



THUTO

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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Celebrating the leadership of Minister Motshekga and Deputy Minister Surty



The Department of Basic Education (DBE) celebrated Africa Day with ululation, song and dance on Friday. The celebration were part of DBE Africa Day but also an opportunity used to acknowledge and thank Minister Angie Motshekga and Deputy Minister Enver Surty for their leadership in the past 10 years at the Department.

Deputy Minister Surty acknowledged the leadership and camaraderie of Minister Motshekga saying, “Her leadership contributed meaningfully to the provision of quality education and the various interventions she had put in place have assisted the sector to progress away from mediocrity, towards quality education outcomes”.

In her remarks the Minister thanked the Deputy Minister for the partnership they had at the Department since 2009.

“As we are moving towards the 6th Administration, we are embracing a new dawn and a new phase for education. We have stabilised the Basic Education Sector by improving access; however, more still needs to be done.” Minister Motshekga expressed her gratitude to Deputy Minister Surty for his unconditional support and guidance saying, “Deputy Minister Surty served with integrity and great humility”. The Minister urged officials to work together to build a country for the sake of our children’s future where South Africans can live, learn and work in harmony as they are our hope for the realisation of quality education to fight poverty and unemployment.

“It is important to speak African languages to drive the African development initiative and nurture relationships with African countries; however, it is equally important to know our history as Africans. Let’s, on Africa Day and during Africa Month also acknowledge the role Africa has played in South Africa’s liberation struggle, and ensure that closer ties are forged for cooperation and the sharing of best practice in education. Let’s make Africa a tree of life and unite in our diversity,” the Minister concluded.







Celebrating 25 Years of Democracy: Building a Better Africa and a Better World on Africa Day



Mrs Palesa Tyobeka, Acting Director-General for the DBE, officiated the Africa Day celebrations. “Gratitude should be matched by action as we bid farewell to our formidable Ministerial leaders, Minister Angie Motshekga and Deputy Minister Enver Surty. You have displayed an immense depth of understanding of educational issues and high levels of commitment and accessibility.”



Mr Jabu Hlakula from the South African Democratic Teachers Union (SADTU) praised the Ministry for their advancement of the African child under their capable leadership during the past decade. He quoted the singer Bob Marley, saying that Africans must unite and “free themselves from mental slavery”. He further urged officials to work towards real African unity, identity and cohesion.



Mr David Maphoto from the Public Service Administration (PSA) focused on the achievements made under the leadership and guidance of the Minister and Deputy Minister in pursuit of education excellence, such as the *Action Plan to 2019: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2030*; the building of state-of-the-art schools; the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP); and the *Read to Lead Campaign* to mention a few. “We have witnessed ten years of development and progress in the Basic Education Sector; may the solid foundation you have laid continue,” he concluded.



Mr Victor Thoka, representing the voice of DBE interns, praised the Minister for the opportunity she granted them to gain work experience and to be absorbed into the DBE. He also expressed his gratitude to the Training and Social Responsibility Directorate for creating opportunities for young graduates to obtain practical experience and to gain employment in the public sector.



Mr Joseph Matjeni from the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union (NEHAWU) said: “You have proved yourselves as true leaders founded in the spirit of Ubuntu, whilst Minister Motshekga has also played the role of a mother within the Sector. He reminded officials to embrace President Cyril Ramaphosa’s *Thuma Mina* vision, which is an effort to galvanise all South Africans, irrespective of race, colour, religion and political affiliation, to join hands in a common national crusade to uplift and serve the nation.



Entertainment was provided by Pedi and Tsonga traditional dancers in their vibrant and colourful traditional attire.





Provincial Round-up

Limpopo Province



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

Limpopo Education Department has a new MEC; former Limpopo Legislature Speaker, Ms Polly Boshielo, has been appointed as MEC for Education in Limpopo. Premier Chupu Mathabatha announced the appointment on Wednesday, 22 May 2019.

Western Cape Province



**Western Cape
Government**

Education

BETTER TOGETHER.

Western Cape Education MEC, Ms Debbie Schäfer, has been re-appointed to her position. Western Cape Premier Allan Winde made the announcement on Thursday, 23 May 2019.

Eastern Cape Province



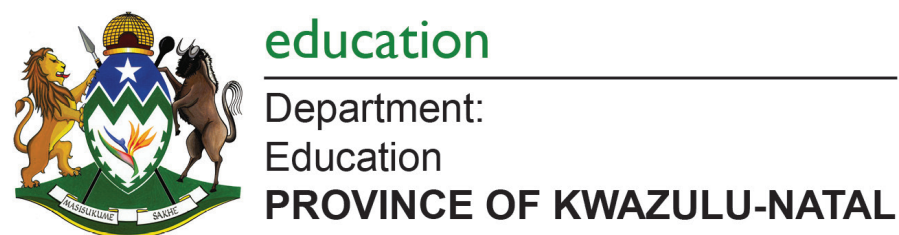
The Special Programmes Unit, based in the Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE), recently established a Women’s Desk. This follows a submission on women employment by the ECDoE and a presentation made by the Superintendent-General, Mr Themba Kojana, during the closing of Women’s Month during 2018. The Women’s Desk will seek to advance and drive the agenda of women empowerment under the theme, “I subscribe to women empowerment in the work place”. Speaking during the launch, Mr Kojana said that, “the purpose of the Women’s Desk is to review current policies with the support of the Human Resource Development (HRD) component, to ensure women empowerment programmes in the Department. Another aim is to coordinate all issues affecting women in the work place; discuss and make recommendations to the Head of Department on ways and strategies of addressing challenges; and to monitor the implementation of Employment Equity in respect of positions and empowerment.

Gauteng Province



A high speed, quality fibre connection, provided by Telkom, is set to make a big difference in the lives of learners of Orlando High School in Soweto, Gauteng Province. The school, which has a rich political history dating back to the liberation struggle, received a fibre connection on 17 May 2019, on World Telecommunications and Information Society Day (WTISD). WTISD Day is spearheaded by the International Telecommunications Union (ITU) and has been celebrated annually since 2006. Speaking at the activation, Telkom CEO, Mr Sandile Maseko, said the fibre connection at the school marks the start of a broader investment into South Africa’s 26,000 estimated schools. Maseko views the roll out of fibre internet as a catalyst for economic development and education. “Our focus is to ensure that more South Africans are connected to quality and fast internet. With more people connected, the less the data will cost,” Maseko said. Telkom is exploring partnering with government to roll out a fibre network to public places like schools, hospitals and police stations so that they get connectivity at zero-rated costs.

KwaZulu-Natal Province



Two learners from Star College High in Durban, KwaZulu-Natal Province, are the winners of the 20th National South African Youth Water Prize (SAYWP) Competition. Star College High learners, Kiara Chetty and Calden Gounden, will represent South Africa in Stockholm, Sweden, at the annual Stockholm Junior Water Prize (SJWP) Competition at the end of August 2019, to compete globally with learners from 30 other countries. The SJWP Competition, which took place in the Gauteng Province from 16 to 17 May 2019, saw learners from around the country fight it out to impress adjudicators on innovations relating to water and sanitation. The SAYWP is a Science and Technology based project which is coordinated by the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS). One of the aims of the project is to promote the protection of natural resources and to encourage youth to actively participate in integrated and community based water resource management. Their project, the Hydro-Conservation, intends to reduce the quantity of water that is wasted in households across South Africa daily during showering and handwashing. To date, approximately 342 schools have participated in the Competition and 42 graduates are now contributing to the development of the country, whilst 29 other young students are studying at tertiary institutions across the country where they are pursuing careers in the water and sanitation sector.

Upcoming Events

- 23 May – 25 May 2019: The ABC Motsepe SASCE provincial competitions will be taking place at the Mmabatho Convention Centre in Mmabatho, North West Province
- 23 May – 26 May 2019: The ABC Motsepe SASCE provincial competitions will be taking place at the Vista Missionvale Campus in Port Elizabeth, Eastern Cape Province
- 25 May 2019: South Africans will be celebrating Africa Day
- 25 May 2019 – Inauguration of the President
- 27 May 2019 – Announcement of Ministers
- 28 May 2019 – Ministers are sworn in
- 28 May – 31 May 2019: The ABC Motsepe SASCE provincial competitions will be taking place at the Bethsaida Ministries in the KwaZulu-Natal Province
- 29 – 30 May – Induction of Ministers
- 30 May – 02 June 2019: The ABC Motsepe SASCE provincial competitions will be taking place in the Limpopo Province
- 30 May – 02 June 2019: The ABC Motsepe SASCE provincial competitions will be taking place in the Western Cape Province
- 31 May 2019: Deadline for the submission of the SADC Secondary School Essay Competition entries to the SADC Secretariat
- 31 May – 02 June 2019: The ABC Motsepe SASCE provincial competitions will be taking place at the Witbank Civic Centre, Emalaheni in the Mpumalanga Province
- 20 June 2019 – State of the Nation Address in Parliament, Cape Town, Western Cape Province
- 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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