



# THUTO

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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



## NEWSLETTER

# Minister Motshekga engages in community stakeholder meetings



The acceleration of public service in Basic Education remains one of the DBE's priority areas aimed at improving quality learning and teaching in schools. Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, is currently visiting several communities to monitor the quality of the work done in provinces. On 28 October 2019, Minister Motshekga embarked on an Education Stakeholders' Engagement to Diepsloot in the Gauteng Province, where she called on community members to collaborate with schools in dealing with social ills, including drugs and substance abuse.

Minister Motshekga used the Engagement to condemn the operation of *bogus* schools in the country. "I want to make it clear that our *Constitution* makes provision for any person, at his or her own cost, to establish and maintain an independent school. But, the *South African Schools Act* (SASA) recognises this inalienable right of anybody to establish an independent school at their own cost to offer basic education at the same or higher quality to that offered at Government schools. Therefore, any parent or learner who wishes to register at an independent school has a duty to satisfy himself or herself that it is indeed registered and operates within the framework of the law," said Minister Motshekga.

The Minister also indicated that the DBE and the Provincial Education Department (PEDs) have been mandated to ensure that all independent schools are legally operated: "Currently, we have 632,443 learners enrolled in registered independent schools, the majority of whom (296,282) are in the Gauteng Province. There are only 1,922 registered independent schools in South Africa with independent school enrolment accounting for approximately two percent of total school enrolment nationally. Our biggest challenge is the mushrooming of independent schools that are not registered at any education authority. These *bogus* schools are therefore operating illegally, again the majority of them are in Gauteng".

Minister Motshekga informed the Diepsloot community that the DBE and PEDs are hard at work to cease the operation of unregistered schools in the country, striving for a credible basic education system. "The business of educating the nation is a collective responsibility of all South Africans," concluded Minister Motshekga.

# Palesa Tyobeka is honoured for 41 years of legendary service in Government





Mrs Palesa Tyobeka, Deputy Director-General for Planning and Delivery Oversight, this week, retired after 41 years of legendary service in Government. During her farewell function on 31 October 2019, Director-General for Basic Education, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mwel, said that Mrs Tyobeka has made an immense contribution to Education and her legacy will be kept alive in many of the ongoing projects within the Sector.

Mrs Tyobeka's contribution to the institutionalisation of the Minister's quarterly meetings with District Directors, as well as the initiation of the National Education Excellence Awards was a monumental contribution towards advancing and celebrating excellence in districts and schools.

"Thank you very much for being part of my journey in Education. I leave education totally fulfilled. I have served the sector since 1978 and have enjoyed every moment. May your journey be equally fulfilling. I wish you everything of the best," said Mrs Tyobeka in her farewell address to DBE colleagues.



## DBE and Cuban Government explore ways to strengthen partnership in Mathematics, Technical Vocational Education and ICT



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga and Cuban Ambassador to South Africa, His Excellency, Mr Rondolfo Benitez Verson, met at the DBE offices in Pretoria on 28 October 2019, to discuss progress on the partnership between both countries in the field of Basic Education. The two parties expressed satisfaction on the implementation of the existing cooperation agreement that is focused on Mathematics and Science. The meeting also agreed that it was pivotal for the two countries to consider broadening collaboration on other key learning areas, including Technical Vocational Education and Training, and Information Communication and Technology (ICT) in education.



The Cooperation of Agreement between the Republic of South Africa and the Government of the Republic of Cuba was officially signed on 22 November 2016. Subsequent to the signing, the DBE appointed ten Cuban Mathematics and Science specialists. The ten specialists arrived in South Africa on 4 September 2017 and worked on teacher training and support material for the DBE, along with the Mathematics, Science and Technology Directorate (MST) and the Teacher Development Implementation Directorate. Four additional specialists arrived on 9 January 2018 and were placed in the Institute for Mathematics, Science and Technology in Queenstown in the Eastern Cape Province. Six more arrived on 29 April 2019 and have been placed within three different districts in the Free State Province.

According to Minister Motshekga, the partnership with the Cuban Ministry of Education has played a crucial role in improving quality education. She applauded the Republic of Cuba for having deployed several Cuban Mathematics experts to share best practices with South Africa. So far, the provinces that have benefited through the cooperation are the Free State, Eastern Cape and Gauteng Provinces. Mr Rondolfo Benitez Verson, acknowledged the efforts of Minister Motshekga in ensuring that Cuban Mathematics and Science experts were given a platform to make a positive contribution to the teaching and learning of these critical subjects. The Ambassador welcomed further discussion towards collaboration in other critical aspects such as Technical Vocational Education and Training, and ICT in education.

## Roundtable culminates with the establishment of National Steering Committee for PLCs



A Professional Learning Communities (PLC) Roundtable took place at the DBE Building in Pretoria from 29 to 30 October 2019. PLCs are one of the strategies within the *Integrated Strategic Policy Framework for Teacher Education and Development* (ISPFTED 2011-2025). The focus of the Roundtable was on the establishment and functionality of PLCs in provinces.

In summarising the status of PLCs, Ms Veronica Hofmeester, DBE's Director for Continuing Professional Teacher Education, alluded to the different levels of functionality of PLCs across provinces. A Steering Committee was selected comprising of one member from Teacher Development per province. Their role will be to relook the DBE Guidelines and to initiate a contextual Framework, in understanding how to set up a PLC, but most importantly, to ensure that the Guidelines are functional.

Mr Gerrit Coetzee, Acting Chief Director for Education Human Resources Development at the DBE, emphasised that since PLCs are voluntary communities for teacher development, additional support is essential, but monitoring and reporting are not mandatory. "A PLC creates the opportunity for all layers of school communities to be involved in collaborative efforts in ensuring that quality teaching and learning is happening. PLCs further allow teachers to take responsibility for their own professional development by sharing best practices, and engaging in pedagogical discussions to enhance classroom practices".

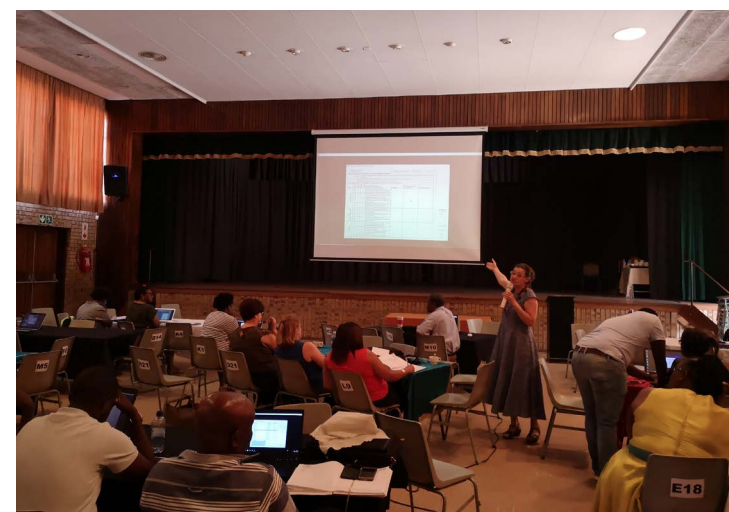
In his keynote address, Professor Yusuf Sayed, put emphasis on the importance of PLCs, and the benefits for teaching and learning. He further complimented the DBE on the Guidelines that have been developed, but identified the need for clarification on what is meant by "teacher-led" and "teacher initiated". He also invited the South African Council for Educators (SACE) to re-visit the Continuing Professional Teacher Development CPTD system, especially the area that is linked to the allocation of professional development points for different activities that will be drawn from the Guidelines.

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





# SA-SAMS training concluded across provinces



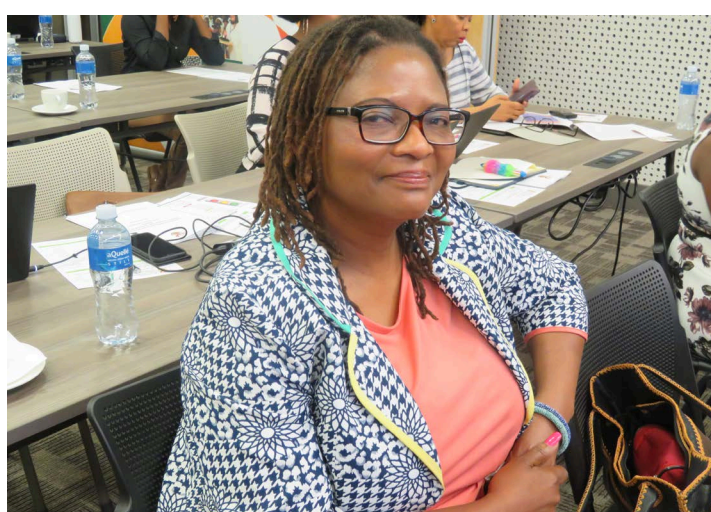
The 2019 SA-SAMS training in provinces concluded this week in the Mpumalanga Province. The weeklong training commenced in Limpopo during the first week of August and was conducted in all nine provinces.

The sessions were attended by provincial and district Education Management Information System (EMIS) officials, as well as provincial officials from other directorates that use data from schools for reporting. In Gauteng, more than 700 officials attended the training. The computer-based training included showing the relevant functions and upgrades on SA-SAMS such as the Integrated Quality Management System (IQMS), Curriculum, Policy on Screening, Identification, Assessment and Support (SIAS), NSC registration, Attendance management, Learning and Teaching Support Material (LTSM), National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP), School Governance reports, School Finances and School Safety.

Emphasis this year was also on the management of access control to the data on SA-SAMS and capturing by the various accountable personnel at schools using current business processes. Time was also spent on the various quality assurance processes at school and district levels to ensure that the reported data is credible. Training was also extended to include the Special Care Centre Project. Outreach team members and grant managers received refresher training on SA-SAMS, whilst quality assuring the data for collection.

The training covered all functions available on the DBE system, identified gaps to ensure that quality assurance processes are adhered to by all policy owners to receive credible data for reporting and support in the Education Sector. The training was conducted by the SA-SAMS team, Ms Carinne van der Westhuizen, Ms Pauline Ramphela, Ms Weziwe Mati and Ms Mumsy Notwane and was attended by Chief Director, Mr Bheki Mpanza and Director, Ms Ayesha Suleman in the KwaZulu-Natal, North West and Mpumalanga Provinces.

## DBE collaborates on multi-sectoral approach to Gender-Based Violence and Femicide





Ms Dululu Hlatshaneni, from the DBE’s Social Cohesion and Equity in Education Directorate, attended a Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) workshop at the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in Pretoria on 28 October 2019. The aim of the workshop was to coordinate a 365-communication programme responding to the Emergency Response Plan (ERP) to facilitate a sustained behavioural change campaign as an urgent intervention to the scourge. Ms Hlatshaneni participated in a panel discussion on the current GBVF intervention programmes, along with government departments and structures such as the Department of Justice and Correctional Services, the National Prosecution Agency (NPA) and the Commission for Gender Equality.

Ms Hlatshaneni reported that the Department’s response to the Presidential Summit Against GBVF that took place in Centurion, Pretoria from 1 to 2 November 2018, was launched in Lusikisiki in the Eastern Cape Province on 27 September 2019 as the province has the highest number of teenage pregnancies and grapples with violence in schools. Learning and Teaching Support Material (LTSM) is currently being developed to assist Foundation Phase learners to manage GBVF in schools. The DBE has put clear measures in place to combat forms of sexual abuse against pupils in schools through the development of a Protocol for the Management and Reporting of Sexual Abuse and Harassment in Schools, to respond to allegations of sexual abuse and harassment by learners and school staff. The Protocol provides guidance on the roles and responsibilities of each level within the system on how allegations of sexual abuse and harassment should be managed.

Ms Phumla Williams, Deputy Director-General, GCIS outlined the purpose of the workshop as a directive emanating from the Presidential Summit. Ms Esther Maluleke from the Interim Steering Committee on GBVF presented the targets and indicators of the draft ERP for a National Strategic Plan (NSP) to be developed between October 2019 and 31 March 2020. Ms Phumeza Bangani from GCIS presented the proposed framework outline for the social behaviour change programme.

In conclusion, the GBVF workshop agreed on a multi-sectoral approach for inter-governmental collaboration and communication, and for contextual messages and artwork to be carefully crafted, engaging focus groups and utilising existing case studies in each sector to analyse and address the impact of inequality and bullying as root causes of GBVF.

## Provincial Round-up

### Eastern Cape Province



With National Disability Rights Awareness Month (DRAM) taking place from 03 November to 03 December, the disability sector in the Eastern Cape Province has been taking oral hygiene to rural Eastern Cape towns. The Eastern Cape Disability Economic Empowerment Trust (ECDEET), in partnership with the Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE), Maletswai Development Trust, Walter Sisulu Local Municipality and the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, will host a first of its kind week-long Oral Hygiene Outreach in five towns of the Walter Sisulu Local Municipality. The outreach is meant to take much needed services to persons with disabilities and the elderly. The first leg of the programme will be taking place at Joe Slovo Community Hall in Aliwal North from 4 to 6 November 2019, whilst the second leg of the programme will be taking place at Thembani Community Hall in Burgersdorp from 7 to 8 November 2019. Oral disease is a major health problem as poor oral health and infections impact negatively on nutrition and digestion, and ultimately leads to speech impediments. Other lead partners include Dr Cathy Mokobe-Chiloane, a member of the Presidential Working Group on Disability who mobilised a group of volunteer dentists targeting persons with disabilities and the elderly.

### Gauteng Province



The Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) reported that it has notified parents via text messages on 30 October 2019, that approximately 60,000 new placements are available for pupils. Gauteng Education MEC, Mr Panyaza Lesufi, said the information was sent to parents of pupils whose application statuses were “pending” on the system. “We wish to reiterate that parents who have already received offers of placement must accept before it is forfeited. It is important to remember that the Admission Regulations criteria and capacity of each school will determine the number of applicants that receive placement offers and the number of learners ultimately admitted to a school. We have summoned all our district admission coordinators to a central location so that they can resolve all outstanding placements,” said MEC Lesufi.

The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) will once again fund bursaries to learners who wish to pursue occupational studies at a Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College. Schools have been selected to nominate learners for the Youth Focus Project (YFP) starting in January 2020 at the College of Cape Town. The YFP is applicable to learners who are not of compulsory school-going age and repeating Grades 9 and 10 for the second, third or fourth time in ordinary public schools and who are three or more years older than the age grade norm for that grade. Learners who are 18 years and older (or turning 18 in 2020) are eligible for this project. The learner and his/her parents must sign a bursary agreement from the WCED confirming the funding and admission of the learner to a TVET college in 2020. The agreement makes provision for funding to be made available for the duration of the learner's course, subject to evidence of regular course attendance and satisfactory progress reports. Additional information can be obtained from the WCED website: <https://wcedonline.westerncape.gov.za/news/wced-funds-bursaries-youth-focus-project>

## Upcoming Events

- 02 November 2019: Minister Motshekga will be handing over the Sanitation Appropriate for Education (SAFE) Project at Giovanni Primary School in Giyani, Limpopo Province
- 03 November 2019: Minister Motshekga to engage with ECD practitioners and Youth at Ivory Park in Midrand, Gauteng Province
- 03 November 2019: Minister Motshekga will be engaging with community members as part of the Second Change Matric Support Programme (SCMSP) and the Read to Lead Campaign at Kanana Community Hall in Ebony Park, Gauteng Province
- 03 November – 03 December: National Disability Rights Awareness Month is commemorated annually
- 05 – 08 November 2019: An Inclusive Education and Learners with Severe and Profound Learning Disabilities (LSPID) Inter-Provincial Meeting will be taking place at the DBE Building in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 06 November 2019: A Let's Talk Early and Unintended Pregnancies (EUP) launch will be taking place at Mamelodi High School in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 08 November 2019: An ICT in Education Roundtable will be taking place at the DBE Building in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 19 November 2019: The Kader Asmal Award Adjudication process, part of the 20<sup>th</sup> National Teaching Award (NTA) process, will be taking place at the DBE Building in Pretoria in the Gauteng Province
- 24 – 28 November 2019: The Adjudication process of the 20<sup>th</sup> NTAs will be taking place in the Gauteng Province
- 27 – 28 November 2019: A Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) Conditional Grant Inter-provincial meeting will be taking place in Cape Town in the Western Cape Province
- 01 December 2019: World Aids Day is commemorated globally
- 03 December 2019: The DBE World Aids Day commemoration will be taking place at Promoza Secondary School in Potchefstroom, Dr Kenneth Kaunda District in the North West Province
- 03 December 2019: The day is marked as International Day of Persons with Disabilities, and is also commemorated as National Disability Rights Awareness Day
- 08 – 13 December 2019: The South African Schools National Championships (Summer Games) will be taking place at the University of Pretoria



# #STRONGER TOGETHER.

S P R I N G B O K S 2 0 1 9



## Government Department Employees, urged to troop to the front!

Put on your green and gold jersey this Friday! Let us all rally behind the Springboks as they prepare to go against England in the final of the Rugby World Cup! Thanks to all government employees for their continued support towards the National Rugby team in it's Campaign for Continental Glory!

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