every child across the education landscape," Deputy Minister Surty said.

Positioning the Basic Education Sector towards the achievement of quality learning outcomes



A Basic Education Retreat (BMR) took place at the African Pride Mount Grace Country House and Spa in Magaliesburg, North West Province from 24 to 25 April 2019 under the theme: “Positioning Basic Education for greater efficiency and quality in education delivery towards the achievement of learning outcomes”.

Discussions focused on the following five strategic priorities: Skills for a Changing World; Collaboration and Accountability; Finance, Human Resources and Infrastructure; Research and Strategic Planning; and Health Promotion, Safety and Values.

This was in response to Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga’s media briefing in Pretoria on 08 March 2019, to reflect on the developments in the Basic Education Sector since the current administration took office during 2014. The Department used the briefing to inform South Africans about the outcome of the last sitting of the Council of Education Ministers (CEM), which discussed critical areas that needed thorough intervention in taking the education system forward.

During the CEM briefing, Minister Motshekga mentioned that the current and upcoming administration would have to prioritise a number of aspects, including Early Childhood Development (ECD); the Fourth Industrial Revolution; Coding and Robotics Curricula; the Sanitation Appropriate For Education (SAFE) Initiative; School Safety; and care and support for vulnerable children.

Deliberations during the BMR focused on the core skills and competencies for the curriculum from birth to Grade 12, as well as the substance, size, and shape of ECD. The Three Stream Model also came under the spotlight and the importance of integrating entrepreneurship and the Fourth Industrial Revolution into the curriculum.



DG Mveli concludes biannual Provincial Engagements in the KwaZulu-Natal Province



Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be visiting the Brackenham Primary School in Richards Bay on 29 April 2019, to conclude the first semester of the DBE Provincial Engagement meetings in the KwaZulu-Natal Province. Mr Mveli met with more than 800 provincial and district officials and 6,079 school principals responsible for 2.8 million learners at various schools. Meetings took place at the Windsor Secondary School in Ladysmith on 23 April 2019, the Bethsaida Ministries International in Phoenix on 24 April 2019 and the TBC Sport and Leisure Knox Gore Road Municipality on 26 April 2019.

These meetings monitor the status of learner performance based on the outcomes of the School Based Assessments in the General Education and Training (GET) band and the 2018 National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations in the Further Education and Training (FET) band, to track improvements in learner performance since 2017. This will assist to identify lessons learnt from the above assessments and to make recommendations on academic improvement.

KZN Deputy Director-General for Curriculum, Dr Barney Mthembu, said that the Province has developed an Academic Improvement Plan consisting of ten focus areas, and informed by input received from markers and moderators during the NSC marking process.

DG Mveli applauded KZN on the role the Province played in contributing to the improvement of the 2018 NSC results with 5.8% - the highest improvement rate for provinces during 2018. DG Mveli also urged the Province to not only concentrate on the exit level of basic education, but to improve all aspects of quality education. In conclusion, the Province was advised to, apart from targeting an improvement rate of at least 10% in the provincial, district and school level, raise the standard of performance by setting a minimum achievement of a 40% pass rate to raise the standard of teaching and learning in the classroom.



Mid-year NSC and SC exams set to commence next week



The May/June National Senior Certificate (NSC) and Senior Certificate (SC) examinations are set to take place from 2 May to 14 June 2019. The February/March supplementary examination has been phased out and the new May/June examination is available for candidates to improve their results or complete outstanding results.

Candidates can only register for subjects which they were registered for during the previous November examination. Candidates who opt for the multiple examinations opportunity (MEO) option, need to complete their outstanding subjects in the NSC June examination. Candidates who were absent with a valid reason (declared medically unfit, had a death in the immediate family or other special reasons) from one or more external question papers, may also write the NSC June examination. The option is also available for candidates who want to improve their overall achievement status, or only want to improve the achievement of a subject. In the case where a candidate was absent for one or more papers during the November examination with a valid reason, the candidate has the choice whether to write only the outstanding papers or all the papers.

In a case where an irregularity is being investigated, provisional enrolment for the NSC June examination may be granted to the candidate concerned, pending the outcome of the investigation. Candidates who were unable to write or complete one or more of the NSC November examination question papers for reasons other than illness, injury or death in the family, may apply to write the NSC June examination, provided that a written report is submitted by the principal of the school to the head of the assessment body.

We wish all candidates the best of luck!

<https://www.education.gov.za/Portals/0/Documents/Publications/2019%20SC-NSC%20timetable.pdf?ver=2019-04-18-133007-243>



Spelling Bee South Africa now includes African languages



It is a fact that reading regularly expands one's vocabulary. The DBE Spelling Bee South Africa (National Spelling Bee Championship) is hosted annually as part of the *Read to Lead Campaign*, targeting learners in Grade 4 to 6 (the Intermediate Phase). The Championship, which was hosted at UNISA's main campus on 06 October 2018, is aimed at improving learners' performance in languages, especially in English.

This year, the DBE is proud to announce Spelling Bees in various African languages. The list of Spelling Bee words in Xitsonga, Sepedi, Tshivenda and isiSwati languages are available on the DBE website. The other languages will be introduced incrementally.

The procedure for participation in the 2019 Spelling Bee is to complete the registration form which must be stamped by the relevant school and sent through to the provincial Spelling Bee co-ordinator. Parents of learners registered for Home Education are advised to request the Provincial official responsible for Home Education to support and stamp the form for them. Upon receipt of the registration form, the provincial co-ordinator will organise a workshop for schools to explain the rules of the competition, as well as conduct elimination rounds up to provincial level. Schools will then host circuit/cluster Spelling Bees before the winners proceed to the district and provincial championships. The DBE will host the Championship in Pretoria during October 2019. All schools, including Special Schools, are invited to enter. Participation in the programme is free. The closing date for entries is 31 May 2019.

For additional enquiries, kindly contact Mr PJ Ngoepe, Sport and Enrichment Directorate on Tel: 012 357 3442 (or via email: ngoepe.pj@dbe.gov.za)

Click on the below link for the Spelling Bee list of words:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Programmes/SpellingBee.aspx>

Provincial Round-up

Gauteng Province



GAUTENG PROVINCE
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Gauteng Education MEC, Mr Panyaza Lesufi, officially opened a newly-built walkway at the Hoërskool Driehoek in Vanderbijlpark on 23 April 2019, after the cement walkway at the school caved in on 01 February 2019. Four pupils died whilst others were severely injured. Pupils have also returned to their classrooms after spending months in temporary tents on the school's rugby field. This is a step forward in the healing of the school, its pupils and teachers. Three independent investigations into the cause of the collapse have wrapped up and the consolidated report will be made public within the next few weeks.

Western Cape Province



Approximately 32,000 candidates have registered for the May/June National Senior Certificate (NSC) and Senior Certificate (SC) examinations, which are set to take place from 2 May to 14 June 2019. Candidates who qualify for supplementary examinations in the 2018 NSC will also be writing these examinations. Candidates are expected to produce their admission letters and proof of identity at the entrance to the examination venue for each subject, to enable them to write their examinations. They can only report to the examination venue indicated in their admission letters and must arrive at the examination venue at least an hour prior to the commencement of the examination. Candidates will not be allowed entry into the examination venue after the first hour has elapsed and no electronic devices, including cellphones are allowed into the examination venue. Matric support resources such as revision guides and videos are available on the Western Cape Education Department's website to assist candidates to prepare for the examinations.

Northern Cape Province



Premier Sylvia Lucas recently opened the state-of-the-art Karos Primary School outside Upington in the Northern Cape Province. This multi-million rand school, which is situated in Karos village, boasts 14 classrooms, two Early Childhood Development (ECD) classrooms, a science laboratory, a nutrition centre, a media centre and an administration block. In addition to the above, the Northern Cape Department of Education will also be handing over a further five new schools as part of its commitment to provide quality public education in all our schools and to improve access to learning and teaching. Sod-turning ceremonies for four new schools in the Province, mainly in the Frances Baard and John Toalo Gaetsewe Districts, are also in the pipeline to ensure that quality education takes place in the Province.

KwaZulu-Natal Province



KwaZulu-Natal Education MEC, Mr Mthandeni Khethomthandayo Dlungwana, will, next week, officiate the opening of two state-of-the-art-schools in the Province. The Ngono Secondary School in Nkandla and the Ntulabakayise Secondary School in Mkhanyakude will officially be opened on 02 and 06 May respectively. The St Victory High School in Vryheid was officially handed over to the community earlier this week on 25 April 2019. These modern education structures will bear testimony to Government's commitment to provide quality learning and teaching to our learners, teachers and communities.

Upcoming Events

- 6 April – 10 May 2019: The DBE and PEISA will be celebrating Physical Education Month
- 26 – 28 April 2019: The DBE, in collaboration with E³ (Employability, Entrepreneurship and Education in Schools) will be hosting an Entrepreneurship in Education (EiS) Conference at the Department in Pretoria in the Gauteng Province
- 27 April 2019: South Africa will be celebrating Freedom Day
- 3 May 2019: The DBE, in collaboration with PEISA, will be observing annual Physical Education Month in King Williams Town in the Eastern Cape Province
- 31 May 2019: Deadline for the submission of the SADC Secondary School Essay Competition entries to the SADC Secretariat

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