



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

MEDIA STATEMENT

26 February 2021

LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SETS THE RECORD STRAIGHT REGARDING AN ARTICLE IN THE PRETORIA NEWS

The Limpopo Department of Education has noted an article in the Pretoria News newspaper that came out on Friday, 26 February 2021, titled: “MEC blames teachers for poor results.”

The headline is deemed misleading and seeks to take out of context what was said by the MEC during an interview with the journalist. MEC Boshielo has been consistent in her praise of all stakeholders in the education sector, including teachers in their contribution towards ensuring success of the National Senior Certificate Class of 2020, under the most trying circumstances imposed by Covid-19.

During the announcement of the 2020 Matric Examinations results held on 23 February 2021, the MEC is on record, having applauded the hard work of educators that has seen the province achieve a pass rate of 68,2 percent, taking the province to the 7th place in the national ranking, two places above where the province was in 2019. The quality of results in terms of bachelors has increased by 29.1% for the class of 2020.

While the province reduced the number of zero percent schools from nine in 2019 to seven in 2020, she has expressed concern around this number and has urged communities to work with the Department to rationalize schools for quality delivery of teaching and learning.

These are mainly small enrolment schools that are not educationally viable because they often have a small number of educators who are usually not specialists in some of the critical senior phase subjects.

The performance of small schools is impacted by several factors including communities that attach sentimental value to schools based on who they are named after, irrespective of whether the school is viable or not. Those opposing merger would include people who do not have children at the school.

Schools are funded based on enrollment and small schools such as these end up with resource challenges that make certain enrichment programmes that are manageable in bigger schools difficult for them.

“We had accountability sessions with individual circuit managers last year to get to the bottom of the challenges that impacted on learner performance with schools that performed poorly. Unfortunately we

were disrupted by the Covid-19 lockdown when were just getting to the level of principals. We are planning to continue with these sessions as soon as possible this year, to allow us enough time to troubleshoot where necessary before learners get the stage of assessment” said MEC Boshielo.

The MEC is on record and continues to reiterate that given the difficult conditions imposed by the Covid-19 pandemic, schools in the province have done their very best to provide the necessary curriculum support that has seen the class of 2020 performing in the manner it has.

Media enquiries:

Sam Makondo

MEC's Media Liaison Officer

082 338 2684

Tidimalo Chuene

Departmental Spokesperson

082 831 0227

ISSUED BY THE LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION