



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

The Official Internal Newsletter
of the Department of Education

NEWSFLASH

Bringing you EduNews timeously

08-MAY2025

VHAFAMADI SECONDARY SCHOOL COMPETING AMONGST THE BEST IN AFRICA

BY Mike Maringa



and collect what they are set to get. They are allocated 2 and half minutes to display their innovation for judges to determine if they have the potential to climb the stage. The focus for this year is to dive into activities under the sea to work on solutions that the young learners can bring.

The teams are under the supervision of their coaches and supported by officials from the head office. The Director responsible for Mathematics, Science and Technology, Mr. Thovhowani Maswime is confident that the teams will emerge. "We are hoping for the best knowing that the competition is very tough, we are competing with the best of the continent, but we will give it our best shot. We want the teams to pass this stage and compete internationally", Says Mr. Maswime.

Limpopo is waiting with bated breath, keeping fingers crossed for the three teams from Vhafamadi Secondary School in Vhembe West Education District currently in the Western Cape representing the Province and the country in the Coding and Robotics school competition. They are amongst 10 teams that are representing the country in the continental stage. The young innovators from three teams,

Water Queens, Virtuoso Vigorous and Subzero landed in Cape Town on Monday late afternoon to start with the preparations for the innovation stalls. The coding and Robotics competition requires the team to identify a problem and come with a solution which they need to design and present. They will be given a robot kit to build one, program it to play the prescribed missions on identified areas on the mat to reach

Limpopo has done well in coding and robotics competitions. Mashupye Tladi Primary School from Capricorn South Education District clinched the first spot last year in the SETA Coding and Robotics competition, taking home a R500 000 voucher worth of technology resources.



MEC DRIVES THE CAMPAIGN TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF EDUCATION IN THE PROVINCE

By Conny Mabunda & Hanedzani Mbedzi



Thabazimbi - Driving the passion to improve the standard of education in the province has been one of the top priorities for the Limpopo Department of Education. MEC Mavhungu-Lerule Ramakhanya in her quests to improve the results, paid an official visit to Thabazimbi area in Waterberg Education District to assess and support the underperforming schools in the area. The schools visited were Ysterburg primary, Deo Gloria primary and Mabogopedi secondary school in Thabazimbi local municipality,

Ysterburg is the oldest African school in Thabazimbi originated in 1944. The school has a population of 1000 learners boosting sufficient infrastructure to accommodate them. Mabogopedi secondary school has a total number of 1300 enrolled learners. It is a well-equipped school with enough classrooms and proper infrastructure to accommodate the learners.

In her address to the stakeholders and learners, MEC promised to consolidate the school programmes in the area and commit to engage local mines so that they can provide support and security to the schools.

She urged principals to engage with the DDGs regarding curriculum matters to ensure that educators are well equipped to render effective teaching and learning for the learners. The MEC further advised SGB to collaborate with the law enforcement to assist in combating the crime affecting schools and to ensure that there is regular conduct searches every now and then. Parents were urged to monitor their children's school work regularly and to work



with management to ensure that there is progress in their studies.

Management and SGB should take a lead to ensure that learners are punctual and commit themselves to their studies. They must adhere to school rules, and to stop substance abuse and absenteeism. Morning, evening studies and winter classes are to be implemented in the schools from all grades and every learner is expected to comply.

"SMTs should come with strategies and proper implementations that will take performance to another level and to avoid hiring educators that cannot teach. The only way to weigh an educator is through results because we cannot carry titles that are not showing results," said Lerule-Ramakhanya.



NEW BEGINNING FOR XIKUNDU AND XIGAMANI COMMUNITIES.

By Mmathaba Sape & Katlego Mashula



Bringing hope to the Xikundu village through infrastructure provision. MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya officially handed over completed school infrastructure project, John Xikundu Primary in Vhembe East Education District, Collins Chabane local municipality. This highlights the Department's ongoing efforts to improve school infrastructure in both urban and rural areas, creating an environment that is conducive for teaching and learning.

John Xikundu Primary was established in July 2014 and accommodated only Grade R to 4 learners. After an assessment was made, a decision was taken to expand the school infrastructure to accommodate the increasing number of learners. The new school infrastructure comprises 27 classrooms, admin block, nutrition block, nutrition area, 41 ablution seats. The school has an enrolment of 881 learners, 24 teachers and 1 administrator with an increased pass rate of 88,4% in 2024 academic year.

The school is amongst those that are selected by the Department of Education to offer pilot programmes

which are Inclusive Education and Coding and Robotics. MEC Ramakhanya used an opportunity to donate school shoes for learners and a laptop for the principal and her team.

A gesture that was warmly welcomed and received by the Community members who gathered to welcome the school infrastructure project. "We are beyond grateful for the state of art school provided to us as the community, Learners will learn in a safe and conducive learning environment without any hindrance and learning barriers such as lack of infrastructure. Knowledge is power", Said Grace Mabasa, SGB chairperson of John Xikundu Primary.

The MEC later handed over the newly built and renovated Tshamiseka Primary School at Xigamani Village, in the same District. The school, implemented by the Independent Development Trust (IDT), boasts modern facilities designed to enhance the learning experience. Located in the Collins Chabane Local Municipality, the quintile 2 school has an enrolment of 371 learners. The school received a laptop for the principal and the team, more than 30 pairs of shoes. MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya presented the local

chief, Hosi Bohani Xigamani with a portrait showing the improvement done, juxtaposing the old and the new picture of the school infrastructure. The extensive scope of work addressed critical infrastructural needs, ensuring a more conducive and enriching learning environment for generations to come. The transformation included the strategic relocation of mobile classrooms to serve as temporary spaces during the construction phase. This was followed by the demolition of 7 outdated classroom blocks and comprehensive renovations of existing structures, including 2 x 4 classroom blocks. The refurbishment extended to the guardhouse and ablution facilities, which now boast 22 waterborne toilets and 4 Enviro Loos. Adding significant capacity to the school are 3 newly constructed classroom blocks, complete with storerooms, a small administration block, and 2 Grade R classrooms designed to nurture the youngest learners. Recognizing the needs of staff and visitors, the project also included 8 covered and 6 uncovered parking bays. The physical enhancements extend beyond the buildings themselves. A newly paved access road and

Continues on page 4



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

“

This budget is more than numbers. It is a covenant.

A covenant with the grandmother in Giyani who sells peanuts to ensure that a child has uniform to wear to school.

A covenant with the young teacher in Lephalale who stays late to tutor learners.

A covenant with the 1.8 million learners of Limpopo, whose futures depend on our courage to act boldly and act now.

This budget is not just about numbers; it is about people.

”



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