



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

Service delivery for the youth of Limpopo- Youth Month actions by MEC Ishmael Kgetjepe

The month of June 2016 marked the 40th Anniversary of the 1976 Soweto student uprising which spread throughout the whole country. Students marched against the domination of Afrikaans language over all others. Students, parents, activists, government employees and others in Soweto and elsewhere across the country took to the streets. In Soweto, students such as Tsietso Mashinini, Khotso Seatlola, Billy Masetle, Murphy Morobe, Seth Mazibuko and many led the students where they fought the apartheid regime notion of "All in Afrikaans" lessons. This day is still commemorated across the country.

The MEC for Education, Honourable Ishmael Kgetjepe honoured these heroes of 1976 by hosting a number of events aimed at empowering young people of Limpopo in different areas. At the Polokwane Correctional Centre, MEC for Education addressed Interns and experiential learners of the Department of Education. The MEC encouraged these young people to work hard to improve their skills and also to make sure they build their country.

"We encourage you to make sure that you make a positive contribution at the department by providing excellent service delivery to the citizens of this Province. Do not stop building your careers. Use opportunities provided by your government." MEC Kgetjepe emphasised. The MEC also visited offenders in the centre. He encouraged educators and learners in the centre's school to work tirelessly in improving their skills.

Offenders were encouraged to be positive and be skilled in order to be prepared to integrate with communities when they finish their periods in the centre. The choir constituted by offenders entertained the delegates during the event which was also attended by top management of the Polokwane Area Office of the Correctional Services and the Department of Education.

Joined by the Deputy Minister, Envy Surty, Honourable Kgetjepe also celebrated the youth month at Fetakgomo High School in Sekhukhune. The MEC brought to learners motivators such as Mnr Magoangoa of SABC Skeem Saam TV drama and the former struggle hero Mbulelo Musi. They all encouraged young people to focus on their education. The Department of Education and its social partners continue to work together to make learning and teaching conducive. Ntate Kgetjepe and the Deputy Minister of Communication, Mme Stella Ndabeni- Abrams handed over 50 bicycles to learners of



SOUL TOUCHED: The MEC for Education, Ishmael Kgetjepe and Local Mayor of Molemole, Cllr Pauline Makgato listen to a poem from a learner of Morebeng Secondary School after the MEC opened the school.

Phangasase School in Gabaza Village Tzaneen, Mopani district. These bicycles are meant to assist learners of Gabaza village to be able to alleviate the travelling challenges to school. The Department offers scholar transport and thanks the social partners for the donations of bicycles which were also handed to learners in other schools across the Province.

Although still experiencing infrastructure backlog in some parts, the Department continues to provide State-of-Art schools across the Province. Young people of Morebeng (Soekmeaar) area celebrated the Youth Month with the MEC, the local mayor and other stakeholders where the MEC was handing over two modern schools to the area. The mega-projects of Morebeng Secondary and Boshatole Primary schools were handed over to the jubilation of the community members. The two schools boast of modern facilities such as the administrative blocks, nutrition centres and the computer lab. The classrooms are conducive for today's learning and teaching process.

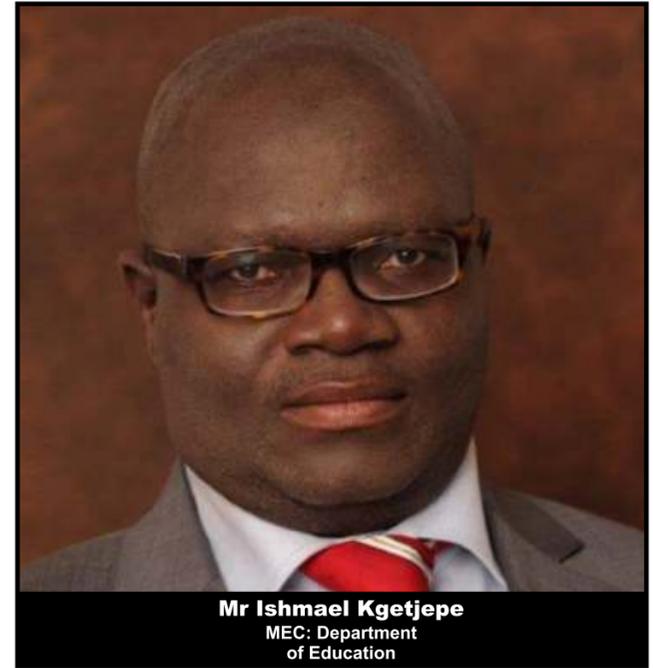
During the Executive Council's Outreach Programme held in the same month, MEC committed to speed up the provision of schools for the benefit of young people. He said young people do not need to be denied the right to education. The MEC however warned against vandalism of state properties such as the schools during protests. He committed to finish first the uncompleted schools and continue to provide. The total of 134 schools projects are either complete or in different stage of completion.

Following the protests in Vuwani area where 24 schools were torched and five slightly damaged, The MEC condemned the acts and appealed to communities to make sure they protect these properties as they are meant to be used by communities themselves. Grade 12 learners from the affected schools have been relocated to Tivumbeni, Makhado and Mastec centres for catch-up programme.

This will allow the young people of the area to join the rest across the country in getting an opportunity to apply at tertiary level and contribute positively in building the future of the country. It was joy and happiness when they started with classed after a long period of idling at homes. One learner in Mastec said, "We thank our MEC for this opportunity. We were lost and becoming hopeless. We believe the situation will become calm at home so that our young brothers and sisters from grade R to 11 also get opportunity of the catch-up programme.



MOTIVATION: MNR Magoangoa (3rd) of SABC TV Drama, Skeem Saam motivated learners at Fetakgomo Secondary School as part of empowering the Youth in their month, June.



Mr Ishmael Kgetjepe
MEC: Department
of Education



TRAVELL RELIEF: The MEC for Education Ishmael Kgetjepe showing young people of Phangasase School next to Tzaneen how to ride a bicycle while Deputy Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrams teaches others. These learners also received pairs of shoes.



WE WILL PASS: Grade 12 learners of Vuwani affected schools relocated to the three learning centres during youth month vowed to the MEC that they will pass by shining stars.



MEC Kgetjepe flanked by interns and experiential learners.