



Ministry of Education and Training Newsletter

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MoET holds Curriculum and Assessment Symposium



Honourable Minister of Education and Training, former Ministers of Education and stakeholders in education during the curriculum and assessment symposium

The public had blown a whistle on the insufficiencies of the current curriculum, especially its content, delivery mode and assessment, says the Minister of Education and Training Professor Ntoi Rapapa.

Officiating at the two-day symposium held in Maseru, Professor Rapapa noted that it was against that background that the Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) found it essential to provide a platform for different stakeholders to host a dialogue of which views and trends on the current status and future of the basic education curriculum and assessment will be scrutinized, discussed and examined.

“Stakeholders will further engage in robust discussions on the net effect of the current status of education and map way forward that will decide the future of the Lesotho basic education curriculum,” highlighted the Minister.

He added that the focus of the presentations and discussions were based on MoET strategic policies and interventions, empirical studies and evidence, contributions from development partners and first-hand experiences from the panelists.

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**Authors : Molikuo ‘Mota
Mary Mokemane
Lesoma Katisa**



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Ministry of Education and Training-Lesotho



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At the same occasion, the Chairman of Education Advisory Council and the MoET Principal Secretary Basic Education Dr Dira Khama noted that the Ministry's common goal is for all Basotho to have quality education at conventional schools and through the non-formal education channels.

He indicated that the purpose of the symposium was for all education stakeholders to reflect, interrogate, unpack and rearrange the Lesotho curriculum and its assessment.

Dr Khama highlighted that MoET implemented many reforms in the past years yet very little is known about the level of stakeholder's awareness about them, adding that lack of information on stakeholder involvement carries the risk of lack of ownership.

"In 2000, the ministry introduced the free primary education which in 2010 became compulsory. In 2012 we rolled out the new curriculum beginning with the first three classes in primary schools and

it rendered progression of grades on the basis of their potentials, capability and lineages especially as they moved to secondary schools" said Dr Khama.

He indicated that the nation misinterpreted the progression as automatic promotion to imply no assessment at grade 7 – "pele-feela" as it was popularized, showing that according to the ministry's plan, schools are expected to keep learners' performance record in their portfolios and school reports, whereby a final determiner for progression has to be a discussion between the teacher and parents on the learner's performance. Learners with higher learning pace would progress to the next level while the slow learners would repeat class.

Present at the symposium were former Ministers of MoET, Principal Secretaries and government structures, the education fraternity, institutions, colleges and universities and development partners.

Minister commends foundation for support



Honourable Minister of Education and Training Prof. Ntoi Ra-

The Minister of Education and Training Professor Ntoi Rapapa has expressed his excitement and gratitude to the Roger Federer Foundation for committing millions to the underprivileged children, teachers and the education sector in Lesotho as a whole.

Speaking at an event in which Mr. Rodger Federer was wrapping up his visit in Lesotho in May this year, Minister Rapapa commended Mr. Federer

for his continuous support adding that the ministry will do everything in its ability to make sure that this initiative benefits Lesotho's current and future children in early childhood care and development.

He promised that the ministry will account for every money spent and appealed to the ministry's officials working with the foundation to always inform him of the progress made in assisting children in their schools including when things do not go as planned.

Speaking at the same event, Mr. Federer said he is impressed and pleased with the way Lesotho teachers are handling reception classes adding that they have tablets to work with and have improved in using them.

Mr. Federer noted that it is necessary for countries like Lesotho to have the private sector involved in the education system by investing in the bright future of children not just the government.

In his role as the President of the Roger Federer Foundation, the 103-time tour-level titlist

(Tennis Champion) visited Lesotho to see the impact of the projects designed to help vulnerable children to access early childhood care and development.

While in Lesotho, he met with among others, their Majesties, the Prime Minister Samuel Matekane, Minister Rapapa and key stakeholders in early childhood care and development as well as representatives from the corporate and non-profit sectors.

The Roger Federer Foundation started its work in Lesotho in 2020 and aims to reach vulnerable children in 800 pre-schools by 2025 through the investment of 3 million USD.

MoET to launch education radio station



Honourable Minister Professor Ntoi Rapapa inspects studio equipment

The Ministry of Education and Training (MoET) is currently finalising the preparations for the launch of the National Education Radio Station.

Speaking during the inspection of the station at Lesotho Distance Teaching Centre (LDTC) premises, the Minister of Education and Training Professor Ntoi Rapapa indicated that the Ministry has many students who are learning through Open and Distance learning mode through LDTC that need support through radio programmes to enhance their learning.

Prof. Rapapa echoed that the MoET will work hard to ensure that the station's frequency coverage is enough to accommodate the hard to reach areas where most of the out of school learners reside. He said the MoET will formerly launch the station once it has acquired the licence from the Lesotho Telecommunications Authority (LCA).

He further explained that in the past the Ministry spent a lot of money to publish educational

programmes in other radio stations, adding that due to the current financial constraints the Ministry could no longer sustain the activity even though it is imperative for out of school learners.

The Minister said MoET will engage professional teachers to produce comprehensive educational programmes that will make it easy for learners to comprehend. He said in the beginning the Ministry will work jointly with Ministry of Information, Communication, Science, Technology and Innovation until the station is fully operational.

He further appealed to those who will be working at the studio to ensure that they protect the studio equipment. He expressed gratitude to the World Bank for providing financial support for the studio.

LDTC was established in 1974 by the International Extension College at the request of the Ministry to promote Non-Formal Education in Lesotho by applying distance education teaching methods.

The National University of Lesotho (NUL) in partnership with Samsung Africa has launched a Samsung Innovation Campus to be housed at NUL. This was announced during an event held in Maseru where a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) was also signed between the two parties.

Speaking at the event, the Minister of Education and Training Professor Ntoi Rapapa said there was a need to inject changes in Lesotho's education system to make it relevant to the needs and aspirations of the 21st century workforce. He added that this will make Lesotho's education globally competitive by providing its learners with the necessary 21st century skills.

Minister Rapapa explained that there is a growing need for digital age literacy to include basic scientific and technological literacy, since Lesotho's education system has to produce graduates who can grasp concepts of innovative thinking.

He explained that NUL and Samsung's partnership reinforces the government's view that meaningful innovation requires capacity building which starts with provision of access to appropriate infrastructure.

Minister Rapapa indicated that the gesture resonates well with the National Strategic Development Plan and that the Ministry of Education's commitment is not only to access education and leaving no one behind, but also access to quality and relevant education program.

At the same event, the Minister of Information, Communications, Science, Technology and Innovation Ms. Nthathi Moorosi stated that this partnership reinforces the Ministry's views of enhancing technology within learning institutions.

Minister Moorosi showed that this act also defines a platform for improving skills in the science and technology which will give youth an opportunity to advance their employment prospects.

She further added that Lesotho is reported in the 2022 innovation analysis with low usage of technology, therefore this initiative will play a pivotal role in ensuring that entrepreneurs make use of innovation for their production while also improving the economy of the country.

In his remarks at the same event, NUL's Vice Chancellor Professor Isaac Olusola Fajana indicated that the initiative will enable students to acquire coding and programming skills in python and software development, showing that acquiring such skills, students will be able to increase their chances of employability upon completion of their studies.

Prof. Fajana noted that through this partnership, it is hoped that Samsung Innovation Campus will help Lesotho become a major player in the Forth Industrial Revolution.

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Honourable Minister of Education together with Minister of Information, NUL Vice-Chancellor, NUL Registrar and Samsung Africa President