



THUTO

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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Minister Motshekga introduces Deputy Minister to DBE staff



The Minister of Basic Education Mrs Angie Motshekga has today addressed DBE staff for the first time in the 6th Administration. The Minister was accompanied by her newly appointed Deputy, Dr Reginah Mhaule.

Dr Mhaule was introduced officially to the DBE staff since her appointment to the Basic Education Department as a Deputy Minister. She said she is looking forward to working with the collective led by Minister Motshekga: "It is an honour for me to follow in the footsteps of former Deputy Minister Surty. I am confident that working with the winning team we will be able to realize President Ramaphosa's vision as expressed in his State of the Nation Address".

In her address Minister Motshekga reminded staff to remain committed to the *Constitution* in providing quality education. The Minister mentioned some of DBE's priorities in the 6th Administration. These include school safety, infrastructure, Early Childhood Development and teacher development.





TALIS report gives teachers a voice



The TALIS report released this week has been welcomed by stakeholders. Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, launched the 2018 Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS), the largest international study surveying teachers and school leaders about their working conditions and learning environments. TALIS is one of the flagship projects of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and covers approximately 260,000 teachers in 15,000 schools across 48 countries. South Africa participated in the survey for the first time in 2018, making it the first African country to take part in such a survey. The *TALIS South African Country Report* was launched at Nellmapius Secondary School in Pretoria on 02 July 2019.

TALIS concluded that South African teachers are satisfied with the in-service training they receive, with 88% of teachers reporting that it had a positive impact on their teaching practice. Approximately 81% of teachers confirm that, during their initial education and training, they were instructed at an internationally comparable basis on subject content, pedagogy and classroom practice. The Survey also found that more than half of novice (new) teachers have a mentor assigned to them.

Administrative burdens and keeping order in the classroom are some of the challenges cited as occupying teaching time. At least 66% of classroom time is spent on actual teaching and learning in South Africa, compared to 78% in other countries. On average, 62% of teachers teach in a classroom where the first language of 10% of students differs from the language of instruction. Classroom size was also highlighted as a huge challenge.

The Survey concludes that teachers are committed to the noble cause of public schooling. At least 97% of teachers in South Africa cited the opportunity to influence children’s development or contribute to society, as a major workplace motivation.

“Overall, the Survey strengthens the narrative of a basic education system that is on the rise. Our duty therefore is to accelerate the implementation of existing basic education policies such as scaling of the teacher development initiatives so that we may inspire and enable them to innovate. Using this Survey, we will identify and share best practice to reduce existing gaps between professional vision and pedagogical practice,” Minister Motshekga concluded.

Click on the below link for additional information on TALIS:

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



DBE participates in 22nd National Association of Child Care Workers Biennial Conference



The National Association of Child Care Workers (NACCW) hosted the Global Child and Youth Care Conference in Durban from 2 to 4 July 2019. The Conference was held in tandem with the Child and Youth Care Network (CYC-Net) World Conference 2019, under the theme “Nation Building - One Child at a Time”.

The Conference brought together 1,500 delegates from 28 countries from across the globe and was attended by senior government officials, civil society organisations and UNICEF. The DBE was represented by Dr Faith Kumalo, Chief Director for Care and Support in Schools, as well as Ms Faith Mmola and Ms Khomotso Matlhanya from the Psychosocial Support Directorate. Approximately 100 Learner Support Agents (LSAs) from the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education were also in attendance.

The aim of the three-day Conference was to share diverse child and youth care work experiences, programmes and policies. Capacity building workshops for delegates were also included in the programme. Keynote speakers included Mr Cornelius Williams, Chief of Social Policy and Child Protection, UNICEF in Geneva; the Deputy Minister for Social Development, Ms Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu; and Dr Gharabaghi, Director of the School of Child and Youth Care at Ryerson University in Canada. A wide range of topics were discussed, including the monitoring of child participation; the plight of refugee children; relational teaching and practice; the power of story-telling and self-care. The school setting featured prominently as a critical site to care and protect children globally.

Dr Faith Kumalo addressed the Conference plenary on “Psychosocial Support for Learners in South African Schools - the Role of Child and Youth Care Workers in the School Setting”. Dr Kumalo highlighted the challenges that were identified by the South African Human Rights Commission’s enquiry on mental health following the Life Esidimeni tragedy. These include the disjuncture between key government departments; the under-investment in mental health, especially in rural areas where there is lack of infrastructure and human resource capacity; and stigma and discrimination that is prevalent in schools and communities. Moving forward, Dr Kumalo emphasised the need to supervise, mentor and support carers; for CYCW to align their activities with the school programme; confidentiality; and the need to gather evidence especially on the impact of educational outcomes of CYCW in schools. Dr Kumalo concluded by emphasising that society must work together in the best interest of the child.

Gauteng Province emerges as the champion of the 2019 SA School Sports Championships



Gauteng Province is the winner of the 2019 Winter Games, claiming 10 gold medals, after kicking dust in the eyes of their competitors in several sporting codes including soccer, volleyball, rugby, tennis, netball and hockey. The Winter Games, organised as part of the 2019 SA School Sports Championships, took place at KwaZulu-Natal University and surrounding sporting venues in Durban from 01 to 04 July 2019.

The Western Cape Province was in second place with eight gold medals and a trophy, whilst the KwaZulu-Natal Province was third place winner, claiming six gold medals and a trophy.

In its seventh year, the Championships saw more than 7,000 learners from across all nine provinces battling it out for gold. The prize giving ceremony was presided over by Minister of Sports, Arts and Culture, Mr Nathi Mthethwa.

In his address, Minister Mthethwa said: “Through initiatives such as the SA School Sports Championships, the future of South African’s sport will be strengthened. Since 2012, Government has been investing in this programme to promote sporting activities in public schools, especially in quintile 1 to 3 schools. The Championships are crucial in the development of your sports men and women who will, in the future, fly the South African flag high. The DBE and the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture will continue to work together to ensure that learners in the remote areas have access to proper sport facilities and resources. A total of 40% of funding invested in this programme will be dedicated to the training of teachers as sport coaches, as well as to the promotion of mass participation of learners in sporting activities”.



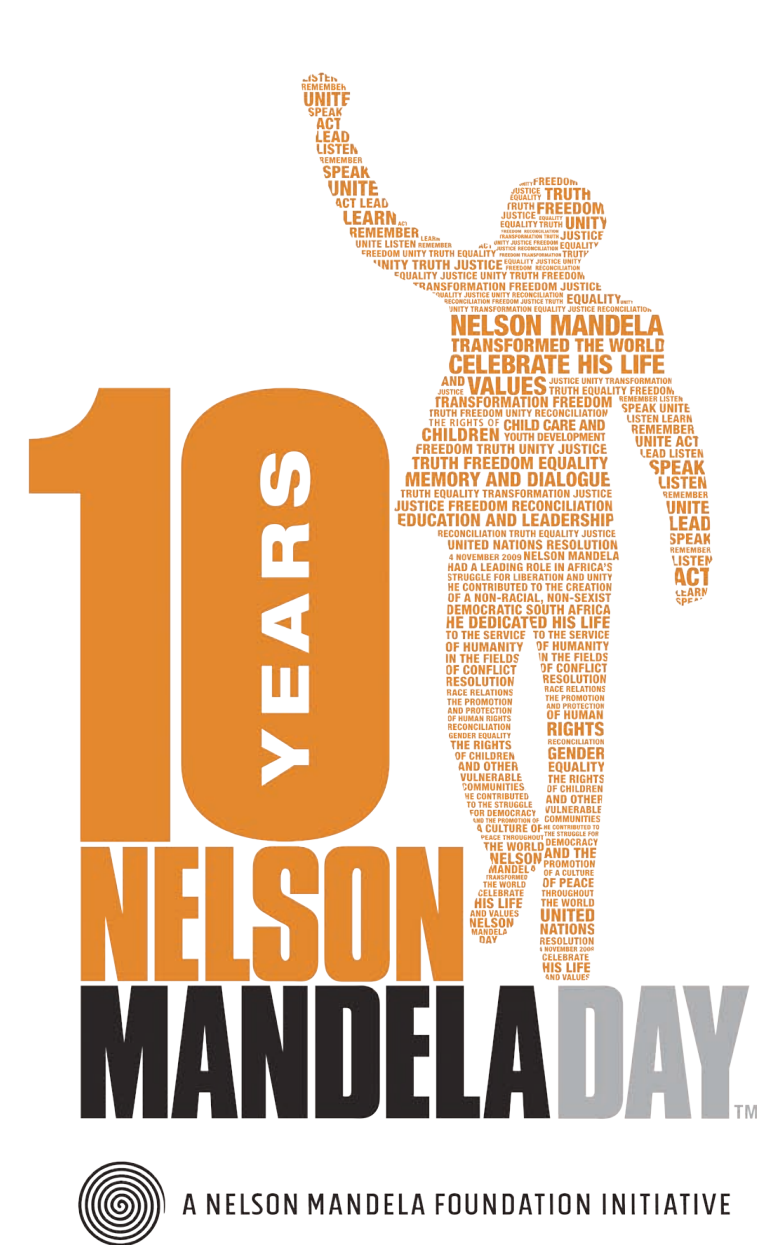
Former football stars praise sporting initiative

Several former South African footballers, including Messrs Linda Buthelezi, Fani Madida and Ntokozo Sikhakhane, praised the 2019 SA School Sports Championships whilst engaging with learners at the various sport venues.

Mr Sikhakhane advised learners to abstain from drugs and substance abuse to lead fulfilling and purposeful lives. “I am impressed with the standard of football displayed during this competition. I therefore urge all learners to acknowledge the significance of this platform created by Government through the Championships. This is one of the platforms that presented renowned stars such as Doctor Khumalo, Lucas Radebe and Caster Semenya exposure to the world of football and athletics.” He further encouraged the participants to commit themselves to their studies and to continue to participate in sport for a holistic schooling career.

Presenting the medals to the winners, Messrs Madida and Buthelezi congratulated the winning provinces and encouraged learners to maintain a balance between their school work and sport, agreeing that every child deserves quality education as a kick off in life. “Sporting activities are also important for mental and physical fitness, but should be accompanied by academic success,” concluded Mr Madida.

DBE celebrating a decade of support for Nelson Mandela International Day



Over the past decade, Nelson Mandela International Day, celebrated nationally and globally on 18 July, has been an opportunity to alleviate poverty and uplift the dignity of others in honour of Former President Nelson Mandela, an example of selfless service to others. As per the annual practice, the DBE will ensure that the Department and its officials take action, inspire change and spend, at least 65 minutes for Mandela on the day and during the month, to fight poverty and promote peace and reconciliation.

The goals aspired to during this period, and advocated by the Nelson Mandela Foundation, are amongst others, the provision of quality education to all; ensuring that all children have access to Early Childhood Development; reducing hunger and eliminating malnutrition in young children through the provision of nutritious meals; and ensuring the dignity of learners through the provision of safe sanitation in schools. The DBE is continually aspiring towards these goals, which are also promoted through the *Sustainable Development Goals* (SDG) and the *National Development Plan* (NDP), *Vision 2030*.

The DBE, in collaboration with Nestlé SA and Woolworths SA, will mark the day through various activities to promote healthy living and lifestyles amongst school-going children. The celebrations with Woolworths SA will take place at Ilinge Primary School in the Nelson Mandela Metro District, Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape Province on 18 July 2019, and with Nestlé SA at Devondale Intermediate School in the Dr Ruth Segkomotsi Mompoti District, Vryburg in the North West Province on 26 July 2019. These celebrations will ensure that healthy lifestyles and nutrition education is promoted amongst school children, Volunteer Food Handlers (VFHs), educators and parents. These activities will also include preparing meals for learners; gardening; and the cleaning of school yards and classrooms.

<https://www.nelsonmandela.org/>

NSC Support Programme for Mathematics and Physical Science teachers

The Teacher Development Implementation Directorate will be conducting training sessions for approximately 1,000 Mathematics and Physical Sciences teachers' across various provinces during July and August 2019. This forms part of the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations Support Programme, and the second session of training workshops for teachers that initially took place during February and March 2019.

In an attempt to improve performance in Mathematics, Science and Technology, the DBE has developed *The National Strategy for Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) Education (2019-2030)*; and *The Mathematics Teaching and Learning Framework for South Africa (2018)*. In addressing the challenges in gateway subjects such as Mathematics and Science, it is important to understand that whilst the quality of teaching with competence on content and pedagogy is fundamental, there are also other programme components such as school culture and learners' attitudes and attributes that need to be considered.

"The production of the Training Manuals in Mathematics and Physical Science by subject specialists has therefore been a key DBE intervention strategy to enhance capacity for effectiveness. These will be used to train teachers during the provincial workshops," explained Director for Teacher Development Implementation, Mr Phillip Dikgomo.



Provincial Round-up

Eastern Cape Province



Representatives from the Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE) visited a school furniture warehouse in Butterworth (Old Industrial Park) on 02 July 2019, to inspect the first consignment of school furniture produced. The ECDoE has established six school furniture warehouses across the Province to ensure that schools are provided with furniture to enable quality learning and teaching in classrooms. The six warehouses form part of the five state interventions recently announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa. These storage facilities for school furniture are situated in Berlin, Mthatha, Queenstown, Port Elizabeth, Butterworth and Mt Frere. Although five of these are manufacturing furniture from scratch, the Butterworth warehouse supports the School Furniture Refurbishment Programme. The refurbishment started with the collection of old school desks frames that were delivered to various warehouses for refurbishment by locally based company, Exempted Micro Enterprises, and a total of 36,000 units have been delivered thus far.

Gauteng Province



The Gauteng Provincial Government has announced its key priorities to fast track the Province's path to prosperity in realising the NDP's *Vision 2030*. The key focus areas for the next five years will be on the economy; jobs and infrastructure; education; skills revolution and health; integrated human settlements and land release; safety, social cohesion and food security as well as building a capable, ethical and developmental State driven under "Our Roadmap to 2030". Gauteng Premier, Mr David Makhura announced the key priorities on 01 July 2019, when he delivered his first State of the Province Address (SOPA) at the University of Johannesburg campus in Soweto.

Premier Makhura announced several initiatives that the province will introduce in the next five years. One such initiative is the appointment of an advisory panel to advise on the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) to transform Gauteng into a hub of Fourth Industrial Revolution skills, and a centre of excellence for digital economy breakthroughs such as Artificial Intelligence and Crypto Currency. Other initiatives include increasing the number of Schools of Specialisation from 17 to 35 and elevating matters of school safety. "We want our children to be safe in all schools. We will focus on the worst schools affected by gangsterism, violence and drugs and regular raids and searches will be conducted by the SAPS. We say no to weapons and drugs in our schools," the Premier said. During the first 12 months, a total number of 10 patrollers will be deployed per ward in all 508 wards and the Community Policing Forums will be revived at all police precincts.

North West Province



The Communication Directorate of the North West Department of Education, hosted a Communication Strategic Planning Workshop on 1 July 2019. During the workshop, guest speaker, Mr Elijah Mhlanga, DBE Spokesperson and Chief Director for the Media Liaison and National and Provincial Communication Chief Directorate delivered a presentation on Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) Communication Policy; Digital Media; and the strengthening of interprovincial and intergovernmental communication as part of his provincial engagement visits to the various provinces.

Upcoming Events

- 09 July 2019: Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, will be embarking on a Second Chance Matric Support Programme (SCMSP) Roadshow to Saldanha Bay, Western Cape Province
- 11 July 2019: Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, will be embarking on a Second Chance Matric Support Programme (SCMSP) Roadshow to Beaufort West in the Western Cape Province
- 16 July 2019: Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, will be presenting her Budget Vote in Parliament, Cape Town, Western Cape Province
- 18 July 2019: Nelson Mandela International Day will be celebrated globally
- 18 July 2019: The DBE, in collaboration with Woolworths SA, will mark Nelson Mandela International Day at Ilinge Primary School in the Nelson Mandela Metro District, Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape Province
- 26 July 2019: The DBE, in collaboration with Nestlé SA, will be celebrating Nelson Mandela International Day at Devondale Intermediate School in the Dr Ruth Sekgomotsi Mompoti District, Vryburg in the North West Province

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