

VALUES mate

the good you do comes back to you



education

Department of Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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Dear Learners

Welcome to the first edition of Values Mate, brought to you by the Department of Education.

Our intention with Values Mate is to facilitate discussion and debate; to instill a culture of communication and participation that will enable you to find your own ways to bring our Constitution and our Bill of Rights to life and to apply them practically in your everyday lives.

Values can never be forced upon anyone. They need to be debated and negotiated before they can be voluntarily adopted as one's own. It is this process, this active and ongoing dialogue, that we wish to stimulate among the youth of South Africa through Values Mate, in the hope it will lead us closer towards becoming a truly non-racial, non-sexist society, based on equality, freedom and democracy.

We cannot just be told what to think and feel. If we are to make our Constitution a living part of ourselves, we need to put it on the table, interrogate it and extract from it a set of values that we can embrace as an integral part of our innermost being. In other words, we have to "walk the walk, not just talk the talk". This is ultimately what will bind us all together as a nation.

We are aware that building consensus, understanding and appreciation for difference through dialogue requires space for safe expression, for opening up channels of communication, and for nurturing a culture that will produce confident, inquiring and empowered citizens. We trust that Values Mate will provide you with this safe space in which we can engage critically with the issues raised – and that it will ultimately help us to take our rightful place as active, responsible citizens of South Africa, committed to building the kind of integrated and tolerant society that makes us all proud to be South Africans.

With my best wishes

G.N.M. Pandor

Mrs GNM Pandor, MP
Minister of Education

Hola,
I'm Ali! Welcome to our first issue of Values Mate. This issue is dedicated to our two national superheroes Madiba and Ma Sisulu. I hope you enjoy it. Please write and tell me what you think of our new publication.



THE SECRETARY BIRD

The secretary bird is famed in the bushveld as a hunter of reptiles. It is a rare bird, endangered, and seldom seen. As our Values Mate mascot, and as an important symbol on our national Coat of Arms, the secretary bird teaches us many lessons. This exceptionally watchful and resourceful bird reminds us to be on the lookout for opportunities to display the values that we prize in our society. The secretary bird is seen as a custodian of our country's values: values that we are reminded to defend.

Secretary birds, both males and females, are almost identical in appearance, and share tasks such as feeding the young and hunting prey. They are monogamous, choosing a lifelong mate. They are also remarkably faithful to their nesting site, returning year after year, reminding us all to honour our roots!

Values Mate is published quarterly by:

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DoE Oral History Competition

The wait is almost over! Entries to the DoE Albert Luthuli Oral History competition are being adjudicated and the winners will be announced early in October 2008.

AMANDLA: The People Have Spoken

This is an exciting new publication from the Department of Education. Read the first-hand accounts of ordinary people and icons during South Africa's dark past. See how celebrated cartoonist Zapiro fits into the struggle. Marvel at the resilience of South Africa's women activists. Find out what really happened at the controversial Battle for Cuito Cuanavale in Angola. Pester your school librarian to order it now – free from the DoE!



My Country South Africa 2nd Edition

The updated 2nd edition is available now. Standout additional inclusions are how the public decided on the new emblem of Parliament, and a discussion of the Richtersveld as a recently proclaimed World Heritage site. Brush up on your understanding of national symbols, and even learn the protocol for hoisting and lowering the national flag! Order your copy of this invaluable classroom resource from the Directorate: Race & Values.

