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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Minister Motshekga to pay tribute to women during Women's Month Commemorations

25 Years of Democracy

Growing South Africa

Together for Women's Emancipation



NATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY 2019

Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, will be hosting the Women's Month Commemorations at the Women's Living Heritage Monument at the Lillian Ngoyi Square in Pretoria on 12 August 2019. The monument was unveiled by Former President Jacob Zuma during the 2016 Women's Month celebrations.

This year's annual Women's Month commemoration will be held under the theme: *"25 Years of Democracy: Growing South Africa Together for Women's Emancipation"*. The 2019 Women's Month celebrations take place alongside the 65th anniversary of the Founding Conference of the Federation of South African Women which adopted the 1954 *Women's Charter*. The Charter called for a society where "women do not form a society separate from the men" and therefore "share in the problems and anxieties of our men, and joins hands with them to remove social evils and obstacles to progress".

The Charter also gave expression to the common experiences, visions and aspirations of South African women, providing the platform for women to voice their call for respect and recognition of their human dignity, rights and change in their status and material conditions in a future South Africa. This year is therefore a pivotal year for the accelerated realisation of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls, including those with disabilities.

South African Chinese Language Day announced



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, and Chinese Ambassador, Mr Lin Songtian, announced 17 September as annual South African Chinese Language Day. The announcement was made during the Chinese Language Teaching in South Africa gala evening that took place in Tshwane on 05 August 2019.

During 2015, Minister Motshekga introduced Chinese in South Africa's national education system as a second additional language, whilst the Beijing Foreign Studies University, China's top foreign language study university, has opened 84 foreign language teaching programmes, including Zulu, and Tswana, Xhosa and Sotho. South Africa has the largest number of Confucius Institutes and Confucius Classrooms in Africa. These Institutes have played a key role in inter-school cooperation, and enhanced mutual understanding and cooperation between the universities and the youth of both countries. "Our two countries have jointly set up six Confucius Institutes and three Confucius Classrooms in South Africa. Chinese language courses are offered in 45 primary and secondary schools, with over 7,100 primary and secondary school students, 1,300 college students and more than 450 learners participating. The Confucius Institute of the University of Johannesburg has set up the China Research Centre and is actively discussing joint construction of a national key science and technology laboratory," Ambassador Songtian said.

As of the end of 2018, the number of South African students studying in China has rapidly increased from over 400 students in 2014, to more than 3,000. The Chinese Government provides more than 100 government scholarships to South Africa on an annual basis and has added 31 new scholarships for South African students studying in China for the 2018/2019 academic year.

ESA launches *Regional Let's Talk! Pregnancy at the Right Time* Campaign



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, joined by several Ministers in Eastern and Southern Africa (ESA) recently launched the *Regional Let's Talk! Pregnancy at the Right Time Campaign* at Hilton Hotel in Sandton. Through this campaign, the ESA Ministries have vowed to work collectively in ensuring that young girls are equipped with sexuality education to achieve a 75% reduction of Early and Unintended Pregnancy (EUP) by 2020. The Campaign aims to create momentum for change at each level of the social system in each of the 21 ESA Commitment countries by providing materials which facilitate conversations among stakeholders, communities and families on EUP prevention and management.

According to Prof Hubert Gijzen from UNESCO, the ESA region has one of the highest adolescent fertility rates in the world. “Many of these early pregnancies are not planned, as evidenced by the high rate of unintended pregnancy in Africa at 89 per 1,000 overall and 112 per 1,000 in Eastern Africa, resulting in an estimated 21.6 million unintended pregnancies per year. Adolescents are more likely to have complications during pregnancy, including unsafe abortions. After AIDS, the second highest cause of death for adolescent girls are pregnancy-related complications. Their babies also face a substantially higher risk of dying than those born to women aged 20 to 24, and are at greater risk of malnutrition, poor mental and physical development, and low educational attainment,” explained Prof Gijzen.

During the panel discussion, the ESA delegation indicated that the primary drivers of EUP include poverty and related low education levels; lack of comprehensive sexuality education (CSE); lack of access to sexual and reproductive health (SRH) services including contraception; lack of parent-child communication regarding sexuality; cultural norms that support child marriage; and peer/partner pressure.

In her official address, Minister Motshekga, labelled the EUP as one of the most stubborn challenges facing ESA in the 21st Century. “Teens who become pregnant are at a greater risk due to health complications and face a host of challenges to remain in school to achieve educational milestones. As members of the global village, we share a common destiny. We need coordinated, and cohesive efforts to accelerate progress in the prevention and management of EUP”.



African Education Ministers commit to transform the education landscape for the better



President Cyril Ramaphosa officially opened the Association for the Development of Education in Africa (ADEA) High-Level Annual Policy Dialogue Forum at Emperors Palace in Johannesburg on 29 July 2019, under the theme: Secondary Education in Africa: Preparing Youth for the Future of Work. The President urged the African continent to turn the education system around to ensure that learners acquire the necessary skills for future citizenry. “We need to change the direction of secondary school education if we are to develop relevant skills for a new type of economy. Young people need foundational cognitive Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) skills to be absorbed in the economy as agreed in Agenda 2063. The assumption we often make that every learner is destined to enter a tertiary institution needs to be re-examined, and our secondary education systems restructured accordingly,” said President Ramaphosa.

Wrapping up the Basic Education ADEA High-Level Annual Policy Dialogue Forum on 30 July 2019, Minister Angie Motshekga and African Education Ministers, identified Technical Education and Vocational Training as the most

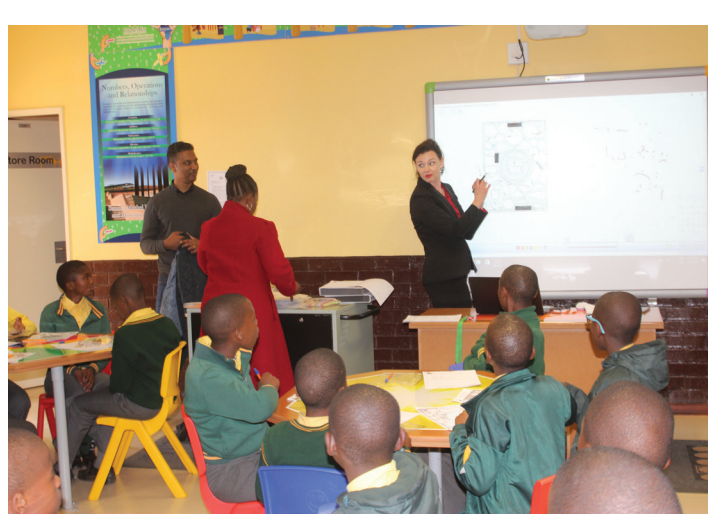
fundamental aspects required in broadening the education system to cater for academic and non-academic learners at the secondary education level. Secondary education is the platform for preparing the youth for the world of work, hence the need for a paradigm shift in reforming this sub-sector.

The Ministers agreed that, to reform secondary education in Africa, the following are required: strong applicants in the teaching profession, and training and retraining adequate numbers of teachers to function effectively in enhancing quality learning and skills provision in the modern economy; providing foundational cognitive skills, especially in STEM; digital and 21st Century skills such as emotional intelligence, problem solving, reasoning, interpersonal and communication skills; and skills for the world of work for young people to increase their adaptability and resilience; and providing flexible pathways between general education TVET for the youth population either facing challenges continuing their education or leaving the system entirely, embracing innovation and the use of integrated Information and Communication Technology (ICT).

In her closing remarks, Minister Motshekga acknowledged the efforts of ADEA for acting as a lever of change and elevating the voice of Africa on education priorities. “We are looking forward to more of these fora as they provide an opportunity for dialogue with our counterparts, experts and partners – and make the dawn of Africa a reality. I am confident that the discussions of the last two days, will go a long way towards an integrated regional and continental approach to modernising our post-primary opportunities and outcomes”.



MST Academy and Conditional Grant making a difference



Interventions such as the Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) Conditional Grant and the introduction of the Mathematics, Sciences and Technology Academy (MSTA) have made an impact in the Mpumalanga Province. A total of 101 secondary schools were linked to the MST Academy Main Hub and one satellite school in each District was identified as a Sub Hub, linked to a minimum of 24 schools within the District. To ensure that support is provided to learners before entering secondary school, each of the 101 secondary schools identified their feeder (primary) schools, adding up to 492 schools across the Province.

Ms Elspeth Khembo, Project Manager for the MST Conditional Grant, indicated that Mpumalanga Province has made strides towards establishing the building blocks necessary for the effective implementation of the MST Education Strategy. The future looks bright for the youth of Mpumalanga as performance improves in Mathematics and Science, more learners are being encouraged to take up these subjects and will face the Fourth Industrial Revolution with confidence. MST Director, Mr Elijah Nkosi, explained that Subject Advisors in the MST Directorate monitor and support all schools in the Province to implement the Curriculum Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS) curriculum, including MSTA schools, and also assist Lead Teachers with their preparations for meetings with Subject Teachers.

The MST Academy was established to increase the number of learners taking MST subjects and to improve the quality of the passes in Mathematics and Physical Sciences; assist with the training of teachers; enhance and develop teachers' competency levels in the effective teaching of MST subjects; strengthen the integration of ICT; and develop strategies that will enhance learner performance. Subject Lead Teachers for Mathematics (GET/FET), Natural/Physical Sciences, Technology (GET), Accounting and Life Sciences have been appointed to support teachers from the MST Academy. The Sub Hubs have been provided with ICT resources to support teaching and learning activities. During the past three years the province has seen an increase in the number of learners taking Mathematics and Physical Sciences through Grade 10 to 12 and has also registered a high throughput rate.

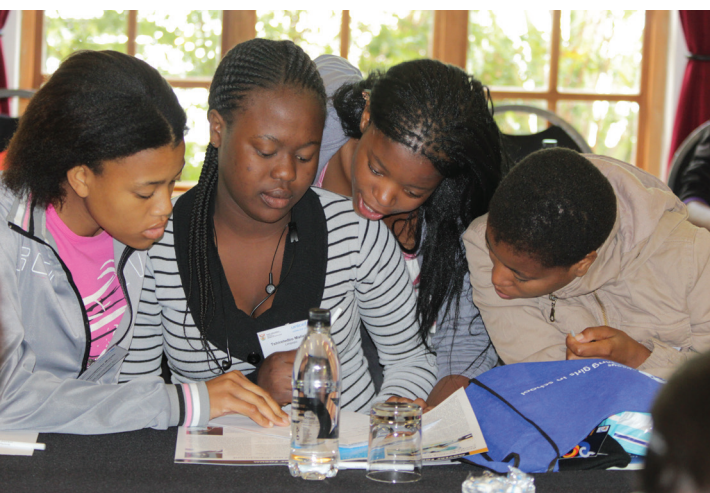
The first MST Conditional Grant Inter-Provincial Meeting for 2019 took place on 18 July at the OR Tambo MST Academy in Witbank, and on 19 July 2019 at the Steve Tshwete Boarding School, in Middleburg, Mpumalanga. The next MST Conditional Grant Inter-Provincial Meeting will be taking place from 19 to 20 September 2019 in the Eastern Cape Province.

Application to empower girls and boys to support values and social cohesion

Since its launch in 2003, the Girl Empowerment Movement (GEM) and the Boy Empowerment Movement (BEM), developed by UNICEF in partnership with the DBE, have gone from strength to strength. GEM/BEM is a social movement of choice for secondary school learners as they endeavour to address challenges they face in their daily lives. Matters such as social cohesion, nation building, gender equity, human rights, and bullying is amongst the topics addressed through this movement to create socially aware and values driven future leaders.

UNICEF and the DBE are in the process of developing an Application (App) to enhance the GEM/BEM active citizenship on Life Orientation issues, in particular. The Application will offer a platform for learners and the responsible co-ordinator to register per school, district and province. The development of the Application will therefore allow greater coordination and participation amongst the learners, as well as educators and coordinators. The development of the App is at an advanced stage and field testing is anticipated to take place during August 2019. The launch is scheduled to take place before the end of the year at an identified school.

Ms Dululu Hlatshaneni, Acting Director for Social Cohesion, Community Mobilisation and Equity in Education said that, "A main benefit of the App will be the recording of evidence of social ills such as bullying at various schools in a major drive to curb this disturbing phenomenon which impacts negatively on teaching and learning, as well as the psychosocial welfare of school-going children".



Provincial Round-up

Free State Province



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Free State Education MEC, Mr Tate Makgoe, accompanied by departmental officials, attended the *Reach for the Sky Career Expo* that took place at Kagiso Secondary School in Bloemfontein on 03 August 2019. Over 1,200 Grades 8 to 11 learners attended the expo to explore career opportunities in the aerospace field. The Free State Department of Education hosted the expo together with Zar Royal Tiger Events to present learners with an opportunity to engage with aerospace professionals to obtain information about career choices, scholarships and bursaries to become future high flyers.

KwaZulu-Natal Province

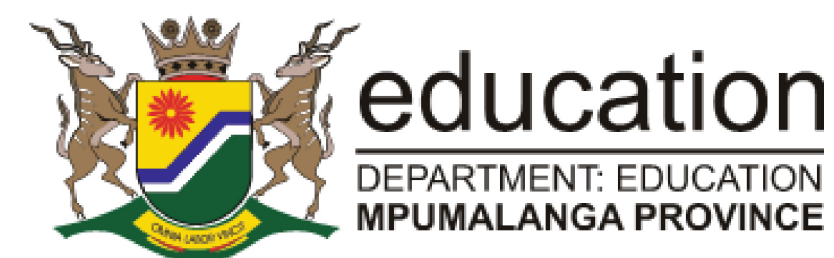


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PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, Mr Kwazi Mshengu, along with the Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Dr Blade Nzimande, officially opened the Umfolozi TVET College Maritime Academy in the King Cetshwayo District on 06 August 2019. Students between the ages of 16 and 21, with a minimum of a Grade 9 Certificate with Mathematics and Science as subjects, will have their pick of a long list of technical diplomas, including Marine Engineering Studies, Nautical Sciences, Naval Architecture, Fleet Operations Management, Cruise Ships and International Trade. Umfolozi TVET College is one of nine public Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) Colleges in the KwaZulu-Natal Province and one of only 50 in the country.

Mpumalanga Province



The funeral services for two pupils from the Nelson Ngubeni Primary School who died from food poisoning, took place during the past weekend, after eleven children from the school were hospitalised at Witbank General Hospital. Police spokesperson, Mr Leonard Hlathi, said that the preliminary post-mortem results have been concluded and that investigations are ongoing. According to Jasper Zwane, spokesperson for the Mpumalanga Department of Education, Zamokuhle Maepa (6) was laid to rest on Saturday in Janferse at Malegale Village at Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality and Busisiwe Mkhathshwa (9) was laid to rest on Sunday at Hlalanikahle Community Hall at Emalahleni Local Municipality. Zwane added that the investigations into the circumstances that lead to the incident are still ongoing and that the result will be made public as soon as they as they are available. Mpumalanga MEC, Mr Bonakele Majuba, visited the hospital and the school on 30 July 2019.

Northern Cape Education



National Science Week (NSW) is celebrated by the DBE in collaboration with the Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology with a focus on stimulating learners' interests in MST subjects and creating a culture of STEM in schools. The launch of the NSW was held on 27 July 2019 in Kimberley, and was attended by approximately 2,000 learners selected from 60 schools in the Northern Cape Province. Learners were exposed to exciting Science and Technology activities, which included interacting with more than 90 exhibitors.

According to the Deputy Director for Science Promotions at the Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology, Ms Koki Selepe, there were close to 1,000 schools across seven provinces hosting various NSW activities throughout the week. The theme of the NSW 2019, "*Facing the Harsh Realities of Climate Change*" complements the learning and teaching of various subjects, including Agricultural Sciences, Life Sciences, Geography and Physical Sciences. NSW school activities included the effects of climate change and global warming. This year has been declared the "*International Year of the Periodic Table of Elements*", and learners were involved in science projects such as the construction of a radio telescope, science debates, STEM career exhibitions and the design of a solar system hat. After the launch of NSW, the Northern Cape Department of Education rolled out their provincial activities for implementation at various schools.

Western Cape



Marine Sciences was recently officially gazetted in the Government Gazette for public comment. The Two Oceans Aquarium, in partnership with the Gansbaai Academy, Simon's Town High and South Peninsula High Schools, launched Marine Sciences as a new pilot subject during January 2019. The Marine Sciences pilot subject was launched as part of the Grade 10 curriculum. Marine Sciences has been offered as an extra subject on two afternoons per week at the node schools. The subject is also available to interested Grade 10 learners from neighbouring schools and surrounding areas. Mr Russell Stevens, Head of Education at the Two Oceans Aquarium and the driving force behind getting Marine Sciences recognised as a curriculum subject explained: "It is a first for us, and a first for Africa. The curriculum is already recognised around the world as one to strive towards." Stevens added that officials within the Education Department have shown nothing but support, and added that an extremely successful partnership with the Department of Basic Education, the Gauteng Department of Education and in particular the Western Cape Education Department had been developed.

Upcoming Events

- 09 August 2019: South Africa will be celebrating National Women’s Day
- 12 August 2019: The DBE will be commemorating Women’s Day at the Women Living Heritage Monument in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 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
- 15 – 16 August 2019: Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, will be hosting her quarterly meeting with District Directors at the DBE Building in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 16 – 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
- 22 – 26 August 2019: The annual National Kay Motsepe Schools Cup will be taking place at Hoërskool Bekker, Magaliesburg in the Gauteng Province
- 28 – 30 August 2019: An Interprovincial meeting on Inclusive Education will be hosted at the DBE Building in Pretoria, Gauteng Province

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