



THUTO

PRODUCED BY:
THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Ministry of Basic Education meets UNICEF and the Hempel Foundation to strengthen partnerships in early grade reading



Basic Education Minister Mrs Angie Motshekga and Deputy Minister Dr Reginah Mhaule have met a delegation from the Danish Office of the Hempel Foundation and UNICEF. The meeting took place last night, 6 June, in Menlyn, Pretoria.

The event was a culmination of a workshop where a partnership was discussed to develop and pilot innovative interventions to strengthen the quality of reading in Grades 1 to 3, and to increase retention and learning outcomes of vulnerable children in rural areas. Provinces that will benefit from the partnership include the North West, Eastern Cape, Mpumalanga and Limpopo.

In her remarks Minister Motshekga said that President Ramaphosa reappointed her as the Minister of Basic Education to continue the National Reading Campaign drive which he has identified as one of his top priorities. Minister Motshekga expressed her gratitude towards the Hempel Foundation and UNICEF for their support of the Department's reading interventions: "We should not tire to encourage children and adults alike to read for pleasure and for information because everything collapses at the doorstep of reading".

Dignitaries present included Ambassador Tobias Elling Rehfeld from the Embassy of Denmark, who pledged to bring more organisations such as the Hempel Foundation that are willing to support the development of South Africa's children, on board. UNICEF Country Representative, Dr Sanjay Wijesekera, thanked the Department for their partnership that spanned many years, and expressed his hope that the relationship will continue with its mission of aiding the development of the country's children.



Creating Scholar Abuse Awareness during Child Protection Week

Child Protection Week 2 June - 9 June 2019

Childline

Toll free: 0800 055 555

Gender Based Violence

Toll free: 0800 428 428

Free SMS line: *120*7867#

Skype: "HelpmeGBV"

SMS Number: "Help" to 31531

**"Let Us All Protect Children
Moving South Africa Forward"**

Protect a child, wear a green ribbon!

#ChildProtection2019



social development

Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



National Child Protection Week (CPW) will come to an end this coming Sunday. It has been observed from 2 June under the theme: "Let us Protect All Children to Move South Africa Forward". CPW aims to mobilise all sectors to ensure that children are cared for and protected, and that they are educated in a non-violent and safe learning and teaching environment.

In the spirit of collaboration to provide helpful information and services to South Africans during CPW, the DBE, Legal Aid South Africa and the South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP) are embarking on a Scholar Abuse Awareness Campaign to provide South Africans with free legal advice and educate them on human rights issues, especially those relating to the rights of children to protect them from abuse.

The Campaign, which mostly takes the form of a radio campaign utilising community radio stations, will assist communities, scholars and their guardians, with identifying and understanding the procedures and responsibilities of reporting all forms of child abuse. The Campaign will afford also listeners with an opportunity to ask questions and register complaints to create a socially aware community that advocates social justice.

The DBE put clear measures in place to combat all forms of abuse against pupils in public and private schools through the development of a Protocol for the *Management and Reporting of Sexual Abuse and Harassment in Schools* to respond to allegations of sexual abuse and harassment. The Protocol provides guidance on the roles and responsibilities of each level within the system on how allegations of sexual abuse and harassment should be managed.

Physical Education Survey Report aims at ensuring a whole-school-whole-child-whole-community approach



"We need to appoint Physical Education Specialists, and we should rethink the *gender mix* when discussing Physical Education (PE) in South African schools," said Dr Cora Burnett from the University of Johannesburg in her recent presentation on the findings of the PE Survey Report to stakeholders including UNICEF, as supporting implementation agent, at the DBE Building in Pretoria.

The survey on the situational analysis on the implementation of PE as part of Life Orientation by the South African Universities Physical Education (SAUPEA), took place in eight schools per province in all nine provinces, and across the various quintiles during 2017 to 2018.

The survey found that: 60% of teachers have some experience in PE, with 38% having a formal PE qualification; many township and Quintile 1 to 3 schools mainly focus on gateway academic subjects; Learners with Special Education Needs (LSEN) show higher levels of participation; boys enjoy competitive activities more than girls, whilst girls prefer participating in fun activities such as aerobics or dancing; and bullying and sustaining injuries have been raised as parental concerns.

In conclusion, it was agreed that PE should be viewed as a whole-school-whole-child-whole-community approach, and that implementation should be done methodically in accordance with the necessary time allocation and scheduling, and with the necessary facilities and equipment. It was agreed that support by Higher Education Institutions will prove beneficial to the training of PE Specialists and to support in-service curriculum-driven training.

The DBE, in collaboration with the Physical Education Institute of South Africa (PEISA), observed annual Physical Education Month from 26 to 27 April 2019. PE symposia were successfully hosted in 3 provinces, with Physical Education Day being observed on 10 May 2019.



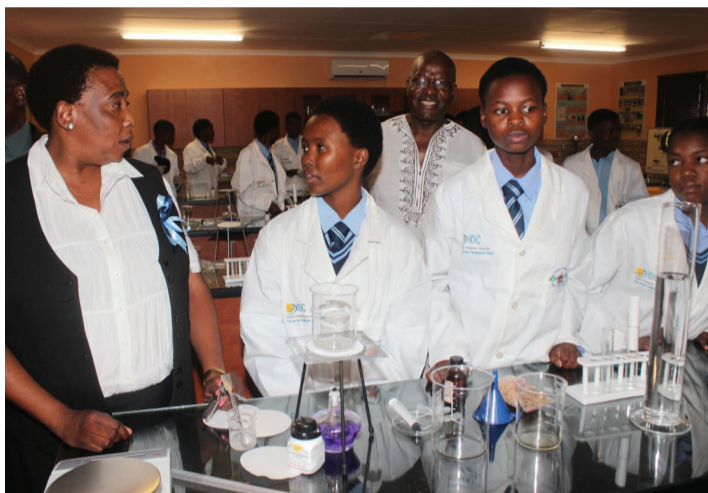
Teaching and Learning International Survey to improve classroom-management practices



The DBE anticipates the release of the Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS) South Africa Country Report on 02 July 2019, following the launch of the 3rd International Report (Volume I), in Paris on 19 June 2019. The TALIS, sampled 20 teachers teaching Grades 8 and 9 learners in approximately 200 schools from each participating country. This is the first time that South Africa participated in the study, enabling an important baseline of teacher survey data.

TALIS is an international large-scale survey of teachers that investigates the condition of the teaching and learning environment in schools in participating Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) countries and partner countries. TALIS aims to provide valid, timely and comparable information to help countries review and define policies for developing a high-quality teaching profession. The TALIS International Report will be released in two volumes. Volume II is scheduled for release during March 2020 and will focus on teachers and school leaders as valued professionals.

The 2008 survey focused on lower secondary education and involved 24 countries. During the first survey in 2008, school leaders in approximately one third of the participating schools reported a shortage of qualified well-performing teachers to provide quality education. Teachers also indicated that they needed more training in Information and Communication Technology (ICT), special needs education, and teaching in diverse settings. During the 2013 survey, the 34 countries that participated found that professionals whose initial education included content, pedagogy and practice elements specifically for the subjects that they teach, felt better prepared for their work than the teachers without this kind of training. This is relevant information for systems of initial teacher preparation in all countries as teachers surveyed reported that feedback leads to positive changes in both their use of student assessments and their classroom-management practices.



Provincial Round-up

Eastern Cape Province



The Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE) MEC, Mr Fundile Gade, in partnership with the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) and the BankSeta, this week, launched a pilot project to ensure sound financial management in 50 Eastern Cape schools. The launch took place at the East London Education Leadership Institute on 3 June 2019. The launch follows the intense training of 50 officials by the Buffalo City TVET and Lovedale TVET Colleges on financial management and auditing. The officials will be dispatched to schools across various districts for a period of 18 months to assist schools and School Governing Bodies (SGBs) to improve their financial management systems. The project will also assist to upskill and mentor SGBs and to ensure that financial decisions made by schools are done in the best interest of learners. The leadership of the BankSeta, ECDoE and SAICA also signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) during the launch.

Free State Province



Free State Education MEC, Dr Tate Makgoe, hosted a Broad Management Meeting in Bloemfontein on 06 June 2019, to review the performance of primary and secondary schools in the Province, and to address education matters relating to quality education in the Province. Mr Elijah Mhlanga, Chief Director for the DBE Media Liaison and National and Provincial Communication Chief Directorate, delivered a presentation on the *Strategic Value of Communication and Government Communication Policy* to the Free State Broad Management team as part of his communication engagement sessions across the various provinces. “All Senior Mangers across the nine provinces will now have a clear understanding of the importance of communication and provide full support, as well as the required resources,” Mr Mhlanga concluded.

Limpopo Province

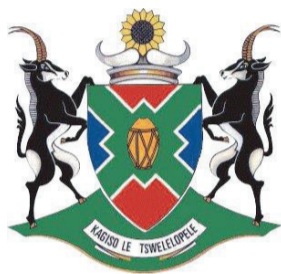


LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

The Limpopo Department of Education hosted their 2019 Provincial ABC Motsepe South African Schools Choral Eisteddfod (SASCE) competition at Bolivia Lodge in Polokwane from 30 May to 2 June 2019, under the theme “*Celebrating 25 years of our democracy*”. All 10 education districts across the Province participated in the annual provincial competition in 23 categories which included primary and secondary school choirs and soloists, as well as special schools. The 20 winning schools from seven districts in the Province will compete nationally at the Rhema Bible Church in Randburg, Gauteng Province from 25 to 28 June 2019. Limpopo MEC for Education, Ms Polly Boshielo, was pleased with the performances of the participating learners: “That is what we expect from our youth, to glitter like gold and participate in this school enrichment programme with excitement and sheer enthusiasm. As future leaders of our nation, we expect you to use choral music to promote unity in diversity; national reconciliation; positive values; social transformation; and social cohesion amongst yourselves as school going youth, and in your communities”.

North West Province



education

Lefapha la Thuto
Onderwys Departement
Department of Education
NORTH WEST PROVINCE

The North West Education MEC, Ms Mmaphefo Matsemela, this week, sent a stern warning to provincial officials from the Department of Education (NWDoE) to refrain from participating in corruption-related activities. “Our country has recorded a high number of corruption cases and our Department is not absolved from this indictment. I am urging all public servants from this Department to desist from participating in acts of corruption because you will be met by dire consequences. We need to uproot corruption and become a corruption-free Department. I expect all officials to be trustworthy, honest, and competent in order to be able to achieve our set goals,” said MEC Matsemela.

Western Cape Province



**Western Cape
Government**

Education

BETTER TOGETHER.

The 2018 General Household Survey, recently released by Statistics South Africa, reveals that the Western Cape has the lowest number of incidents of corporal punishment, with the percentage of reported incidents having decreased when compared to 2009. Corporal punishment is illegal in terms of the *South African Schools Act* and the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) views incidents of corporal punishment in a very serious light and takes all allegations brought to its attention extremely seriously. The Department conducts full investigations into all cases reported and charges anyone found guilty of practising corporal punishment. A school’s code of conduct should state clearly what kinds of behaviour are unacceptable. Should a learner transgress, then the school has the right to discipline the learner through other punitive procedures. The WCED is also committed to supporting schools instituting disciplinary procedures relating to violence and substance abuse. This is because the Department takes a zero tolerance stance against learners who behave violently and put the safety of fellow learners and teachers at risk. The WCED’s policy on *Learner Discipline and School Management* and the *WCED Abuse No More* protocol document, provide guidelines to schools on how to deal with these types of situations.

Upcoming Events

- 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
- 11 – 14 June 2019: The 9th South African AIDS Conference will be taking place at the Durban International Convention Centre in the KwaZulu-Natal 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
- 19 June 2019: The launch of the 3rd Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS) International Report
- 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
- 02 July 2019: The launch of the Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS) Country Report
- 11 – 12 July 2019: Minister Motshekga will be meeting with District Directors at the DBE Building in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 18 July 2019: Nelson Mandela International Day will be celebrated globally

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