



MEC Panyaza Lesufi. PICTURES: HERBERT MATIMBA



Pemlah Tihong, Palesa Motlhabane, Rebecca Pretorius, Amanda van Schalkwyk, Ursula Ndhovu, John Mahlangu and Edwin Madisha.

Q&A with ministers Motshekga and Surty

RUDZANI MUSEKWA

QUESTIONS and answers at the TNA Business Briefing with the Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga and Deputy Minister Mohamed Enver Surty.

South Africa has a high rate of financial illiteracy and this results in people getting into debts. Can the department look into possibly introducing financial management course at basic education level?

Deputy Minister Enver Surty: This is already happening in a way both formally and informally. Financial literacy is key from early on and the department is looking at improving this even better.

How is the Department of Basic Education dealing with the issue of bogus schools that are affecting poor communities?

Minister Angie Motshekga: This is a serious problem across the country and though we try our best as the department to monitor the situation it is not something we can do alone.

It is something that needs the parents to also get involved and visit where their children learn.

What can the private sector do to assist the department and how can we be partners going forward for the benefit of education?

Motshekga: Our doors are open and we want to work with the private sector to better our

education. This largely happens through the National Education Collaboration Trust that is headed by Sizwe Nxasana. We welcome this kind of collaboration through the trust.

How is the department trying to make sure that provinces like the Eastern Cape, that always do badly, improve?

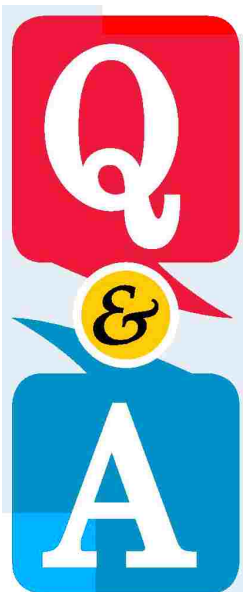
Motshekga: We are looking at all the schools that are doing badly in the country and from that we draw on the experiences of those that are doing well and try to improve on that.

What is the department doing to curb the scourge of underperformance in the country generally?

Motshekga: We are working very hard on this as a department and the reason we are awarding those who are doing well is because we are trying to encourage through recognition, and this starts at district level.

How can the department work closely with parents to make sure that there are better results?

Motshekga: Parents need to ask questions and get involved in their children's education. Parents are the first point when it comes to the education of their children and they should do this consistently and also get involved in school governing bodies at their children's schools.



Junitha Surju, Khotso Mokoena, Edith Smith and Thozamile Binase network at the The New Age Business Briefing.

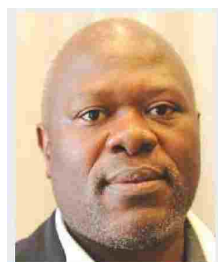


Willem du Plooy and Thembelihle Gumedede.



Pule Machele and Vusi Makam.

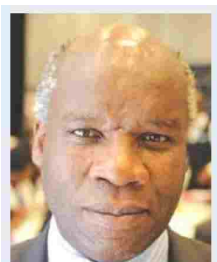
WHAT THEY HAD TO SAY



Bulelani Kuwane

“The session was really great and I feel like there is something positive to be expected. But

it is also very important that what is said is followed with actions, instead of just talking. The other positive thing is that the department is finally rewarding excellence and this is really encouraging.”



Amos Fetsha

“It is very good that the minister recognises the districts because that's where it all starts. And it is

also good that districts are performing, especially those that used to do badly. This encourages the rest of the districts to work even better. And this was also a public call to look at the state of basic education.”



Peter Magagula

“This was an eye-opening session and we really learnt a lot from each other as districts. This gave

us a rare opportunity to interact with each other as teachers and officials. The awards only serve as a plus because they encourage all of us to up our game for the benefit of the pupils.”



Loraine Goba

“This was an excellent session on basic education and where it is going. The awards will

benefit all of us as districts to work even harder so that we can be recognised and this recognition serves to say that there's something positive happening in our education.”



Moshalagae Malatji

“It was good to interact with the minister on the state of basic education in the country and also

to be with and interact with different districts. The opportunity to be with the minister and the deputy minister has given us hope as teachers that we are being recognised for the work we do.”