



THUTO

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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

DBE and Pioneer Foods launch multi-million Pioneer Foods Schools Breakfast Nutrition Programme

Basic Education Deputy Minister, Dr Reginah Mhaule, joined by Pioneer Foods CEO, Mr Tertius Carstens, officially launched the multi-million Pioneer Foods Schools Breakfast Nutrition Programme to promote healthy breakfasts amongst primary school learners. The launch took place at the Winnie Mandela Primary School in Tembisa on 28 August 2019.

Approximately 7,100 learners in the Gauteng Province and more than 34,000 learners across the country are benefitting from the partnership. As part of the launch, five identified schools in Gauteng received healthy breakfasts from good quality brands such as White Star Instant Porridge, Weetbix and ProNutro. Other initiatives that form part of the Programme include the provision of eating utensils, a top-up of the stipend for Volunteer Food Handlers, and the appointment of a monitor for overseeing the breakfast implementation.

School principal for Winnie Mandela Primary School, Mr Solomon Simango, said: “The culture of starting the day with a healthy breakfast has added value to the administration of my school. Since the breakfast initiative was rolled out, the school observed a serious decline in absenteeism, whilst the punctuality rate has showed a significant improvement. In addition to the Programme, all learners are involved in a daily reading session before morning classes commence”.

Mr Carstens said that the Programme will assist learners to sustain healthy living standards which will assist them to concentrate in class. He expressed his gratitude to the DBE for having granted Pioneer Foods an opportunity to “give back” to rural and township communities. “As Pioneer Foods we are committed to work with Government in ensuring that schools strive towards improving quality education,” said Mr Carstens.

In her address, Deputy Minister Mhaule mentioned that the launch has laid a solid foundation for Government and the private sector to forge partnerships that would assist learners in achieving their desired academic success. Dr Mhaule applauded Pioneer Foods for having made a generous contribution to education, saying that investing in learners equals investing in future leaders.



Pathing a way forward for Inclusive Education



An Interprovincial Meeting on Inclusive Education took place at the DBE in Pretoria from 28 to 30 August 2019. During his introductory remarks, Dr Moses Simelane, Chief Director for Curriculum Implementation and Monitoring, said that all hands should be on deck to ensure that the deadline for the milestones contained in Education White Paper 6 are met, and that all children with disabilities are receiving education by 2021 as per the Presidential directive set in 2016.

Other key priorities tabled for discussion were Early Childhood Development (ECD); reading for meaning; and language development. The purpose of the Policy on Screening, Identification, Assessment and Support (SIAS) is to provide a policy framework for the standardisation of the procedures to identify, assess and provide programmes for all learners who require additional support to enhance their participation and inclusion in school. This should be implemented as early as ECD to ensure early intervention and that no child is left behind or leaves school empty-handed. The draft Sector Plan for Reading will be finalised by the end of August 2019 to be tabled to the Council for Education Ministers (CEM) for approval during September 2019. The plan must suggest ways to teach reading to all learners, including those with dyslexia.

Mr Jabulani Ngcobo, Acting Director for Inclusive Education explained that: “School functionality provides a good foundation for the implementation of Inclusive Education, which is about ensuring equitable access to quality education for all, and in all schools. The implementation and monitoring of Inclusive Education must thus be viewed as a mechanism for improving learning outcomes, and access to quality education for all”. One of the key strategies in the development of a single, inclusive system of education in which all learners will have access to support has been the designation and phased-in conversion of public ordinary schools to full-service schools. Education White Paper 6 targeted the designation and conversion of 500 schools as full-service schools by 2021. By the end of 2018, Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) had already designated 848 full-service schools, exceeding the sector target of 624 schools by 26.4%. However, the meeting resolved that there was a need for the sector to ensure that these schools are adequately capacitated to fulfil their roles and responsibilities. As a result, an assessment of the situation in designated schools is required to establish the extent of resourcing, conversion and orientation. This must be followed by appropriate interventions to ensure that the schools perform according to the expectations set out in Education White Paper 6.

A meeting for Project Managers on the Conditional Grant for Learners with Severe to Profound Intellectual Disability, chaired by Ms Thabsile Levin from the Inclusive Education Directorate at the DBE, took place concurrently to discuss the implications of the Auditor-General’s findings on the implementation of the Grant; the Learning and Teaching Support Material (LTSM) procurement guidelines for the 23 special schools across the country; and the 2019 plan for implementing the Learning Programme. PEDs made presentations on their intervention strategies in respect of Inclusive Education.



National Moot Court Competition explores rights, equality, freedom of expression and human dignity



The DBE, in partnership with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, and the South African Human Rights Commission will collaboratively host the ninth National Schools Moot Court Competition finals from 25 to 28 September 2019, at the University of Pretoria and the Constitutional Court. All provincial rounds will be hosted between 12 August and 14 September 2019, with the various provincial coordinators submitting the selected essays to the national coordinators on 2 August 2019.

An assessment of the situation at designated schools is required to establish the extent of resourcing, conversion and orientation. To this effect, site visits to Special Schools, Public Ordinary Schools, Full-service Schools and Special Care Centres will be conducted during October 2019. Business plans will ensure that these schools are functional through the development of support programmes in line with the services that the schools are expected to provide. In addition, oversight and support services will ensure that schools function optimally as full-service schools. A database of full-services schools in terms of designation, conversion and resourcing will also be established.

The DBE, in partnership with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, and the South African Human Rights Commission will collaboratively host the ninth National Schools Moot Court Competition finals from 25 to 29 September 2019, at the University of Pretoria and the Constitutional Court. All provincial rounds will be hosted between 12 August and 07 September 2019, with the various provincial coordinators submitting the selected essays to the national coordinators on 27 July 2019.

It is important that young people are oriented into the demands and ethos of the constitutional dispensation. With schools being viewed as catalysts for social change, they are the focal point around which the constitutional values and the principles of the supreme law can be instilled. Since its inception in 2011, the National School Moot Programme has managed to explore various sections of the *Bill of Rights* such as rights, equality, freedom of expression and human dignity. It offers a platform for young people to experiment with the actual application of the country's supreme law. The Moot Court exercise is not only about the law, but the founding values that underpin the country's Constitutional Law.

The Programme invites all Grade 10 to 11 learners to prepare an essay on a fictional Constitutional Court case as a team of two learners, both as applicants and respondents to the case. During the National Finals, each province is represented by a delegation of eight learners (four teams), preparing them to argue as both applicants and respondents during the finals at the Constitutional Court, where Judges form part of the bench.

The best essay writers and oral argument presenters are offered bursaries to study towards law at a university of their choice. The National Finalists will represent South Africa at the International School Moot Court, which will take place at The Hague during 2020.

Provinces invited to submit nominations for the Prof Kadar Asmal Excellence Award

Provinces are herewith invited to submit the names of their provincial winners for the Kader Asmal Excellence Award on or before 09 November 2019. Provincial finalists will compete with winners from other provinces during a national adjudication session.

There are two types of criteria for this award: the general criteria and the criteria based on the values of Professor Kader Asmal. The Award seeks to recognise educators who demonstrate the key values that were a hallmark of Prof Asmal's leadership. These are educators who lead by example; uphold social justice; take a stand for a moral issue on grounds of conscientiousness; display intellectual tenacity and rigour; and visibly deliver on education in creative and inspired ways. The general criteria include: the contribution to the ethos and morale of the school; future focussed education; contribution to co- and extra-curricular activities in the classroom, school or community, university; social justice issues; and Professionalism in teaching.

Candidates from Higher Education Institutions; Non-Governmental Organisations; Non-Profit Organisations; Community Based Organisations; Faith Based Organisations; and social partners and who hold South African citizenship will be considered for the Award.

Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, launched the Kader Asmal Excellence Award in honour of Professor Kader Asmal for his contribution towards education during 2011. The National Teaching Awards (NTA) scheme, now in its twentieth year of implementation, was introduced by Prof Asmal during his term in office during 2000. The Award is also part of the Teacher Appreciation and Support Programme (TASP) to acknowledge, support, and appreciate teachers.

Click on the below link for the guidelines for entering the Kader Asmal Excellence Award category.

[https://www.education.gov.za/Portals/0/Documents/Publications/2019 KADER ASMAL AWARD INFORMATION GUIDE.pdf?ver=2019-08-30-113742-400](https://www.education.gov.za/Portals/0/Documents/Publications/2019%20KADER%20ASMAL%20AWARD%20INFORMATION%20GUIDE.pdf?ver=2019-08-30-113742-400)



Early Childhood Development remains primary Departmental focus

The first 1000 days of a child's early brain formation and cognitive development are crucial to improve learning outcomes and to establish key areas for intervention to ensure future academic success. The DBE is working on its new Early Childhood Development (ECD) approach to have a detailed cost plan for the project by March 2020. This comprehensive plan, which will ensure a phased-in and systematic relocation of the responsibility and leadership of ECD, with provision of two years of compulsory ECD prior to Grade 1, as well as the provision of ECD for 0 to 4-year-olds. As announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa during his 2019 State of the Nation Address (SONA), the ECD system aims to enrol all South African children in two years of compulsory schooling before Grade 1 to improve the foundational skills of literacy and numeracy.



Schools compete during Kay Motsepe Schools Netball Cup in Magaliesburg



The DBE, in partnership with the Motsepe Foundation, hosted the Kay Motsepe Schools Netball Cup at Bekker High School in Magaliesburg from 23 to 25 August 2019.

The main aim of the National Championship is to provide an opportunity for girls under the age of 15 years-old to participate in a competitive sport and to advance gender equality and women empowerment. The Championship saw 36 schools participating in netball, 4 from each province. A total of 194 competitive games were played over the three days. For the first time since the Tournament was launched, both the merit (Botho) and development (Ubuntu) teams were mixed during the pool stages of the competition to determine progress of the development stream.

In the Ubuntu Category: Modilati Secondary School from the Gauteng Province obtained first position, Edendale High School from the KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) Province obtained second position and Ngwezane High School, also from the KZN Province, obtained third position. In the Botho Category: Paarl Girls High School from the Western Cape Province came out victorious in first position, Bloemhof Hoër Meisieskool, also from the Western Cape Province, obtained second position and Helpmekaar College from the Gauteng Province obtained third position.

The two top winning teams from both categories are from Modilati Secondary School and Paarl Girls High School, and will represent South Africa and compete in the under-15 international netball tournament in Singapore, which includes a short tour to Malaysia.



Provincial Round-up

Eastern Cape Province



The Eastern Cape Department of Education MEC, Mr Fundile Gade, handed over 25 toilets to Toise Secondary School, in Nonkcampa village, outside King Williamstown on 29 August 2019. The handover follows a commitment by the Department to upgrade existing toilets since two schools, Victoria Mxenge Secondary and Toise Secondary Schools recently merged. The upgrade of sanitation infrastructure is part of the Sanitation Appropriate For Education (SAFE) initiative launched by President Ramaphosa during 2018 to ensure that all learners receive learning and teaching in dignified school environments.

Gauteng Province



According to the Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) the Grade 1 and 8 placement date for Admissions 2020 has been set for 18 September 2019. Although the placement period for Learner Admissions 2020 was scheduled to commence on 30 August 2019, parents of learners who have submitted the required documents should expect to receive offers of placement via SMS from 18 September to 31 October 2019. The revised date will allow sufficient time to scrutinise and verify the waiting lists of all schools to ensure that no learner will be unfairly disadvantaged. To this end, officials and schools are currently engaged in the extended verification of the waiting lists in line with the admissions criteria as outlined in Regulation 6 (2) and (3) of the *Amended Admissions Regulations*. Offers of placement will not be sent to all parents on the same day, as the GDE will be processing offers systematically in line with the order of application options outlined in the *Amended Admissions Regulations*. Placement offers must be accepted within seven school days. Parents may also accept offers online by logging on to www.gdeadmissions.gov.za, or by visiting the nearest school on school days. Parents must also note that the capacity of each school will determine the final number of learners to be admitted at a school.

KwaZulu-Natal Province



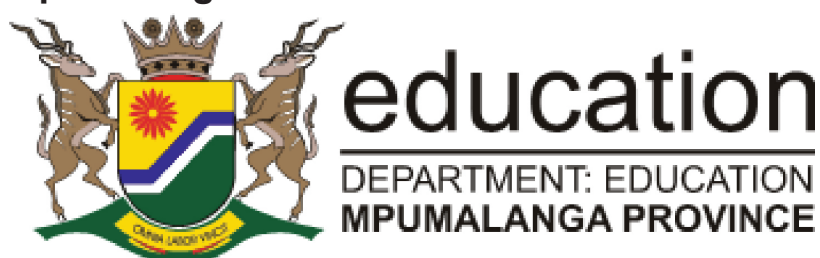
To maintain momentum until learners write their 2019 National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations, the MEC for Education in KwaZulu-Natal Province, Mr Kwazi Mshengu, together with the KZN Head of Department (HoD), Dr Enock Vusumuzi Nzama, presided over the 50 Days Countdown until the commencement of the NSC Examinations. “With matric examinations around the corner, we wish to activate all education stakeholders and officially declare the next 50 days as dedicated towards hard work and maximum concentration,” said MEC Mshengu. The event took place at the Menzi High School in the Umlazi District on 27 August 2019. Addressing the Class of 2019, Dr Nzama said: “We are proud of the 100% pass rate that Menzi High School has achieved over the last two decades. We express our appreciation to the principal and teachers for their dedication to host additional classes after school and during weekends. I was told the high enrolment is because of the quality education provided at the school. The Department will be donating 60 computers to the school, installed with digitalised books or e-books for e-Learning, as well as an Interactive White Board. You are doing well, that’s the way to go and we would like you to pass with distinctions.”

Northern Cape Province



The Northern Cape MEC for Education, Mr McCollen Jack, recently officiated the handing over of Edukite computer hardware and software to 400 educators in the Province. In response to the Premier’s vision for the Northern Cape, the Department has procured the items for Mathematics and Physical Sciences for Grade 12, and Natural Science for Grade 9. The provision and utilisation of the Edukite hardware and software will provide an invaluable platform for educators for the strengthening of content knowledge and classroom pedagogy. Each of the identified educators received a notebook with digital CAPS-aligned curriculum content. During his address MEC Jack said:” I am pleased to officiate this auspicious occasion where we will equip educators with 21st Century technology as we prepare learners for the Fourth Industrial Revolution with its exciting possibilities, new solutions to global challenges, and employment opportunities for jobs that have yet to be invented. As we approach the Fourth Industrial Revolution, it is my plea that educators accept and embrace the change that we as a Department will be embarking on to prepare our learners and improve our learner outcomes across all Grades”.

Mpumalanga Province



Along with the Department of Health, the Mpumalanga Education Department hosted a School Safety Indaba at Nuttin House in the City of Mbombela from 29 to 30 August 2019. The Department indicated that the number one priority for the Province is to join hands to create safe schools and to ensure a safe environment for optimal learning and teaching to take place.

Upcoming Events

- 31 August 2019: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championship will be taking place in the Eastern Cape Province
- 31 August 2019: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championship will be taking place in the Gauteng Province
- 31 August 2019: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championship will be taking place in the Western Cape Province
- 02 – 03 September 2019: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championship will be taking place in the Limpopo Province
- 03 September 2019: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championship will be taking place in the Free State Province
- 06 September 2019: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championship will be taking place in the Northern Cape Province
- 13 September 2019: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championship will be taking place in the North West Province
- 20 – 22 September 2019: The Inkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Competition will be taking place in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 21 September 2019: The DBE National Spelling Bee Championship will be taking place at the UNISA Main Campus in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 23 – 27 September 2019: The Heritage Education School Outreach Programme (HESOP) will be taking place at the Bela Bela Forever Resort in the Limpopo Province
- 25 – 29 September 2019: The DBE, in partnership with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, and the South African Human Rights Commission will collaboratively host the ninth National Schools Moot Court Competition finals at the University of Pretoria and the Constitutional Court

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