



THUTO

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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Minister Motshekga to table 2019/2020 Budget Vote in Cape Town

Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, will address media ahead of the tabling of the Basic Education Budget Vote at the Imbizo Media Centre at Parliament in Cape Town at 10:00 on the morning of 16 July 2019.

Minister Motshekga's Budget Vote Debate will be taking place at the National Assembly Chamber, Parliament in Cape Town on 16 July 2019 at 16:30, whilst the Minister will be addressing the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) in Parliament, Cape Town on the following day, 17 July 2019 at 14:00.

The Minister will be reflecting on the progress made and the challenges addressed via various education initiatives and interventions during this period in Government's effort to address aspects of quality education in the Sector.



THE NATIONAL ASSEMBLY BUDGET VOTE DEBATE SPEECH

DATE:
16 July 2019

TIME:
16h00 for 16h30

VENUE: National Assembly Chamber New Wing,
Parliament Precinct, Cape Town

THE NATIONAL COUNCIL OF PROVINCES

DATE:
17 July 2019

TIME:
13h30 for 14h00

VENUE: National Assembly Chamber New Wing,
Parliament Precinct, Cape Town



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Sector priorities outlined at Portfolio Committee in Parliament



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, says that reading comprehension in the first years of school will be high on the list of priorities for the Basic Education Sector. Minister Motshekga met with the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education on 09 July 2019, in Parliament, Cape Town. This was the DBE's first appearance before the Committee in the 6th Administration. The Department's Annual Performance Plan (APP) for 2019/2020 was presented and discussed to outline the details of the sector priorities.

In support of the Presidential State of the Nation Address (SONA) 2019, Early Childhood Development (ECD) and compulsory ECD for all children before they enter Grade 1, is another key priority. The DBE has also developed plans to ensure that pro-poor programmes, such as the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) in schools, are strengthened, to eliminate hunger that affects millions of children in our country. The Department will also focus on the provision of digitised material for learning on a tablet device, prioritising the most disadvantaged schools which are in the poorest communities, including multi-grade, multiphase, farm and rural schools.

During the next five years, the DBE will therefore work on implementing the following priorities, which are linked to the *National Development Programme* (NDP), and the 2019 SONA to address sector priorities on improved reading and learning outcomes: the ECD function shift; Early Grade Reading; ICTs in Education; Assessments; Violence and Social Cohesion in schools; and the Sanitation Appropriate For Education (SAFE) Initiative.

By the end of 2019, the DBE will expand protein alternatives in the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP); support the pilot in the Northern Cape Province to improve the quality of school meals; better education and health outcomes in schools; produce a breakfast guideline, including the mapping of partner breakfast programmes to Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) for implementation; and strengthen international and national partnerships.

The DBE will double its efforts to achieve both the short and long term goals of the Education Sector in collaboration with PEDs and partners.



DG Mweli undertakes ICT fact-finding mission to Rwanda



Rwandan Director-General for Education Policy and Planning, Ms Rose Baguma, and her team received and welcomed ICT experts from the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and PEDs to Rwanda for an ICT fact-finding mission from 8 to 19 July 2019.

The SA delegation led, by the Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mweli, wanted to learn how Rwanda is unfolding the 2020 ICT Vision. In the process they met with the Rwandan Education Board responsible for the implementation of ICT, as well as the Ministry of Rwanda responsible for policy and monitoring.

The delegation visited POSITIVO GBH, a manufacturing company that designs and manufactures educational devices for learners and teachers, including laptops for the Africa Digital Media, ICT Innovation Centre and a number of rural and urban schools using ICT. The laptops and tablets are customised for use in schools, and branded as government property, with a number of non-removable security and safety features. The devices are loaded with educational content for online and offline use. The DBE team also visited the Integrated Polytechnic Regional Centre (IPRC) which includes the ICT Innovation Centre that runs start-ups for innovation projects. The Innovation Centre presents Incubation Programmes for young innovators who are provided with work spaces (offices), ICT tools and technical support.

The Rwandan team shared a comprehensive overview of Rwanda's ICT in Education Programme, and more specifically the gains and lessons from Rwanda's "one laptop per child" initiative. The SA team visited the G.S. Kacyiru Primary and Secondary School to observe the initiative at school level. The delegation also engaged in technical exchanges with counterparts on their School Management Data System, E-learning and the use of "Contact Access Point" devices for remote schools which are not yet connected to the internet.



Director-General wraps up Winter Camp Visits in three provinces



Director-General for Basic Education, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mweli, dedicated 4 July 2019 to wrap up his annual Winter Camp Visits in the Free State, North West and Gauteng Provinces to monitor and provide learner support.

In total, on that day, DG Mweli and the team visited eight Winter Camps in the three provinces where he kick-started the morning at the University of the Free State to attend a camp hosted by the Free State Education Department in collaboration with the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA) and Thuthuka. The DG then visited the Air-force Base Bloemspruit in Bloemfontein to meet with learners from Reamohetsi School of Arts in the Botshabelo District. From there he proceeded to a Technical Winter Camp held at Sentraal Primary School. Despite the long busy schedule, DG Mweli made an effort to visit a Teachers Camp at Welkom Technical High School where teachers from various schools were being equipped with woodwork and welding skills. Mr Mweli concluded his Free State visits at a walk-in camp at Bloemfontein South High School.

The visits continued to the Potchefstroom High School for boys in the North West Province where SAICA hosted a Winter Camp for 195 Grade 11 learners, carefully selected according to merit from 69 schools in the Province.

Back in the Gauteng Province, Mr Mweli met with 348 girl learners from Johannesburg Central District at El-Shaddai Christian School, Living Waters Lodge and Prestige College in Pretoria for an opportunity to meet with more learners attending the winter learner support programme.

Government calls for collective effort and support in strengthening the education accord in various school communities



Chief of Staff in the Ministry, Mr Paul Sehlabelo, gathered a team of Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign (QLTC) Inter-Provincial Committee members, to review the status of the existing education accord in various school communities. The event took place at the DBE Conference Centre in Pretoria on 10 July 2019.

The seminar, which was attended by various education stakeholders including teacher unions and DBE senior officials, was used as a critical platform to restore the dignity of QLTC, which is key in promoting uniformity and mutual relationships between schools and education stakeholders. The QLTC plays a crucial role in improving quality learning outcomes in the Basic Education Sector, focusing more on schools in rural communities.

Parental involvement in education, the private sector's contribution to education and the role of School Governing Bodies (SGBs) in strengthening effective functionality of schools, took centre stage during the seminar.

Mr Sehlabelo said that, "education remains a societal issue and it is necessary for education stakeholders to work together in promoting quality learning and teaching in schools. One of our goals, through this seminar, was to realign QLTC with key priorities of the 6th Administration, including School Safety; Social Cohesion; Reading for Meaning; the Three Tier System, which entails academic and non-academic streams; and the Second Chance Matric Support Programme (SCMSP). The seminar will play a crucial role in assisting the DBE to develop a QLTC Framework to guide provinces and districts in mobilising various education stakeholders in support of schools".

The QLTC, led by Mr Sehlabelo, consists of 20 coordinators responsible for the effective implementation of QLTC activities at National and Provincial level. The QLTC structure is also well represented at school level through the SGBs.

DBE showcasing the life and legacy of Nelson Mandela



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. During November 2009, the United Nations General Assembly formally declared 18 July as official Nelson Mandela International Day. This year's Mandela Month coincides with the 25 Years of Democracy celebrations. As part of the commemoration, the Social Cohesion and Equity in Education Directorate set up an exhibition at the Conference Centre at the DBE Building in Pretoria in honour of Madiba to showcase the life and legacy of this global icon's dedication to human rights and nation building.

The Nelson Mandela Foundation launched a new strategy for International Nelson Mandela Day, titled *Mandela Day: The Next Chapter*, at the Nelson Mandela Foundation during May 2019. Director of Mandela Day at the Foundation, Mr Yase

Godlo, explained that the strategy charts a new path for the ten-year-old initiative significantly changing the manner in which it will impact on people's lives. The next ten years of Mandela Day will see the establishment of a global network of change-makers to ensure deeper and sustainable impact in response to global challenges of poverty. Mandela Day has moved away from an individualised, reactive approach towards a sustainable and collaborative methodology to address issues affecting society.

The Foundation's Chief Executive, Mr Sello Hatang noted how Mandela Day has grown and is now active in over 200 countries since it was introduced by the United Nations General Assembly in 2009. "Nelson Mandela did not want Mandela Day to become a public holiday but an opportunity to address deep-rooted issues," said Hatang. The new Mandela Day strategy will primarily encourage collaborative partnerships to support initiatives in the areas of education and literacy; food and nutrition; sanitation; shelter; and active citizenship. This approach will see a sharpened focus on Early Childhood Development (ECD).

As per the annual practice, the DBE will ensure that the Department and its officials take action, inspire change, and spend at least 67 minutes for Mandela on the day and during the month, to fight poverty and promote peace and reconciliation. These activities will include, amongst others, preparing meals for learners; gardening; and the cleaning of school yards and classrooms.

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



**Young scientists encouraged to achieve brilliance
in Science and Mathematics**

Top results in Grade 12 do not guarantee success, but having studied gateway subjects such as Science and Mathematics opens up many doors to future success. The National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF) encourages students to complete their studies in Science or Engineering, preferably up to PhD level. The NSTF also tries to motivate students to follow fulfilling careers in Science, Engineering and Technology (SET).

The NSTF Briliants Programme recognises 18 first year students studying in the Science, Medicine and Engineering fields. A young male and female student are chosen from each of the nine provinces. These students must have received top Grade 12 marks in Mathematics and Physical Science in the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations for the previous year. They are identified by the Provincial Education Departments (PEDs), and selected by the NSTF. These are students who scored 90% or more for Mathematics and Physical Science. The Briliants Programme has proven to be a valuable project as many deserving previously-disadvantaged students have been inspired and motivated, as well as often helped to obtain bursaries. These outstanding Mathematics and Science matriculants from 2018 were honoured during the prestigious NSTF-South32 Awards which took place on 27 June 2019.

Eskom Expo was this year's winner of the NGO Category. This award is made for an outstanding contribution to Science, Engineering, Technology and Innovation. The Eskom Expo for Young Scientists creates excitement for science through research-based projects and encourages learners to take up science-orientated subjects and careers. The Expo is also an annual science fair where students present their scientific investigations to judges and the public. The Expo's mission is to develop young scientists and to encourage more students to take up SET careers. As part of the national initiative endorsed by the DBE and the Department of Higher Education Science and Technology, the Eskom Expo forms part of the provincial MST strategies.

<http://www.nstf.org.za/youth/briliants-programme/>



Provincial Round-up

Eastern Cape Province



The Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE), in partnership with Indoni SA, recently hosted a Cultural Youth Camp in the Alfred Nzo West District. This annual programme for school learners caters for different cultural groups across the nine provinces. The Camp starts from a District level and then progresses to Provincial and National levels. According to Mr Ntsikelelo Vazi, Director for Social Cohesion, School Enrichment and School Safety, the Youth Camp is a moral regeneration programme, targeting young boys and girls using heritage, culture, identity and indigenous knowledge to bring about behavioural change. A total of 10 Districts hosted their camps with 200 learners participating. A total of 50 best performing learners attended the Provincial Camp. The top learners will then proceed to represent the Province at the National Cultural Youth Camp. During the Camp learners were taught to understand the importance of national symbols; argue rights and responsibilities constructively; and become good citizens who can eliminate teenage pregnancy through practicing their cultural values, for effective teaching and learning.

Gauteng Province



GAUTENG PROVINCE

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The Gauteng Education Department says it accepts the community's position that it did not torch the local Katlehong Primary School. Last week, two classrooms were set alight at the primary school during the service delivery protests in the Ekurhuleni township. "Following the torching of Katlehong Primary School, the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) and Youth Development accepts the community's position that they didn't mobilise for the burning of the school, as well as the principal's report which believed that, it might not be the community that burnt the school," said the Department. Whilst GDE accepted the community's standpoint and stated that there are no funds to repair the school, it suspects that this act of arson might be the work of a lone member of the community. "It is important to note that we have an undertaking from the community to assist to track the culprit," said Education MEC, Mr Panyaza Lesufi. Teaching resumed this week with affected learners being temporarily accommodated at two identified classes at the same school.

KwaZulu-Natal Province



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PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, Mr Kwazi Mshengu and the Head of Department (HoD), Dr Enock Nzama, launched the 100-day Countdown at Menzi High School in uMlazi, Durban, on 10 July 2019 ahead of the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations. We want to remind all Grade 12 learners in the Province that it is important to work extra hard in order to succeed in the end-of-year examinations. We also ask members of the community and parents in particular, to support our learners during this crucial time," concluded MEC Mshengu.

Mpumalanga Province



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MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

MEC for Mpumalanga Education, Mr Bonakele Majuba, launched the 2019 Radio Lessons initiative at Hazyview Comprehensive School in Mbombela on 09 July 2019. The lessons were introduced by the Mpumalanga Department of Education to provide direct support to learners to improve subject content and supplement classroom activities. Mathematics, Mathematics Literacy, Physical Science, Economics and Accounting are some of the high enrolment subjects that will be discussed. The timeslot for the lessons are 14:30 to 15:00 from Mondays to Thursdays on various community radio stations such as Ikwekwezi FM and Ligwalagwala FM.

Western Cape Province



Western Cape
Government

Education

BETTER TOGETHER.

This week, more than a million learners from the Western Cape Province returned to school after the winter holidays. The third term of the academic year is one of the most important terms for learners, educators and officials as important examinations and tests will be taking place. It is also a time when officials take on the mammoth task of ensuring that the Department is prepared for the start of the 2020 academic year by finalising and processing last minute admissions. Western Cape Education MEC, Ms Debbie Schäfer, expressed her concern that there are still over 85,000 applications where parents have not confirmed the placement of their children for 2020. Parents have until 12 July 2019, to confirm placement at their school of choice. If they do not confirm their choice, the Western Cape Education Department (WCED) will allocate the first place where their application was successful. Parents were also urged to remain calm whilst the second phase of the admissions are being processed. By confirming applications, it will allow the WCED to determine the spaces available at the various schools to accommodate all learners.

Upcoming Events

- 16 July 2019: Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, will be presenting her Budget Vote in Parliament, Cape Town, Western Cape Province
- 17 July 2019: Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, will be addressing the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) 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
- 18 – 19 July 2019: An Inter-provincial Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) Conditional Grant Meeting will be taking place at the Mpumalanga MST Academy in Witbank, Emalahleni in the Mpumalanga Province
- 24 – 26 July 2019: Teacher Centre Managers will be trained on *Managing the Changes in Digital Technologies* at the Southern Sun Hotel at Oliver Tambo International Airport, Kempton Park in the Gauteng 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
- 29 – 30 July 2019: An Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) High Level Policy Dialogue for Education Ministers from the African Continent will be taking place at Emperor's Palace, Boksburg in the Gauteng Province

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