



# THUTO

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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



## NEWSLETTER

# The culture and language of the Khoisan in focus at Heritage Month celebrations



The Department of Basic Education (DBE) commemorated Heritage Month at the Ditsong National Cultural History Museum on 17 September 2019, under the theme: “25 Years of Democracy: Reclaiming, Resorting and Celebrating our Living Heritage”. Director for Social Cohesion and Equity at the DBE, Mr Likho Bottoman, delivered the opening address during the Heritage Month commemoration saying, “Let us build a future that is free from all forms of discrimination, racism, sexism, xenophobia and bullying, and let us also respect our women and girl learners”.

Mr John van Rooyen from the National Khoisan Council shared a treasure chest of information about the history, culture and language of the Khoisan, and taught the learners how to greet (hallo: Gâitest) and say thank you (Gangans) in Nama. “The United Nations has declared 2019 the International Year of Indigenous Languages to raise awareness of the consequences of the endangerment of indigenous languages globally, to establish a link between language, development, peace, and reconciliation. Language helps you to maintain your culture, heritage and humanity. If you do not know the past, you cannot act in the presence and plan for the future.”

Mr Van Rooyen further reminded learners about the Khoisan symbols used in the Coat of Arms (CoA). Launched on Freedom Day on 27 April 2000, the CoA design includes, amongst others, Khoisan figures and the motto “!KE E: / XARRA // KE”, which translated from the Khoisan language, means “Diverse People Unite”.

Mr Phomolo Mashinini, Curator at the Ditsong National Museum of Natural History, home to one of the largest Natural History Collections in South Africa, and exhibiting hominid fossils from the Cradle of Humankind World Heritage Site, addressed learners on the importance of the preservation of natural resources and heritage, and indigenous languages in particular. “If we do not preserve our indigenous languages, they will become extinct just like the dinosaurs and the dodo did. This year’s Heritage Month promotes the reading of books that have been written and published in indigenous languages. Language is an important instrument for educational development, and can be used to enhance our culture, self-identity, and contribute to our national building. Let’s promote and support the preservation and revival of our indigenous languages,” Mr Mashinini concluded.

The learners concluded the Heritage Month commemoration with a tour of the museum.







# Promoting heritage education in schools whilst celebrating 25 Years of Freedom and Democracy



After gruelling months of workshops and eliminations at district and provincial levels, nine schools represented by a group of four learners (Grades 8 to 10) from each province will be participating during the 2019 Heritage Education Schools Outreach Programme (HESOP). This week-long heritage camp will be taking place at the Bela Bela Forever Resort in the Limpopo Province from 23 to 27 September 2019.

The learners will challenge each other for first, second and third prize. For the past ten years, the DBE, together with the National Heritage Council of South Africa (NHC), has invited learners from various schools to take part in the camp which practically exposes learners to their identity as South Africans. Other HESOP partners include the South African National Parks, the National Film and Video Foundation, the National Arts Council, Brand South Africa and South African Heritage Resources Agency.

HESOP empowers youth to understand their historical heritage by interacting with people across geographic, socio-economic and language barriers. The heritage competition comprises of exciting excursions, research and presentations on topics aligned to heritage. Research topics for 2019 include:

- A presentation on how the creative and performing arts, can contribute to the preservation and promotion of cultural and natural heritage and the realisation of poverty alleviation, job creation, patriotism, unity, social cohesion and nation building as informed by the *National Development Plan* (NDP);
- A presentation on how Africans, being part of the global village, could preserve and promote our intangible cultural heritage and ensure the protection of cultural rights, whilst contributing positively in solving challenges faced by the world at large, be it in medicine, conflicts, gender-based violence, development or social cohesion;
- Learners will visit The Gallows at Kgosi Mampuru Correctional Facility in Pretoria as part of the annual excursion that takes place during the camp. Questionnaires will be given to learners for completion; and
- Learners are to research any of the identified heritage sites that form part of the Liberation Heritage Route, using the provincial list of identified heritage sites.



# DBE embarks on ICT fact-finding mission to Kenya





Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mweli, led an Information Communication and Technology (ICT) fact-finding mission to Kenya from 9 to 11 September 2019. The DBE plans to deliver digitised Learning and Teaching Support Material (LTSM) through ICT devices from 2020 to 2023. This is aimed at leveraging on ICT to reduce the cost of providing LTSM to learners, but more importantly, to equip learners with the requisite 21st Century skills for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR).

The World Economic Forum's 2016 Global Information Technology Report highlighted an upward trend in the adoption of ICT by developing countries. In Africa, this trend is government-driven in countries such as Kenya, Rwanda, Ethiopia and Côte d'Ivoire. South Africa's schooling environment and character is relatively similar to those of Rwanda and Kenya; making these two countries the most ideal candidates for a fact-finding assessment by South Africa. Following an earlier visit to Rwanda, the DBE visited Kenya to explore lessons and best practices in the ICT implementation, with a view to identify and recommend ways in which best practices from both Kenya and Rwanda can be used to develop customised South African plans for delivery of digitised LTSM through ICT devices.

During his visit to Kenya, the Director-General and his delegation held exchanges with the Kenyan Department of Education on matters relating to ICT in education, reading, and teacher development, among others. The DBE further met with the Kenya Institute of Curriculum Development (KICD) for discussions on the development and distribution of digital content to schools; as well as technical exchanges on learning to use the technology, using the technology to learn and, using the technology to produce. The delegation visited the Jomo Kenyatta University of Agriculture and Technology (JKUAT), which has a plant that assembles tablets for learners on behalf of the Department of Education as well as assisting the Department to handle e-waste. The delegation also visited the Oshwall Primary School in Nairobi where officials observed in practice, the school's use of ICT for learning and teaching. The visit provided an opportunity for the DBE and its counterparts in Kenya to discuss and agree on a draft implementation plan of the recently signed Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) between the two Ministries. Once finalised the Implementation Plan will be officiated by the Director-General and his counterpart.







## Spelling Bee finalists – spelling their way to the top



The top three Intermediate Phase (Grades 4-5) spellers from each province have arrived in Pretoria and are set to compete for the honours of being the top speller during the DBE National Spelling Bee Championship. The Championship will be taking place at the UNISA Main Campus in Pretoria on 21 September 2019. This is the sixth year since the DBE National Spelling Bee Championship was initiated in 2014.

The various provincial championships commenced on 29 August 2019 in the KwaZulu-Natal Province, and wrapped up in the North West Province on 13 September 2019. The competition is open to all South African schools and it is encouraging to see learners from all backgrounds, coached by able teachers, parents and guardians, getting ready to tackle vocabulary head-on.

The DBE National Spelling Bee Championship will be hosted in collaboration with key partners such as the AVBOB Foundation, the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture and SABC Education.

Deputy Director for Sport and Enrichment in Education, Mr Potledi Ngoepe, said that the Championship has made strides in promoting the Language of Learning and Teaching (LOLT) in the General Education and Training (GET) Band. “The level at which these learners spell difficult words is astounding. I interacted with many of our young spellers upon arrival, and they seemed confident, relaxed and ready to tackle any challenging words and vocabulary they might encounter on the day. I wish all the 2019 provincial spellers the best of luck whilst competing for the top three national positions on Saturday,” Mr Ngoepe concluded.





## Vuwani learners in the Limpopo Province commemorate World School Milk Day



The DBE, in partnership with the Milk Producers' Organisation (MPO), Woodlands Dairy and the Consumer Education Project (CEP) of Milk South Africa, commemorated the 2019 national World School Milk Day (WSMD) at Ramaligela Primary School in Vuwani, Limpopo Province on 18 September 2019. World School Milk Day, which took place under the theme: "Dairy Gives You Go!" remains a critical initiative to increase awareness about the nutritional benefits and importance of milk consumption for growing children. The first WSMD was celebrated in September 2000 and has since become an annual global event.

Food Scientist for the CEP, Milk South Africa, Mr Jeandré Johnston, pleaded with teachers and parents to ensure that learners wash their hands before eating: "Teachers and parents must continue to work together to promote healthy eating habits amongst children".

Addressing Vuwani community members, Mr Matthews Mhlongo, Chief Director for Learner Social Support Programmes at the Limpopo Department of Education, said that the WSMD assists the DBE in strengthening the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) in schools. He further stated that the WSMD has an added value in educating children about the benefits of milk, which contains important nutrients such as calcium for bone growth and the development of strong teeth. Learners also benefit from nutrients such as protein, phosphorus, magnesium, vitamin D and potassium when drinking milk. Mr Mhlongo further cautioned learners to use sugar, salt, fats and oils sparingly to avoid lifestyle diseases such as high blood pressure, diabetes, heart diseases and obesity.

In conclusion, Mr Mhlongo acknowledged the selfless service provided by over 61,000 Volunteer Food Handlers across all nine provinces in ensuring that nutritious meals are served to learners in public schools. He expressed his gratitude to the private sector for their valued contribution to education, and to school feeding in particular.





## Provincial Round-up

### Gauteng Province



The Gauteng Department of Education (GDE), this week, announced the commencement of online admission learner placement process for the 2020 academic year with the learner placement period for Grade 1 and 8 learners in various schools across Gauteng commencing on 18 September 2019. The GDE stressed that offers of placement will not be sent to all parents on the same day, as offers will be processed systematically in line with the order of application options outlined in the Admissions Regulations. The GDE reminded parents of learners who have submitted the required documents to expect offers of placement via SMS from 18 September to 31 October 2019.

The first offers of placement will be released to applicants who qualify for placement in terms of the Admissions Regulations, according to the following categories: the applicant learner's place of residence is closest to the school and within the feeder zone; the applicant learner has a sibling attending the school or the previous school is closest to the school in the feeder zone; and the place of employment of at least one of the applicant learner's parents is within the feeder zone of the school. The GDE also reminded parents that placement offers must be accepted within seven school days, therefore, the first offers received must be accepted by 8 October 2019, as schools will close from 20 September to 1 October 2019. School holidays will therefore be counted as part of seven school days. MEC Panyaza Lesufi urged parents to remain calm if offers of placement are not received immediately after the commencement of the placement period, saying: "It is paramount to note that the capacity of each school will determine the number of applicants that receive placement offers and the number of learners ultimately admitted to the school".

### Limpopo Province



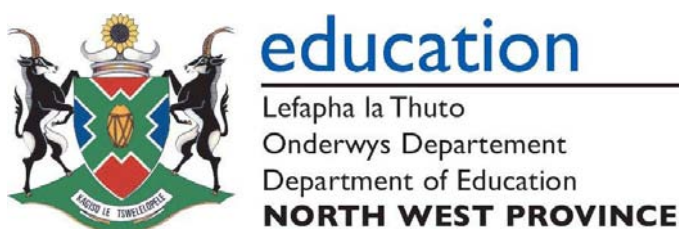
Limpopo Department of Education MEC, Ms Polly Boshielo, recently handed over infrastructure donated by Anglo American Platinum to Phaladingoe Technical High School in Mashahlang Village, Mapela Circuit. Mr Chris Griffith, Chief Executive Officer of Anglo American Platinum said: "It is an honour for Anglo American Platinum to present the upgraded facilities to the local community as well as the Limpopo Department of Education". The project includes learner and educator development; training of school management; the refurbishment and upgrading of infrastructure; and the renovations of classrooms. The project further includes the construction of four multi-functional workshops; two science laboratories; a library; a kitchen; a dining hall; and an administration block. The multi-functional workshops are in line with the drive to deliver future engineers and artisans, whilst catering for vocational training in the civil, electrical and plumbing fields. Since the commencement of the partnership, the academic results of the school have noticeably improved.

## Mpumalanga Province



The Mpumalanga MEC for Education, Mr Bonakele Majuba, delivered the keynote address on behalf of Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, at the occasion of the National Conference of the South African Principals Association at Ingwenyama Lodge in Mbombela. The three-day conference, taking place from 19 to 21 September 2019, is being attended by 700 principals from all nine provinces across South Africa. Areas for discussion include Leadership; Communication in Education; Technology in Education; Challenges Facing Education; Building Relationships and Caring for Learners.

## North West Province



The North West Department of Education recently hosted a prestigious Provincial Schools' Arts and Culture 2019 Competition for Primary and Secondary Schools, which targets Grade 6 to 11 learners. The Competition took place at the Rustenburg Recreation Centre from 12 to 13 September 2019. The three participating districts were Ngaka Modiri Molema, Dr Kenneth Kaunda and the hosting district, Bojanala. A total number of 342 learners took part in the festivities. The purpose of the event was to celebrate Heritage Month through arts and to enrich the Creative Arts and Life Skills subjects. The Competition focused in both mainstream and special schools. The learners were provided with an opportunity to showcase their talents through poetry, drama, freestyle and gumboot dancing, as well as the instrumental arts.

## Western Cape Province



Ms Anusha Naidoo, Manager for Circuit 8 in the Metro Central Education District (MCED), has gone beyond the call of duty to relieve the plight of Tembaletu School learners in Gugulethu. The school caters for learners with physical and academic disabilities, many of whom are in wheelchairs. Ms Naidoo said that the school struggles financially, especially with learner transport expenses and very little financial support from parents. Ms Naidoo managed to source a donation of a TV for the hostel from a religious organisation. She then came up with another fund-raising plan to source additional donations. When Ms Naidoo's father-in-law turned 80 during July 2019, she encouraged guests to support the school by donating money towards school uniforms, tracks suits, jerseys, shoes and educational games for the hostel. Following the event, the family had raised enough money to purchase educational games for the hostel learners and donated R8,000 towards school uniforms. Mr Ayanda Mtshazo, Tembaletu School Principal, said that the parents were very grateful, adding that the learners look very smart in their new school uniforms which contributes in maintaining discipline in the school.

## Upcoming Events

- 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 14<sup>th</sup> Indigenous Games Festival from in Polokwane, Limpopo Province
- 23 – 27 September 2019: The Heritage Education Schools 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
- 02 – 03 October 2019: The Communities of Practice (CoP) Forum on Mathematics and Science Education will be taking place at the DBE in Pretoria, Gauteng Province

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