



THUTO

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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Basic Education Department briefs Portfolio Committee on School Safety



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, led a delegation of senior managers to the joint sitting of Basic Education and the South African Police Service (SAPS) in Parliament on 10 September 2019, to deliberate the issue of violence in schools. Minister Motshekga said that school violence, and bullying in particular, was a matter of concern to the education system as it has a negative impact on the work of the Department.

The *National School Safety Framework*, a comprehensive approach that coordinates and consolidates all school safety interventions in the Sector, remains the DBE's primary strategic response to school violence. School safety is now one of six apex priorities for the 6th Administration with two protocols introduced namely: *The Management of Sexual Abuse and Harassment and Management of Corporal Punishment* in 2018; and *Collective Agreement (3 of 2018)* which simplifies and consolidates prosecution of teachers accused of sexually abusing learners.

Partnerships with the Departments of Justice and Constitutional Development, and Social Development ensure improved vetting of teachers and staff, as well as the establishment of a National School Safety Steering Committee to coordinate safety interventions. Other measures include improving the built environment when planning school infrastructure, as well as the closure of taverns and liquor outlets in close proximity to schools, in partnership with the Department of Trade and Industry, SAPS and South African Local Government Association (SALGA). The measures also include search and seizures in partnership with SAPS and the provision of security guards to schools at risk. School-based crime prevention will be intensified and that the collaborative agreement between SAPS and the DBE revised to improve efficiency.

A variety of activities will be undertaken to ensure that each district has a District Based Support Team in place. School Safety Committees must be established as subcommittees of School Governing Bodies (SGBs) and these must link closely to Community Policing Forums and local police stations. Learner Support Agents (LSAs) will be provided to all hotspot schools together with counselling services to victims of violence and abuse. Schools will be linked to clinics and police stations with improved access to services through Information and Communication Technology (ICT); increased provision of social workers; and an increased number of safe hubs with appropriate after-care programmes. The Department will also implement specific programmes for boys, without neglecting the efforts to address the continued vulnerability of girls; and improve access to sports, arts and culture and extra mural activities.

Honouring our liberation heroes during Heritage Month



The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Programme was introduced by the DBE in 2005 to promote the teaching of oral history. The Programme is named after Albert John Luthuli, Nobel Prize laureate, educationist and former President-General of the African National Congress. The iNkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Programme is an initiative which aims at celebrating the lives of significant and unsung heroes and heroines who have brought about democracy, peace, unity and nation building. It also creates a platform for engagements on significant historical events that took place within the country, the continent and globally.

As part of commemorating the 25 years of Freedom and Democracy, the DBE has committed itself to once more unearth the forgotten oral histories during the 2019 academic year. The Programme forms part of the Department's contribution to rekindle a love for History as a subject of choice in schools and to expand the knowledge on heritage and cultural aspects. It involves two categories which are, the Young Historian and the Young Storytellers, Poets and Letter Writers. This national event is preceded by provincial elimination rounds in which learners from Grade 4 to 11 submit written research papers, written stories, written letters and written poems as part of the oral history projects, followed by oral presentations for these activities.

Learners and teachers who compete successfully in their provincial elimination rounds are invited to compete at the national finals, which will, this year, take place from 21 to 22 September 2019 in Pretoria. A total of three learners and two educators per province are chosen for the national finals.

DBE and Woolworths commence with build-up activities towards 2019 World School Milk Day



The Department of Basic Education (DBE), in partnership with Woolworths, celebrated 2019 World School Milk Day in the Western Cape Province at Masiphumelele Primary School, in Khayelitsha on 11 September 2019.

Through this partnership, more than 2,500 units of milk were distributed to thousands of learners in Khayelitsha and surrounding schools. The role of parents and teachers in promoting milk consumption for all children, including learners receiving school meals through the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) was emphasised during the event. For the past 25 years, Government has funded and implemented the NSNP which provides nutritious meals to learners, making it one of the best school feeding initiatives on the African continent. Currently, more than 9, 7 million learners across all nine provinces receive healthy meals served through the NSNP. In the Western Cape, 483,412 learners benefit from the NSNP meals on school days.

World School Milk Day, was launched internationally in 2000 by the Food and Agriculture Organisation (FAO) of the United Nations. This global celebration is in its 17th year and will be celebrated across the world. World School Milk Day is intended to educate school communities about the importance of milk consumption in the diet of children and adults.

Ms Lydia Maotoe, Deputy Director for Nutrition Education at the DBE, said that the promotion of milk consumption at primary school level is essential. “The DBE and PEDs acknowledge the efforts of school principals for being consistently compliant with the NSNP menu specification, which require schools to serve milk/maas and maize meal to learners once per week. The Department of Basic Education (DBE) will continue to take initiatives to strengthen and support Nutrition Education in schools with the aim of enhancing the knowledge of good nutrition and healthy lifestyles among learners, educators, school administrators, parents, food handlers, school vendors and tuck-shop operators. It further seeks to mobilise school communities to adopt and sustain lifestyle choices that enhance health and well-being. Nutrition Education seeks to build a foundation for a healthier and economically active generation”.

<https://www.education.gov.za/ArchivedDocuments/ArchivedArticles/2019WorldSchoolMilkDay.aspx>.



Department of Correctional Services receives SA-SAMS training



The SA-SAMS training for the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) was conducted during the week of 3 to 6 September 2019, at Pollsmoor Prison in the Western Cape Province. The SA School Administration and Management System (SA-SAMS) is an actively developed and maintained computer application, specifically designed to meet all school administration, management and governance needs of South African schools.

The training, which was conducted by the DBE's SA-SAMS team, was attended by 12 School Prison Centres in eight provinces. The Free State Province could not attend the training as the dates were clashing with their graduation ceremony dates. Ms Joey Mekwa, Director for Development and Care from the Pollsmoor Management Area, welcomed the initiative during her address.

A presentation on SA-SAMS to ensure credible data capturing in the DCS Centres was conducted by Ms Nelly Mkhize, Principal of Usethubeni Durban Westville Correctional Services' School. The training commenced with Ms Carinne van der Westhuizen from the DBE, taking participants through SA-SAMS. The Deputy Commissioner, Personal Development, Dr Minette Plaatjies, opened the second day session by acknowledging the valuable partnership between the DBE and the DCS. The DCS has a role to play in making basic education accessible to all; eliminate illiteracy; and to develop a capable and skilled workforce. The trainees were reminded about the importance of meeting the submission dates set for districts and the DCS Head Office when capturing data.

DBE officials, Ms Mumsy Notwane and Ms Weziwe Mati, facilitated the training sessions for the remainder of the week. The training also focussed on the Curriculum Module; Learner and Educator attendance; and the Timetabling Module. The group, joined by the DCS Director for Formal Education, Ms Rishi Naidoo, concluded their training with a visit to the prison cell in which Former President, Nelson Mandela, was incarcerated.



Increasing participation and throughput rates in the Arts



The Arts could, undoubtedly, become a game changer in the learning space as it has the potential to improve entrepreneurial opportunities in the country.

Unlike in the General Education and Training Band (GET), where the Arts stream is presented as Creative Arts, the Arts subjects in the Further Education and Training Band (FET) are offered as stand-alone subjects comprising of Dance Studies; Design; Dramatic Arts; Music; and Visual Arts. The Arts subjects form part of the fundamental components of Focus Schools. The Arts Focus Schools will underpin the academies concept of a Three-Stream Model comprising of the Academic, Technical Vocational, and Technical Occupational “tributaries”. This will affirm the global trend of placing arts learning in the higher strata of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) and the 5th Generation Space Race (5G). “Through creativity as a case in point, the arts are considered key in the humanising of robots to encourage robot-efficiency and co-existence between robots and humans,” said Mr Phil Manana, Chief Education Specialist for the Arts Subjects at the DBE.

“Within the Basic Education Sector and beyond, the Arts are considered the mirror of speculative reality, whilst science echoes actual reality”, continued Mr Manana. He then explained that through films for example, the arts may

speculate how life would be in the era of the 4IR and the 5G, whilst science shall confirm as reality life in the 4IR and 5G. The world today places the arts within the Mathematics, Science, and Engineering Stream to form STEAM (Science, Technology, Engineering, Arts, and Mathematics). “In a nutshell the arts always inform science, and not the other way round”, concludes Mr Manana.

Affirming our cultural pride



The Department of Sports, Arts and Culture will, along with the DBE, be hosting the 14th Indigenous Games Festival from 21 to 27 September 2019, in Polokwane, Limpopo Province. The festival does not only promote social cohesion and nation building, but also celebrates the country’s rich history, heritage and culture during Heritage Month.

The indigenous games will see learners from all nine provinces participating in under-profiled sporting codes such as kgati, kho-kho and morabaraba. Other games that learners participate in during the competition include ncuva, jukskei, driestokkies, dibeke, diketo and intonga.

The indigenous games are neither gender nor age specific. They also require minimal resources – which make them a perfect vehicle in ensuring that Physical Education constitutes an integral component of the holistic education of learners, most especially in the Foundation Phase where the development of the learner’s gross and fine motor skills and perceptual development is fundamental. Schools are also encouraged to incorporate indigenous games in their Physical Education as play, movement, games and sport contribute to developing positive attitudes and values in learners.

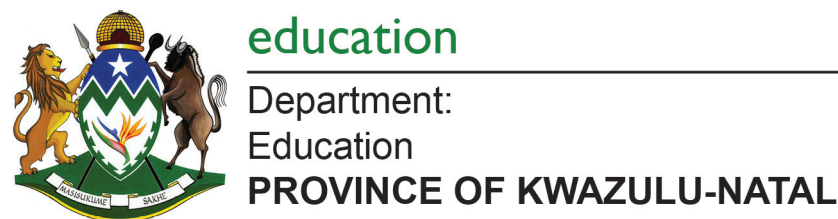
Provincial Round-up

Gauteng Province



The Afrikaanse Taalraad (ATR) held two workshops with schools in the Pretoria area last week in celebration of International Literacy Day, which is celebrated annually on 8 September. The ATR, in collaboration with the ATKV and Vriende van Afrikaans (VVA), organised a Reading Workshop for teachers, parents and other interested parties under the theme: “Promoting Reading, Literacy and Language” to emphasize the necessity of reading. This motivational reading workshop took place on 5 September 2019, in Hermanstad at Hermanstad Primary School. A large group of enthusiastic teachers and parents were eager to pass on the knowledge that they had acquired during the workshop to their children. The Vriende van Afrikaans (VVA) also donated a “boektrommel” to Nantes Primary School in Eersterust on 4 September 2019, where learners were taught the importance of books, as well as the value of reading. Several books were read by Chareldine van der Merwe and Mandie Ehlers of the VVA. Enthusiastic Grade R learners spontaneously participated in the proceedings and thoroughly enjoyed every minute of it.

KwaZulu-Natal Province



The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education’s Head of Department (HoD), Dr Enock Vusumuzi Nzama was the keynote speaker during the official Eskom Corporate Social Investment (CSI) handover event that took place at the Estcourt High School in the uThukela District on 10 September 2019. Eskom handed over a mobile library, mobile science cabinets and bicycles to the school. The role of partnerships and collaboration within the Education Sector positively contributes to quality learning and teaching in the classroom.

North West Province



North West Education MEC, Ms Mmaphefo Matsemela, recently launched the “Ngwana Sejo Wa Tlhakanelwa” campaign at Victory Church near Mafikeng. The term “Ngwana Sejo wa Tlhakanelwa”, translates to “It Takes a Village to Raise a Child”. The campaign aims to engage all stakeholders and partners in education to help to raise and educate an African child. MEC Matsemela indicated that the primary purpose of the campaign is to mobilise all education stakeholders to help restore schools as centres for teaching and learning, and safe havens for learners, especially during the examination period. The campaign seeks to address the high levels of social ills; community unrests; and aggression from learners towards educators and other learners, which pollutes the teaching and learning environment. “Surely there is a need for us to revitalise morality, particularly in our schools during this crucial time of the year as our learners are yet to sit for their year-end examinations. It is upon us as communities to work together in ensuring that learners are protected from any threat within our areas. This campaign provides all stakeholders with a platform to hold hands in raising a child, and to help us restore dignity in our schools,” said MEC Matsemela.

Western Cape Province

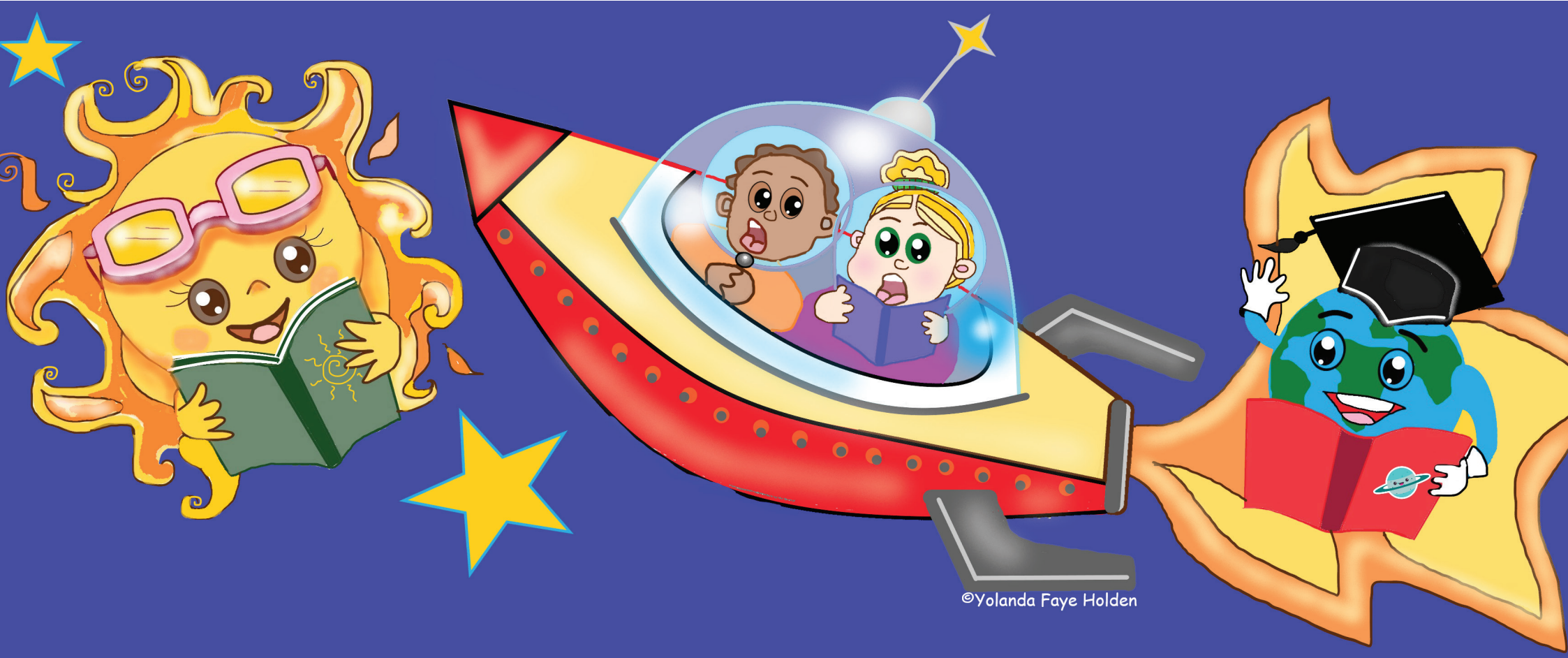


Mr Peter Tabichi, Global Teacher Prize winner of 2019, is the first African recipient of the Varkey Foundation Global Teacher Prize 2019. Tabichi recently visited Cape Town to attend a number of events around the city. The Global Teacher Prize is a US \$1 million award presented annually to an exceptional teacher who has made an outstanding contribution to their profession. Mr Tabichi was also awarded the Premier’s Certificate of Commendation for Global Recognition for his outstanding contribution in advancing education in Africa and the World. Western Cape Education MEC, Ms Debbie Schäfer, engaged in a discussion with Tabichi on e-learning and how he was able to bring ICT into the classroom in an area where connectivity is not always stable and resources are limited. MEC Schäfer said, “It is evident that Mr Tabichi is a passionate, committed teacher whose primary interest is the learners. He is inspirational and I look forward to our teachers who he will be engaging with, drawing from that inspiration.” Mr Brian Schreuder, Head of Department (HoD) at the Western Cape Education Department, said that Mr Tabichi represents not only Kenya, but the whole African continent, in quality teaching for young learners, particularly in rural and poor environments”.

Upcoming Events

- 17 September 2019: The DBE will be commemorating Heritage Month, as well as the Year of Indigenous languages at the Ditsong Museum of Cultural History in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 18 September 2019: World School Milk Day will be celebrated at Ramaligela Junior Primary School, Vuwani in the Limpopo Province
- 19 September 2019: A South African Principals Association (SAPA) National Conference will be taking place at Ingwenyama Conference Centre in White River in the Mpumalanga 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 Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Building, ZK Matthews Auditorium at the UNISA Main Campus in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 21 – 27 September 2019: The Department of Sports, Arts and Culture will, along with the DBE, be hosting the 14th Indigenous Games Festival from in Polokwane, Limpopo 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

Reading - a Universe of Stories to Explore



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