



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Address by the Basic Education Minister, Angie Motshekga, at the
UNESCO Global Media and Information Education Week 2021,
Hosted by South Africa**

Excellencies,

Distinguished Guests,

Ms Director-General of UNESCO,

Ladies and gentlemen,

Media and information literate citizens,

Fellow Africans,

Citizens of the world,

26 October 2021

I am humbled by the honour of addressing the 2021 UNESCO Global Media and Information Literacy Week, Feature Conference that South Africa hosts.

The Republic of South Africa will be taking steps to adopt the UNESCO resource, “Media and Information Literate Citizens: Think critically,

click wisely! (Media and Information Literacy Curriculum for Educators and learners).”

We are also working hard to integrate media and information literacy resources to enhance diverse and appropriate learning programs, inclusive and gender-responsive curricula.

As a continent of Africa, we are working to achieve conducive environments for education reforms in Africa.

Of immediate importance is the adoption of digital learning frameworks.

As we know, the new societies depend on more online platforms for learning, connection and socializing.

Even more urgent is that we must push for media and information literacy in digital spaces.

This can enable citizens to protect themselves online.

Our information regulators must discard archaic policies.

It is about time they remodel their policies on best international practice.

As South Africa, we implore the international community to redouble our efforts in ensuring an increase in investment in pro-democracy

media and information industries as pushback against misinformation entrepreneurs.

We must also invest and create agile ecosystems for media and information public awareness campaigns in a last-ditch effort to create a media-literate populace.

These measures are an investment to light and mean a banishment of darkness expounded by the misinformation miscreants.

Our democracies can only triumph if our people receive and impart information freely.

We want a robust media, agile information highway, and the end result will be a robust citizenry.

As we know by now, the backbone of a healthy democracy is an informed and empowered citizenry with access to free and independent media and the correct information.

The mantra of *Media and Information literacy for all* is necessary to uplift all learners, citizens, voters, and the rest of the international community.

As the Republic of South Africa, we look forward to the successful outcomes of this year's Global Media and Information Literacy Week.

Obviously, this includes the Plenary Session: Africa Agenda 2063: Media and information literate citizens as change agents (a focus on media and information literacy in Africa).

I thank you.