



basic education

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

THUTO



## NEWSLETTER

# SA principals are studying best practice in China



A South African delegation of 25 school principals and four officials from the Department of Basic Education (DBE) are currently visiting China where they will be participating in a study tour, showcasing best practice in the sector.

The delegation will also be participating in a Seminar on Policy and the Management of Basic Education in Shanghai, hosted by the International Centre for Teacher Education at the East China Normal University (ECNU). Lecturers will be making presentations and leading discussions during the 14-day programme, which is sponsored by the Embassy of China in South Africa.

The delegation will also attend the International Confederation of Principals (ICP) Conference. The principals, who represent all nine provinces, were selected from the leadership of the South African Principals' Association. The delegation is expected to visit six schools, as well as the ECNU campus. The study tour emanates from Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga's meeting with the Ambassador of China on 6 March 2014. Commitments made at the meeting include the training of 25 school principals in China over a five-year period. The two programmes will be taking place from 12 to 27 October 2019.

The delegation is lead by Mr James Ndlebe who is responsible for Education Management and Governance in schools. "It is important to expose our school principals to opportunities that can help them grow and develop for the benefit of their colleagues and indeed the learners. We cannot adequately prepare our learners to participate in the global economy as global citizens unless we become the compass to show them the direction by being global citizens ourselves. We need to start seeing what other countries are doing so we can learn and improve our situation. We need to expand our knowledge through the professional learning communities that we are establishing through this exercise," explained Ndlebe.



## DBE briefs Portfolio Committee on the General Education Certificate



Contrary to media reports that “learners would finish school in Grade 9,” the General Education Certificate (GEC) is not an exit certificate. The GEC and the General Occupational Certificate (GOC) will enable learners to elect various pathways to continue with their education at different institutions where they will be exposed to skills training in available trades. The GEC is part of a skills revolution and a response by the sector for an integrated approach to education and training. The DBE briefed the Portfolio Committee on Basic Education on the GEC and GOC for Grade 9 on 15 October 2019 in Cape Town.

The GEC aims to address the mismatch between the available skills and competencies against the expectations and requirements of the labour market. The GEC is aimed at better positioning learners to take advantage of further education opportunities that exist. The GEC also provides a standardised benchmark against which schools can compare their internal assessments, whilst bringing these qualifications to parity with the South African National Qualifications. “This will allow for the enhanced quality of education and training, facilitating smoother access, mobility and progression within education, training and career paths,” emphasised Chief Director for Curriculum Dr Moses Simelane.

South Africa is refocusing the curriculum towards a competence-based approach integrating the 21<sup>st</sup> Century skills and competencies across subjects and introducing new subjects and programmes that are responsive to the demands of the changing world, these include Coding and Robotics, Marine Sciences, Hydro/Aquaponics, Aviation Sciences, Design across the Curriculum, Mathematics and Science as well as Aviation studies.

The GEC certificate is predicated on the Three-Stream Model, which includes the academic, the technical vocational and the technical/occupational pathways.

<https://www.education.gov.za/Newsroom/MediaReleases/tabid/347/ctl/Details/mid/8128/ItemID/7747/Default.aspx>



## DBE *Read to Lead Campaign* encourages the community to read with understanding



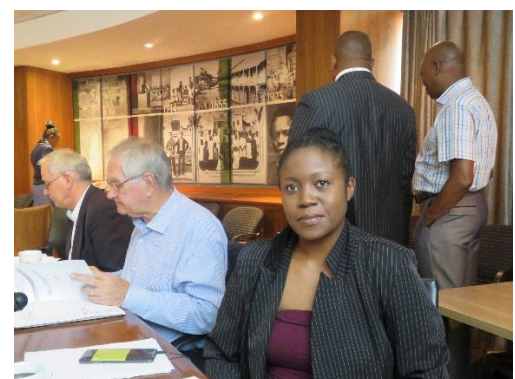
“Make reading fashionable and read with understanding”, appealed Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga, to parents and teachers in support of improved reading habits for learners, when she took the national reading campaign to the Kimberley community in the Northern Cape Province on 12 October 2019.

The Ministerial *Read to Lead Campaign*, which took place at the Northern Cape High School saw communities, learners and teachers gathering to join the Minister in reading with comprehension, “Set aside at least 30 minutes daily to read for enjoyment”, said the Minister.

DBE Director for LTSM and Innovation, Ms Kulula Manona, encouraged the community to read at least once a day, because “reading is a foundational skill on which all other learning is built”.

The Campaign was officially launched during July 2015, to ensure that all learners are able to demonstrate age appropriate levels of reading. This is also a response to national, regional and international studies that have been conducted during the past few years indicating that South African children are not able to read at expected levels, and are unable to execute tasks that demonstrate key skills associated with literacy. The Campaign provides teachers and schools with clear directives on the Department’s expectations of achieving the levels of performance, and for inculcating a national reading culture.

## Achieving quality public education during the 6<sup>th</sup> Administration



A Quality Learning and Teaching Steering Committee (QLTC) meeting took place at the DBE Building in Pretoria on 14 October 2019. The meeting was chaired by Basic Education Minister, Mrs Angie Motshekga. This was the first

QLTC Steering Committee meeting since 10 July 2019, and a focus point for discussion during the meeting was the renewal and re-purposing of QLTC operations and structures to respond to the priorities of the 6<sup>th</sup> Administration.

“I herewith appeal to the QLTC to support the National Reading programme to enhance reading with meaning,” Minister Motshekga said, and then proceeded to list the Basic Education Priorities, including school safety; the acquisition of Foundation Skills; the Fourth Industrial Revolution and Information and Communication Technology (ICT); skills for the 21<sup>st</sup> Century; and Early Childhood Development, to highlight but a few.

Chief Director in the Ministry, Mr Paul Sehlabelo, explained that, “QLTC structures are currently uneven, with provinces such as the Free State, Limpopo and the North West performing extremely well in terms of structures and operations. Seven provinces have submitted their first 100 days implementation plans and have been supported by the QLTC where possible, however, the campaign is still weak in collaborating with municipalities”.

The Limpopo Province is currently leading on matters of stakeholder engagement and mobilisation. Since the commencement of the 6<sup>th</sup> Administration, the Province has been organising training sessions for the various districts on QLTC operations and structures, and has been attending to school closures, school violence, vandalism, and other community related challenges.

School Governing Bodies (SGBs); the Representative Council of Learners (RCLs); and Associations of SGBs are platforms for the QLTC to succeed through democratic participation and consultation. A well-functioning QLTC should mobilise resources and donations for schools to ensure quality funding, learning and teaching through active partnerships. Going forward, it was agreed that the QLTC manual should be revised; the DBE must take responsibility in terms of the operational directives of the campaign; and the location of the function of the campaign must be relooked. It is also important to ensure stability in terms of reporting lines and accountability to ensure efficient service delivery within the various provinces and districts to build a National Social Compact.



## Deputy Minister Mhaule officiates at handover of school sanitation facilities





Various organisations are making true on their promise to assist Government in addressing the sanitation challenges that exist in various schools located in rural areas. One such organisation is Assupol who, during the launch of the Sanitation Appropriate for Education (SAFE) Initiative, pledged an amount of R50 million to build proper sanitation facilities for 100 schools located in South Africa's most rural provinces. With ten schools having already been provided with facilities, Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Dr Reginah Mhaule, on 16 October 2019, presided over the handover ceremony of the facilities to Ingaqa Full Service Primary School in Machibini, Mtubatuba in the KwaZulu-Natal Province.

Addressing the learners and parents in attendance, Dr Mhaule emphasised the importance of ensuring that the facilities are properly maintained. "Assupol has provided these safe and age-appropriate toilets, the onus is now on you to ensure that they are kept clean and regularly maintained so that they last as long as their 20-year warranty," said Mhaule. To assist with the maintenance and as part of skills transfer, the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT), who are facilitating the partnership with Assupol, encouraged the community to nominate a group of local youth who will be trained on how to fix minor issues and dispose of the dry waste.

Assupol was represented by Mr Jay Mngoma, who said that the SAFE initiative fits well with the company's strategic objectives of focusing on making substantive contributions in areas that have meaning in the lives of their employees, or which make a difference to the communities they serve.

The mayor of Mtubatuba Local Municipality, Cllr Velangenkosi Gumede, also graced the occasion and urged corporates to heed President Cyril Ramaphosa's call to join forces in eradicating unsafe sanitation structures. "If we fail to invest in the education of our children, especially in the areas in which our business operate, then we are failing as leaders," concluded Cllr Gumede.

## **R60 million secured to accelerate development of materials for the Coding and Robotics Curriculum**



As part of its efforts to meet the demand of the Fourth Industrial Revolution, the DBE is busy mobilising various education stakeholders to accelerate the introduction of the Coding and Robotics Curriculum in General Education and Training (GET). "The DBE has currently secured more than R60 million to be used in developing materials aimed at strengthening teaching and learning for Coding and Robotics," said Mr Jabu Hlakula, Chief Education Specialist for GET Technology.

The Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) have also expressed interest in providing additional funding through the Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) Conditional Grant to ensure that the sector is fully capacitated to equip learners with competencies for a changing world. As the sector has put emphasis on strengthening Literacy and Numeracy in the GET band, it is critical that the MST Conditional Grant is implemented across the sector.

"The MST Conditional Grant has been put in place to mobilise more learners to participate in MST subjects, whilst empowering teachers to master the teaching of these subjects. In addition, the Grant will make a meaningful contribution towards increasing the throughput rate in these subjects. Currently, approximately 1,064 schools across all nine provinces are benefiting from the Grant," said Project Manager for MST Conditional Grant, Ms Elspeth Khembo. "Provincial coordinators for the Grant conduct regular monitoring in schools to improve optimal utilisation of the

resources provided. Although there has been huge progress made in terms of supporting schools offering MST subjects in the country, additional funding is still required to increase resources for the development of competencies for the future.”

The DBE's MST Conditional Grant is planning to host an inter-provincial meeting in the Western Cape Province from 27 to 28 November 2019.

## Education Facilities Management System to be rolled out nationally



DBE management officials recently embarked on roadshows to all Provincial Education Departments (PEDs) to engage with provincial stakeholders about the finalisation of the Education Facilities Management System (EFMS) institutionalisation process. The aims were to present EFMS functionalities and modules, as well as collect provincial resource requirements towards EFMS implementation and risk management, and to prepare provinces for the rollout of the system.

The objectives of the Roadshows were to demonstrate the EFMS and introduce the functionalities to each province. During the Roadshows, a stakeholder committee was established in each province and information was collected on provincial resource capacities and needs. A consolidated and collective capacity needs and strategy document will be compiled before the full training and deployment process can be planned, as the EFMS will be migrating to SITA as the transversal system to be utilised by the entire Basic Education Sector as per HEDCOM resolutions of 2013 and 2018.

The EFMS, initiated by the Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE), is a web-based property register and programme management system for infrastructure. The programme management tool is used for all active infrastructure projects that the department oversees. The system also has a mobile assessment tool which is used to capture school building condition data (NEIMS3) and manage the ECDoE's immovable assets. The property data of all school infrastructure in the Eastern Cape Province, as well as other provinces is captured on the property register in the EFMS.

## Parents urged to lead by example in fight against obesity

The DBE, through its partnership with Nestlé – Nestlé for Healthier Kids, commemorated National Nutrition and Obesity Week at Oppermans Intermediate School and Shonkweni Primary School, located in the Northern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal provinces, respectively. The theme for this year's celebrations, “Make eating whole foods a way of life”, encourages the consumption of unprocessed or minimally processed food.

The celebrations were filled with a plethora of fun activities such as fun walks, gardening, hula hooping, skipping rope and a chef demonstration for learners which provided practical lessons on healthy eating habits. At Shonkweni Primary





School, Umdoni Municipality Mayor, Cllr Thabani Dube, encouraged parents to lead by example in their households, saying: “Plant vegetables and fruit trees in your garden; this will not only provide food security and nutrition for your family, but will also ensure that your body gets the regular exercise it needs.”

Decrying the high prevalence of obesity amongst children at an early age, Ms Lydia Maotoe, Deputy Director for the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP), urged parents to provide mostly whole foods such as dry beans, lentils and vegetables to assist in preventing unwanted weight gain and its related diseases. “We also commend the school for ensuring that the feeding programme is sustainable through the food garden established by Nestlé ten years ago. May you share best practice with neighbouring schools so that all the children in this area benefit,” she concluded.

Ms S Dunn, the Free State Department of Education Chief Education Specialist for Learner Support, said that the partnership with Nestlé aims to raise awareness and supports the curriculum in ensuring that healthy lifestyles and nutrition education are promoted amongst school children.



## Provincial Round-up



The Eastern Cape Department of Education (ECDoE) in collaboration with the Provincial Department of Sport, Recreation Arts and Culture, recently hosted the Provincial Creative Arts- Visual Arts Exhibition and Awards Ceremony at Anne Bryant Art Gallery in East London. The ECDoE explained that the platform was created for learners to showcase what is happening in the Creative Arts classroom. Increasing the participation and throughput rates in the Arts 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 Streams.

“The Gauteng Department of Education and Youth Development has the highest enrolment for the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations across the country. We registered a total of 1007 centres that are eligible to administer the 2019 NSC examinations across all our 15 Districts in the province. Of these centres, 667 are Public Ordinary Schools, 235 Independent Schools, 87 Adult Education and Training (AET) centres, 11 Correctional Services centres and 7 designated centres,” said Gauteng Education MEC, Panyaza Lesufi ahead of the NSC examinations. Gauteng will administer the 2019 NSC examinations to its 111,775 full-time and 41,599 part-time candidates. The Province has an increase of 4,612 pupils sitting for the examinations, compared to 2018.

KwaZulu-Natal Education MEC, Mr Kwazi Mshengu, together with the KwaZulu-Natal Department's Head of Education (HoD), Dr Enock Vusumuzi Nzama, recently met with the trustees of the Zenex Foundation. The Foundation supports seven schools in the Ilembe District in Ndwedwe with a special focus on gateway subjects such as Mathematics, Science and English. The High School Mathematics, Science and English Project focuses on improving Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) to prepare disadvantaged learners for the 21st Century. In addition, the project has a school focus to improve curriculum management, school leadership and teaching, as well as a direct learner focus. The project seeks to increase the quality of performance in Mathematics, Science and English by: improving learner performance at Grade 8 and 9 level in Mathematics, Science and English; increasing participation rates in Mathematics and Science in Grade 10; and improving learner performance in Mathematics and Science at Grade 12.

Western Cape MEC for Education, Ms Debbie Schäfer and MEC for *Transport and Public Works*, Mr Bonginkosi Madikizela, this week, appealed to rail and taxi associations to assist with learner transport when the NSC Examinations commence later this month. With over 62,000 full and part-time candidates making their way to their examination venues across the Province, it is important that candidates arrive safely and on time. As many of these candidates rely on public transport, it is always a concern that trains may be delayed or cancelled, or that there is a sudden strike of bus operators, or taxi drivers. Any of these scenarios could have serious consequences for learners who are unable to make alternative arrangements. A candidate arriving later than one hour will not be allowed to write the examination at all and will have to make use of the supplementary examinations during June 2020. Candidates may be admitted into an examination room provided they arrive within one hour of the start of the examination.

A learner arriving within the one-hour period is still expected to complete the examination within the same time as the other candidates. The late arrival of candidates will ultimately put him/her at a disadvantage. “We hope to have the support of public transport operators during this period. I also appeal to candidates to leave home early to make up for any possible delays. Learners should aim to arrive at their venue early, rather than risk being late. We also want you to arrive at your centres calm and prepared, not distressed and tense,” appealed MEC Schäfer.

## Upcoming Events



- 01 – 31 October 2019: Teacher Appreciation Month will be celebrated throughout the month in celebration of South African teachers
- 25 October 2019: The National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) Directorate, along with Cricket SA, will be handing over a mobile kitchen to Rabana Primary School in Ventersdorp, North West Province
- 29 – 30 October 2019: A Roundtable discussion on the functionality of Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) will be taking place at the DBE Building in Pretoria, Gauteng Province
- 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 process, will be taking place at the DBE Building in Pretoria in Gauteng Province
- 21 – 22 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 Kay Motsepe South African Schools National Championships (Summer Games) will be taking place at a venue to be announced in due course

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