



## basic education

Department:  
Basic Education  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Private Bag X895, Pretoria, 0001, Sol Plaatjie House, 222 Struben Street, Pretoria, 0002 South Africa

Tel: (012) 357 3000, Fax: 012 323 0601, [www.education.gov.za](http://www.education.gov.za)

Enquiries: Dr N Mbude-Mehana

Tel: (012) 357-4529

E-mail: [Mbude-Mehana.N@dbe.gov.za](mailto:Mbude-Mehana.N@dbe.gov.za)

**TO ALL: HEADS OF PROVINCIAL EDUCATION DEPARTMENTS  
HEADS OF CURRICULUM  
HEADS OF EXAMINATION AND ASSESSMENT  
DISTRICT DIRECTORS  
TEACHER UNIONS  
NATIONAL ALLIANCE OF INDEPENDENT SCHOOL ASSOCIATIONS  
SCHOOL GOVERNING BODY ASSOCIATIONS  
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS & TEACHERS**

### **CIRCULAR 18 OF 2024**

#### **PROMOTING MULTILINGUALISM IN SOUTH AFRICAN SCHOOLS AS PART OF THE INTRODUCTION OF MOTHER TONGUE BASED BILINGUAL EDUCATION (MTbBE)**

1. The Minister has endorsed the implementation of the Mother Tongue-based Bilingual Education (MTbBE) as one of the priorities of the Department of Basic Education.
2. The implementation of the MTbBE in Mathematics and Natural Sciences and Technology in Grade 4, is scheduled for January 2025 and requisite support from relevant partners for it to succeed depends on a concerted effort from the DBE and Provincial Education Departments and partners.
3. The Department of Basic Education (DBE) is advancing the rollout of the MTbBE initiative, which is set to commence in Grade 4 for Mathematics and Natural Sciences and Technology in 2025. For preparation in this regard, several key activities are therefore planned to be undertaken between now and the end of the year to ensure the success of this transformation programme.

4. The MTbBE pillars of implementation are: i) Materials Development for Mathematics and Natural Sciences and Technology; ii) Advocacy; iii) Capacitation of officials and teachers; and, iv) Policy environment.
5. There are three steps that will be followed to ensure timely and quality assured Mathematics and Natural Sciences and Technology MTbBE implementation in 2025.
  - 5.1. Step 1: Translation of ATPs and Workbooks
  - 5.2. Step 2: Versioning and Verification
  - 5.3. Step 3: Authentication of terminology by Pan South African Language Board (PanSALB).
6. The Heads of Department (HODs) are requested to release GET Subject Advisors, and teachers where indicated, to perform the versioning tasks in their respective provinces and submit in accordance with the dates given in Annexure 1. (*See lists in Annexure 2 and 3*).
7. Find Guidelines to translation and versioning in Annexure 4.
8. **E-FORM**

In order for MTbBE to be successful, it is critical that data is collected through a common instrument to establish the language mapping of existing teacher-and-learner mother tongue matches. The HODs are humbly requested to ensure that the administration and the submission of the e-form back to DBE by 31 October 2024. Herewith are the links to the Educator and the Principals forms:

8.1 **EDUCATORS FORM**

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAMAANLYwfbUOVFaRDMYVk0wUzRZWFBIN1YyN1RJSUhWSy4u><<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAMAANLYwfbUOVFaRDMYVk0wUzRZWFBIN1YyN1RJSUhWSy4u>>

8.2 **PRINCIPALS FORM**

<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAMAANLYwfbUNVg3RDRQMjgwWExSVTZDNkZLVklDSDg0Sy4u><<https://forms.office.com/Pages/ResponsePage.aspx?id=DQSIkWdsW0yxEjajBLZtrQAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAAMAANLYwfbUNVg3RDRQMjgwWExSVTZDNkZLVklDSDg0Sy4u>>

9. Please Note: The electronic version of the links was sent to all Provincial Heads of Education and EMIS heads; to ensure access to the link.
10. **TRANSLANGUAGING:**

As part of the introduction of MTbBE, the DBE encourages teachers to implement transanguaging across all grades. Transanguaging is a practice of alternating between languages in a bilingual or a multi-lingual classroom, to ensure effective mediation of the learning content. Assessment should reflect the languages used for teaching and learning.

11. The advantages of transanguaging as a pedagogical strategy are important in that it:
- 11.1 Fosters an inclusive and supportive learning environment given that the learners' language is used in the classroom.
  - 11.2 Facilitates effective learning since the teacher is able to explain difficult concepts and content in the language of the learner.
  - 11.3 Promotes additive bi/multilingualism as learners are exposed to an additional language(s) on an ongoing basis in the classroom.
12. For any detailed information please contact the following DBE officials:

No.	Name	Designation	Telephone number	Email address
1	Onthatile Motshwane	PA to DDG: National Languages Unit	(012) 357 4529	Motshwane.O@dbe.gov.za
2	Dr N Mbude-Mehana	DDG: Transformation Programmes	(012) 357 4033	Mbude-Mehana.N@dbe.gov.za
3	Ms C Mtumtum	CES: Mathematics	(012) 357 4177	Mtumtum.C@dbe.gov.za
4	Mr S Qanya	CES: Natural Sciences	(012) 357 4139	Qanya.S@dbe.gov.za
5	Dr S Galane	Project Manager: National Languages Unit	(012) 357 4124	Galane.S@dbe.gov.za
6	Mr S Sibiya	Director: LTSM	(012) 357 4252	Sibiya.S@dbe.gov.za

13. Your co-operation and support in this significant transformation programme, which is aimed at improving learner attainment and achievement of learning outcomes is highly appreciated.



**MR HM MWELI**

**DIRECTOR-GENERAL**

**DATE: 16/10/2024**

**ANNEXURE 1: VERSIONING OF MATHEMATICS AND NATURAL SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY INTO ALL OFFICIAL AFRICAN LANGUAGES**

Languages	Natural Sciences and Technology	Mathematics	Task to be completed and Time frames			
IsiXhosa <b>Workbooks done by ECDoE</b>	EC	EC	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Versioning ATPs</li> <li>Exemplars for Item bank</li> <li>Lesson Plans</li> </ul>	PEDs to send electronic drafts on: <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>ATPs 25/10/2024</li> <li>Exemplars 31/10/2024</li> <li>Maths Lesson Plans: 08/11/2024</li> <li>NS Tech: 15/11/2024</li> </ul>		
	WC	WC				
SeSotho <b>Workbooks done by ECDoE</b>	FS	FS	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Versioning ATPs</li> <li>Workbook versioning Term 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>Lesson Plans</li> <li>Exemplars for item bank</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Versioning Rainbow Volume 1 workbooks: Due: 8 Nov 2024</li> <li>Quality assurance, verification, approval Workshop: 18-22 /11/24</li> <li>Layout and design of versioned Term 1 &amp; 2 workbooks: Due date: 20 Dec</li> <li>Availability of MTbBE digital toolkit: 13 Jan 2025               <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Volume 2 work will start in Q1 2025</li> </ul> </li> </ul>		
	FS	FS				
IsiZulu	KZN	KZN				
	KZN	KZN				
Sepedi	GP	GP				
	LP	LP				
Tshivenda	LP	LP				
	LP	LP				
Xitsonga	LP (Teacher)	LP				
	LP (Teacher)	LP				
IsiNdebele	MP (Teacher)	MP			<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>Versioning ATPs</li> <li>Workbook versioning Term 1 &amp; 2</li> <li>Lesson Plans</li> <li>Exemplars for item bank</li> </ul>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>All PEDs to observe the dates above.</li> <li>Versioning Rainbow Volume 2 workbooks</li> <li>Quality Assurance in March 2025.</li> <li>Layout, design and printing of Vol. 2 April</li> <li>Distribution of Vol. 2</li> </ul>
	MP (Teacher)	MP (Teacher)				
SiSwati	MP	MP				
	MP	MP				
Setswana	NC	NC				
	NW	NW				

## ANNEXURE 2: NATURAL SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY GRADE 4

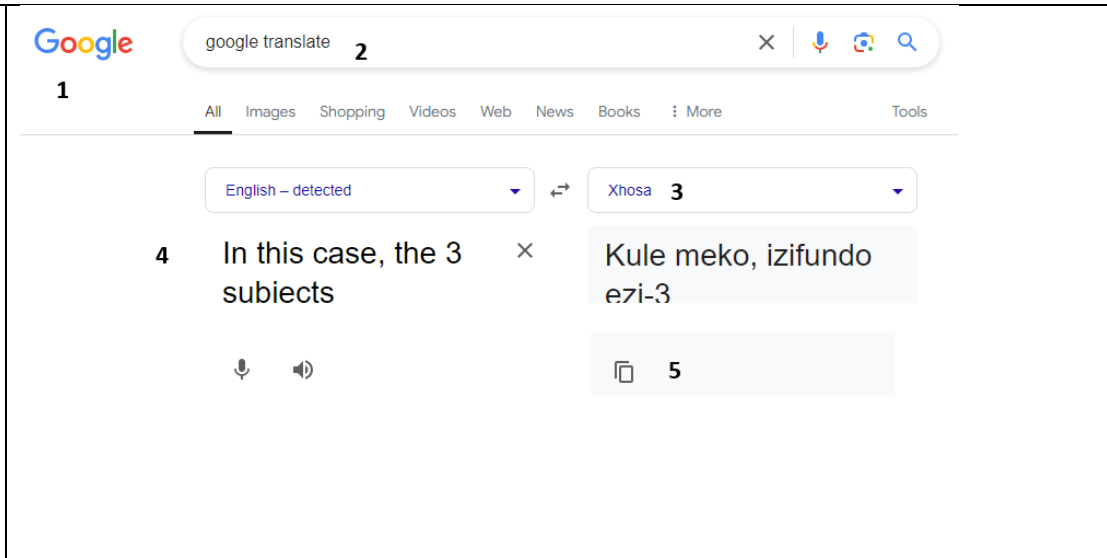
No.	Language	Name	Province	Designation	Cell number	Email address
1	IsiXhosa	Mr T. Magwentshu	EC	Subject Advisor	078 152 2740	<a href="mailto:ttmagwentshu@gmail.com">ttmagwentshu@gmail.com</a>
2	IsiXhosa	Ms Zukiswa Gala	WC	Subject Advisor	083 422 2416	<a href="mailto:Zukiswa.Gala@westerncape.gov.za">Zukiswa.Gala@westerncape.gov.za</a>
3	IsiZulu	Ms Zanele M. Nzuzza	KZN	Subject Advisor	083 711 6290	<a href="mailto:nzuzazanele123@gmail.com">nzuzazanele123@gmail.com</a>
4	IsiZulu	Mr Linda M. Gabela	KZN	Subject Advisor	072 805 5536	<a href="mailto:Linda.bucs@gmail.com">Linda.bucs@gmail.com</a>
5	SePedi	Ms T.E. Kheswa	GP	Subject Advisor	064 932 9178	<a href="mailto:Tebogo.kheswa@gauteng.gov.za">Tebogo.kheswa@gauteng.gov.za</a>
6	SePedi	Ms Ngwatle Patricia	LP	Subject Advisor	082 901 9256	<a href="mailto:sebotsi@gmail.com">sebotsi@gmail.com</a>
7	Sesotho	Ms S.M. Moopeloa	FS	Subject Advisor	082 498 5459	<a href="mailto:shazmops@gmail.com">shazmops@gmail.com</a>
8	SeSotho	Ms Tiisang Motaung	FS	Subject Advisor	0793440704	<a href="mailto:Twin1motaung@gmail.com">Twin1motaung@gmail.com</a>
9	Setswana	Ms Dorcas Kgwatishi	NW	Subject Advisor	073 539 7145	<a href="mailto:kgwathisi@gmail.com">kgwathisi@gmail.com</a>
10	Setswana	Mr Justice Petrus	NC	Subject Advisor	066 267 3188	<a href="mailto:justicepetrus@gmail.com">justicepetrus@gmail.com</a>
11	SiSwati	Mr M. Vusi Charles	MP	Subject Advisor	082 640 0575	<a href="mailto:mawukuvc@gmail.com">mawukuvc@gmail.com</a>
12	SiSwati	Ms Nkosi Witness	MP	Subject Advisor	081 246 1601	<a href="mailto:nwkhwanis@gmail.com">nwkhwanis@gmail.com</a>
13	Tshivenda	Mr M. T. Prince	LP	Subject Advisor	072 147 8469	<a href="mailto:tmudziwa50@gmail.com">tmudziwa50@gmail.com</a>
14	Tshivenda	Ms R. Mudzhadzhi	GP	Subject Advisor	0768340303	<a href="mailto:Mudzhadzhi.Ralethe@gauteng.gov.za">Mudzhadzhi.Ralethe@gauteng.gov.za</a>
15	IsiNdebele	Ms K. G. Kabini	MP	Teacher	072 506 2173	<a href="mailto:kaboni14@gmail.com">kaboni14@gmail.com</a>
16	IsiNdebele	Ms M. S. Kabini	MP	Teacher	082 554 5928	<a href="mailto:sophiekabini@gmail.com">sophiekabini@gmail.com</a>
17	Xitsonga	Mr Chauke Vutivi	LP	Teacher	067 021 1335	<a href="mailto:chaukev4nbs@gmail.com">chaukev4nbs@gmail.com</a>
18	Xitsonga	Mr M. M. Humphrey	LP	Teacher	060 339 2867	<a href="mailto:deedsvega@gmail.com">deedsvega@gmail.com</a>

### ANNEXURE 3: MATHEMATICS GRADE 4

No.	Language	Name	Province	Designation	Cell number	Email address
1	IsiXhosa	Mr Simphiwe Memani	EC	Subject Advisor	083 3311252	<a href="mailto:asmemani@gmail.com">asmemani@gmail.com</a>
2	IsiXhosa	Ms Memory Dizha,	WC	Subject Advisor	073 925 9539	<a href="mailto:Memory.Diza@westerncape.gov.za">Memory.Diza@westerncape.gov.za</a>
3	IsiZulu	Ms Lungile G Zondi	KZN	Subject Advisor	083 728 2384	<a href="mailto:lungilegzondi@gmail.com">lungilegzondi@gmail.com</a>
4	IsiZulu	Mr. Mbongeleni Msweli	KZN	Subject Advisor	084 506 9133	fanana.msweli@gmail.com
5	SePedi	Ms Baboneng H Moroane,	GP	Subject Advisor	083 277 7820	Baboneng.Moroane@gauteng.gov.za
6	SePedi	Mr Majeletje A Mogaladi,	LP	Subject Advisor	082 901 9239	Mogaladi6908@gmail.com
7	Sesotho	Mr Mashoai Mahloko	FS	Subject Advisor	083 273 0281	mashoaimahloko@gmail.com
8	SeSotho	Ms Lineo.A. Phalatsi,	FS	Subject Advisor	073 733 8187	Dineomolahlehi@gmail.com
9	Setswana	Mr Leshoro Floyd Mohukubu	NC	Subject Advisor	073 539 7145	<a href="mailto:kqwathisi@gmail.com">kqwathisi@gmail.com</a>
10	Setswana	Ms Maboe Enos Moteme	NW	Subject Advisor	072 361 5868	naomimoncho@gmail.com
11	SiSwati	Ms Pinkie Billa	MP	Subject Advisor	083 982 6048	pbilla16@gmail.com
12	SiSwati	Mr David Zwane	MP	Subject Advisor	082 958 4738	djzwane@hotmail.com
13	Tshivenda	MR Rudzani J Madida	LP	Subject Advisor	082 087 7012	madidarudzuni@yahoo.com
14	Tshivenda	Mr MI Maudu	LP	Subject Advisor	082 092 9005	mi.maudu@gmail.com
15	IsiNdebele	Mr John Chauke	MP	Subject Advisor	067 824 6861	mhlabac@gmail.com
16	IsiNdebele	Ms Katlego A Mahlangu	MP	Teacher	072 035 5117	U11130645@tuks.co.za
17	Xitsonga	Ms Basani Mdaka	LP	Teacher	067 021 1335	basanimdaka@gmail.com
18	Xitsonga	Mr Moses Gala	LP	Teacher	060 339 2867	mosesgala105@gmail.com

## ANNEXURE 4: How to use Google Translate

**Step 1:** Go to Google  
**Step 2:** On the web type google translate  
**Step 3:** Select the language you want to translate into  
**Step 4:** Copy the text you want to translate and paste it on the LHS  
**Step 5:** Copy the translated text into your working document.



You can also use the phone but you will have to type the translated text or share it.