



# THUTO

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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



## NEWSLETTER

# Minister shares life-changing opportunity with Grabouw youth



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, addressed out-of-school youth at the Gerald Wright Hall in the Overberg District in the Western Cape Province on 28 April 2019. The Minister appealed to young people to make the right decision and enrol for the Second Chance Matric Support Programme (SCMSP). “A matric certificate opens the doors to a better future owing to Higher Education and Training and Skills Development Programmes.” Minister Motshekga re-iterated.

The Minister used the opportunity to acknowledge the support that Mr Andrew Madella, MP, provided to the out-of-school youth in the area who, because of previous choices or circumstances beyond their control, could not obtain their matric certificate. According to Minister Motshekga everyone deserves a second chance at improving their circumstances.

Addressing the packed to capacity hall, Minister Motshekga said, “Education is the only solution to improve and rebuild your life and access opportunities to enrol in government programmes, post matric studies, employment or skills development opportunities. We will support you if you are committed.” Minister Motshekga mentioned that the DBE will require more ECD practitioners in the near future, adding that another emphasis will be on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) skills in response to Fourth Industrial Revolution Education to achieve the *National Development Plan* (NDP) outcomes.

The Grabouw, Villiersdorp, Sunshine Farm, Zwelihle, Botrivier and Masakhane community youth development leaders provided district-specific details for centre registrations and requests for class attendance during the question and answer sessions.

In closing, the Minister appealed to the youth to use their time, energy and the opportunities provided through Government resourcefully, and to register with the SCMSP.





# Accolades pour in for *In Pursuit of Dignity*



Accolades keep pouring in for Basic Education Deputy Minister, Mr Enver Surty, who has emerged as a writer of note through his new book titled, *In Pursuit of Dignity*. Book sales continued during the final night of his book launch at the Orient Hall in Durban in the KwaZulu-Natal Province on 30 April 2019 as Deputy Minister Surty concluded his four city launch. Sales indicate that the book remains the centre of attraction for avid readers from various race, culture and language groups, who support human rights, social justice and peace as pillars of nation building.

Awqaf SA Chief Executive Officer, Mr Zeinoul Cajee, said that, "in just two weeks, the book has managed to raise more than R150 000. I urge South Africans to buy the book to contribute to the strengthening of Early Childhood Development (ECD) and the development of young writers. The net proceeds of the book will also be used to support children with special needs".

Speaking during the Durban launch, Transport Minister, Dr Blade Nzimande, congratulated Deputy Minister Surty for having used the book as a platform to honour those who sacrificed their lives in the liberation of South Africa. On the pursuit of dignity topic, Minister Nzimande added that the pursuit of human dignity should be done with increased access to quality education, especially in the Foundation Phase.

"*In Pursuit of Dignity* is a compelling and thoughtful collection of short stories that flow imperceptibly into a strong tale of a stalwart of our long struggle for freedom. From the narration, I admire his role as an activist attorney, his ready interaction with and spread out to surrounding communities and their struggles and his ultimate entry into the liberation movement." – President Cyril Ramaphosa, Awqaf SA website.



## Director-General Mveli concludes the first leg of his provincial engagements across provinces





During his address in Richards Bay, DG Mveli informed school principals that, “at the moment provinces that are leading in effective implementation of learner support programmes are the Gauteng, Free State and North West Provinces”. Mr Mveli called on all provinces to strive for uniformity in the area of the implementation of the progression policy to sustain learner retention and throughput rate in the education system. Mr Mveli also commended the KwaZulu-Natal Province for having proven to be a champion in terms of keeping track of learners, with a thorough identification of loopholes, followed by an intensive intervention support mechanism. “This is one of the contributing factors for KZN to leverage overall good performance during the final year NSC Examinations. I therefore encourage you to keep up the good work and strive towards increasing Mathematics participation and success rates during 2019,” emphasised Mr Mveli.



# E<sup>3</sup> Conference and Writers' Workshop: Catalysing Change in Education





The DBE hosted a conference for its E<sup>3</sup> (Employability, Entrepreneurship and Education in Schools) initiative under the theme: “Solving the crisis of unemployment through education – If it’s going to be, it’s up to me” in Pretoria on Friday 26 April 2019. On the first day over 140 people passionate about preparing learners for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century gathered to discuss an effective education strategy in schools aimed to better prepare learners for life after school. After an initial welcome by Dr Moses Simelane, Chief Director for Curriculum Implementation and Monitoring, the attendees were treated to talks and panel discussions about E<sup>3</sup>’s goal of preparing all learners for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

Participants learnt about project-based learning, as a counter to the current outdated system of learning and assessment used in schools across South Africa, and the advantages of teaching learners the same skills inherent in entrepreneurs that enable them to find work to ignite their passion. They learnt about the importance of creativity, a growth mindset and empathy as tools to build a value-based society. The room buzzed with discussion about this new advancement in education, one that cares about learners, inspires them, cherishes their individual talents, and secures them with the skills to ensure success in their careers after leaving their institutions of learning.

The following two days consisted of workshops and training exercises and was attended by teachers, provincial delegates, departmental officials, organisations specialising in education and entrepreneurship, and specialists in project-based learning. The purpose was to combine expertise and begin the process of preparing projects to be used in the curriculum in the next round of E<sup>3</sup> piloting in schools.

Dr Taddy Blecher, the chairperson of the national advisory council for E<sup>3</sup> summarised the importance of the E<sup>3</sup> initiative: “If we can’t, as educators, start to change the experience of our young learners, we’re not going to have the future we want. This is about *Thuma Mina* – we’re going to work together, we’re going to do amazing things.”

Click on the below link for additional information:

<https://www.education.gov.za/E3EntrepreneurshipConference.aspx>



## ABC Motsepe SASCE showcases our national songbirds





The annual ABC Motsepe South African Schools Choral Eisteddfod (SASCE) will be taking place from 25 to 28 June 2019, at the Rhema Bible Church in Randburg, Gauteng Province. The theme of the 2019 competition is: “Celebrating 25 years of our democracy”. Provincial competitions will be taking place from 14 May to 2 June 2019 over three consecutive weekends for pleasing weekend choral entertainment.

The Eisteddfod programme is part of the DBE’s school enrichment programme, hosted in partnership with the Department of Arts and Culture (DAC). The competition focuses on promoting unity in diversity; national reconciliation; positive values; a new South African national identity; and social transformation and social cohesion among school-going South African youth.

“We are proud to contribute to the development of music and unearth talent from our South African Schools. It gives us pleasure to see such talent in our young people and it encourages us to continue giving towards developing music in schools. This programme resonates with our vision to alleviate poverty and sustainably improve the living standards of the poor, unemployed and marginalised people of South Africa,” said Patrice Motsepe from the Motsepe Foundation.

Creativity, inspiration and pure talent is showcased during the annual ABC Motsepe SASCE competition, featuring primary and secondary schools from all nine provinces participating in various categories.

## Early Childhood Development in the spotlight



The DBE, in partnership with the Department of Social Development (DSD), and in collaboration with various ECD stakeholders, are currently engaging in discussions to finalise the function shift of ECD from DSD to the DBE.

During 2015, Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, approved the *South African National Curriculum Framework for Children from Birth to Four years (NCF)*, which has been versioned in all official languages, including Braille. The DBE trained provincial officials and deaf assistant teachers on NCF to promote effective learning and teaching in ECD Centres.

The DBE’s ECD Directorate has done amazing work in various provinces to improve quality education in the 8,485 registered ECD Centres that are implementing the NCF.

Apart from NCF training, the DBE, in partnership with Provincial Education Departments (PEDs), further trained approximately 4,246 ECD practitioners on the National Qualification Framework (NQF) level 4 to improve their pedagogical skills, especially on learning development for children at a younger age. Furthermore, the DBE with support from UNICEF, is developing an ECD Mobi site to provide parents and caregivers with information regarding stimulation and the development of infants and younger children.

<https://www.education.gov.za/Curriculum/NationalCurriculumFrameworkforChildrenfromBirthtoFour.aspx>

## Provincial Round-up



## Gauteng Province



**GAUTENG PROVINCE**

EDUCATION  
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Gauteng Education MEC, Mr Panyaza Lesufi, announced that online applications for the placement of Grade 1 and 8 learners for the 2020 academic year will go live on 13 May 2019. The placement for 2020 will be done in line with the new admission regulations that seek to ensure equitable access to all learners regardless of class, race or language. The regulations also define new feeder zones that aim to overcome the apartheid geography. "Access to public schools has been a hotly contested process over the past 25 years of our democracy. The new Admission Regulations are a further attempt to eliminate the spatial geography of apartheid and ensure that all learners have equal access to Gauteng schools. The MEC also announced that the capacity of the Admissions Online Application System has been increased to accommodate 50,000 simultaneous users. Previously, the system crashed as it became overburdened with a large number of users trying to apply simultaneously. Parents were advised to use the [www.gdeadmissions.gov.za](http://www.gdeadmissions.gov.za) website to log their applications, and will therefore be afforded a period of just over two months to apply for enrolment, with the deadline set for 15 July 2019. The placement of learners will take place between 27 August and 20 September 2019.

## KwaZulu-Natal Province



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**PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL**

Communications Deputy Minister Pinky Kekana handed over Internet services to the Nyonithwele Secondary and the Nyanda Primary School in Edendale, Pietermaritzburg in the KwaZulu-Natal Province on 29 April 2019. The handing over of internet services is part of the SA Connect Programme, Government's ambitious project which aims to deliver widespread broadband access to 90% of the country's population by 2020 and 100% by 2030. The Deputy Minister was accompanied by implementing partners, Broadband Infraco (BBI) and the State Information Technology Agency (SITA). In terms of phase one, Connect SA aims to connect all schools, health facilities, government offices, Thusong Centres and post offices in eight rural district municipalities to broadband services. The implementation further provides great potential to re-structure South Africa's ICT infrastructure in support of the *National Development Plan* (NDP) of inclusive growth underpinned by the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

## Western Cape Province



**Western Cape  
Government**

Education

**BETTER TOGETHER.**

Learners from Inkwenkwezi High School performed during the opening celebrations of Dunoon's new high-tech, state-of-the-art library which opened its doors on 26 April 2019. The world-class library is set to be a source of recreation and education for young and old in the community. The project, which was co-funded by the Western Cape Government and the City of Cape Town, took five years to complete. The three-storey building boasts free WiFi, music listening pods, and more than 15,000 library items, such as books, music CDs and DVDs. Principal Tembuxolo Kutu, from the Inkwenkwezi High School said that the library meant a lot to him and his learners, as the school only has one small library which caters for approximately 1,200 learners. Kutu said that the additional space and access to computers will help learners to study in a motivating environment.

## Upcoming Events



- 06 April – 10 May 2019: The DBE and PEISA will be celebrating Physical Education Month
- 06 May 2019: Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, will be addressing DBE officials at the Department in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 14 May – 02 June 2019: The ABC Motsepe SASCE provincial competitions will be taking place in all nine provinces across South Africa
- 25 May 2019: South Africans will be celebrating Africa Day
- 31 May 2019: Deadline for the submission of the SADC Secondary School Essay Competition entries to the SADC Secretariat
- 25 – 28 June 2019: The annual ABC Motsepe SASCE will be taking place at the Rhema Bible Church in Randburg, Gauteng Province

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