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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



## NEWSLETTER

# Minister Motshekga hosts Roundtable Discussion on the ICT Resourcing of Special Schools



Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, joined by Dr Reginah Mhaule, Deputy Minister for the Department of Basic Education (DBE), presided over the first Information and Communication Technology (ICT) Roundtable Discussion on the Resourcing of Special Schools with ICT equipment. The event took place at the DBE offices in Pretoria on 08 November 2019. The Roundtable was attended by five major companies in the Telecommunication Sector, namely Vodacom, MTN, Liquid Telecom (Neotel), Cell C and Telkom to pledge their support towards strengthening digital education in South African schools, starting with education for Learners with Special Education needs.

According to Basic Education Director-General, Mr Hubert Mathanzima Mveli, the Roundtable is considered as an appropriate forum to communicate priorities of the sixth administration and the basic education sector to ensure the effective rollout of e-Education in public schools. Mr Mveli announced that the rollout of the ICTs in education will be carried out in three phases: "The first phase, which is planned for 2020, will focus on 447 schools that are specialising in the curriculum for learners with special education needs. Phase two will be implemented in quintile 1 to 3 schools. Phase three will focus on strengthening digital education in affluent schools.

Speaking during the Roundtable, Minister Motshekga said that the implementation of ICT in the basic education sector requires a collaborative effort between Government and the private sector. She then called on ICT service providers to come on board and work closely with the DBE in accelerating the implementation of ICT and connectivity in schools.



# DBE partnership delivers more than 40 toilets to Govani Primary School in Giyani





The provision of proper school sanitation in public schools remain an area of concern, requiring urgent intervention from Government and the private sector. Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, officially handed over more than 40 newly-built toilets to Govani Primary School in Giyani, Limpopo Province on 02 November 2019.

The toilets, which were funded by Assupol Holdings Ltd, have been constructed by Amalooloo as part of the Sanitation Appropriate for Education (SAFE) initiative. The SAFE initiative was launched by President Cyril Ramaphosa in Pretoria on 14 August 2018, as a direct response to sanitation challenges facing the country's poorest schools. The Initiative is led by the DBE, in partnership with the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) and the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

"During the last five years, working through the NECT, the private sector has invested over R1 billion in the Basic Education Sector alone. It is a clear and irrefutable statement that Assupol Holdings Ltd is a corporate player with a soul to enhance and restore the dignity of our learners and teachers. Together we must address, with urgency, the backlogs in the provision of school and health infrastructure. These backlogs in public infrastructure impact negatively on our children's basic rights to a decent basic education and to health, safety and dignity within the educational precincts," said the Minister and applauded Amalooloo and Assupol Holdings Ltd for their support.

Assupol Chief Executive Officer, Ms Bridget Mokwena-Halala, said that learners deserve decent sanitation and expressed her gratitude to the DBE for having initiated SAFE to improve learning conditions in public schools. "I would like to thank the Govani Primary School Principal and the DBE for having given us a platform to positively contribute to the Basic Education Sector," said Ms Mokwena-Halala.

## Minister Motshekga engages with ECD practitioners in Ivory Park



In response to the unemployment rate in South Africa, Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, visited the Ivory Park community in Midrand on 03 November 2019, to gauge the level of Government intervention required. The visit was part of the Education Stakeholders' Engagements, initiated by the DBE, to promote government programmes in South African communities. These programmes include the Funza Lushaka Bursary Programme, the Second Chance Matric Support Programme (SCMSP) and the *Read to Lead Campaign*.

In her address, Minister Moshekga said that several communities are benefiting from the SCMSP, which has been put in place to assist young people in obtaining their National Senior Certificate (NSC). As part the engagements, Minister Motshekga urged the Ivory Park community, specifically the youth, to apply for the Funza Lushaka Bursary Programme to secure tertiary admissions in the 2020 academic year. The Bursary has been established to fund candidates who intend to become qualified educators in public schools. The aim of the *Read to Lead Campaign* is to ignite a reading revolution in the country.

Since the Engagements commenced, Minister Motshekga has visited the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape, Gauteng and Limpopo Provinces. Apart from addressing the Ivory Park youth, Minister Motshekga also addressed a team of education stakeholders responsible for Early Childhood Development (ECD). The Minister said that the shift of the ECD function, from the Department of Social Development to the DBE, is progressing well: "The DBE and Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) are currently busy with processes to profile all ECD centres in South Africa. The Minister emphasised an urgent need for Government and the private sector to work together in the struggle against unemployment amongst the youth.

During the discussions Ms Marie-Louise Samuels, Director for ECD, advised ECD practitioners to enrol for the DBE's online course to be in a better position to deliver on the curriculum.

## Inter-Provincial Meeting discusses priorities for Inclusive Education during DRAM





Since the *White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities* was approved by Cabinet during 2015, the DBE has made strides in respect of Inclusive Education. South Africa will be commemorating Disability Rights Awareness Month (DRAM) 2019 under the theme: “*Together building a South Africa inclusive of Disability Rights*”, from 3 November to 3 December 2019. The month culminates in the International Day of Persons with Disabilities on 3 December.

An Interprovincial Meeting on Inclusive Education took place at the DBE Conference Centre in Pretoria, from 06 to 08 November 2019. Mr. Jabulani Ngcobo, Acting Director: Inclusive Education, presented key priorities for 2020/21, saying that: “*Every Child is a National Asset*”, which means that *every learner matters*, therefore drives and underpins the sector’s efforts to ensure that no child is left behind”.

Priorities discussed were the mobilisation of out-of-school learners, including those with severe to profound intellectual disabilities, through gradual placement in schools, as well as the steady relocation of the administration and management of referrals and placements to district level. This will ensure that learners are placed correctly according to their educational and support needs. Another issue discussed is the importance of strengthening the implementation of accommodation and concessions at all levels, which will require collaboration between Inclusive Education and National Assessment and Public Examinations. The meeting also adopted the Standard Operating Procedures for the Designation, Conversion and Resourcing of full-service schools. The Standard Operating Procedures provide the process map for the designation of schools as full-service schools, including the framework for the conversion and resourcing of designated full-service schools. There was agreement that District-based Support Teams must prioritise public ordinary schools in the implementation of inclusive education, as a mechanism for ensuring access to quality education for all.

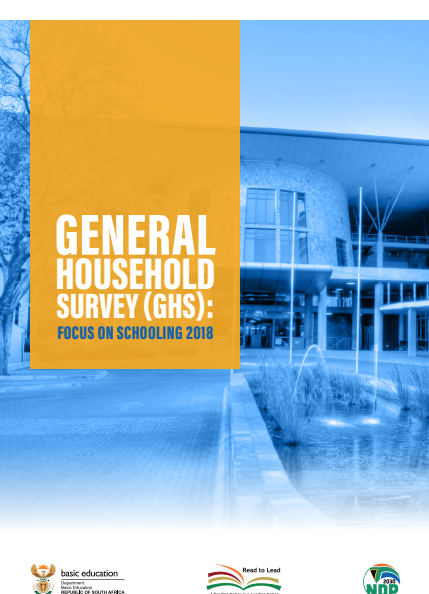
Ms Millicent Boaduo, Chief Education Specialist, made a presentation on the final draft of the *Guidelines for Resourcing an Inclusive Education System*. The purpose of this document is to provide guidance on the equitable and efficient provision, distribution and use of infra-structure, personnel and non-personnel non-capital funding for an inclusive education system using the National Norms for Post Provisioning, School Funding and School Infrastructure.

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



**General Household Survey indicates that  
“Basic Education is a system on the rise”**





DBE’s Research Coordination Monitoring and Evaluation Directorate recently published the 2018 General Household Survey (GHS) Report. The report revealed that there have been considerable improvements in the Basic Education Sector, as evidenced through higher attendance at educational institutions across different age and gender groups, indicating that, as stated by Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, we are indeed “a system on the rise”.

The participation of 0 to 4-year-olds in Early Childhood Development (ECD) programmes has increased from 8% in 2002 to 44% in 2018, along with Grade R participation since 2009, with over 90% of learners in Grade 1 previously having attended Grade R. Results from the National Senior Certificate (NSC) examination also attest to the progress made in the Sector. The number of NSC passes has increased from 283,742 in 1995 to 400,761 in 2018. Moreover, the number of learners attaining a Bachelor pass (which would allow them to enrol for a Bachelor’s degree) has increased from approximately 80,000 in 1995 to 172,043 in 2018. In terms of efficiency, the overall percentage of learners repeating a grade has remained relatively stable in the past five years, with the grade repetition being higher in secondary school than in primary school (Grades 10 and 11).

During DRAM, it is reassuring to note that a total of 88% of 5 to 6-year-olds with disabilities, 92% of 7 to 15-year-olds with disabilities and 72% of 16 to 18-year-olds with disabilities were attending educational institutions during 2018, which is significantly lower than the percentage of all 16 to 18-year-olds attending educational institutions (86%).

The purpose of the GHS report is to provide a platform to assess progress made in terms of access to schooling, as well as the quality, efficiency and equity in educational outcomes. The GHS is one of the key sources of information on learner enrolment, school nutrition programmes, learner repetition, learner pregnancy, access to ECD programmes and age-grade enrolment rates, among other indicators of interest. It also provides valuable contextual information about learners (such as their orphan status), which can assist in policy and planning.

<https://www.education.gov.za/Resources/Reports.aspx>

## Provincial Round-up

### Eastern Cape Province



The DBE, accompanied by officials from Provincial Education Departments, recently visited the Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE) to share best practice in respect of their Furniture Refurbishment project. The officials visited one of the provincial refurbishment warehouses situated in Berlin, just outside Bhisho. Currently, there are five warehouses in various towns across the province, including Umtata, Berlin, Mount Frere, Port Elizabeth, and Queenstown, where furniture is refurbished and stored. Mr Ramasedi Mafoko, Acting Chief Director for Infrastructure Planning and Delivery at the DBE, who led the visit, was delighted at the progress made by the ECDoE. “The School Furniture Interprovincial Committee was constituted to monitor the delivery of school furniture to all schools across the country. All provinces meet with the DBE quarterly to track the delivery of furniture to schools to ensure that every learner has a chair to sit on, and that educators have furniture to execute their work effectively in schools. This also includes libraries and laboratories. The role of the committee is to ensure that the initiative is executed,” Mafoko concluded.

## Gauteng Province



The Gauteng Department of Education (GDE) has extended its admission placement period to 30 November 2019. The placement period commenced on 23 September and was scheduled to end on 31 October 2019. This follows a surge of frustrated parents making their way to district offices to enquire about the placement of their children. “We are aware that some of our officials were assaulted and equipment and buildings vandalised. We wish to call upon parents to be calm and not use violence at our offices,” said Gauteng Education MEC Panyaza Lesufi. The admissions application period for the 2020 academic year commenced on 20 May 2019 and parents were granted additional days to submit documents until 22 July 2019. During this period, a total of 310,350 applications were made for Grade 1 and Grade 8. To date, 234,290 applicants have been placed, whilst 43,797 remain unplaced. It is concerning that, approximately 4,700 applicants have not yet accepted offers of placement. A total of 411 schools have reached capacity levels. Parents who do not have access to the Internet, may visit the school or district office where they will be assisted. “Parents should rest assured that the GDE is obliged to place all learners, and as such all learners will be placed, however, it might not be at schools that they want. It must be noted that schools are making every effort to accommodate all, in line with Admissions Regulations,” said MEC Lesufi.

## Limpopo Province



Five Limpopo high school pupils died in a car crash along the R574 road between Groblersdal and Mpudulle on 06 November 2019. Limpopo Education MEC, Ms Polly Boshielo, expressed her deepest condolences to the families following the accident. The five pupils, four in Grade 10 and one in Grade 9, and aged between 15 and 18 all attended the AM Mashego Secondary School near Groblersdal. According to the Limpopo Education Department, the pupils had been hiking home after writing their Agricultural Science and English examinations. According to a statement issued by the Department, a psychosocial unit has been dispatched to provide trauma counselling to learners, teachers, support staff and the bereaved families. Police in Hlogotlou outside Groblersdal have opened a case of culpable homicide following the incident. According to police spokesperson Brigadier Motlafela Mojapelo, the driver of a Nissan NP200 bakkie apparently lost control of the vehicle when approaching Matrompi bridge and it rolled several times, instantly killing the five learners and critically injuring the driver and his passengers.

## North West Province



School Governing Bodies and parents of Grade 12 learners of Kanana, Khuma and Jouberton in the Matlosana Sub-District, Klerksdorp area, initiated study camps as a safety measure for their children due to the high prevalence of gangsterism in the area which threatened to disrupt the proceedings of year-end examinations. Parents approached their school principals and volunteered to pay a total of R1500 per learner for study camps to cater for accommodation and meals for the learners. The Department then initiated an immediate intervention in relation to the camps in which it paid R11 million to cater for the 2,135 learners for the three camps held at Milner Secondary School which housed four schools, Vaal Reefs with ten schools and Camelot with four schools. The North West Education MEC, Ms Mmaphefo Matsemela, has concluded that parents who have paid for the Grade 12 study camps, will be reimbursed after the department has conducted its own investigations on the matter. In these camps, the number of the security personnel were increased to 300 and study camps were equipped with an on-site clinic, sufficient exam halls, a fully-fledged kitchen, dining area, sports facilities and an onsite canteen. MEC Matsemela said: “I want to urge our communities not to disturb learners as they prepare themselves for the examinations”. Learners will spend 37 days at the camps and will vacate the premises after writing the last examination paper on 28 November 2019.

## Upcoming Events

- 03 November – 03 December: National Disability Rights Awareness Month is commemorated annually
- 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
- 28 November 2019: The inaugural Indigenous Spelling Bee Championships will be taking place at the University of Venda in Thohoyandou, Limpopo 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

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