



Province of the  
**EASTERN CAPE**  
DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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## **CIRCULAR TO ALL SCHOOLS**

### **Participation of schools in the commemoration of the anniversaries of significant historical events in 2008**

The Department of Education has committed itself to participate in and co-ordinate the national commemoration of the anniversaries of events of historical significance in schools during 2008.

This campaign gives South Africans the opportunity to celebrate and at the same time review, **in a variety of forms and occasions**, the progress we as a nation have made in building a better and more united South Africa and strengthening our democracy. The celebration and commemoration of key national and international days in education is an important aspect of the struggle against forgetting. The commemoration of the lives of key individuals who contributed greatly to shaping our young democracy and significant historical events, and teaching about them in our classrooms, are important aspects of our strategy in this regard.

All schools are encouraged to participate in the commemoration of the significant historical events during 2008, while continuing to observe South Africa's national days and important international days.

The Department of Education is organising the following programme as part of the commemorations.

#### **1. Celebration of the 90<sup>th</sup> Birthday of the former President, Mr Nelson Mandela**

The Department of Education will play a major part in the celebration of the lives and contributions to South Africa and the world of the former President, Mr Mandela and Mrs Albertina Sisulu, on the occasion of their 90<sup>th</sup> birthdays in July and October 2008 respectively. The Department is organising a competition for all South African learners using the following categories ( **creativity** ) :

- i. Category 1: Grade R –3. Design a birthday card for former President Mandela **and/or** Mrs Sisulu;
- ii. Category 2: Grades 4-6. Design a birthday card for former President Mandela **and/or** Mrs Sisulu;
- iii. Category 3: Grades 7-9. Write a poem or compose a song in celebration of former President Mandela **and/or** Mrs Sisulu; and
- iv. Category 4: Grades 10–12. Write an essay of approx 500 words on the contributions made by former President Mandela **and/or** Mrs Sisulu to the lives of all South Africans and the world.

Activities can be pitched at different levels i.e at cluster level ; district level ; Provincial level and National level. Educators could plan classroom activities that are curriculum-based

**Individual :** entries only will be accepted – **no group entries.**

**Language :** learners may enter in any of the official and indigenous languages.

**Entry forms:** attach an entry form to each script ( available from your district office HSS & History Subject advisor )

The closing date of the competition for the provincial adjudication will be 20 June 2008 and the national adjudication will take place at the end of June 2008. Winners in each category will be announced at the end of July 2008.

## **2. A Youth Dialogue ( Grade-10-11 only )**

A youth dialogue reflecting on the contributions of former President Mandela and focusing on the themes of public service, dedication, rights and responsibilities, and the values of human dignity, equality and freedom.

**N/B.** Each district to select **2** top learners in debate. Each district should ensure that learner representation comprises all racial groups.

Adjudication will take place at **Provincial level only** to select **TEN** winning learners for the national participation in October 2008.

## **3.The Nkosi Albert Luthuli Young Historians' Competition**

*An Oral History competition in commemoration of Nkosi Albert Luthuli.*

### **Levels of Participation**

Adjudication at district level consult your HSS or History subject advisor.

The Provincial adjudication of the Young Historians, Competition will take place on 03-05-September -2008, and **TEN** winning learners and **THREE** educators will participate in the national adjudication (venue for Provincial adjudication to be confirmed by July 2008). The National finals will take place on 01-04-October-2008.

The following are the proposed themes:

- (i) *Our unsung heroes:* Investigate the life of a member of your community, showing, through oral history research, how the individual has shown leadership qualities and through commitment and dedication, made a difference to your community;
- (ii) Investigate an example of local community struggle in your community against apartheid, in which the community came together to demonstrate their opposition to some apartheid government action that directly affected the local community. For example, the Mdantsane Bus Boycott in the 1980,s or Langa or Bisho massacre's or any Revolt in the 1950-1990's of rural communities. Other background on community resistance can be found in the two volumes of *The Road to Democracy in South*

- Africa* (SADET) that was distributed to schools. (Sekhukhuneland (volume 1) and the 1973 Durban strikes (volume 2)).
- (iii) Investigate how the formation of the community-based organizations that were affiliated to the United Democratic Front affected members of your community by interviewing people who participated in its formation or various youth, women, student and other civic organization affiliates;
  - (iv) Investigate the re emergence of the labour movement that commenced with the Durban strikes of 1973 and the impact of working class mobilization on the community by interviewing members of the community;
  - (v) Investigate the role played by members of your family and/or community whether in the South African Defence Force or the liberation armies, in the South African war against Angola and other neighbouring states in the 1980s, as South Africa commemorates the 20th anniversary of the defeat of the SADF at the Battle of Cuito Cuanavale in 2008; or
  - (vi) Investigate the history of your school through interviews with former learners, parents and other members of the community, focusing on what changes have taken place around education, particularly in terms of attitudes and organization.

This competition is open to all learners from **Grade 8-11** and compulsory to all learners doing History at FET level as part of their **CASS** oral History ,research or Heritage portfolio ( see Subject Assessment guideline for History p.9). Assessment criteria is also adapted from NCS FET HISTORY Subject Assessment Guidelines.

### **Competition for Educators**

Educators from secondary schools entering the competition will be required to develop a work plan they planned and set up the oral history project in the classroom( Master portfolio)

Further details on the competitions may be obtained from the Provincial History Planner :  
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Curriculum Website- [http:// history4ec.250free.com/](http://history4ec.250free.com/)