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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Minister Motshekga delivers 2019/20 Budget Vote in Parliament, Cape Town



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, delivered the Sector's Budget Vote for the 2019/20 financial year at the National Assembly Chamber in Parliament, Cape Town on 16 July 2019. In relation to the Basic Education Budget Vote 14 for the 2019 Medium-Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) period, the Minister indicated that the overall 2019/20 MTEF budget allocation for the DBE is above R24.5 billion, an increase of 3.4% from the 2018/19 overall allocation whereas the overall allocation for 2019/20 Condition Grants for the DBE is above R18.6 billion, an increase of 4.9% from the 2018/19 financial year.

Minister Motshekga opened the debate by recommitting the building of a solid foundation for a quality and efficient Basic Education system, from ECD to the Further Education and Training (FET) Band. Minister Motshekga and Deputy Minister Dr Mhaule, delved into eleven strategic areas which have been identified for the 2019 MTEF as apex priorities:

Priority 1: Improving the foundational skills of literacy and numeracy;

Priority 2: Immediate implementation of a curriculum with skills and competencies for a changing world;

Priority 3: Collaborate with the Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology to equip teachers with skills and knowledge to teach literacy and numeracy;

Priority 4: Dealing decisively with the quality and efficiency through the implementation of standardised assessments;

Priority 5: Eliminating the digital divide by ensuring that within six years, all schools and education offices have access to internet and free data;

Priority 6: The urgent implementation of the two-years of ECD before Grade 1; Priority 7: The Decolonisation of basic education through the teaching and promotion of African languages, South African and African History and national symbols to all learners up to Grade 12;

Priority 8: To teach and promote school safety, health and social cohesion;

Priority 9: To complete an integrated Infrastructure Development Plan;

Priority 10: To increase the safety-net through pro-poor policies to cover learners who are deserving in programmes; and

Priority 11: To strengthen partnerships with all stakeholders.

Dr Mhaule mentioned one of the commitments President Cyril Ramaphosa made during the State of the Nation Address (SONA) during June 2019, which was that of a "Capable State". The Deputy Minister said: "Within the Basic Education Sector, this translates into ensuring that all levels of basic education delivery are functional, efficient and of impeccable quality".

<https://www.education.gov.za/Newsroom/Speeches/tabid/950/ctl/Details/mid/8127/ItemID/6933/Default.aspx>

Basic Education Minister addresses the National Council of Provinces



Subsequent to the release of the launch of the results of the 2018 Teaching and Learning International Survey (TALIS 2018) on 02 July 2019, Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, tabled the 2019/20 Financial Year Budget Vote at the National Council of Provinces Chamber in Parliament on 17 July 2019. TALIS is a flagship project of the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), which aims to provide valid, timely and comparable information to assist participating countries review and define policies for developing a high-quality teaching profession.

Minister Motshekga said: “It is no coincidence that all continental and international standardised assessment tests such as TALIS 2018, are unanimous in reporting that the South African Basic Education system is firmly on the rise. These studies confirm the importance of the early acquisition of the foundational skills and competencies of reading and numeracy as critical goals that require focused attention in our schools and sustained support from parents, civil society, and the private sector”.

Following the 11 priority pointers outlined at the National Assembly of the R281.2 billion allocated to Basic Education for 2019/20, a total of R256.7 billion has been allocated for the nine Provincial Education Departments, an increase of 6.9% from 2018/19. Minister Motshekga stressed the issue of tightening and strengthening financial controls and compliance with legal prescripts and standard operation procedures, as well as enhancing fiduciary accountability at all levels of the system.

“We have noted remarkable progress in a variety of indicators among our provinces. An impression should not be created that there are provinces that are outperforming others. Provinces have different strengths in a variety of indicators. The one indicator that we must work hard to improve on is that of transformation and social cohesion in the system,” Minister Motshekga concluded.

<https://www.education.gov.za/Newsroom/Speeches/tabid/950/ctl/Details/mid/8127/ItemID/6935/Default.aspx>

DBE and JICA cement partnership in Mathematics

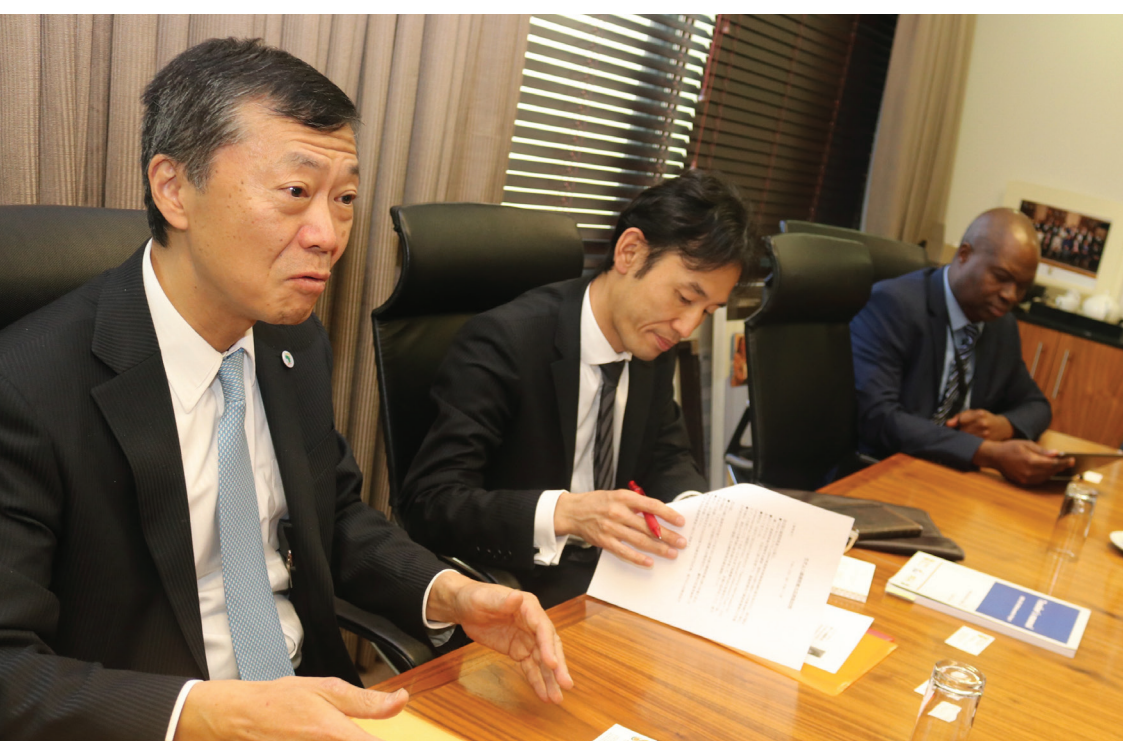


Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, recently met with the Ambassador of Japan, His Excellency, Mr Norio Maruyama, to cement the partnership between the DBE and Japan. The DBE cooperates with Japan through Mathematics specialists provided by the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA), and who are currently assisting provinces in improving Mathematics learning outcomes.

Since its inception, the partnership saw a teaching guidebook for word problems in Mathematics for Grades 1 to 4 being developed during 2012. The DBE and JICA piloted the “In-School Monitoring Model” in 192 schools in the Eastern Cape and North West Provinces for monitoring the implementation of teaching word problems, through lesson plan style activities using the guidebook. According to JICA, The DBE-JICA Mathematics project will play a crucial role in improving quality passes in Mathematics. JICA congratulated the DBE for having

achieved a significant improvement in Mathematics during the 2018 National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations. The two parties are now anticipating the development of a teacher’s manual that will consist of lesson plans and critical points to address learning gaps in Mathematics. JICA is also assisting the Department with the establishment of the National Mathematics, Science and Technology Institute. JICA will be providing technical expertise to the Department for the establishment of the Institute, as well as its implementation for a period of two years.

Mr Maruyama reaffirmed the commitment of the government of Japan to support the South African Basic Education Sector in the field of Mathematics, adding that the contracts of the JICA Mathematics specialists provided to the DBE has been extended to 2020. “Japan wants to continue providing the much needed support in the field of Mathematics, and is also willing to expand the support to include science and vocational education and training, to support South Africa in gearing itself up for the Fourth Industrial Revolution,” said Maruyama.



DBE and the United Arab Emirates elevate collaborative efforts on Basic Education



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, hosted an engagement meeting with his Excellency, the Ambassador of the United Arab Emirates (UAE), Mr Mahash Saeed Salem Alhameli. The meeting, which took place at the DBE Building in Pretoria on 12 July 2019, was aimed at strengthening relations between South Africa and the UAE on Basic Education.

In her welcoming address, Minister Motshekga acknowledged the UAE for showing interest in collaborating with the DBE on several key initiatives aimed at preparing learners for the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The partnership between South Africa and the UAE, which was first established in 1994, has been commended for having maintained a good bilateral and a close commercial relationship. The two parties have now agreed to collaborate on several aspects, including Reading for Meaning; Information and Communication Technology; Infrastructure; Teacher Development; Social Cohesion; and Technical Vocational and Technical Occupational pathways.

The DBE and the UAE further intend to elevate collaborative efforts in key priority areas of the current administration to strengthen quality and efficiency in the Basic Education Sector.



UNESCO hosts New York University students at the DBE



The South African National Commission for UNESCO hosted 19 New York University (NYU) students at the DBE Building in Pretoria on 12 July 2019.

The New York University Summer Study Abroad Programme to South Africa, under the leadership of Professor Teboho Moja, provides students with an opportunity to examine South Africa's social and educational initiatives. Dr Moja is a professor of higher education at NYU, and has been a policy analyst with a focus on the South African higher education system. Former President Nelson Mandela appointed her as Executive Director and Commissioner to the National Commission on Higher Education, and she also served as Special Advisor to two former Ministers of Education in South Africa.

The purpose of the visit was to engage with DBE officials and deliberate on issues of education enrichment services; partnerships; care and support; health; safety; and social cohesion. This annual programme focuses on research, whilst the students also undertake visits to schools, universities, and communities in rural and urban settings for them to explore the country's diverse cultures and gain an understanding of the challenges in respect of education.

Alviva donates multi-function devices to E3 for Teacher Training Centres

This Teacher Development Centre is proud to receive this equipment from E³ and Alviva for its work in supporting South Africa's teachers. If it's going to be, it's up to me.



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Alviva has donated over 100 multi-function devices (printing, scanning, and photocopying) for selected Teacher Training Centres. Alviva provides information technology and communication services for businesses across the African continent.

Alviva and its subsidiaries Datacentrix, Pinnacle and Apex have supported the E3 (Entrepreneurship, Employability, and Education) initiative of the DBE, which is managed by Ms Waheeda Carvello, Director for Curriculum Implementation and Quality Improvement, GET and E3's partners. These include the Maharishi Institute, the Community and Individual Development Association, the New Leaders Foundation, and Care for Education.

The initiative seeks to introduce project-based entrepreneurship, employability, and a 21'st Century skills learning curriculum into all primary and secondary schools in the country. In every grade level the existing curriculum (in subjects such as Economic and Management Sciences; Life Orientation; etc.) is being enriched with real life projects that are learner centered to open the walls of the classrooms to real active problem-solving, solution generation, team-work, and implementation by the school-learners themselves. The project aims to be one through which the learners' voice and ideas matter to develop agency, self-efficacy and passion for solving problems that are local context relevant.



Ensuring a second chance at quality learning and teaching



The Second Chance Matric Support Programme (SCMSP), which was launched in the Amathole East District in the Eastern Cape Province by Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga during August 2018, is a success story. The aim of the SCMSP is to provide support to out-of-school learners who have not been able to meet the requirements of the National Senior Certificate (NSC) or the extended Senior Certificate (SC), thereby meeting the goals of the *National Development Plan* (NDP), to increase learner retention.

Dr Sandy Malapile, Director for the SCMSP, and Mrs Siphokazi Zokwana, DBE Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign (QLTC) co-ordinator, held a workshop with the Amathole East Senior Management Members to ensure the successful implementation of the Programme. Meetings were also held with the Office of the Mayor, Mr Samkelo Janda, and various Councillors to ensure that candidates were mobilised. The various chiefs, community leaders and NGOs were also rallied for advocacy purposes and Centre Managers were identified by the Circuit Management Centre (CMC) Heads. Quality tutors, with academic results above 60% for three consecutive years, were selected by Subject Advisors to ensure quality teaching. The Circuit Manager of Ngqamakhwe CMC, Ms Busisiwe Gqobho, advocated the SCMSP Programme within the community.

Six Centres were established at Butterworth High School, Elliotdale Technical School, as well as Centane, Idutywa, Ngqamakhwe and Willowvale Centres (a total of 48 tutors) to assist with the Programme. Elliotdale Technical School invited Vodacom for learner registration to enable them to access lessons on their digital devices, and each learner was issued with a sim card loaded with data bundles. A total of 3,362 candidates wrote the May/June examinations. “The District is anticipating increasing the number of candidates, through QLTC mobilisation strategies, who will be writing during October and November 2019, as well as increasing the number of candidates to register for 2020. I am confident that the Programme will improve the results within the District,” said Mrs Ntombekhaya Nightingale, SCMSP District Co-coordinator.

Provincial Round-up

Eastern Cape Province



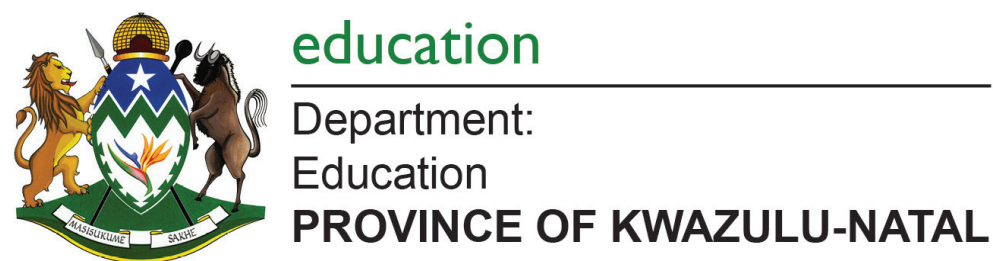
The Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE), in partnership with Indoni SA, recently hosted a Cultural Youth Camp in the Alfred Nzo West District. This annual programme for school learners caters for different cultural groups across the nine provinces. The Camp starts from a District level and then 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



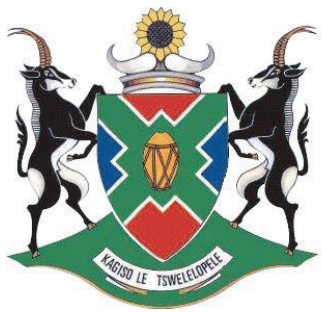
Gauteng Education MEC, Mr Panyaza Lesufi, said that the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) is standing firm on its stance not to use government funds to repair schools destroyed by communities. During recent years, South Africa has seen an alarming rise in instances where communities vandalise school infrastructure during service delivery protests. During 2016, more than 20 schools were torched during a demarcation protest in Vuwani in the Limpopo Province. Lesufi said that his department did not have money to give to communities that destroy their schools. “It’s a continuation of our standpoint, it’s not something new. We’ve done it before, we’ll continue to do it. If you burn down the school, then you must suffer the consequences.” Police are still busy with their investigations after the recent torching of the Katlehong School, which resulted in affected pupils being accommodated at surrounding schools.

KwaZulu-Natal Province



The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, Mr Kwazi Mshengu, and the Head of Department (HoD) for the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education (KZNDoE), Dr Enock Vusumuzi Zama, were, this week, briefed on the progress made in respect of the construction of the La Mercy Mathematics and Science Academy. The operations and functionality of this Academy is envisaged to commence in the 2020 academic year, with admissions starting in October 2019. The project forms part of the KZNDoE’s R15-billion upgrades and additions programme. The scope of work includes the demolition of five single-storey two-classroom blocks with ablution facilities, and the conversion of two existing double-storey seven-classroom blocks into a dormitory and central services building. The project also involves the construction of two new double-storey six-classroom blocks; two 180-bed dormitory blocks; a dining hall; a multipurpose hall; an administration facility; two sick bays; a kitchen; a staffroom and five toilet blocks; bulk services – electrical, mechanical, water, sewer and storm water reticulation; a road; fencing; and a guardhouse. This state-of-the-art Academy will ensure that learners are adequately skilled for the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

North West Province



education

Lefapha la Thuto

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Department of Education

NORTH WEST PROVINCE

North West Education Premier, Mr Job Mokgoro, recently announced that the North West Provincial Government has set aside R1,2 million towards the province's School Safety Programme to fight crime within schools. "This will be done in collaboration with the North West Department of Education and other stakeholders, including the South African Police Service (SAPS). There will be unannounced on-the-spot search and seizure operations by uniformed and non-uniformed law enforcement officers in and around school premises, and we believe that through this approach, drugs and weapons will be removed from schools," Premier Mokgoro said. The North West School Safety Summit, held in Rustenburg on 13 March 2019, resolved that 200 security guards would be posted at schools which have been identified as high risk schools. Recent violent incidents at schools in the Province have left teachers, learners, parents, as well as community members shocked and traumatised.

Western Cape Province



**Western Cape
Government**

Education

BETTER TOGETHER.

Western Cape Education MEC, Ms Debbie Schäfer, this week, released statistics relating to burglary and vandalism incidents during the past June/July holiday. Over a period of 24 days (14 June 2019 – 9 July 2019), 42 schools were either burgled or vandalised. When compared to the same period last year, the number of incidents rose from 27 to 42. From January 2018 to June 2018, 395 schools were burgled or vandalised. During the first 6 months of 2019, 471 schools have either been burgled or vandalised. For the period January to December 2018, 768 schools were targeted. Therefore, **on average, two schools are being burgled or vandalised every day.** It also indicates that the number of incidents reported this year is on the rise from 2018. Incidents are not confined to the Metro Area.

"Our schools should be places where we "Enter to learn" and not for criminal elements to "Enter to steal". The WCED also provides 24-hour security at selected schools. This is extremely costly and it's not always possible to predict where or when an incident will occur. However, schools with security guards are also victims of crime and schools have reported assaults on security guards. We are reliant on SAPS to ensure community stability and safety. Unfortunately, SAPS is severely under-resourced in this province. Our schools must continue to forge partnerships with local neighbourhood watches, armed response companies and to liaise with their local police stations to conduct additional periodic patrols around their schools. Communities are, however, our best line of defence and we thank those community members who have taken an active role in protecting their community schools," MEC Schäfer concluded.

Upcoming Events

- 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
- 09 August 2019: South Africa will be celebrating National Women's Day
- 12 – 26 August 2019: Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, will be embarking on the second phase of his 2019 Provincial Engagement Visits to the various provinces, commencing in the Eastern Cape, and concluding his visits in the Western Cape Province
- 16 to 18 August 2019: The 10th annual National Y-CAP Championships will be taking place at Kopanong Hotel and Conference Centre in Benoni, Gauteng Province
- 21 – 23 August 2019: A Teacher Development and Curriculum Management (TDCM) Lekgotla will be taking place at Birchwood Hotel and Conference Centre in Boksburg, Gauteng Province

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