



# THUTO

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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



## NEWSLETTER

### Director-General leads by example with Drop All and Read at DBE



The Drop All and Read initiative has kicked off at DBE this morning. Director-General, Mr Mathanzima Mveli, led by example when he paused his engagements in the office to read a book. Mr Mveli was joined by staff members in the building who also took a break from 10am and read a book for 15 minutes. The DG has urged all staff in the building to continue doing so every Friday at the same time. The Drop All and Read is part of the national *Read to Lead Campaign* launched by Minister Motshekga in 2015.

“Reading for both leisure and academic purpose remains an important activity for every person either in the corporate or academic environment. In the Basic Education context, reading is a proxy for foundational skills, including literacy and numeracy. One should read as many books as possible, preferably an average of ten books per month depending on the size of the book at hand,” said Mr Mveli.



# South Africa and Nigeria share best practice in the effective implementation of national school feeding initiatives



Deputy Director-General for Care and Support in Schools, Dr Granville Whittle, hosted a delegation from the Office of the Presidency, Federal Republic of Nigeria at the Department of Basic Education (DBE) in Pretoria from 2 to 4 September 2019. The delegation undertook a three day study tour to South Africa to explore the successes of the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) and the model used by the DBE in serving nutritious meals to millions of learners across all nine provinces.

Programme Manager for the National Home Grown School Feeding Programme in Nigeria, Ms Adesanmi Abimbola, said that, “one of the reasons that led to our visit to South Africa is the fact that both countries have similar learner populations benefiting from national school feeding initiatives. Nigeria for instance, is providing healthy meals to more than 10 million learners through its National Home Grown School Feeding Programme across 32 states, whilst South Africa is providing nutritious meals to more than 9, 6 million learners as part of the NSNP. This affords us with an opportunity to share best practice in areas of accountability, efficiency and monitoring”. Ms Abimbola commended the DBE for having employed Food Handlers in various provinces to accelerate food preparations for breakfast and lunch periods, saying that the strategy is critical because it helps schools to honour teaching time.

In his welcoming address, Dr Granville Whittle commended Nigeria for having chosen South Africa out of 59 countries participating in the 20th Global Child Nutrition Forum in 2018. “There are indeed a lot of best practices which Africans can share; we share similar challenges and can help each other in nourishing African children, whilst developing our economies using our natural resources”. The meeting was concluded with a commitment to strengthen the African network by communicating and sharing evidence-based research as well as celebrating the Africa School Feeding Day observed on 1 March annually.

The effective monitoring of provinces in implementing the national school feeding initiatives was highlighted as the most significant focus areas during the tour. The two parties agreed that the NSNP will become more effective if communities are actively involved, especially the local smallholder farmers to ensure the sufficient weekly supply of vegetables to schools.

The NSNP was established to make a difference to the lives of children from disadvantaged communities. The top five provinces that have large numbers of learners benefiting from the NSNP, include KwaZulu-Natal with 2,261,254 learners, followed by the Eastern Cape with 1,663,387. The Limpopo Province caters for 1,655,069, whilst Gauteng stands at 1,501,736. The fifth province is Mpumalanga with 909,948 learners. Provinces with the least numbers of learners remain the Western Cape, the North West and the Northern Cape Provinces.









# Online registration for November examinations is now open.

## REGISTER TODAY!!!

## 04 - 11 September 2019

The e-Registration for the 2019 Senior Certificate Examinations (November opportunity) is now open from 04 to 11 November 2019. Only candidates who wrote and failed (i.e. received below 30% for the subject or below 40% in the case of Home Language) during the June 2019 examinations or registered for the June 2019 examinations, but were unable to write due to valid reasons will be allowed to register for November. The following points should please be noted:

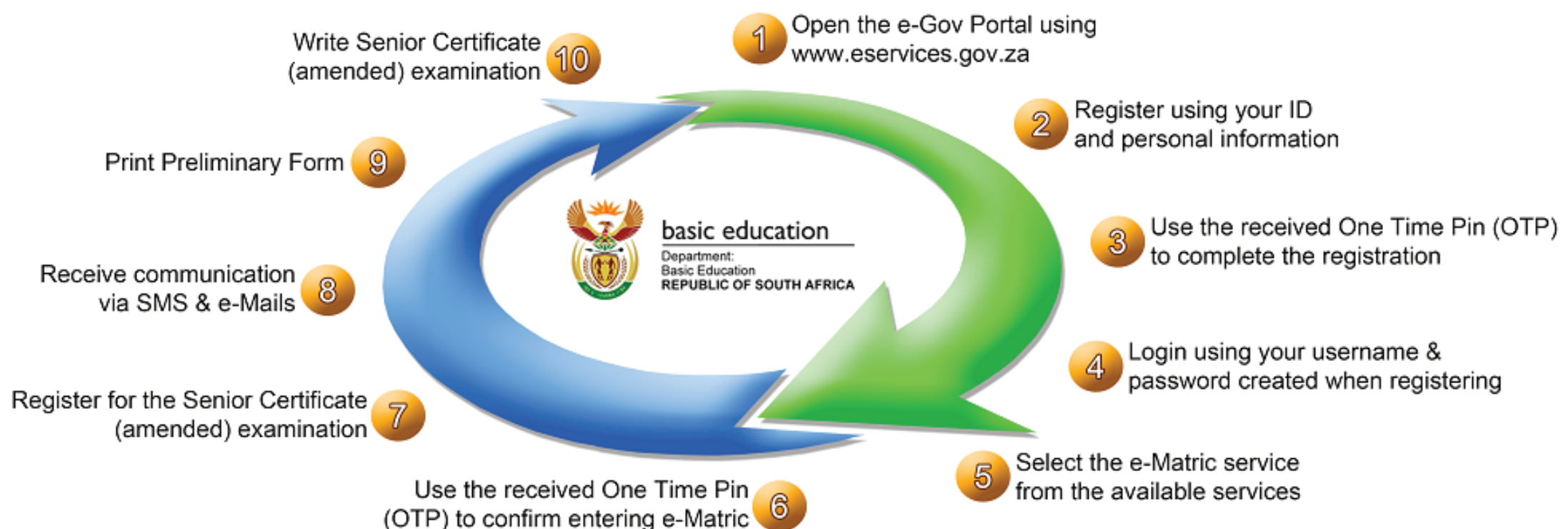
Only candidates with a valid RSA ID number will be able to register online;

A valid email address is a requirement. If you do not have an email address, you should register with one of the free email service providers (Gmail, Yahoo etc.);

A valid cellphone number is required, and the device has to be used when e-registration commences;

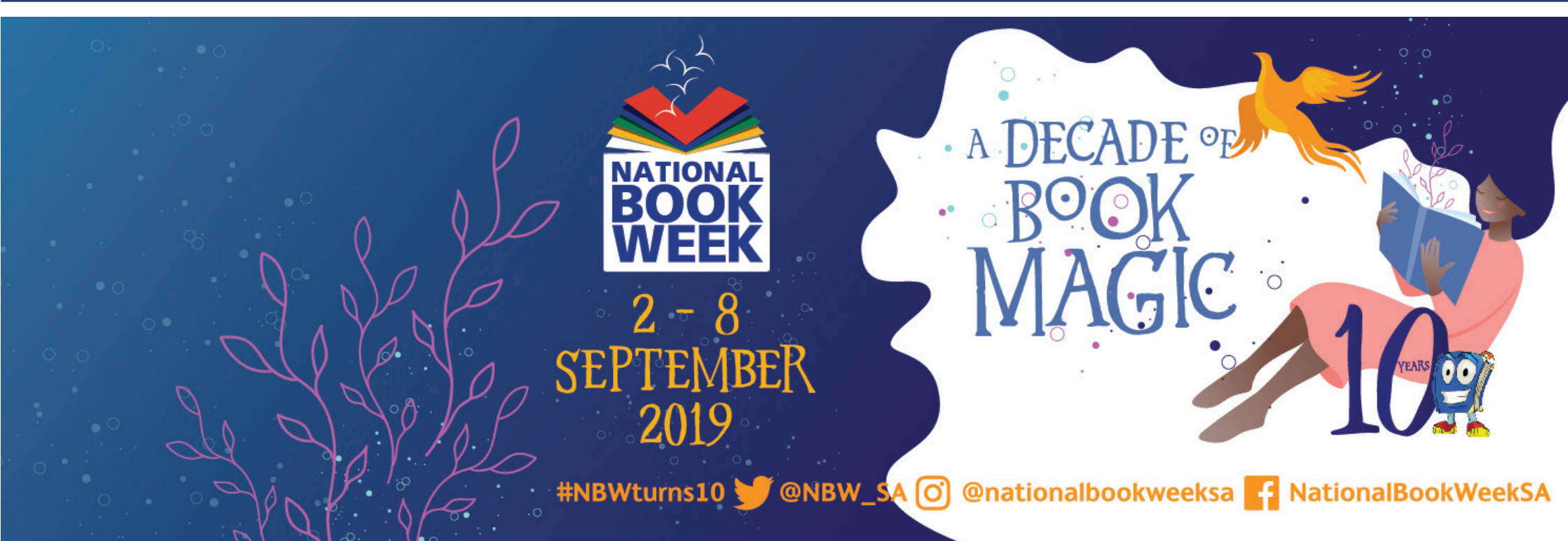
Candidates who were absent from the June 2019 examination with a valid reason and who register online must present the document/s supporting the reason/s for their absence to the nearest circuit, district or provincial office, as the supporting documents cannot be uploaded online.

Learners may register on the [www.eservices.gov.za](http://www.eservices.gov.za) portal.



## National Book Week celebrates a decade of book magic





National Book Week (NBW), launched during 2019, will be celebrating its tenth anniversary from 02 to 08 September 2019, under the theme: “A decade of Book Magic”. NBW was launched to promote reading as a fun activity and to inculcate a national reading culture due to research results indicating that South Africans do not engage in reading for pleasure.

#readbecause is a national campaign using available platforms such as social media, libraries and reading clubs to create a collaborated and coordinated approach that reaffirms the value of reading for leisure. Books contain many words that children are unlikely to encounter in frequently spoken language, and reading further improves vocabulary and spelling. Children who know adults who read for pleasure take it for granted that reading is a valuable and worthwhile activity, while being told stories in any language, is known to feed a child’s imagination and contributes to the development of abstract thought.

NBW responds to President Ramaphosa’s call for a reading revolution. This is also aligned to the Ministerial *Read to Lead Campaign* to ensure that all learners are able to demonstrate age appropriate levels of reading by 2024. The Department has formed a National Reading Coalition (NRC) with the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) in a bid to fuel the reading revolution.

*“Fellow South Africans, if we are to ensure that within the next decade, every 10 year-old will be able to read for meaning, we need to mobilise the entire nation behind a massive reading campaign.”* President Ramaphosa, State of the Nation Address (SONA), 2019

## FundaOER – a new South African Open Educational Resources platform



FundaOER, a new South African Open Educational Resources (OER) platform, was launched during the 4<sup>th</sup> Symposium on Teacher Education for Inclusive Teaching during July 2019. The aim of Funda, meaning *to learn* in isiZulu, is to provide a repository of OERs to advance teaching and learning in Initial Teacher Education and Continuing Professional Development in the South African context. Articles, factsheets, videos and other types of materials, covering different themes and phases are freely available on the platform, and is open for use to everyone.

The platform has been designed to offer a wide collection of free and open resources to providers of both pre-service and in-service teachers. The materials can be used by educators for self-study and inspiration, and by in-service and pre-service providers as part of their training materials. When used, appropriate acknowledgements should however be given.

The Bambanani video series illustrate how teachers are teaching inclusively in South African classrooms. They focus on teaching numeracy and literacy in the Foundation and Intermediate phases and are available in English, with subtitles in Sesotho, isiZulu and isiXhosa. To support participation and learning by all learners, teachers featured in the clips differentiate their teaching methodologies, content and assessment strategies and classroom environment. To grow the platform, educators and service providers are encouraged to share relevant content.

FundaOER is a South African OER platform which was created by the Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance (VVOB) South Africa, as part of the Teaching and Learning for Inclusive Education (TL4IE) project. The TL4IE project was funded by the European Union (EU), Belgium and Flanders. A consortium consisting of the VVOB, Inclusive Education South Africa (IESA), the North West University, the University of the Free State and the University of the Witwatersrand initiated the creation of the platform.

<https://fundoer.org>



# FUNDA OER

Making a difference in the education landscape in South Africa.

A RESOURCE FOR LEARNING

## Provincial Round-up

### Gauteng Province



The Twinning Programme is part of the Gauteng Department of Education’s (GDE’s) wider strategic framework and its “Re-organisation of Schools” strategy. Through the programme, the GDE pairs suburban and township schools to nurture holistic learner development by creating an environment for cultural exchange through sharing expertise and resources. The programme ensures that learners are exposed to peers from diverse socio-economic backgrounds; improves equality of access to high-quality education; and strengthens the quality of education delivered, compared to global best practice. In a move to improve learner outcomes and foster social cohesion, the GDE recently twinned Hoërskool Bastion and Madiba Secondary Schools. The first pair of schools that were twinned were Bovet Primary and Lyndhurst Primary School. Other schools that were successfully paired are Mikateka Primary School (Ivory Park) and Halfway House Primary (Midrand); and Unity Secondary (Daveyton) and Wordsworth High School (Benoni). Alexandra Secondary and Sandown High Schools; Cultura Secondary and Zithobeni Secondary Schools; and Reiger Park Secondary and Sunward Park High School were twinned in the first phase of the programme during 2017. “Ultimately, the programme provides a potential benefit, as opposed to a burden, for the schools, its learners, parents, and the education system as a whole,” said MEC Panyaza Lesufi.

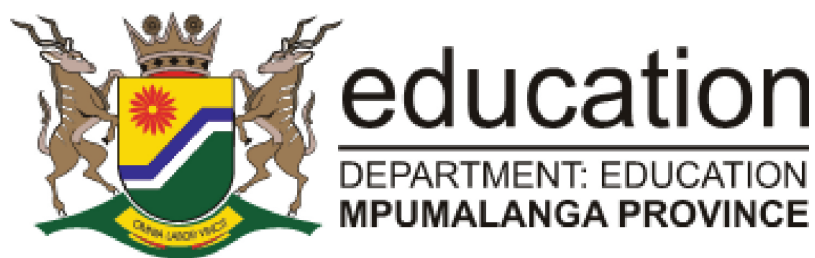
### KwaZulu-Natal Province



KwaZulu-Natal education Head of Department (HoD), Dr Enock Vusumuzi Nzama, this week, welcomed back Advocate Bheki Masuku, Deputy Director-General for Corporate Services, to the Department. Advocate Masuku re-joins the Department after his stint at the national Department of Basic Education. “We are all looking forward to his return and to his valuable contribution to the Corporate Services Branch and the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education in general,” Mr Nzama said. Advocate Masuku officially returned to his post on 02 September 2019.



## Mpumalanga Province



During NBW an IsiZulu Reading Festival took place at Saul Mkhizeville Public Library in the Gert Sibande District Municipality, Mpumalanga Province on 05 September 2019, as part of the celebrations and to observe the United Nations' (UN's) International Year of Indigenous Languages. Celebrated annually during the first week in September, the week-long reading awareness campaign sees various activities aimed at children, youth and adults in the communities, whilst creating a vibrant atmosphere for children, learners, youth and adults aimed at inspiring them to read. Other languages spoken in the area are Siswati, isiNdebele, Sepedi and Xitsonga. Learners were treated to hip hop performances and poetry, storytelling, as well as motivational talks by successful South Africans. The day also had an educational element catering for librarians, caregivers and teachers, and events on offer included training workshops and sessions dedicated to promoting digital reading amongst teenagers.

## Western Cape Province



In a sterling example of collaboration and sharing best practice, a partnership between Ihlumelo Secondary School in Mbekweni and Paarl Girls High School (GHS), in its fourth year, is bearing fruit with the pass rate of the Ihlumelo Accounting learners rocketing to 92%. During 2015, Ihlumelo Secondary School reached out to the girls' school for help after a disappointing performance in Accounting at the end of the previous year. The schools started with workshops where the learners of Paarl GHS, with the support of the Accounting teachers, worked through examination papers with the learners of Ihlumelo. Paarl's corporate sector also became involved with providing all the necessary resources for students to be well-prepared for the examinations.

## Upcoming Events

- 13 September 2019: The provincial leg of the Spelling Bee Championship will be taking place in the North West Province
- 18 September 2019: World School Milk Day will be celebrated at Ramaligela Junior Primary School, Vuwani in the Limpopo Province
- 19 – 20 September 2019: The second Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) Conditional Grant Interprovincial meeting will be taking place in East London, Eastern Cape Province
- 20 – 22 September 2019: The Inkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Competition will be taking place in the 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

**Enquiries:**

**Editor: Mr Elijah Mhlanga**

**Chief Director: Media Liaison - National and Provincial Communication**

**Tel. No: 012 357 3773**