

# Promoting the professionalisation of teaching in Bojanala

**A two-day workshop was aimed at creating professional teachers through improved curriculum coverage, subject content, pedagogy and classroom practice.**

The importance of having a professional and committed teaching service is crucial for improved education outcomes in South Africa. The National Development Plan (NDP) states that “teachers are central to education and teaching should be a high valued profession”.

Through the Education Collaboration Framework (ECF), a framework for multi-stakeholder collaboration, the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) commits to supporting government, train teachers and support them in the classroom. On 11 and 12 August, 2015, Rustenburg played host to a two-day teacher training workshop for Fresh Start School (FSS) teachers. FSSs are schools in need of critical intervention. The workshop was attended by teachers from 54 different FSSs comprising of 38 primary and 16 high school teachers.

The workshop forms part of the NECT’s Learning Programme and aims to address the broader objective of professionalising teaching. Through the Learning programmes, specific efforts are being made to promote a new teaching and learning culture in schools driven through teacher and management toolkits comprising lesson plans, monitoring tools for both teachers and school managers. The toolkits aim to structure the learning and teaching activities in every classroom thereby routinizing in class and school learning, and teaching



activities. To kick-start the training, Bheki Mthiyane, NECT Project Manager, welcomed the teachers by saying: “This project is in your hands; you can make a difference in education.”

The workshop focussed on home languages, mathematics and science subjects, as well as unmotivated and under-skilled teachers. A ‘Teacher Support Toolkit’, comprising weekly activities for term three that covers the whole curriculum, was given to all teachers as teaching aids and training material.

The workshop yielded great feedback. When asked, teachers expressed their excitement and satisfaction with the workshop and its facilitators. The NECT will be monitoring the outcome of the workshops and how successful the implementation of it was through monthly feedback forms. The NECT and the Department of Basic Education (DBE) look forward to revolutionising education through hosting additional workshops in the future, with the aim of meeting the National Development Plan’s (NDP) education objectives. Please follow them on twitter @The\_NECT