



# THUTO

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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



## NEWSLETTER

# Minister Motshekga welcomes Deputy Minister Mhaule to her first meeting with District Directors



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, welcomed and introduced Deputy Minister, Dr Reginah Mhaule, during her first engagement meeting with District Directors at the DBE Building in Pretoria on 15 August 2019. Minister Motshekga hosts quarterly meeting with District Directors to share best practice; network; and identify intervention strategies to, along with Circuit Managers and School Management Teams, improve the Education Sector at Provincial and classroom level. The Minister used the opportunity to outline the ten key priorities for the Education Sector.

“Let’s get the basics right as every child matters – Early Childhood Development, Reading, Writing and Numeracy are our main priorities. Let’s also ensure that the Reading Revolution President Ramaphosa is anticipating, becomes a reality. To this effect a Reading Lekgotla will be arranged to assist with the compilation of a framework for a National Reading Plan,” said the Minister.

Dr Mhaule called upon continued support for President Ramaphosa’s Operation Khauleza to change the way of doing things by engaging in “business unusual” through a hands-on and involved approach. In support of Women’s Month, Dr Mhaule saluted women District Directors in particular, and the powerful role they play within the various provinces to make quality education a reality.

A main focus for the two-day meeting was the preparations for the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations which will be taking place from 23 October to 28 November 2019. Chief Director for National Assessments and Public Examinations, Dr Rufus Poliah, used the opportunity to brief officials on the progress on the May/June NSC Examinations



# Director-General resumes Provincial Engagement Sessions with key education stakeholders

Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mwel, resumed Provincial Engagements with key senior education officials this week, reaching out to more than 3,000 participants in the Eastern Cape, Gauteng, Northern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal Provinces.

During these engagement sessions participants agreed that the Basic Education Sector requires a paradigm shift to ensure re-alignment between academic and non-academic streams. Mr Mwel said that engaging with several senior education officials at provincial level continues to play a crucial role in promoting uniformity within the Sector. This semester, the engagements prioritised various aspects of the education system, including strengthening of reading for meaning, especially for learners in the foundation and intermediate phases; monitoring of learner readiness in terms of curriculum coverage; and strengthening of technical schools and Focus Schools or Schools of Specialisation across all nine provinces.

Mr Mwel urged officials to prioritise reading as a fundamental aspect required for learners to achieve quality results in the Further Education and Training (FET) band and beyond. He also used the visits to gauge progress made by provinces in terms of readiness for the Class of 2019 ahead of the NSC Examinations.

Provincial officials commended Mr Mwel for his continued engagement, saying that the sessions will ensure the implantation of quality education in public schools. For the past four years, officials across all nine provinces have been engaging via this forum to share best practice and improve school functionality across provinces.

## National Leadership and Management Committee to pilot Advanced Diploma in Schools Leadership and Management

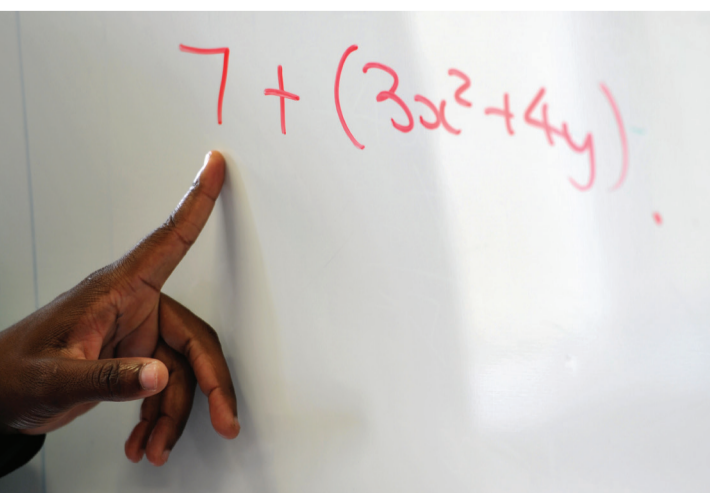


Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, said, during 2016, that there is an imperative need to establish a clear and an agreed-upon understanding of what the South African education system expects of those who are entrusted with the leadership and management of schools. It is for this reason that the DBE, in partnership with Higher Education Institutions (HEIs), the Provincial Education Departments (PEDs), the South African Council for Educators (SACE) and participating non-governmental organisations (NGOs) introduced an Advanced Diploma in Schools Leadership and Management offered at NQF Exit Level 7.

The National Leadership and Management Committee, comprising of the DBE and partners, hosted a workshop on 14 August 2019, to explore the aim of the Advanced Diploma, the state of readiness to deliver the qualification and the progress report on the development of the Advanced Diploma.

DBE Deputy Director-General for Educational Enrichment Services, Dr Granville Whittle explained: "It is hoped that this qualification will empower School Management Teams to develop the skills, knowledge and values needed to lead and manage schools effectively as complex learning organisations, and contribute to improving the delivery of quality learning and teaching in schools. The diploma is aimed at preparing principals to meet the changing demands of school management with emphasis on managing learning, safe, diverse, integrated and challenging school environments appropriate to a 21st Century progressive African country", concluded Dr Whittle.

## TEACH SA enhances MST performance in disadvantaged schools



TEACH South Africa is a non-profit organisation that aims to respond to challenges in the education sector by recruiting, training, placing and supporting graduates and ambassadors within various schools to improve the quality of education for every learner, irrespective of their socio-economic background. To address Mathematics, Science and Language performance in primary and secondary schools, TEACH SA attracts university graduates in these subjects to teach and lead as TEACH Ambassadors for a two-year period in disadvantaged schools in South Africa. In addition, the graduates are encouraged to pursue a career in education and where possible the completion of a Post Graduate Certificate in Education (PGCE) is facilitated during their teaching engagement.

TEACH SA held its Funders and Stakeholders Breakfast at Deloitte SA in Woodmead in the Gauteng Province on 1 August 2019, to share its success stories. The DBE was represented by Project Manager for Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) Conditional Grant, Ms Elspeth Khembo, and Director for Initial Teacher Education, Mr Gerrit Coetzee. The coordinator for Deloitte SA, Mr Bonga Nyembe, spoke about the journey Deloitte SA has shared with TEACH SA and pledged the organisation's continued support for the project.

Managing Director for TEACH SA, Ms Tham-Tham De Verteuli, introduced the *2030 vision for TEACH SA*, to align its efforts with the Fourth Industrial Revolution by collaborating with Altron to design a new digital model. EXXARO also committed to supporting 18 Ambassadors in the new cohort in Lephalale in the Limpopo Province. A panel discussion focused on the real-life stories of two Principals and four Ambassadors whose work at grassroots level was not only inspiring, but insightful. The Principals from Thembelihle Primary and Reaheleng Secondary Schools both spoke about the phenomenal impact of having TEACH ambassadors at their schools. The schools have improved from under-performing schools to schools that are now producing learners who have over 80 to 90% pass rates.

The Department has played a key role in helping to place 566 TEACH SA Ambassadors in 295 schools across the country. A total of 68% of the 566 Ambassadors placed since 2009, were retained as professional teachers. Along with a newly digitised model, TEACH SA is looking to broaden their reach by engaging with children at Early Childhood Development (ECD) and Foundational Phase, to motivate and equip them with 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills to remain within the system.



## The Allan Grey Entrepreneurship Challenge for aspiring young entrepreneurs



The Allan Gray Entrepreneurship Challenge (AGEC) is a gamified learning platform that is open to all South African high school learners from Grades 8 to 12. The Challenge takes the form of an annual five week competition in which learners undergo transformation and entrepreneurial development through their exposure to enriched, digitised skills-based learning content in the domain of entrepreneurship. Registration for AGECEC 2019 commenced on 1 August 2019 and the Challenge starts on 2 September 2019, for a 5 week period until 4 October 2019.

Each week, students log into the Challenge website to complete certain tasks associated with these micro-challenges to earn points in the competition, as well as to gain critical skills as upcoming entrepreneurs. Challenges range from uploading a short piece of writing, picture or video, to completing a brief task. The platform is further equipped with a peer-review system to enable insight into the work of one's peers to emphasise the fact that business is a social undertaking, and that collaboration is critical for success. The tasks are ultimately marked and moderated by a team of champion teachers. The challenges are themed around issues that are of particular relevance to the world ushered in by the Fourth Industrial Revolution, and include Fintech, Artificial Intelligence, Cryptocurrencies, the Internet of Things and digital biology.

The winning participants are selected to take part in a Gala Dinner, where they are hosted and honoured by the Allan Gray Orbis Foundation where they are taught and trained to present a live business pitch to a simulated panel. The top 3 winners of the game are further awarded with an all-expenses-paid trip to an international destination that provides them with exposure to international entrepreneurship hubs. The winners of the 2018 Entrepreneurship Challenge will be flown to Silicon Valley in California.

The Allan Gray Entrepreneurship Challenge strategically aligns with each of the goals in the *National Development Plan* (NDP), to equip learners with the attributes and domain knowledge needed to succeed as a young South African entrepreneur in the making.

[www.entrepreneurshipchallenge.co.za](http://www.entrepreneurshipchallenge.co.za)

## Annual Kay Motsepe Schools Netball Cup empowers girl learners



Girl learners are still faced with many challenges that deter them from the same opportunities available to boys. Sport is a way to provide them with a much-needed platform for development and advancement. The DBE, in partnership with the Kay Motsepe Schools Netball Cup, promotes sports for girls and is aligned with two broader goals to advance gender equality and women empowerment for girls under 15 to participate in a competitive sport. The annual National Kay Motsepe Netball Cup will be taking place at Hoërskool Bekker, Magaliesburg in the Gauteng Province from 22 to 26 August 2019.

The Motsepe Foundation has committed R2 million per annum for the next 10 years, which commenced during 2016, for the development of netball in schools. Since 2016, a total of six teams have been sponsored by the Motsepe Foundation to participate in the International Netball Schools Tournament in Singapore. These include the Afrikaanse Hoër Meisieskool (Affies) (Gauteng Province), Nhlanhlayethu Secondary School (KwaZulu-Natal Province), Shayamoya High School (KwaZulu-Natal Province), Paarl High School (Western Cape Province) and Morwathebe Primary School (Limpopo Province).

The exposure and experience of the team in an international setting has generated a lot of interest in netball, and has inspired girl learners to work harder to achieve their goals.

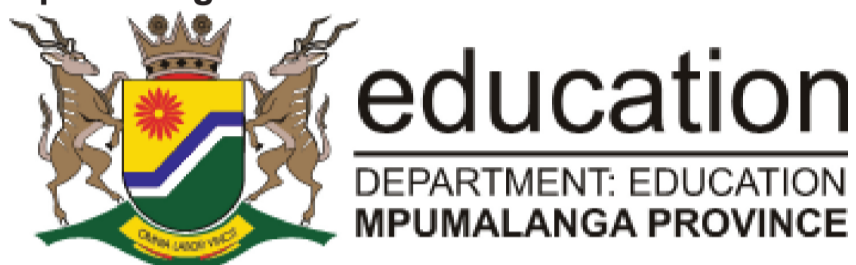
## Provincial Round-up

## Eastern Cape Province



The Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE) has recently facilitated a donation of beds, solicited from the Department of Public Works, to six under-resourced school hostels and special schools in the Province. A needs analysis was conducted and consultation took place with the principals of the identified schools. Nathaniel Pamla High School, with 150 learner boarders, was the first school to benefit from this donation. This hostel was prioritised for subsidy at the assertion of the Portfolio Committee during the January 2019 visits. It is anticipated that the comfortable beds donated to schools will improve the learner's living conditions and result in improved performance outcomes. Other schools that have benefited from this donation are St Thomas School for the Deaf, Vukuhambe Special School, Thubalethu High School and Phandulwazi Agricultural High School. Additional beds will be donated to various schools in the Province.

## Mpumalanga Province



Overcrowded schools in Mbombela will soon be a thing of the past after an announcement that two new schools will be built in the city, whilst three primary schools will receive additional classrooms. The Mpumalanga Department of Education (MDoE) has set aside R935m for the project. Mpumalanga Education MEC, Mr Bonakele Majuba, said that additional classrooms will be built in the coming financial year at Laerskool Nelspruit, Laerskool Laeveld and Laerskool Bergland. A primary and high school will be completed during the 2020/21 and 2021/22 financial years, respectively. The Department will also be building a special school for the deaf and blind, at a site acquired in Mbombela. The two sites for the new schools are yet to be announced, said department spokesperson Mr Jasper Zwane, adding that the planning and design of five more schools were at advanced stages. The Department of Public Works and Roads and Transport will be the implementing agents for these projects.

## KwaZulu-Natal Province



KwaZulu-Natal Education MEC, Mr Kwazi Mshengu, recently officiated the launch of an E-learning programme which aims at providing equitable and quality learning through the use of Information and Communication Technology (ICT) for both learners and teachers. The programme was launched at Emadungeni Combined School in the Harry Gwala District. "As a Department and as a system, we have taken a decision to embrace the Fourth Industrial Revolution. We are confident that E-learning will improve the education environment and increase access to the digital world, which can be done by utilising digital devices and internet-based learning content," said MEC Mshengu. Although the E-learning programme was launched in Emadungeni, Harry Gwala, the vision is to extend the programme to the remainder of the Province.

## Western Cape Province



Western Cape Education MEC, Mrs Debbie Schäfer, is calling for nominations for teachers who go above and beyond the call of duty to ensure that they provide the best quality education to the learners in the Province. The Annual Teaching Awards (NTAs) recognise excellence and professionalism and provide the education sector with the opportunity to celebrate the achievements of outstanding teachers. "Many of our teachers have to face on-going challenges such as poverty, gang violence, abuse and crime. Despite these challenges, many of our educators in the Western Cape continue to go selflessly beyond the call of duty to ensure that their learners receive the best quality education. I therefore call on learners and teachers to submit names to the school nomination teams of teachers and principals who are outstanding examples of educators and who are making a massive difference in our schools and communities. All teachers, School Governing Bodies (SGBs) and District Officials are invited to submit nominations, based on the criteria contained in the Nomination and Information Guide," said MEC Schäfer. All provincial winners will be awarded a laptop, whilst winning schools will each receive a cash award of R5 000 (cluster) and R7 500 (provincial) per school per finalist, to be used for the professional development of the teaching staff to improve classroom practice. The deadline for nominations is 23 August 2019.

# Upcoming Events

- 12 – 27 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 – 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 August 2019: The launch of the Pioneer Schools Breakfast Nutrition Programme will be taking place at Winnie Mandela Primary School in Tembisa, 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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