



Discussion Forum Invitation

S.E.T. for socio-economic growth

Language and STEM education at school - policy and research

3-4 October 2017, Kempton Park, Gauteng

In partnership with its Professional Bodies and Learned Societies sector (proSET), the [National Science and Technology Forum \(NSTF\)](#) is hosting a national Discussion Forum on '[Language and STEM education at school – policy and research](#)'.

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Language issues at school level have a seminal impact on learners' academic achievements in all subjects. [The National Development Plan \(NDP\)](#) addresses language issues, but implementation falls short.

[Click here to register](#)



Event objective: To create a platform to discuss and respond to issues around language and education at school level – for the research, development and innovation community and relevant government departments. The impact of language on science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) education is of particular concern to NSTF members. The issues to be discussed range from indigenous languages to new languages (such as Mandarin).

South Africa's policies: The NDP is a roadmap for eliminating poverty and reducing inequality in South Africa by 2030. The NDP encourages active citizenry and places special emphasis on education. Despite progress in fulfilling the aims of the NDP, South Africa still has a long way to go. The NDP says in Chapter 9: "The importance of African languages or "mother tongue" is emphasised and integral to education, to science and technology, to the development and preservation of these languages." (p 265)

How can you become involved? [NSTF Discussion Forums](#) gather stakeholders together, across the public and private sectors, to put forward recommendations to influence government policies. This discussion forum will consider issues such as:

- Research about the medium of instruction regarding primary, secondary and tertiary level? For mastering STEM subjects?
- Research around language and identity? Multicultural societies and challenges to peace? The ways different genders learn and whether girls are accommodated as much as boys (particularly in STEM subjects)?
- Fast-tracking people's education while preserving and growing the rich cultural heritage within language groups
- Government policy on the medium of instruction and the learning of languages and why these issues still remain unresolved

Envisaged outcomes include recommendations for policy makers and research institutions.

This is a FREE event for all employees of NSTF Member Organisations across six sectors

Delegate registration information

Date: 3-4 October 2017
Time: 08:30 for 09:00 to 16:30
Programme: [Click here](#)
Venue: [Emperors Palace Convention Centre](#), 64 Jones Road, Kempton Park, Gauteng (next to OR Tambo International Airport)
Registration: [RSVP your attendance online](#) by no later than Wednesday, 27 September 2017

*****Important: note the registration information at the bottom of this invitation*****

We invite you to join us for lunch and use the opportunity for further discussion and networking.

Registration information***

Non-Member Organisations of the NSTF: Attendance is open for anyone interested but **non-members of the NSTF are charged a R2,000.00 (excluding VAT) registration fee** which includes attendance, documentation relating to the event, conference stationery, refreshments and lunch.

Please note that if you do not RSVP, the NSTF cannot be held responsible for any unforeseen changes or cancellations of programmes. Communications are sent only via e-mail or through notifications on the [NSTF website](#).

*****Non-members of the NSTF – Please note, your registration fee for this Discussion Forum contributes directly to the mission of the NSTF as a non-profit company, as a consultative forum and watchdog for influencing the formulation and delivery of SET and innovation public policy in South Africa. Furthermore, the NSTF.**

- Provides information
- Promotes SET and innovation
- Hosts platforms for networking and debate on current SET issues
- Engages with government on SET-related policy

About the NSTF

The National Science and Technology Forum (NSTF), established in 1995, is a broadly-representative stakeholder body for all SET and innovation organisations in South Africa, which seeks to influence policy formulation and delivery.

The NSTF Awards are unique in SA, recognising the outstanding contributions of individuals and groups to SET and innovation.

The science bursaries page <http://www.nstf.org.za/bursary/> provides information on bursaries and bursary providers for science, engineering and related studies.

For more information

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