



LIMPOPO  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

The Official Internal Newsletter  
of the Department of Education

**NEWSFLASH**

Bringing you EduNews timeously

23-APRIL 2025

# NEW SCHOOL INFRASTRUCTURE FOR MUSHIYANI AND MPHAKANI COMMUNITIES

By Katlego Mashula and Mmathaba Sape



Giyani- MEC Mavhungu -Lerule Ramakhanya continues to take action to create impact by ensuring that education remain an essential service to the nation. The MEC officially handed over the newly completed Chameti high school buildings in the far-flung Mushiyan village outside Giyani town in Mopani East Education District. The handover marks the department's ongoing efforts to improve school infrastructure across the province by creating environment conducive to teaching and learning.

The scope of the newly completed projects included the demolition of 10 classrooms, newly built 14 classrooms, administration block, 4-seater waterborne toilets, 10 seats enviro-



loos, renovation of 16 seats enviro-loos, installation of elevated steel water tank, septic tank, Palisades fencing, pavements and car pots.

Chameti high school was established in 1989 by the community with just one block consisting of 5 classrooms made of mud. Due to the poor condition of the structure, the school started to experience leaking roofs, forcing learners to abandon classes during rainy seasons.

"The new classrooms buildings mean a lot to us as learners because

we are now learning in a conducive environment. As learners, we will ensure that we improve our academic performance and make it our responsibility to take care of our beautiful school, said Ngobeni khegustar, RCL treasurer at the school. MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya used the opportunity to donate school shoes, sanitary towels and a laptop to the principal to assist in compiling school reports.

Elsie Govela, on behalf of the parents explained that community is grateful to receive new buildings as learners will now receive proper education in suitable and conducive buildings.

The MEC urged learners to take care of the school buildings and encouraged them to study hard "As a community let us work together to ensure protection of our beautiful assets for future generations to also learn in suitable learning environment", MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya concluded.

In another village located 35 kilometres from Mushiyan, MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya handed over a newly constructed Mphakani Primary school at Mphakani village. MEC handed over 12 classrooms, New Medium Administration block, 8 seat waterborne toilets, 30 seat Enviro loo toilet, borehole, palisade fencing,



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Septic tank and a Carport. During the handover of the State-of-the-Art facilities, The MEC highlighted the crucial achievements in the provision of quality education designed to foster conducive teaching and learning for learners. She explained that schools that were built with inappropriate structures are being replaced with brand new schools to meet the standards of basic functionality.

Learners at Mphakane Primary school were previously accommodated at Govani Primary school but due to

overcrowding in classrooms and unbearable learning conditions, the department transferred 494 learners and 14 educators to the new school in an effort to alleviate the challenge ensuring a better learning environment.

Lethabo Letswalo, grade 7 learner at the school expressed her delight as one of the first cohort of learners to enter the new buildings. “The school is well designed with spacious classrooms and no overcrowding. The sanitation facilities are very impressive. I am overwhelmed by this

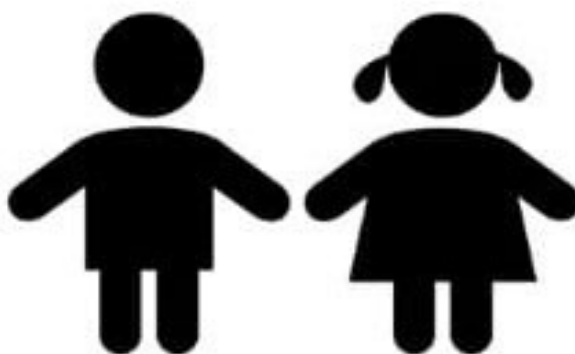
kind of buildings handed to us”,said Lethabo.

The SGB chairperson Edwin Mashakeng announced plans to establish a Quality Learning and Teaching Committee (QLTC) to ensure regular facility checks. A database of local service providers for plumbing and window repairs will also be created” concluded Mashakeng. The MEC is expected to handover two schools in in Vhembe East District under Collins Chabane Municipality next week.

## DID YOU KNOW?

**2025 Academic year, The Limpopo Department of Education through National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) is providing nutritious meals to over 1,4 million learners ,both from primary and secondary public schools’ quintile 1-3.**

# National School Nutrition Programme Government Feeding Programme for Schools



# AUTISM DOES NOT MEAN YOU CAN'T LIVE A NORMAL LIFE!

By Hanedzani Mbedzi.



Autism is a condition that affects how people think, learn and interact with others. During Autism Awareness Month, we are reminded to be kind, patient and understanding. Deputy Chief Education Specialist for Inclusive Education, Ms Faith Kgopa encourages everyone to support and include children with autism in their schools, families and communities.

## 1. How does one find out if a person has autism?

It is recommended to seek professional diagnosis from an educational psychologist, psychiatrist or any other trained professional specializing in autism spectrum disorder. The diagnosis usually involves a comprehensive assessment that observes a person's behavior and interactions, administering standardized assessments and questionnaires including gathering information from parents, caregivers and other relevant individuals.

## 2. What are some of the myths about Autism?

- Vaccines cause Autism
- Bad parenting can cause Autism
- Autism is a sickness or illness that can be cured
- Autistic people are not capable of independent living
- Autism can be "outgrown"

## 3. How is Autism different in children?

Autism can show differently due to various factors

- Early signs = Autistic children may exhibit early signs e.g. delayed language development, social communication challenges or repetitive behaviors.
- Developmental delays = Autistic children may experience delays in reaching developmental milestones e.g. walking, talking or social skills
- Support systems = Autistic children often rely on parents, caregivers, or educators for support and accommodation

## 4. Why is Autism Awareness Month important?

The goal is not just to know Autism exists, but to accept Autistic people for who they are and to include them in schools, jobs, friendships and communities to rally for support through highlighting Autistic people's strengths and contributions and pushing for equal access to services, opportunities and support. Autism doesn't need to be "fixed", what needs fixing is the lack of understanding and barriers in the world. Awareness Month is a reminder that Autistic people deserve respect support and to be celebrated – just as they are

## 5. How can schools make things easier for learners living with Autism?

Create a supportive Environment to train teachers and staff on basic knowledge about sensory needs, communication styles and behavior of Autistic learners. Adjust the learning space quiet areas/calm corners where learners can go to regulate when overwhelmed and sensory – friendly classrooms to reduce harsh lighting, loud sounds or clutter, visual schedules and instructions to assist Autistic learners to understand routines and expectations

## 6. Do you think people understand and support Autism Awareness more than before?

Yes, there's been a great shift over the years especially in how we talk about it, how it is represented in the media and how Autistic people are standing up and sharing their own experience. Professional diagnosis is encouraged as families often feel alone/judged especially when people don't understand their child's behavior in public, there's still stigma around Autism in some communities which can be hard for families to speak openly or ask for help. Autistic children/adults often struggle to make friends, leading to loneliness and mental health challenges

SAY06

**PYEI-BEEI PHASE V APPLICATIONS OPEN FROM 22 APRIL 2025**



**RECRUITMENT OF UNEMPLOYED YOUTH FOR THE PYEI: BASIC EDUCATION EMPLOYMENT INITIATIVE**

**STIPEND**

R4 000.00 per month (less 1% UIF contribution), plus R30.00 data.

**APPLICATION TIMELINES**

22 April - 09 May 2025 (23h59)

**INTERVIEWS**

19 May - 31 May 2025

**CONTRACT START DATE**

02 June 2025

**OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE:**

**EDUCATION ASSISTANTS (EA)\***

To assist with teaching & learning in classrooms.

- Curriculum Assistants
- Reading Champions
- e-Cadres – ICT integration in classrooms
- Care & Support Assistants - psychosocial support
- Laboratory Assistants
- Workshop Assistants

*\*Minimum of a matric is required but preference will be given to those with tertiary qualifications, especially in Education*

**GENERAL SCHOOL ASSISTANTS (GSA)\*\***

To help with infrastructure maintenance and cultural activities.

- Handymen/women – maintenance of school infrastructure
- Sports and Enrichment Assistants – lead sport, arts and cultural activities

*\*\*No matric required*

**WHO CAN APPLY?**

- SA citizens aged 18 - 34 years old
- Must have a South African bank account
- Must live within 5km of an urban school or within 30km of a farm/rural school
- This phase is open to youth who were part of phase I,II,III and IV

*It doesn't matter when you apply, as long as you send your application by the due date and time.*

**HOW TO APPLY**



Go to [sayouth.mobi/p/dbe](https://sayouth.mobi/p/dbe)  
SA Youth is free, no data needed



Register on [sayouth.mobi](https://sayouth.mobi)  
The process will take +4 mins



If you have already registered on SA Youth, just log in using the same log in details



Once you have registered, opportunities at the schools nearest to the address you provided will appear, enabling you to apply



No opportunities showing up? You can search for "Education Assistant" or "General Assistant" in the search box



BasicEd  
SAYouth.mobi



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Need help? Call SA Youth on 0800 72 72 72 or TeacherConnect on 060 060 33 33 (9:00 -16:30 Monday – Friday)





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# School Safety

R4.000 Million

“

Due to escalations in incidents of crime and violence, which are manifesting in more social ills, random searches and seizures for dangerous objects will continue in the new sets of HOTSPOT schools (2025-2028). Social ills such as bullying is on the rise, drug abuse, gangsterism, rape and suicides are prioritized for more intervention through strengthening our partnerships with the renewal of MOUs with sister departments and stakeholders of interest.

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2025/26

Budget Vote



**MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya:**  
*Budget Speech - Department of Education*