



THUTO

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THE DEPARTMENT OF BASIC EDUCATION



NEWSLETTER

Class of 2019 breaks through the glass ceiling, exceeding the 80% mark



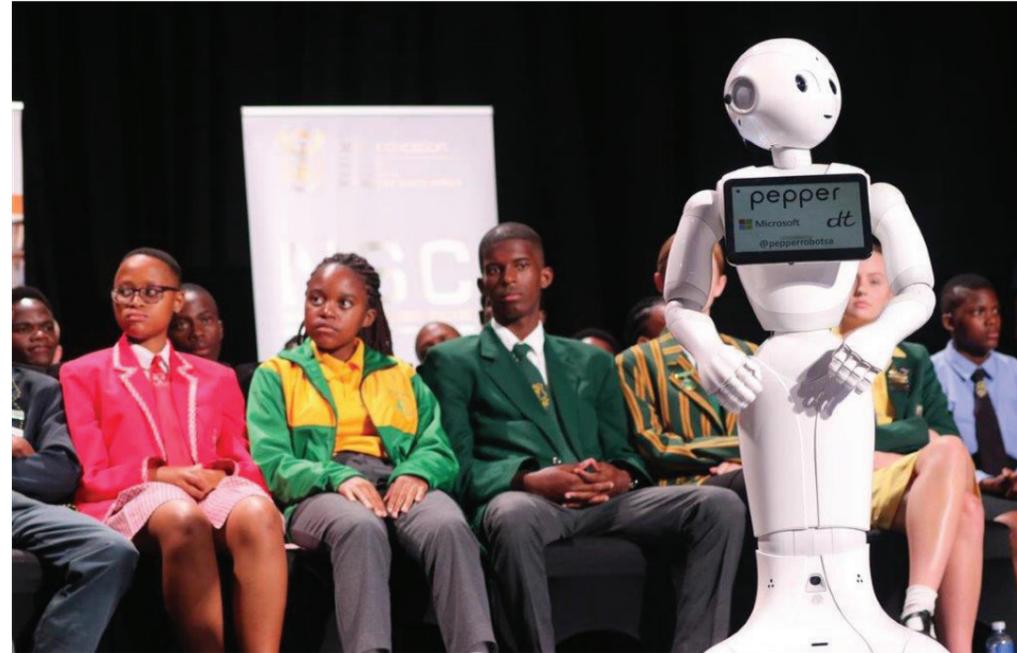
Accolades continue to pour in for the Class of 2019 for obtaining outstanding National Senior Certification (NSC) results. “For the first time in the history of South Africa, the Education System surpassed the 80% glass ceiling,” said Minister Motshekga, during the announcement of the results at the Vodacom Dome, Noordwyk, Midrand on 7 January 2019.

In her address, Minister Motshekga congratulated Provincial Education Department (PEDs) for their intervention support to education districts across all nine provinces. “The National Development Plan (NDP) recognises “districts as a crucial interface of the Basic Education Sector in identifying best practice, sharing information, and providing support to schools”. The continued growth in the performance of districts, is closely monitored and evaluated. In the 2019 NSC examinations, of the 75 districts, 6 districts attained a threshold of 60%. These include 1 in the Eastern Cape, and 5 in Limpopo Province that performed between 60% and 69.9%. A total of 24 districts (10 in the Eastern Cape and 5 in the KwaZulu-Natal Provinces, 2 in Limpopo, 2 in Mpumalanga, 4 in the Northern Cape, and 1 in the Western Cape Provinces) performed between 70% and 79%. The rest of the districts performed at 80% and above.”

Minister Motshekga further outlined the Basic Education Sector priorities for the Sixth Administration: “Fellow South Africans, the Council of Education Ministers has approved the Sector priorities to lay a solid foundation for quality education. These priorities include improving the foundational skills of numeracy and literacy, ramping up Early Childhood Development (ECD); the immediate implementation of a curriculum with skills and competencies for a changing world in all public schools; dealing decisively with the quality and efficiency through the implementation of standardised assessments at various exit points of the system at Grades 3, 6 and 9; offering the General Education Certificate (GEC) before the Grade 12 exit qualification to direct learners through different pathways; completing an Integrated Infrastructure Development Plan informed by infrastructure delivery and regular maintenance, as well as resourcing; the promotion of social cohesion, health, and school safety; and reinforcing our commitment towards inclusive education”.

Click on the link below for the full speech:

<https://www.education.gov.za/Newsroom/Speeches/tabid/950/ctl/Details/mid/8848/ItemID/7777/Default.aspx>



Repositioning the Basic Education Sector for the Fourth Industrial Revolution



The DBE, collaborating with Provincial Education Departments (PEDs), is making headway in terms of accelerating the implementation of the Coding and Robotics Curriculum for Grades R-9.

Director for Quality Learning and Teaching (QLTC) at the DBE, Mr Jabu Hlakula, is currently coordinating a Coding and Robotics Workshop at Microsoft South Africa in Bryanston, Gauteng Province from 6 to 17 January 2020. More than 26 partners and education stakeholders specialising in Coding and Robotics, and Curriculum Specialists are participating in this workshop. The curriculum will be piloted in Grades R-3 during 2020 before being piloted incrementally.

Mr Hlakula explained that, “the workshop has been guided by the Digital Skills Framework for Grade R-9, which was developed during March 2019. The inputs made during the development processes will assist the DBE in producing a world class Coding and Robotics Curriculum. This is made possible through the participation and contributions from a wide range of expertise drawn from universities, schools, NGOs, business partners, labour, industry, young entrepreneurs and associations. As the sector, we wish to acknowledge the contribution made by the private sector in ensuring that learners are equipped with the relevant Coding and Robotics skills at an early stage. We further thank Africa Teen Geeks and Microsoft for the support provided”.

Ms Lindiwe Matlali from Africa Teen Geeks, indicated that the Coding and Robotics Curriculum will play a crucial role in ensuring that learners leave Grade 9 having acquired the necessary digital skills to build and programme robots from scratch. “Our role as Africa Teen Geeks is to continue mobilising resources for the development of the Robotics and Coding Curriculum. Apart from this workshop, Africa Teen Geeks has also reached out to more than 100,000 learners, who benefited from Saturday coding classes operated at UNISA labs across all nine provinces.”



Basic Education Sector Lekgotla converges to equip learners with knowledge and skills for a changing world

The 21st Century learner requires a specific set of knowledge and skills to tackle the Fourth Industrial Revolution head-on. For this reason, a Basic Education Sector Lekgotla will be taking place at Emperors Palace, Gauteng from 15 to 17 January 2020, to ensure that the contemporary learner is equipped with the necessary knowledge and skills for a changing world, in line with the 2020 theme.

President Cyril Ramaphosa will address delegates during the Lekgotla on 16 January, identifying priorities for the South African Education Sector. A total of nine Strategic Action Hubs will be brainstorming education priorities linked to the goals of the National Development Plan (NDP) and the 6th Administration. This prominent Lekgotla will be attended by senior DBE officials, MECs, HoDs, Provincial Education Departments (PEDs), union members, embassies and various other stakeholders.

The main objectives of the Lekgotla include analysing progress made in the Education Sector, and the steps that should be taken to accelerate the achievement of Sustainable Development Goal 4 on Quality Education, as well as the goals outlined in the NDP. Other objectives of the Lekgotla include, accelerating the implementation of mechanisms to ensure that the

teaching and learning of all subjects equip learners with knowledge and skills for a changing world; utilising assessment data to develop strategies to improve the quality and efficiency of learning outcomes; enhancing the implementation of entrepreneurship in the teaching and learning of all subjects; implementing methods and techniques to promote neuroscience education; and accelerating Early Childhood Development (ECD) provision. An ECD Roundtable will be taking place during the Lekgotla on 17 January, to garner input to strengthen the draft Framework for the implementation of the ECD function shift.



Counselling available for matrics



Along with feelings of elation and moments of celebration, the release of the National Senior Certificate (NSC) results also tends to be accompanied by reports of depression and suicide.

The Class of 2019 matriculants, who may be anxious about their examination results, have been urged to make use of the Department of Social Development's Gender-Based Violence Command Centre (GBVCC) to receive counselling and support from trained social workers.

The command centre can be reached toll free on 0800 428 428. Callers can also request a social worker to contact them by dialling *120*7867# (free) from any cellphone.

Deaf callers can also interact with the centre using Skype, by adding 'HELPMEGBV' to their contacts. A social worker will return their call.

The DBE's Second Chance Matric Support Programme (SCMSP) is also available to support learners who wish to use a second opportunity to complete their examinations and to obtain a formal academic qualification. Learners can register at their schools or district offices for a second chance at success.

New academic year offers a second chance at success



Did you know that it is not the end of the world if you have failed your matric examinations? The DBE has a plan of action to assist youth who have not attained their NSC, to obtain a formal academic qualification through the SCMSP.

The SCMSP is targeted at learners and individuals who failed to meet the requirements of the NSC, the Senior Certificate (SC), or those seeking to upgrade their subjects and are enrolled, as part-time or full-time candidates, to improve their lives and achieve their dreams. The SCMSP offers four pillars of support at no cost. These include face-to-face tuition at 50 venues across all nine provinces, multi-media resources, Internet resources and a variety of printed resources to assist candidates.

During 2019, Minister Motshekga embarked on SCMSP roadshows across the country to engage with the youth and to share information with them about this opportunity to turn their lives around. During 2020, Minister Motshekga will again be visiting the various provinces to spread the SCMSP message of hope to community members and potential candidates.

Central Application Clearing House (CACH)

Since its inception in 2013, the Central Application Clearing House (CACH) has provided matriculants with a second chance to gain either University, University of Technology or Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) college entrance.

CACH provides an invaluable service to assist students whose original application was unsuccessful or those who subsequently qualify once their Grade 12 results are released. The CACH service is provided by the Department of Higher Education and Training as a free service to both applicants and institutions.

The 2020 CACH online service will therefore be accessible on 13 January 2020 to assist matriculants who qualify for university entrance but have not been offered a place. The contact details and examination results of potential applicants are sent to universities, colleges and SETAs.

For other information about post-school study, the below websites can be accessed:

The National Student Financial Aid Scheme on 086 006 7327 or www.nsfas.org.za

The Career Centre on 086 999 0123 or www.careerhelp.org.za

The Department of Higher Education and Training on 0800 087 2222 or www.dhet.gov.za

2020 Central Application Clearing House (CACH)

The ideal place to get your application and results sent to every post school learning institution



Hey, have you heard about CACH?

CACH? What's that?



The Central Application Clearing House. It is a helpful system created by the Department of Higher Education and Training that any school leaver needs to know about.

Tell me more:



The system was created specifically to assist students who have applied to tertiary education institutions for enrolment but could not get space or have been regretted. Those who did not apply on time will be directed to Career Development Services of the Department.



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Y-CAP receives Special Ministerial Award

The Youth Citizens Action Programme (Y-CAP) was awarded the Special Ministerial Award at the 17th Annual Centre for Public Sector Innovation (CPSI) Gala Awards Dinner that was held at Birchwood Conference Centre on 29 November 2019. This included a plaque, a certificate and a cheque for R30,000. The CPSI recognises successful and effective service delivery improvement projects and initiatives that have been achieved through the application of innovative approaches and methodologies. Y-CAP is powered by Empowervate Trust (NPO) and endorsed and implemented in collaboration with the DBE, PEDs and Districts.

There have been many studies, discussions and debates, which have shown that the top down approach to changing the behaviour and mindset of today's youth is not effective. Only when change is motivated by youth for youth through collaboration and mutual understanding, the power for positive enhancement is exponential. Helping to grow a generation of active and empowered citizens, who can lead South Africa tomorrow, Empowervate Trust set about creating a programme that could bring issues affecting the youth (in primary and senior schools) to the fore, identifying workable solutions and recognising these efforts (and those of teachers involved in driving these change agents) on a provincial and national scale.

Since its inception during 2009, thousands of learners have been impacted by the programme across all nine provinces. Hoping for more active citizens, Y-CAP is calling on schools to participate by providing learners with the opportunity of becoming agents of change with positive values to boost their confidence and self-esteem, whilst developing practical skills such as communication, project management, team work, leadership, time management, discipline, public speaking and Information Technology. The programme assists in creating a team of proactive learners who become positive role models for others.

Entries for the programme close on 28 February 2020. Forms can be accessed at the following website:

<https://www.empowervate.org/how-to-enter/>

More information is available at:

www.empowervate.org

info@empowervate.org



Provincial Round-up

The Class of 2019 NSC examination results indicate that with or without progressed learners, none of the provinces achieved lower than the 70% pass rate. The 2019 NSC examination results achieved by the provinces with progressed learners included (the actual 2019 NSC examination results), are as follows:

Free State Province



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FREE STATE PROVINCE

The Free State is the leading province at 88.4%, an improvement of 0.9% from 2018.

Gauteng Province



GAUTENG PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Gauteng achieved 87.2%, a 0.7% decline from 2018.

North West Province



education

Lefapha la Thuto la Bokone Bophirima
Noordwes Departement van Onderwys
North West Department of Education
NORTH WEST PROVINCE

North West achieved 86.8%, an improvement of 5.6% from 2018.

Western Cape Province



**Western Cape
Government**

Education

BETTER TOGETHER.

Western Cape achieved 82.3%, a 0.8% improvement from 2018;

KwaZulu-Natal Province



education

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Education

PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

KwaZulu-Natal achieved 81.3%, an improvement of 5.1% from 2018.

Mpumalanga Province



education

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MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

Mpumalanga achieved 80.3%, a 1.4% improvement from 2018.

Eastern Cape and Northern Cape Provinces



The Eastern Cape and Northern Cape results both stand at 76.5%. The Eastern Cape had a huge improvement of 5.9%, making them the most improved province whilst the Northern Cape improved by 3.2% from 2018.

Limpopo Province



Limpopo achieved 73.2%, an improvement of 3.8% from 2018.

Mpumalanga, KwaZulu-Natal, Western Cape, North West, Free State and Gauteng should be commended for maintaining their 80% performance status. We applaud the Free State for reclaiming the top spot from Gauteng. Eastern Cape, North West and KwaZulu-Natal can be proud for attaining the highest improvement rates in the 2019 NSC examinations.

Upcoming Events

- 15 – 17 January 2020: The DBE Basic Education Sector Lekgotla will be taking place at Emperors Palace in Kempton Park, Gauteng Province
- 20 – 24 January 2020: The Cuban Deputy Minister of Education will be visiting the DBE, as well as the Embassy of Cuba to attend a series of education-related engagements
- 20 January 2020: A Bilateral Roundtable on Basic Education in South Africa and Cuba will be taking place at Soweto College, Gauteng Province
- 26 January – 01 February 2020: The International Moot Court Competition will be held in the City of Gdynia, Poland
- 05 February 2020: World Read Aloud Day will be commemorated
- 15 February 2020: The National Teaching Awards (NTA) Gala will be taking place in the Gauteng Province

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