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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

DBE welcomes Minister and new Deputy Minister for Basic Education



Mrs Angie Motshekga has been reappointed as the Minister for Basic Education! Minister Motshekga was first appointed Minister of Basic Education in 2009 when the previous Department of Education was split into two departments.

Dr Reginah Mhaule has been appointed as the new Deputy Minister for Basic Education. Dr Mhaule, who was appointed as a Member of Parliament during February 2018, has been serving as Deputy Minister for International Relations and Cooperation from 27 February 2018. She served as MEC for Education in Mpumalanga from 2009 until 2018.

During an engagement session with DBE employees a week ago, Minister Motshekga identified the major focus areas for the next administration: "We have stabilised the Basic Education Sector by improving access; however, more still needs to be done. One of the key aspects for the sixth administration relates to issues of quality and efficiency, and providing citizens with a dividend of democracy".



Minister Motshekga signs Bilateral Agreement on Cooperation with Kenya



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, has signed a Bilateral Agreement on Cooperation in Basic Education with the Republic of Kenya. The signing took place in Nairobi.

Among the issues contained in the Bilateral Agreement are cooperation in the area of curriculum development and management programmes run by the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development. Kenya's Tusome Project is an excellent project which South Africa is interested to learn from. Other matters in the Agreement include support between the two countries in the promotion of literacy and best practices from Kenya's reading programmes; models and challenges on Information and Communication Technology (ICT) connectivity; professional development; digital content; and the provision of digital devices to schools.

The Agreement also includes cooperation and support from Kenya to South African schools in respect of Kiswahili, the Kenyan official language which is now being offered in South African schools as a non-official language.

Minister Motshekga concluded the visit with a tour to Uhuru Gardens Primary School in Lang'ata outside Nairobi. The school is a high level ICT centre provided to Kenya by the Korea International Cooperation Agency (KOICA). The aim of the school visit was to witness ICT in action as learners in all grades own and use school-issued tablets for all subjects. "Kenya is also one of the best-performing countries in Mathematics and Science, so we are here to learn and share experiences between our countries on what works and what doesn't in order to improve the quality of education in both countries," said Minister Motshekga.

Play and Resilience - A China-Africa Collaboration ECD Project for building a peaceful and sustainable future

The South African National Commission for UNESCO hosted an international delegation comprising of 14 Early Childhood Development (ECD) stakeholders from China, the United States of America, Nigeria and Ethiopia to attend the closing seminar of the UNESCO Play and Resilience Project held in the Vhembe District, Limpopo Province.

The meeting was attended by ECD practitioners, parents and traditional leaders. Speakers urged practitioners and parents to use the learning through play principle as a building block for equipping children with critical thinking and problem solving skills during their early development years. The goal of this project is to enhance young children’s resilience and potential to contribute to a peaceful and sustainable future, through awareness raising and capacity development, as well as community relationship building.

Ms Maggie Koong from the World Organisation for Early Childhood Education (OMEP) in China, is spearheading the global drive for collaboration in Play and Resilience. In Africa, the project is being implemented in Nigeria, South Africa, and Zimbabwe, with a view to complement existing government and non-government efforts to support selected communities with quality Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) services, by building their human resource capacity and the production of resource materials.

Deputy Director-General responsible for Planning, Information and Assessments, Mr Paddy Padayachee, welcomed the international delegation and applauded the Victoria Charitable Trust Fund for sponsoring the Play and Resilience project on the African Continent since 2017.



SA-Cuba collaboration on Mathematics and Science is showing progress



The relationship between South Africa and Cuba has a long and well-established history, with collaboration projects having been established with various sectors such as Health and Human Development, to name but a few.

The training of Mathematics and Science teachers' Cuban Intervention Programme commenced during 2002, when a delegation of 24 Cubans arrived in South Africa, and was assigned to tutoring Dinaledi Schools in seven of the provinces between 2003 and 2005. The main purpose was to assist Science and Mathematics teachers for Grades 8 to 12 to improve their skills in Sciences and Mathematics through various interventions such as producing teaching and learning support materials; conducting workshops; and organising training at school level. After the completion of this project, a new agreement was signed during 2016, and the first cohort of 10 Cuban Mathematics and Sciences specialists arrived at the Department during September 2017. The Programme aims to work side-by-side with officials and educators to make the teaching and learning process a meaningful experience for both teachers and learners – utilising the team's skills and expertise to enrich practical hands-on experiences in these two gateway subjects. Currently, a total of 20 Cuban specialists are working at the DBE, and in the Eastern Cape and Free State Provinces, although provisions will be made to extend the participation to the other provinces.

“During our stay in SA we have identified various challenges across different levels of the education system. Many of these challenges are common to the global Pedagogical community, and as part of this Pedagogical conundrum, we are striving towards finding a solution to develop a strategy for the development of 21st Century skills, using new approaches. Education in South Africa is progressing well and there is a level of quality visible in the various programmes that the education sector is engaged with; however, we must excavate even deeper and align all efforts with stakeholders, partners and the community. Interventions must be implemented to attain the vision of readiness for the Fourth Industrial Revolution and the relevant skills for the 21st Century,” said Ms Yadileydi Hernandez-Collot, Cuban Project Manager for the Programme.

“The quality of education is pivotal for the production of human capital and this remains our main objective in providing the desired outcomes to improve the teaching and learning of Mathematics and Science in the classroom, where the impact must be felt,” Ms Hernandez-Collot concluded.



Curriculum Differentiation for an inclusive pedagogy

“All learners have the potential to learn and can do so with the appropriate support. All learners should be in the classroom, and our biggest responsibility is to ensure that they all have access to the curriculum to participate actively. Inclusive education is not targeted towards a specific category of learners; it is about education for all,” explained Mr Jabulani Ngcobo, Chief Education Specialist and Acting Director for Inclusive Education at the DBE. This is encapsulated in the fourth *Sustainable Development Goal* (SDG4), which is part of the Department’s vision to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all.

“The Inclusive Education Directorate intends to achieve this vision through the effective implementation of *Education White Paper 6*, and by building an inclusive training and education system. We have curriculum differentiation, we have policy guiding support to learners, and there are strategies to improve subject performance. However, there are some obstacles in implementing an inclusive education system for example, limited resources and limiting attitudes. Those at the top need to steer it, and talk about it, and make sure that there’s buy-in. The Education Sector must embrace an inclusive education mindset across all levels, with a strong focus on the Foundation Phase,” said Mr Ngcobo.

Mr Ngcobo also delivered a presentation: “Introduction to curriculum differentiation in South Africa: vision and framework, and strategies for support to teachers” during a four-day workshop on Curriculum Differentiation that took place from 25 to 28 March 2019, in Durban. The workshop was organised by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education and supported by the Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance (VVOB) South Africa. “As a Directorate, we have made strides in terms of training around generic curriculum differentiation”, he said.

“The workshop brought together Subject Advisors and officials from curriculum, inclusive education, teacher development, circuit management, along with Belgian and Cuban expert facilitators, to continue to share best practices, and to tackle the various challenges ahead,” Mr Ngcobo concluded.



National Recruitment Database to assist unemployed qualified educators

The *Action Plan to 2019: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2030 and the National Development Plan (NDP): Vision 2030*, highlights the intention to draw energetic, young, motivated and appropriately trained teachers into the profession whilst the DBE is committed to ensuring an appropriately qualified educator in every classroom to facilitate quality learning and teaching.

The DBE would therefore like to invite all appropriately qualified individuals seeking employment in public schools to register on the *National Recruitment Database for Professionally Qualified South African Educators*. To have your details captured on the database, complete the registration form provided and attach certified copies of teaching qualifications. All fields on the form are compulsory. The completed form and attached certificates should be posted to:

The Directorate: Education Human Resource Planning, Provisioning and Monitoring

Department of Basic Education

Private Bag X895

Pretoria

0001

Or hand delivered to: 222 Struben Street, Pretoria

Once all the relevant documentation have been submitted, names and details will be added to the *National Recruitment Database for Professionally Qualified South African Educators* which is available on the DBE website for download, along with the verified qualifications and subjects which the educator is qualified to teach.

Schools with vacant posts will be able to select appropriately qualified candidates from the database thus helping unemployed educators to obtain employment faster. The National Recruitment Database team can be contacted at Tel: 012 357 3878 or emailed at NRD@dbe.gov.za for enquiries.

<https://www.education.gov.za/Informationfor/Principals/NRD.aspx>



Provincial Round-up

Eastern Cape Province



Mr Fundile Gade, former member of the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature, has been appointed as MEC for Education in the Eastern Cape Province. New Eastern Cape Premier Oscar Mabuyane made the announcement on 28 May 2019.

Free State Province



Mr Tate Makgoe has once again been appointed as MEC for Education in the Free State Province. MEC Makgoe has been in the position since 2009.

Gauteng Province



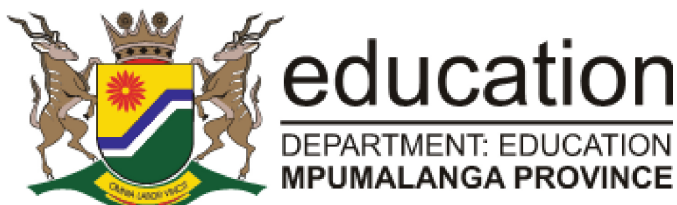
Mr Panyaza Lesufi returns to the education portfolio as the MEC for Education and Youth Development in the Gauteng Province. Gauteng Premier David Makhura announced the appointment on 31 May 2019.

Limpopo Province



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

Mpumalanga Province



Mr Bonakele Majuba, provincial secretary of the SA Communist Party, has been appointed as MEC for Education in the Mpumalanga Province. Mpumalanga Premier Refilwe Mtsweni made the announcement on 28 May 2019.

North West Province



Ms Wendy Matsemela has been appointed as MEC for Education in the North West Province. MEC Matsemela served previously in the portfolio for several years. She returns to the Basic Education Sector where she has had experience in the sector.

Northern Cape Province



**Northern Cape
Department of Education**

Western Cape Province



**Western Cape
Government**

Education

BETTER TOGETHER.

KwaZulu-Natal Province



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PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL



Mr McCollen Jack has been appointed as MEC for Education in the Northern Cape Province. Northern Cape Premier Zamani Saul made the announcement on 29 May 2019.



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



Mr Kwazi Mshengu, chairperson of the ANC youth league in KZN, has been appointed as MEC for Education in the KwaZulu-Natal Province. KZN Premier Sihle Zikalala unveiled the province's new cabinet on 27 May 2019.



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PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education is hosting their 2019 Provincial ABC South African Schools Choral Eisteddfod (SASCE) from 20 May to 31 May 2019, at Bethsaida Ministries International in Phoenix. The Eisteddfod is one of the Department's strategic programmes aimed at promoting unity in diversity, national reconciliation, social cohesion and a national identity among South African learners. "This is a very important programme of the Department and we wish all the participants all the best. We want all the winners of the provincial competition to represent us well during the National Championship," said the Head of Department (HOD), Dr Enock Vusumuzi Nzama. The annual ABC Motsepe 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.

Upcoming Events

- 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
- 10 June 2019: A Stakeholder Consultation Workshop (SCW) on the 25 year review of progress in the Basic Education Sector will be taking place at the DBE Building in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 19 – 20 June 2019: The Fifth Child and Youth Finance International Summit, which will be taking place under the banner of “Economic Citizenship and Employment: A Future for All”, will be hosted in Johannesburg, Gauteng 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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