



Update: Wage Negotiations

Thursday, 30 April, was the last day of the scheduled conciliation (as referred to in NF 11 of 2015). No agreement was reached in the PSCBC. Parties, however, agreed to extend the conciliation, because the Employer was in the process of obtaining a revised mandate.

Due to the fact that the conciliators have other commitments for this week, parties agreed to resume the conciliation on **Monday, 11 May 2015** when the Employer is expected to table a revised offer on which Labour will then seek a mandate and respond to on Friday, 15 May 2015.

The PSCBC has been requested to issue a media statement in the above regard to prevent a situation where statements by parties could derail the conciliation process which is at a delicate stage.

Amendments to the 2015 National Senior Certificate Examination Timetable (DBE Circular E12/2015)

The approved 2015 National Senior Certificate (NSC) timetable was amended on 29 April 2015 after DBE had become aware of a clash involving learners offering Urdu and Arabic, as well as French and Modern Greek; approved the increase in the duration of Economics P1 and P2 and altered the sequence of the papers for the subject Sport and Exercise Science.

The amendments are as follows:

1. In order to avert the clash the DBE amended the timetable (which was originally issued under DBE Circular E5 of 2015) Urdu SAL P1 and Urdu SAL P2 will now be written on Friday, 30 October and Friday, 6 November 2015 respectively, at 14:00 in both cases.
2. Modern Greek SAL P1 will be written on Wednesday, 28 October at 14:00 and Modern Greek P2 will be written on Tuesday, 10 November 2015 at 09:00.
3. The duration of Economics P1 and P2 has been increased from 1,5 hours to 2 hours.
4. The sequence of the papers for the subject Sport and Exercise Science P2 has been altered. Sport and Exercise Science P1 and Sport and Exercise Science P2 will now be written on Monday, 16 November and Friday, 20 November 2015, respectively, at 14:00 in both cases.

The revised and final 2015 NSC timetable is available at <http://www.education.gov.za>, click on *Curriculum* and then on *Circulars*.

Call for the submission of books written by young emerging writers for school libraries

The Gauteng Department of Education is inviting young emerging writers to submit published books suitable for school libraries (Grades 1 – 12). Resources are required in all official languages. The books will be evaluated and a list of approved books will be compiled. Books may be submitted from 6 May to 22 May 2015 at the Education Library, corner of Nana Suita & Lillian Ngoyi Streets, Pretoria.

For more information please contact busi.dlamini@gauteng.gov.za or mona.niemand@gauteng.gov.za.

A word on Xenophobia

(Excerpt from Dr Richard Hayward's editorial letter in the May 2015 issue of *Quality Education*)

"In the newspaper industry there's the cynical but true quip: "Bad news help sales to soar." We've recently seen in South Africa that mud (or other item)-slinging at people and objects that we don't like, gets huge media publicity.

Yet if you've been a teacher in classrooms and schools since the 1990s, you'll have seen magic unfolding before your eyes. So many classrooms, sports teams and schools are happily integrated. At inter-school sport events, the children shout and sing war cries of encouragement to players of their own school. The sometimes hysterical hoarse support for their school teams is colour-blind. No child has ever been born a racist. That's an acquired prejudice.

Every Quality school has a set of ethical and timeless values at its core. That includes an acceptance and appreciation of the

diversity that makes our Rainbow Nation so special. In such a school, one sees that the children, parents as well as the staff, daily abide by those values. As one girl replied when asked by a teacher what the word 'Values' means to her in the school, her insightful response was, "It's just the way we all do things here."

Teachers teach subjects but more importantly, they teach values too. Values are taught formally in School Assembly homilies; at other times during routine lessons. Then there are those unscripted magical moments to nurture values in the classroom as well as during the extramural and community outreach programmes. Those are gifted times to make compassion, humility, kindness, perseverance and so many other values really come alive." (go to www.naptosagp.org.za and click on the link to *Quality Education*.)

LOUISE SMIT, (CHIEF EXECUTIVE OFFICER)

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