

# Teachers receive help to improve curriculum coverage

## REPORTER

SUBJECT advisors from the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and subject specialists and change agents from the National Education Collaboration Trust (NECT) are working together to ensure the curriculum is completely covered by teachers in the Mount Frere district.

Falling behind on curriculum coverage has been among the main reasons for the poor performance of many schools in the Eastern Cape, indicating that teacher professionalisation and support are key to improved learning outcomes in these schools.

To achieve this, the DBE's English first additional language subject advisors, along with maths and foundation phase specialists and change agents from the NECT, recently completed training on curriculum planning and tracking curriculum coverage, and will be running a series of workshops at Mt. Frere schools to orientate the teachers on using the planning and tracking tools.

Lawrence Sithole, Maths G.E.T specialist, expressed excitement about the upcoming workshops, saying many of the teachers he

supports at various schools will be glad to receive the tool. "Many of my teachers have talked about the covering of curriculum in its entirety and it has been a problem for many. This tool will enable teachers to know exactly where they are and where they need to be to finish the curriculum," said Sithole.

On many occasions, learners have complained that they had been assessed during examinations on topics they never studied in class and thus failed. The planning and tracking tools will guide both teachers and the school management team (SMT) in tracking the progress and the pace at which teachers need to work.

Foundation phase home language specialist, Noxolo Skele, noted that the planner and tracker are user-friendly and exciting to use. "These tools are exciting. We have already introduced these to the teachers during the 4th term of 2015 and they are excited about it. Plus, this current tool also has a learner-activity book, which is also CAPS-aligned," said Skele.

Skele commented that teachers she has spoken to while preparing for the upcoming school-based workshops also sounded excited about the tool. "They make mention of the 4th term trackers, which helped them a lot, and



Teachers attending training in Mt Frere to help them complete their curriculum on time.

PHOTO: SUPPLIED

they are looking forward to the coming workshops," added Skele.

This sentiment was echoed by Phatheka Mfino of the DBE: "This will bring about a lot of improvement in our schools. We won't be talking about content gap challenges anymore, because the whole content of the curric-

ulum would have been covered," she said.

The NECT works to ensure that turnaround processes at schools translates to improved performance by the learners, the professionalisation of teachers and the smooth running of the schools by SMTs and governing bodies.