

MONTHLY

UPDATES

OCTOBER 2025

NEWS HIGHLIGHTS

- A message from the CEO.
- Special Thank you the NTAs and Congratulatory Message to the Teachers.
- Celebrating teachers that triumph beyond South Africa.
- Launch of the new Bojanala Teacher Development Centre of Excellence sponsored by MTN.
- SANTS Graduation Ceremony and SACE CEO Ms. Ella Mokgalane as keynote speaker.



SACE INITIATIVES

Mpumalanga Launch Of The Female In Leadership And Management. (FILM)

DEPARTMENTAL AND INTERNAL MEETINGS

- 2025 Annual Report Before Portfolio Committee On Basic Education.
- SACE MANCO Strategy Planning Sessions.
- G20 Education Working Group (EdWG).
- SACE, DBE Officials Meet AFTRA Executive Management.

CELEBRATIONS, SESSIONS AND CONFERENCES

- PEU 4th Triennial Congress.
- North West Department Of Education World Teacher's Day Celebrations.
- North West SADTU World Teacher's Day Event.
- SACE Western Cape Conducts PTS Sessions.
- SACE Western Cape And SADTU Collaboration on Code Of Professional Ethics.
- KZN 7th MCEASA Conference.
- AFTRA Statutory Executive Board Meeting Botswana.

MESSAGE FROM THE CEO



Closing World Teacher's Month. A message of Appreciation.

“Now that World Teacher's Month has come to a close, we want to take a moment to celebrate and express our deepest gratitude to all our teachers and educators.”

We continue to thank you for your hard work, for enduring the circumstances that you are teaching under. We know that it is difficult, it is hard at the coalface of the teaching profession. We know everyday you wake up and go to a classroom with more than 70 learners and despite the conditions that are there, the administrative burdens that we give you.

You don't complain, you go out there and make sure that you heed the call of you having decided that; *"I want to become a teacher"*. We salute you, we acknowledge that we can have the best curriculum, we can have the best artificial intelligence, we have technology, but nothing can replace you. You remain important and at the center of teaching and learning. No one can do it without you.

THANK YOU.



We extend our heartfelt appreciation to the National Teacher's Awards (NTA) for their invaluable sponsorship and continued commitment to excellence in education.

Your support not only made this event possible but also amplified its impact-celebrating the dedication, professionalism, and passion of educators across the country.



We proudly celebrate all the award winners who have demonstrated exceptional dedication, innovation, and excellence in the field of education. Your hard work and commitment continue to inspire both learners and fellow educators, reminding us all of the profound impact that passionate teaching can have on our nation's future.



CELEBRATING TEACHERS THAT TRIUMPH BEYOND SOUTH AFRICA.

The 2025 African Union Best Teacher Award Nominee - Ntombozuko Mkizwana.

The African Union in partnership with AFTRA and other critical continental education partners hosted the Pan African Conference 2025. The prestigious event was held under the theme 'Advancing Strategies for Teacher Training, Recognition and Professional Development', and took place at the headquarters of the African Union Commission, Addis Ababa, from 1-3 October 2025. During the 3 (three) Days Conference Ms Ntombozuko Mkizwana being one of the nominees became victorious and was awarded "The 2025 African Union Best Teacher Award" with a prize.

Born in the rural village of Marombe at Katkop in the Joe Gqabi District of the Eastern Cape, South Africa, Ms Mkizwana is a veteran and well-renowned teacher with 28 years of experience. Having worked for 20 years of exceptional teaching, she became Deputy Principal in 2018. As a result of her exceptional thrives, she was recommended as Acting Principal in 2021 and became the school's first woman leader. Her remarkable journey and achievements serve as an example of dedication and excellence in education. As South Africa's Best Teacher in 2024, she has demonstrated a profound impact on her students and communities particularly in rural areas where resources are often limited. Mkizwana's innovative approaches to teaching, where she has pioneered programs in literacy, ICT, arts, and STEM, using public speaking to enhance English proficiency, has not only improved academic performance but also empowered her students to become confident and globally aware individuals.

Her commitment to breaking down barriers and promoting inclusivity in education has inspired countless students and educators alike. Mkizwana's approach is characterized by innovative teaching methods, community engagement, and a passion for inspiring others. She has fostered partnerships and collaborations to support student development, and her legacy serves as a powerful reminder of the transformative impact teachers can have on individuals and communities.



THE LAUNCH OF THE BOJANALA TEACHER DEVELOPMENT CENTER OF EXCELLENCE.



EMPOWERING TEACHERS, EMPOWERING COMMUNITIES.

The launch of the Bojanala Teacher Development Center for Excellence in partnership with MTN and the Department of Basic Education which took place at Tlhabane Teacher Resource Centre, Rustenburg, North West. This establishment is set to offer a range of professional development programs, workshops and resources to support teachers in their professional growth and development, from digital literacy to subject specific training, in its commitment to helping teachers stay ahead of the curve.

SANTS GRADUATION CEREMONY: SACE CEO MS. ELLA MOKGALANE AS KEYNOTE SPEAKER

The Power of Collaboration in Teaching: A Key to Unlocking Student Potential.



At a graduation ceremony at the South African Normal Teachers' Training College (SANTS) which highlighted the impact that dedicated educators can have on shaping the future of education. The SACE CEO, Ella Mokgalane, emphasized the significance of collaboration among educators in creating a supportive and inclusive learning environment. This message resonated deeply with the graduates, who are poised to make a positive difference in the lives of their students.

The importance of collaboration in teaching cannot be overstated. As educators, we often emphasize the value of teamwork and mutual support in helping our students achieve their full potential. However, it's equally essential for teachers to practice what they preach and collaborate with each other to create a more effective and inclusive learning environment. By working together, teachers can share ideas, resources, and expertise to develop engaging and challenging lessons that cater to diverse learning needs.

One of the most significant benefits of collaboration is the creation of a sense of community and belonging among teachers. When educators work together, they can support each other's well-being and reduce burnout, leading to a more positive and productive teaching environment. Furthermore, collaboration fosters innovation and creativity in the classroom, as teachers are encouraged to think outside the box and explore new approaches to teaching and learning.

A powerful example of collaboration in action is the development of a joint lesson plan between a Math/Geometry teacher and a Drama teacher. By combining their expertise, they created a unique and engaging lesson that showcased the importance of stage design in math. This kind of collaboration not only benefits students but also promotes a culture of mutual respect and appreciation among teachers.

As Nelson Mandela once said, "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world." When educators collaborate, they can harness the power of collective knowledge and creativity to make a real difference in their students' lives. By working together, teachers can create a more supportive, inclusive, and effective learning environment that benefits everyone involved.

The power of collaboration in teaching is a key factor in unlocking student potential. As educators, we must prioritize teamwork, mutual support, and collective responsibility to create a brighter future for our students. By doing so, we can build a more compassionate, creative, and critically thinking society that values the contributions of all its members.



FEMALE IN LEADERSHIP AND MANAGEMENT (FILM) LAUNCH



The Female in Leadership And Management Held At The Gert Sibande District On The 10th October 2025.

The aim of the FILM is to build an inter-woven and knitted fabric of fellow professionals connected by the profession through digital leadership, digitally savvy, or digital fitness, digital proof, empowerment and support, mentorship, feedback, insights, experiences, opportunities, common interests, resourcefulness, problem-solving, ploughing back knowledge, skills and others.

This initiative of “teacher leadership” and aspiring leaders wishes to unlock the leadership potential, because leadership can emerge at any level within a school, circuit, district, provincial and national offices.

This is for individual women trailblazers who demonstrate passion, initiative, tenacity, and a willingness to collaborate to inspire others and drive change to make a difference in their respective spaces,

Through promoting leadership as a collective phenomenon with leadership with teams, collaboration, encouraging innovation, and foster a sense of ownership and engagement among team members. Empowering individuals to lead based on their strengths and expertise, organizations can tap into the full potential of their workforce, leading to enhance productivity, creativity and overall success.

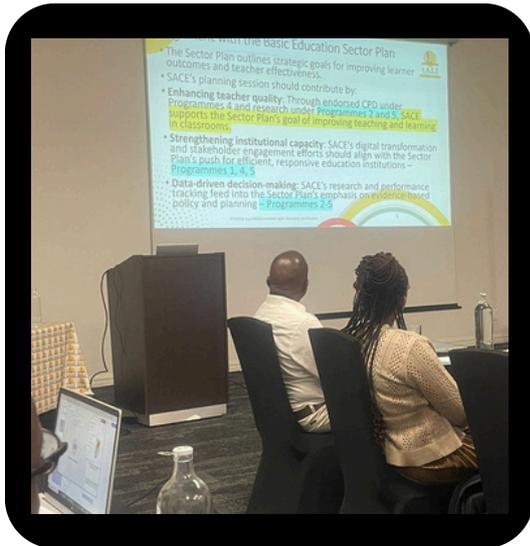
Empowering women in leadership and management goes beyond development and capacity building it is a lifelong learning and being impactful, making a difference, problem-solving reaching out and touching someone’s hand to make the world a better place.

2025 ANNUAL REPORT BEFORE PORTFOLIO COMMITTEE ON BASIC EDUCATION

SACE led by the CEO, Mme Ella Mokgalane accompanied by the Senior officials, CFO, Mr M Mapindani and Acting Ethics & Legal Head, Mme T Sophethe attended a Portfolio Committee on Basic Education briefing in Parliament, Cape Town, on the 7th October 2025. The South African Council for Educators (SACE) presented their 2024/25 Annual Reports as part of their Budgetary Review and Recommendations Reports (BRRR).



MANCO STRATEGY PLANNING SESSIONS WITH SACE MANAGEMENT



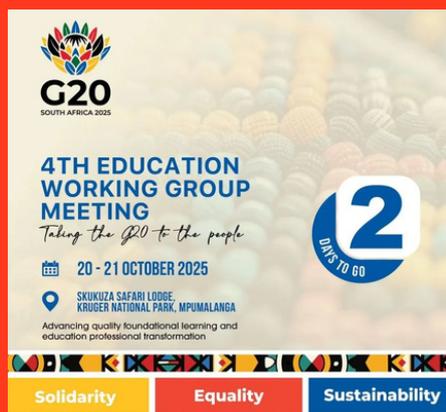
G20 EDUCATION WORKING GROUP (EDWG)

The South African Council For Educators at the 4th G20 Education Working Group (EdWG).

SACE led by CEO, Ms E Mokgalane and Acting Head:Legal & Ethics, Ms T Sophethe attended the 4th G20 Education Working Group (EdWG) Meeting (21-23 October 2025), held at Skukuza, Mpumalanga.

This meeting brought together global education leaders to advance collaboration on key priorities shaping the future of learning. The Discussions centered on three key priorities: quality foundational learning through strengthening Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) to improve learning outcomes; mutual recognition of qualifications to promote global mobility and alignment of skills; and education professional development to empower teachers and leaders to adapt to the evolving world of work and innovation.

These engagements mark a significant milestone in positioning South Africa as a leader in advancing inclusive and high-quality education globally.



SACE & DBE OFFICIALS MEET AFTRA EXECUTIVE MANAGEMENT



African Federation Teaching Regulatory Authorities (AFTRA) Executive Management team, at the Department of Basic Education offices in Pretoria.

SACE - DBE officials held a meeting on the 27th of October 2025 with African Federation Teaching Regulatory Authorities (AFTRA) Executive Management team, at the Department of Basic Education offices in Pretoria.

The AFTRA Executive Management team led by the President of AFTRA, Dr Ebby Mubanga (Registrar: Teaching Council of Zambia) followed by AFTRA Deputy President, Dr. Christian Addai-Poku, (Registrar : National Teaching Council Ghana), Deputy Secretary - General, Dr Ronke Soyombo (Registrar : Teachers Registration Council of Nigeria (TRCN), Treasurer, Ms Loide Shaanika (SG Namibia National Teachers Union) and Executive Director: Academics, Prof Steve Nwokeocha.



PROFESSIONAL EDUCATORS UNION (PEU) 4TH TRIENNIAL CONGRESS



SACE Addressed Professional Educators Union (PEU) on its 4th Triennial Congress emphasizing Leadership in Education.

On the 5th of October 2025 Ms. Ella Mokgalane, representing the South African Council For Educators (SACE), addressed the PEU congress. The event which was themed "Strengthening Servant Leadership in Pursuit of Membership Growth Towards Driving Quality Education For All."

Ms. Mokgalane emphasized that teachers are the center of quality education and that unions must advocate for their support and well-being. She stressed the importance of servant leadership, where union leaders prioritize members' needs, foster collaboration, and promote professional development. The SACE-PEU partnership was commended for its initiatives, including ethical leadership programs and professional development opportunities.

The congress at the time coincided with World Teachers' Day and Teachers' Month, celebrating the dedication and contributions of educators. Ms. Mokgalane reiterated SACE's commitment to continue working with PEU's leadership team to advance quality education and empower teachers.



NORTH WEST DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION WORLD TEACHER'S DAY CELEBRATION.

SACE attended the Dr Ruth Sekgomotsi Mompoti District world teachers day celebration held at Huhudi Sports grounds in Vryburg. The team exhibited at the event, sharing information on the various programs and with CPTD enquiries. SACE delivered a message of support, appreciating teachers and applauding the contributions they continue to bring. The North West Department of Education organized multiple events to mark the World Teachers' Appreciation Month in October 2025. The celebrations are decentralised into districts, and attended by mass participation of educators. SACE has delegated representatives to attend all the decentralised events.



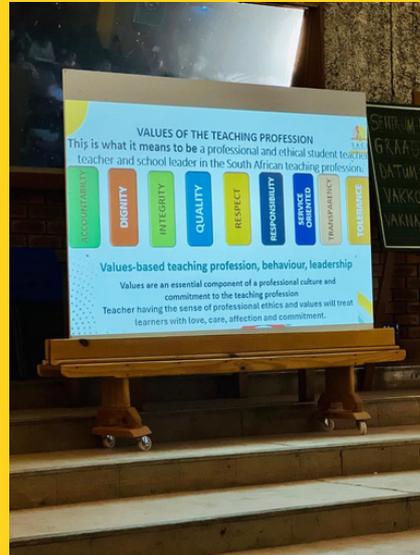
NORTH WEST SADTU WORLD TEACHER'S DAY EVENT

Acting Professional Registration Induction and Certification: Manager, Mr. Smangaliso Shikwambana attended the SADTU North West World Teacher's Day commemoration held at Colridge Stadium, Vryburg. As part of the activities included exhibiting & assisting educators with uploading their CPTD Points.



SACE WESTERN CAPE PTS SESSIONS

SACE Western Cape Provincial Coordinator conducted a session which focused on the SACE Professional Teaching Standards held at Dysveldorp Secondary. The session was joined by Dysveldorp Primary School and St Konrad Primary School. These schools are situated in Eden and Central Karoo District.



SACE WESTERN CAPE & SADTU COLLABORATION ON CODE OF PROFESSIONAL ETHICS

SADTU Western Cape collaborated with SACE in supporting educators on Code of Professional Ethics session held at MM Matheza Primary School. The session was joined by Thabatha Primary School and Thembaletu Primary School. These schools are situated in Eden and Central Karoo District. The session was facilitated by the SACE Western Cape Provincial Coordinator.



KWAZULU NATAL 7TH MCEASA CONFERENCE

The SACE KZN Provincial Coordinator attended the 7th MCEASA conference at Maritzburg College in Umgungundlovu District. The theme of the conference was 'Shifting Words, Shaping Minds: Embracing Change in English Education, underscores the importance of adapting our teaching approaches to equip learners with skills necessary to thrive in a rapidly evolving world. SACE is represented by Mrs Mncwangi the KZN coordinator.



AFTRA STATUTORY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING IN BOTSWANA



AFTRA STATUTORY EXECUTIVE BOARD MEETING - BOTSWANA (30 - 31 OCTOBER 2025)

The South Africa Council for Educators (SACE) were at the African Federation of Teaching Regulatory Authorities (AFTRA) Statutory Executive Board Meeting. The 2 days meeting took place in Gaborone, Botswana from 30 - 31 October 2025, attended by at least 10 African member states.

In attendance to the meeting were the following delegates, in their capacity as AFTRA Executive Members representing the Republic of South Africa - On Behalf of SACE CEO, Ms E Mokgalane (Executive Board Member, Mr France Kgobe (AFTRA Secretariat Officer), Mr RM Nkuna (AFTRA Executive Director: Admin) and Mr Ben Lubisi from Department of Basic Education.

The purpose of the board meeting was to discuss key strategic development of the Federation. Which will also commence with preparations for the upcoming AFTRA 13th Conference and 15th Roundtable to be hosted by Botswana next year 2026. The AFTRA conference will be open to all stakeholders in Africa and across the world, from government representatives to teaching professionals, academics, researchers, publishers, innovators, industry experts, digital giants, and post graduate students.

AFTRA President, Mr E Mubanga (Teaching Council Zambia - Registrar) delivered opening remarks during the official welcoming ceremony hosted by the Ministry of Education.

He cited that AFTRA is continental Federation for all African Union Members, and seeks to advance education in Africa. AFTRA hosts conferences annually on a rotational basis, with the approval of government.

In closing, he further thanked the AFTRA Executives for approving Botswana to host the upcoming AFTRA Conference and Federation to be held next year (May 2026).

AFTRA is an intergovernmental organisation comprising of the national agencies regulating teaching in 54 African countries. AFTRA is also a member of the global network called the International Forum of Teaching Regulatory Authorities (IFTRA)

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