



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

# Thuto

Vol 6. 15-July-2015

## Online Newsletter of the Limpopo Department of Education

### LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RECEIVES BIKES FOR NEEDY LEARNERS



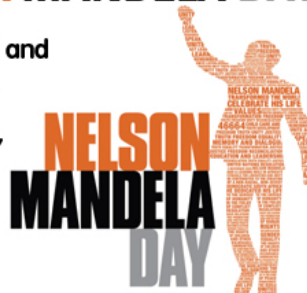
Nelson Mandela : 18 July 1918-05 December 2013



**MAKE EVERY DAY A MANDELA DAY**

**“We can change the world and  
make it a better place.  
It is in your hands  
to make a difference.”**

Nelson Mandela



#### INSIDE THIS ISSUE

- Malapane thinks everyone is a born runner..... 2
- Employee wellness..... 3
- Vhembe a shining district..... 3
- Special school receives adapted LTSM..... 4
- Special day for special people. 5
- Handover of classes and halls 5
- LDoE receives bikes for needy learners..... 6
- Youth Day Celebration.....6

Together we move Education forward-Education is a societal matter

**MALAPANE THINKS EVERYONE IS A BORN RUNNER. BY BRILLIANCE MPE AND MIEHLEKETO CHAUKE**



The Limpopo Department of Education administrator, Mr David Magakantshe Malapane, says that everyone can win the comrades marathon. The Jane Furse born runner now residing in Seshego said this after he had won a medal in the 87 km Comrades' Marathon in Durban on the 31 May 2015.

"I personally believe that everybody is born a runner and it is all just a matter of realising this and developing a passion thereof.

"Remember when we were kids we ran all the time. When they send us to buy bread we run, when we go to school we run, we just spend our young days running."

The 45 year old also had to deal with the challenge of smoking. This saw him quit running until he overcame the challenge nine years back (in 2006) and allowed himself to detox then went back to running

in 2013.

"Smoking chased me away from running. When you smoke you tend to have difficulty participating fully in sporting activities. I couldn't do both running and smoking at the same time. I was putting myself under a lot of strain and I couldn't continue doing that" said proud Mr Malapane.

Since he came back into running, Malapane seems to have gained self-confidence as a runner and that has seen him winning medals after medals. He claims to have even lost count of all of his medals. Albeit, he stresses that there are two races that he will never lose count of. These are the Two Oceans and Comrades marathon in which he participated once and twice respectively.

Amongst the countless medals, he has won his very first medal on his come back debut in the 10 km run on 19th of July 2013 at Savannah Mall. Asked how it felt to win his first medal he replied, "The feeling was incomparable". The most recent medal is the Comrades Marathon one. He is proud of the fact that he did not only qualify for the marathon which requires that one runs for 42.2 km in five hours minimum, but was able to finish the race and get a medal.

"I thought I would keep a record of how many medals have I won but I couldn't, I have lost count and I don't know where to put some of them.

"I am proud that I ran for almost 90 km in 8 hours and got a medal. I don't know if I'm blowing my own trumpet too loud, but hey, if I don't who is going to blow it for me?

"I must also highlight that I am just a drop in an ocean, there are a lot of us runners in the department" said enthusiastic Malapane.

When asked where he draws his inspiration from, he stated his marvel at one running instance where a blind guy ran past him. "I was so inspired to see and be passed by a blind runner using a walking stick, or rather I should say in that instance, it was a 'running stick'."

The Billrowan medal winner stressed that it takes a lot of patience and work to be where he is today. He states that it took him the whole one year to prepare and when he went for his first comrades' marathon last year in 2014, he knew he did not train enough and did not win. He gloats that this year he knew he had put in a lot of work and "was confident and that's all that matters" he said.

He indicated that he trains between Seshego and Polokwane and when he goes out of Polokwane, he invites other club members. He currently does 50 km a day which he separates into 25 in the morning and 25 in the afternoon. His wish is to be able to do 100 km a day. He states "it is just a matter of setting up a day with club members and doing it"

Amongst the challenges that Malapane encounters daily are the fact that some motorists do not want to share the road with them and the issue of muggers in the early hours of the morning. Although this has not affected him, he indicated that he takes precautions by running when everyone is up. He says that his training comprises of 90% of road running and the remaining 10% doing other physical exercises.

He also stated that the support he gets from his family is priceless regardless of him sacrificing his time with them. He thinks that the support is as a result of being able to "sell the idea of running to them" that they even give him refreshments during his runs.

Malapane wishes that everybody becomes a runner as it is the only certain talent everyone has. He also wishes that "the department could recognise runners and assist us when participating in big runs."

## EMPLOYEE WELLNESS: Employee Assistance Programme. **By Makhupe Mashoene**

The Limpopo Department of Education recognizes and acknowledges that employees may experience personal, work related and family problems, which may affect their performance and have a negative influence on service delivery.

The aim is to provide support system that enhance the service delivery and quality of life for all its employees, and measures to promote healthy lifestyle by assisting the employee to manage and resolve personal problems that have a direct effect on their job performance. This is done through individual wellness interventions which results in the promotion of the physical, social, emotional, occupational, spiritual and intellectual wellness of employees.

The main objective is to sustain morale and productivity to provide a consistent and constructive set of guidelines to assist troubled employees (troubled employees refers to any employee whose job performance is affected by any personal problems), and to assist the department to facilitate the early identification of performance impaired employees for referral and treatment.

### **The problems being experienced by employees are:**

- Substance and alcohol abuse
- Excessive absenteeism
- Poor work performance

#### Conflict

- Lateness for work
- High staff turnover
- Tardiness
- Accidents

The wellness of employees must be maintained so that they are able to properly manage and undertake their responsibilities. Employees must be encouraged and preserve wellness through proactive and preventative programmes, which will assist them to regain good health, comfort and productivity.

### **There are 4 basic interventions strategies that an employee has to go through.**

#### **Preventative**

Employee Assistance Programme creates awareness and offers training on personal issues that can affect employee's productivity e.g. personal financial management, stress management, substance/alcohol abuse programmes

#### **Curative**

If the problem already exists, an employee is assisted through- assessment, counselling, referrals, follow-ups, outreach, crisis stress debriefing, short term therapy

#### **Rehabilitative**

Employee Assistance programme also helps to preserve residual capacity of an employee with the recuperation process

#### **Re-integrative**

Employee Assistance programme assists with re-integration and support for the employee to resume his/her responsibilities in the workplace following intervention programmes such as alcohol rehabilitation.

## VHEMBE A SHINING DISTRICT

### BY DR NALEDZANI RASILA

Vhembe proves to be on top every time grade 12 results are analysed. Their results are both qualitative and quantitative. This was reported by Ms KO Dederen, Senior General Manager of Curriculum support in the department. She reported this during the analysis event that took place in Tshishahulu, Thulamela Municipality recently.

It was indicated in this meeting that despite writing examinations in difficult conditions where the department was still under National Administration, and that they were the first to write new syllabus, the CAPS, the Province reached 72.9% and Vhembe had 81.1% pass rate. Vhembe produced 5783 bachelor passes and they do not have a circuit that have underperformed. The district also managed to reduce the number of underperforming schools by 11 schools. The district in also counted with the best at National level and has received accolades from the minister, Mme Angie Motshekga.

Acting MEC, Mr Jerry commended the district for continuous good work. He however took time to condemn communities that disturb learning and teaching by engaging learners in their community protests. "Why would the community take kids out of class protesting that the mines working locally should employ local people? Are they not disturbing the kids in getting skills needed by the mines and as a results making the kids employable?. We like to indicate that it has never been correct, it is not correct and it will never be correct to disturb learning and teaching." He emphasised.

"We thank you very much Vhembe and believe other districts will also take a leaf out of your chapter so that we on the provincial results" Dederen concluded.



## SPECIAL SCHOOLS IN LIMPOPO RECEIVE ADAPTED LTSM AND ASSISTIVE TECH DEVICES TO IMPROVE QUALITY EDUCATION. **BY MASHOENE MAKHUPE**

The department of education in Limpopo has injected R12, 8 million into the special schools as part of improving education quality in the province, particularly amongst the special schools. This injection was towards the procurement of appropriate LTSM and ICT technological Assistive Devices adapted to the diverse conditions of learners. This includes equipment such as interactive projectors, laptops, data projectors, eBeams, Braille equipments and many others, for learners with intellectual, visual and physical impairments.

Teachers from these special schools received a training conducted by the service provider to equip them with skills to operate the assistive technology. Two teachers were selected from each school and the attendees were separated into two groups with one being for the blind and the other for deaf, intellectually impaired, physically impaired and other disabilities.

### **Training for the teachers from schools for the blind**

As part of the eBraille Project, teachers from schools for the blind received training in the specialised technology they received. The project was started in 12 February 2013 in the Western Cape and has since been established in Gauteng, Mpumalanga and now in Limpopo. The objective of the project is to enhance the education for the blind by providing access to internet and digital content. This will in turn allow access to more information for visually impaired learners from the participating 6 schools.

The main component of the project is the Braille note Apex. This is a computer device for the blind and it allows them read textbooks and any digital content. It also allows the learner to write documents in any language. Apart from the ability to read and write from the device; another important benefit is that of WIFI connectivity. This will allow learners to do their research online and be able to send and receive emails in braille. The learners will initially share the devices amongst themselves though the wish is to have all learners owning one dedicated device per learner.

Each school for the blind also received two Eye Pal SOLO reading machines, with built in OCR that can scan in and read aloud any printed text, including newspapers and books. These easy-to-use devices will be a great help to the schools as they convert their text into digital text for the Braille note Apex.

### **Training for all other special needs schools**

The teachers in this group were trained in the use of “Clicker interactive Classroom Bundles”. Each school received a certain number of the bundles which consisted of a laptop, loaded with Clicker 6 Literacy Software for all abilities, a data projector and eBeam Interactive Technology. Using this equipment, the teacher can transform any flat surface into an interactive whiteboard. Teachers seemed to embrace the technology and worked in groups to set up and practice using it. The laptops were loaded also with training videos to help them and can also use to train their fellow colleagues in their respective schools.

One other important benefit was that of encouraging participation in class which cemented the enthusiasm the teachers had in using the technology. By the end of the training, educators had already mastered the skills and were able to create lessons themselves. The devices are portable and the Clicker software is also user friendly for all abilities.

### **Overall training outcomes**

The educators appreciated the training and were enthusiastic about the potential possibilities promised by the new technologies.

Follow up training will

happen over Skype and online video conferencing, as well as telephonic and email support which is offered by the service provider.

---

*“It is better to lead from behind and to put others in front, especially when you celebrate victory when nice things occur. You take the front line when there is danger. Then people will appreciate your leadership.” **Nelson Mandela***

---

## TODAY IS THE SPECIAL DAY FOR SPECIAL PEOPLE- MEC KGETJEPE

BY BRILLIANCE MPE

Friday is probably one special day the learners of Ratanang Special School will never forget. This would probably be because of the De Beers in partnership with the Department of Education which saw the refurbishment of their school done and dusted. The project is part of Limpopo Education Development Trust which saw the department investing R11 million with De Beers investing R6 million to provide the learners with the R17 million worth of infrastructure they needed. In 2011 the school was badly damaged by storms and as a result more R7.2 million was put out to help renovate the school.

Just before presenting the speaker of the day, Adv. Ngwako Abel Ramatlhodi, the MEC of Education in Limpopo Mr Ishmael Kgetjepe pronounced, "Today is a special day for special people". His words were later reiterated by Adv. Ramatlhodi in saying "today is the special day for special breed of kids"

The MEC went on to say he is grateful for the partnership and this shows that if the private sector was to continue like this, great things would follow. "We cannot do it alone, we need partners like De Beers" he said. He said this reminiscing on the event prior to the Friday's which was held in Tubatse Municipality at Sehlaku Primary School where he was invited also to handover a school hall and other various school infrastructures on Tuesday.

The Minister of Mineral and Resources, Adv. Ramatlhodi, went on to reinforce the words of the MEC and emphasised that he is also "grateful for the work you do in the communities".

"You have also given me the impression that you do not do it just to comply... but with passion" he said.

The Minister further in his concluding remarks took a swipe on the tendencies of communities in expressing their anger through destroying the schools' infrastructure especially in Limpopo Province remembering the events in Malamulele earlier this year.

"To the community also, you are to not express your isolated anger by destroying the children's hostels"

De Beers has, in partnership with the Department of Education in Limpopo, given 360 learners access to hostel facilities at Ratanang Special School in Senwabarwana, Bochum. This was done in support of the national agenda aimed at providing basic and specialist education facilities to South African children.

---

*"Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world."* **Nelson Mandela : University of the Witwatersrand South Africa, 2003**

---

### Handover of Classes and halls in Tubatse municipality **By Makhupe Mashoene**

On Tuesday, 23 June, the Department of Education, Sehlaku secondary and the other 4 schools in Tubatse municipality were delighted to receive halls and classes donated by Samancor Chrome Mines. The MEC for Education, Mr. Ishmael Kgetjepe said, "today is an indication that we as government can not do it alone, but we will continue to rely on partners like Samancor Chrome Mines to help us provide with school resources as need arises".

Samancor have been partnering with the department of education, and as part of their corporate social initiative, they believe in transforming the communities that they are operating within. The 5 schools were identified within the communities surrounding Samancor mines to receive "keys to golden doors". According to Samancor the community need Feasible, Practical, Necessity, Sustainable and Operational.

One of Samancor's employee, Archie Palane, mention that they are not going to tick the box but help the communities base on what it needs. They are not going to build the halls and classes and walk away but instead nature the relationship. The principals and learners should take this as the return on investment because its either the father, uncle or mother that has been working in the mines before, doing it for you, therefore you must preserve them and look after them for the coming generation.

Semancor believes education is the key to unlock the golden door to freedom. They did not only offer infrastructure to schools but also boreholes, purification systems, water tanks and provide soft skills to SMT's at schools to manage the school better and appropriately.

The school choir from Sehlaku secondary school, and the women traditional group dance and sing during the event.

PREMIER MATHABATHA EMPHASISES IMPORTANCE OF EDUCATION  
By Harley Ngobeni

Thousands of Limpopo youths marched from Khwevha to University of Venda stadium to pay tribute to the school students who lost their lives during 16 June 1976 uprisings. Premier Stan Mathabatha and his cabinet came face to face with the youth of the province to discuss the challenges facing them and their role towards radical socio-economic transformation.

As part of the Youth Month celebrations, the Premier and his cabinet engaged the youth with a view to find solutions to many challenges young people face today and they shared ideas on how to defeat the triple onslaught of unemployment, poverty and inequality.

“Education is the key tool to unlock the desire for economic freedom in our lifetime. Today the desire to achieve economic freedom must be linked with an ability to accomplish the mission. The question, however, is not whether you have discovered your mission; the real question is whether you have the ability and the willingness to fulfil your discovered mission”, Premier said.

In order to answer this question youth must first answer the following question: “What are the things that will make it impossible or difficult for you as a generation of young people to achieve your mission? “Once you have identified such possible impediments or obstacles you must then adopt a collective strategy to deal with such challenges. Some of the possible obstacles to your success as a generation are issues of alcohol and substance abuse, teenage sex and pregnancy”.

He further warned that economic freedom will remain a distant dream or even a nightmare if the youths did not confront these challenges head-on.

“We expect you to become the torch-bearers in a campaign to mobilise young people against crime and drugs. You must be the generation that makes education fashionable. Without education you will not be able to seize the many opportunities that are availed to you, your economic freedom will, without doubt, require educated and skilled youth “, reiterated the Premier.

The Premier encouraged the youths to raise up their hands and demand to make their contribution to the economic life of their province and the country.

## LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION RECEIVES BIKES FOR NEEDY LEARNERS

BY MASHOENE MAKHUPE



100 Bicycles Donated By MTN to Schools

Limpopo Department of Education has a long relationship with companies and stakeholders initiated by the need to make education system efficient. This was confirmed when the Department received a donation of hundreds bikes from MTN company. The bikes came in handy as many learners in the Province are still trapped in poverty and could not afford to pay transport fees to attend education.

Limpopo Province is largely rural marked by scattered and dispersed rural settlements with a significant share of poor communities residing in commercial settlements. The donation of this kind will improve the conditions that make it difficult to provide learners with access to learning facilities. The mandate of the Department is to ensure that scholar transport become reliable and safe so that learners' access schools with easy.

People should be reminded that in offering scholar transport, beneficiaries must be learners from Grade R –Grade 12 walking a distance of five or more kilometres to school per single trip. The Department makes a call to other social partners to continue to support learning and teaching.

---

*“Education is the great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine, that a child of farmworkers can become the president of a great nation. It is what we make out of what we have, not what we are given, that separates one person from another.” -Nelson Mandela*

---

# MAKE THUTO YOUR VOICE

## Communication makes a call to all branches

By Lephale S

Communication Directorate is making an appeal to all branches and their relevant sections to engage the directorate in all their activities. This will make it possible for the directorate to strategise in terms of brand visibility.

Branding is one of the crucial aspects to be given preferences during the events because it increases corporate image of the Department. Through branding, stakeholders are able to connect with by identifying the name, logo, slogan or design of the Department as this is a way of marketing the Department so that it is recognisable by more and more people.

People tend to do business with companies they are familiar with and if branding is consistent and easy to recognise, it can help stakeholders feel more at ease to be associated with our services. A brand that is consistent and clear puts stakeholders at ease because they know exactly what to expect each and every time they came across its logo.

For events, contact Communication at X9347 or contact Dr Naledzani Rasila at 072 7473078

---

*“Our children are the rock on which our future will be built, our greatest asset as a nation. They will be the leaders of our country, the creators of our national wealth, those who care for and protect our people”.* - Nelson Mandela : Address at the dedication of Qunu and Nkalade schools, Qunu, 3 June 1995

---

Thuto is published by the Limpopo Department of Education

Reporters : Brilliance Mpe  
Lephale Seshoka  
Mashoene Makhupe  
Harley Ngobeni

Editor : Mr Lephale Seshok

Designer: Ms Athalia Mabotja

Photographer : Thembinkosi Shezi

Publisher : Dr Naledzani Rasila

Opinions/views expressed in this publication are not necessarily those Of the Department of Education

### Contact Details

Postal address : private Bag  
X9489  
Polokwane  
0700  
Physical Address : 113 Bicard Street,  
Polokwane  
Tel :  
015 290 9326



## MAKE EVERY DAY A MANDELA DAY

**“We can change the world and make it a better place. It is in your hands to make a difference.”**

Nelson Mandela

