



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

The Official Internal Newsletter
of the Department of Education

NEWSFLASH

Bringing you EduNews timeously

18 MARCH 2025

CAPRICORN SOUTH LEARNERS EMPOWERED THROUGH RCL.

Mmathaba Sape



Polokwane: Capricorn South Education District in collaboration with the Agape Youth Movement (AYM), hosted a Representative Council of Learners (RCL) workshop at Royal Hotel in Polokwane. The RCL is a platform that empowers learners to actively participate in the decision-making process of the school activities, giving them a voice in matters that directly affect their education and overall experience.

The rationale behind was to equip the RCL members with essential leadership skills, knowledge to actively participate in School Governing Bodies (SGB), strategize impactful activities and eventually elect strong executive committee that will serve as the voice of their peers.



The workshop further focused on capacity building and sought to address challenges such as school safety, substance abuse and learner performance.

Participants were given an opportunity to engage in ice-breaking discussions to get to know one another and establish a positive supportive environment including their roles in improving school environments and characters that makes a good leader. The dialogues are crucial in empowering learners to become proactive agents of change within their schools.

The highlight of the workshop was the election of the district committee which comprised of President, Deputy President, Secretary, Deputy Secretary, Treasurer, Sport,

Arts & Culture and Safety and Security. The Capricorn South Education District conference precede the launch of the Provincial RCL Executive Committee which will be held on the 20-23 March 2025. District Director, Tinyiko Nkuzana saluted the RCL for the non-racial and non-sexist approach when dealing with matters affecting young people.

"I encourage you as learner leaders to lead by example and fight for your voice to be heard in order to guarantee a better future for yourselves and drive to change your schools. We will do everything possible to ensure that you have a conducive environment for learning and teaching". Nkuzana Said.



www.edu.limpopo.gov.za



[@edu_limp](https://twitter.com/edu_limp)



[limpopoeducation](https://www.instagram.com/limpopoeducation)



[limpopodepartmentofeducation](https://www.facebook.com/limpopodepartmentofeducation)

VHEMBE EAST EDUCATION DISTRICT DIRECTOR



Rendani Munzhelele is currently appointed Acting District Director in the Vhembe East Education District with effect from May 2024. Munzhelele who is a qualified teacher was promoted from a School where he served as a Principal and joined the District as the Chief Education Specialist for Quality Assurance. Director Munzhelele has held the fort since the departure of Dr. Rambiyana who went on pension early last year. He is heading a district with a high enrolment and schools that are renown for producing good results in Mathematics and Physical Sciences.

Newsflash Reporter, Mmathaba Sape spoke to the acting District Director about the future plans and the challenges facing the District.

1. WHAT ARE THE DISTRICTS PLANS TO IMPROVE THE MATRIC PASS RATE?

The district has the following planned measures

- Implement targeted interventions in underperforming schools to improve results, focusing on learners at risk and those performing below Level 4 (50%).
- Offer enrichment classes to address learner challenges in targeted subjects, ensuring additional support for learners at risk.
- Continue conducting district-wide standardized assessment tests to monitor progress and identify areas for improvement.

1. WHAT CHALLENGES DOES THE DISTRICT CURRENTLY FACE, AND HOW DO YOU PLAN TO

ADDRESS THEM?

Underperforming schools: Some schools within the district struggle with low pass rates, inadequate resources, and insufficient support for learners. The district aims to implement targeted interventions by focus on underperforming schools, providing additional resources, support, and guidance to improve academic outcomes.

Learner underperformance in key subjects: Learners face difficulties in subjects like Mathematics, Physical Sciences, and Accounting, which are critical for future academic and career success: The district will offer comprehensive training programs, workshops, and coaching to enhance teacher capacity, content knowledge, and pedagogical skills.

2. WHAT ROLE ARE YOU PLAYING IN CONTRIBUTING TO THE OVERALL DEVELOPMENT OF THE DISTRICT?

We need visionary guidance, implementation and review of planned programs, fostering a culture of collaboration among internal and external education stakeholders, and allocation and management of resources.

3. HOW IS THE DISTRICT PERFORMING IN COMPARISON TO OTHER DISTRICTS IN THE PROVINCE? OUTLINE DISTRICT PERFORMANCE FOR PAST FIVE YEARS?

Vhembe East District has consistently demonstrated excellence in academic performance. In the 2024 matric results, the district achieved a pass rate of 88.5%, ranking third in the province, and below is performance over a five-year period. This performance is attributed to the district's focus on mastery, particularly in STEM subjects, community support, strong leadership, and resilience against challenges. Vhembe East District's remarkable performance in the NSC results is notable due to the fact that we produce quality results. Bachelor pass are currently at 45.1%.

4. HOW DOES THE DISTRICT SUPPORT THE UNDERPERFORMING SCHOOLS TO IMPROVE THEIR RESULTS?

Pair underperforming educators with experienced educators and instructional coaches, offering guidance and support to improve teaching and learning. Conduct regular progress monitoring to track the effectiveness of interventions and identify areas for further support. Hold school leaders and teachers accountable for improving results, while providing ongoing support and guidance to ensure success. Foster parental involvement and engagement to promote a culture of learning and support for underperforming schools.

5. IN WHAT WAYS DOES THE LOW PERFORMANCE OF SCHOOLS IN YOUR DISTRICT IMPACT YOUR

IMPROVEMENTS OF THE RESULTS?

Most low-performing schools are relatively small schools, and their performance reflects negatively on leadership, management and inadequate resourcing. They, therefore, require additional resources, support, and interventions, which can divert resources away from other schools and priorities. These schools motivate the team to work harder towards improving learner outcomes, ensuring that every learner receives quality education.

6. HOW WILL YOU ENSURE THAT THERE IS CONSISTENCY IN THE EXCELLENT PERFORMANCE OF MATHS AND SCIENCE SCHOOLS ACROSS THE DISTRICT?

The district will ensure that there is Sharing of Best Practices and Resources, fostering a community of practice among Maths and Science educators, sharing of resources, and expertise together with support by subject advisors, and continuous participation in Maths and Science Olympiads.

7. WHAT PROGRAMS ARE IN PLACE TO SUPPORT TEACHER DEVELOPMENT AND PROFESSIONAL GROWTH?

A comprehensive induction program for Novice or new teachers, providing orientation, training, and support; pairing experienced educators with new teachers, offering guidance, support, and coaching; and regular workshops on various topics, including curriculum management workshops, teaching methodologies, and technology integration are in place to support teacher development and professional growth

8. HOW ARE YOU ENSURING THAT TEACHERS ARE EQUIPPED TO IMPLEMENT THE CURRICULUM EFFECTIVELY?

Providing teachers with comprehensive training on the curriculum, focusing on content knowledge, pedagogical skills, and assessment strategies; Offering subject-specific training for teachers, focusing on the unique demands and requirements of each subject, and regularly support, monitoring and evaluating teacher implementation of the curriculum, identifying areas of strength and weakness.

9. HOW IS THE DISTRICT ADDRESSING ISSUES RELATED TO OVERCROWDING IN SCHOOLS?

The District has only three fee-paying public secondary schools out of 158, the rest being Quintile 1-3. There are however 21 secondary schools with an enrolment of over 200 learners in Grade 12. These are admission hotspot schools due to their performance, and it leads to overcrowding. To manage this demand, the District is working on eliminating underperforming schools and increasing 100% schools (in 2024 the District had 14 100% schools, an increase from three in 2023. Another measure is to support over-subscribed schools to reduce their learner numbers to the national norm.



DEPARTMENT IS PROGRESSING WELL TO ERADICATE PIT LATRINES IN SCHOOLS

Conny Mabunda



Limpopo Department of Education MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya paid a visit to Modipe Secondary School, Motupa circuit in Mopani West Education District. The MEC visited the school to assess the progress in the implementation and eradication of pit latrines in schools. The inspection was part of the department's efforts to ensure that all remaining projects are completed on time and within the budget. The school's toilets were in a worse condition and this led to the intervention by the department to construct new 16-seater enviro-loo toilets which are currently in progress. All the pit latrines were demolished and a mobile chemical toilets provided as a relief for learners. Learners at the school were excited by the construction

of the new toilets and promised to achieve 100% pass rate. The commitment by the learners excited the MEC who encouraged them to double their efforts in their pursuit for this matric performance. "Pit latrines do not provide comfort because they have a bad environmental impact which the department is against hence we are on the drive to eradicate them. The department has embarked on a drive to demolish the pit latrines to restore the dignity of a learner across the province", said Lerule-Ramakhanya. Basic Education Minister Siviwe Gwerube will visit the Province in April to assess and monitor the eradication of Pit Latrines.



FILMS BRING POSITIVE IMPACT ON BULLYING ACTIVITIES IN SCHOOLS

Mashula katlego

Mankweng: The Department of Education regard bullying as a serious problem in our schooling environment because it hinders learners academic performance. With the rise in bullying incidents in schools and a number of social ills affecting teaching and learning, the department in partnership with Njabulo Media, launched an Anti Bullying pilot project at Moria Primary school under Mankweng circuit in Capricorn South Education District. The department has policies in place to create awareness and the importance of creating safe

schools to encourages respect and to support the full personal development of each learner.

This year's focus is on six selected circuits, Mankweng, Pietersburg, Seshego, Maraba, Mogodumo and Sekgose West. The project is aimed at raising awareness to educate learners, staff and stakeholders on bullying and the impact it has in the school environment. This further opens up a dialogue in schools and households about the impact of bullying. It also encourages learners to refrain from bullying by teaching

learners the negative effects on their personal lives

Representing the Limpopo Department of Education, Mashiane Alexius the Chief Education Specialist in School Safety, emphasised that the use of films to promote awareness of bullying is an effective way to promote empathy, understanding and a culture of kindness amongst learners because it gives them more understanding of the consequences of bullying.

Building Champions through sports

Hanedzani Mbedzi



Autumn National School Sport Championship, Tracking Field for Schools Series is a new programme to the South African Schools Athletics Calendar, held at the University of Limpopo Oscar Mpetha Stadium. Athletes from 39 schools across 5 districts participated exceptionally well in Long Jump, Javelin and Shotput.

The programme was initiated to provide equal opportunities for all schools regardless of background to compete with each other, this allows all girls and boys schools to participate and top school team in each province are crowned. The programme aims to discover and nurture new talent, ensuring that every aspiring athlete has a chance to shine following the slogan "Building Champions Together"



Each province has its own inspiring success stories. Proving the impact of this programme, In Mpumalanga, a young athlete who taught himself javelin through YouTube videos was discovered through this initiative. Competing for the first time, he threw 15 meters which was an achievement that might have gone unnoticed. He is now training to qualify for the Confederation of African School Associations (Casa) National Championships and the South African Junior Championships. These are the types of life changing opportunities this programme creates.

Capricorn High School came top for both girls and boys team from all 39 schools that were participating in the finals of the Tracking and Field schools series. Capricorn high is going to compete with other schools in the national championship.

"As educators and sports coaches, we have a responsibility to develop children holistically, academically, culturally, and athletically. Sport is more than just competition, it teaches discipline, time management and promotes a healthy active lifestyle. Many of our top academic performers are also top athletes because they learn valuable life skills through sport. Together, with partners like SuperSport, Adidas, Cadbury and aQuelle, we are committed to discovering and nurturing young talent across South Africa," Said General Secretary of South African Schools Athletics Yvonne Schalk.

A learner from Capricorn High School Mogale Legodi said It is a great achievement his school came first and it was their consistency to win and team work. Legodi advised other leaders to participate in sports to have great outcomes. "I recommend learners to start Sports so that you can try and push your limits. Our way forward is making sure that we put in the hard work, learning all the techniques to pursue our goal. I believe hard training will be needed right now," concluded Legodi.

South African Schools Athletics with partners like



SuperSport, Adidas, Cadbury and aQuelle, are committed to discovering and nurturing young talent across South Africa.