



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

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NEWSFLASH

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LIMPOPO CELEBRATES SASCE PROVINCIAL WINNERS HEADED TO NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIPS

By: Hanedzani Mbedzi



After weeks of rehearsals, soaring harmonies and stirring performances, Limpopo's top young choristers have earned their place at the national stage. Schools and solo performers emerged victorious at the provincial rounds of the ABC Motsepe South African Schools Choral Eisteddfod (SASCE) and secured a top spot to represent the province at the upcoming national championships.

Limpopo Department of Education has officially announced the results of the provincial finals, marking the journey of the province's most talented young vocalists.

SASCE is an annual choral music programme that begins at the cluster level and advances through district and provincial rounds, concluding to national championship. The competition not only celebrates musical excellence but also promotes

discipline, unity and a profound appreciation for the art amongst South African learners.

This year's provincial finals were held at Bolivia Lodge in Polokwane, where schools from all the 10 education districts across Limpopo delivered performances that captivated both adjudicators and the audience. This year's competition drew more than 20 schools across various categories.

In the Capricorn South District, in-school sports coordinator Seabi Segope believes that success in school competitions comes from strong preparation, hard work and solid support from district leaders. He emphasizes the value of using experienced professionals and creating the right environment to help schools perform at their best.

"Good performance is a result of good

preparation, dedication, hard work and unwavering support from the district authorities. We use music veterans to help new schools and conductors, hold motivational talks to keep learners focused and prepare well for competitions, even if it means bringing in experts from outside the province." Said Seabi.

The choirs and soloists will prepare to compete against the best of the best at the 2025 SASCE National Championships, representing not only their schools but the entire province.

A choir conductor at Tjetje Secondary School Sidney Mahlangu, believes in hard work and giving his learners the freedom to express their own ideas because different ideas often create the best ones. "I always remind them of their talent and potential, encouraging them to perform

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with confidence and pride. Most importantly, I strive to motivate them, ease the pressure and let them enjoy what they do because passion brings out the best in every performance.” he said

“Preparing our soloists for the Provincial SASCE Choral Competition took focused vocal training, confidence building and strong teamwork. I emphasized both technical skill and emotional expression, while creating a supportive space for growth. As we move toward nationals, we are sharpening advanced techniques and mental readiness. I am deeply grateful to Mrs. Thema E.P. for her unwavering support, her encouragement keeps us moving forward,” added Calvin Mafodi, the Conductor of Ipopeng Secondary School

Amongst the soloist that won the top spot at the national Competition are Soprano and tenor soloist from the same school, Ipopeng secondary in Capricorn North Education District. They will represent their school and the province.

A tenor soloist Mamo Azaph Ngoepe Tenor Soloist said “Regular practice,



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vocal warm-ups and feedback from my conductor helped me improve my tone, pitch and emotional connection to the song. Performing in front of friends and family has boosted my confidence, I am staying focused by managing nerves and taking care of my voice. This opportunity means everything to me, it's a chance to share my passion and give it my all."

"I prepare myself mentally to build confidence and physically by sticking to the basics like relaxing my vocal muscles. Every time I imagine it, I get goosebumps. But I will keep working hard to rise above it all," added the Soprano soloist Matloa Neoleen

Limpopo MEC for Education, Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya praised the learners, educators and stakeholders for their unwavering commitment and remarkable performances.

"We are incredibly proud of our learners, educators, conductors and district officials for their dedication and outstanding performances throughout the competition. They have demonstrated the power of music to uplift, inspire and unite. As Limpopo sends its best musical ambassadors to the national stage, we do so with pride and confidence. I wish them all the best as they carry our hopes forward and showcase the incredible talent that thrives in our schools," said MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya.

The national championships promise to be a vibrant celebration of youth, culture and musical harmony and Limpopo's voices are ready to shine.



THE TRANSFORMATION JOURNEY WITH DISTRICT DIRECTOR TINYIKO NKUZANA.

By: Conny Mabunda



1. Briefly give us your background and your passion for Education

Tinyiko Nkuzana is a District Director of Capricorn South in the Limpopo province. My journey in Education began in 1995 as a Post level 1 educator. I have over the years progressed through various leadership roles which are Departmental Head, Principal, circuit manager and then a District Director in 2018.

I have a Bachelor of Arts, a Bachelor of Public Administration, 3 Diplomas, an Advanced certificate, an Honours degree and a Master's degree. This extensive education reflects on my commitment to lifelong learning and professional growth. Throughout my career, I have always been driven by a deep passion for improving learning outcomes. "I firmly believe that education opens doors to better opportunities in life. As a District Director I am dedicated to ensuring

that every learner in my District receives quality education despite the challenges they face," said Nkuzana.

2. What are the top challenges facing Capricorn South currently and how do they impact you?

Capricorn South District faces several significant challenges and one of the most pressing is the poor learner performance in Mathematics and Sciences. Many township schools suffer from aging infrastructure and in the Pietersburg circuit, the limited number of schools continue to create admission challenges. Five circuits don't have proper office facilities and are instead accommodated within school premises which compromise their authority and effectiveness

Some schools still rely on chemical toilets due to inadequate sanitation facilities and 5 circuits

within Mogodomu cluster lack access to electricity and clean water for consumption and sanitation. Furthermore, the Human Resources, Examinations and Learner assessment officials continue to work with outdated desktop computer. In total, 6 circuit managers and 11 subject Advisors do not have laptops or access to data routers which hinders the ability to perform their duties effectively.

3. Can you share any success story or best practices from your District that others could learn from you and implement them in their own?

Despite all the challenges in Capricorn South, several initiatives to improve the educational landscape have been implemented and below are three of them:

Professional Learning Communities (PLCs) – Functional PLCs have been established and they support educators through collaboration and continuous professional development.

Stakeholders Engagement – Strong stakeholders' engagement has helped to build a sense of shared responsibility for educational outcomes.

Operational Monitoring – We closely monitor the implementation of our operational plan, conducting review sessions at the end of each term to assess progress and identify areas for improvement.

4. What are the focus areas of Improvement?

Curriculum Tracking – Ensures effective implementation of the curriculum to improve learner performance.

Internal Audit Control Measures – Strengthening accountability and transparency in District operations. Human Resources Management – Addressing staff needs and ensuring that educators are well- equipped to deliver quality education.

In conclusion, my journey in education has been one of dedication, growth and a relentless pursuit of excellence. While my District faces a lot of challenges, I am committed to overcoming them through strategic initiatives and a collaborative approach. Together we can ensure that every learner in Capricorn South District receives the quality education they deserve.



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2026 LEARNER ADMISSIONS: FIRST TIME ADMISSION

Grades R, 1 and 8 registration forms must be collected from the school:

2 June 2025 -31 July 2025

DOCUMENTS REQUIRED

- Birth certificate or acceptable proof of birth date
- Immunization card
- Transfer card
- Last report card

If one is not a South African citizen, the following documents are important:

- Study/work permit
- Temporary or permanent residence permit from the South African Department of Home affairs
- Evidence to show that there is application for permission to stay in RSA

The Department will monitor the learner admissions process very closely to ensure that the rights of learners are protected at all times.

"Every Child is a National Asset"



**MEC Mavhungu
Lerule-Ramakhanya.**



CELEBRATING EXCELLENCE: HONORING LIMPOPO'S OUTSTANDING EDUCATORS AT THE ANNUAL NATIONAL TEACHING AWARDS

By Ndivhuwo Mukhada

In the heart of South Africa, the Limpopo Department of Education has consistently recognized and celebrated the exceptional contribution of its educators through the Annual National Teaching Awards. These awards not only highlight the dedication and passion of teachers who go above and beyond their commitment to education but also to inspire others to strive for excellence. This article pays tribute to the remarkable individuals who have been honored in recent years, showcasing their achievements and the lasting impact they have made on their learners and communities.

The National Teaching Awards (NTA) in South Africa were initially envisioned and introduced in year 2000 by Professor Kader Asmal, who was the Minister of Education at the time. The purpose of the awards is to honor and reward educators who exhibit extraordinary devotion to their work. The NTA scheme has gone beyond two decades.

For the 2025 academic year, MEC for Education in Limpopo, Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya proclaimed that this year's theme is Academic Excellence and Teacher Development. This is in line with the department's ongoing commitment to fostering a culture of continuous improvement and professional growth among educators, ensuring that both teachers and learners achieve their highest potential.

More than 50 teachers have won the NTAs Limpopo Department of Education award over the last four years (2021–2024). This also applies to winners who competed on behalf of the province at the national level.

During 2024 annual NTAs, first place winners on the following categories: Excellence in Secondary School Teaching, Excellence in Secondary and Primary School Leadership, Excellence in Special Needs Leadership, Excellence in Teaching Physical Sciences, Ms. Maake Motlatso Lucia from Kgapane High School in Mopani West Education District, the first-place winner for the category Excellence in Teaching Physical Sciences, undertook an international tour to Denmark to acquire knowledge on Project-Based Learning Model from 30 May- 07 June 2025.



The coming edition is expected to be more competitive and interesting since educators have grown interest in the competition and showing

determination to do more. One of the highlights of the sector's calendar event not to be missed.

Be Alert of of fake news! The school calendar has not changed and remains the same as previously announced. Please be aware that any posts claiming a new school calendar are false.

2025 Calendar for Public schools

January 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

February 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	

March 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

Public and School Holidays 2025	
01 January	New Year's Day
21 March	Human Rights Day
18 April	Good Friday
21 April	Family Day
27 April	Freedom Day
28 April	Freedom Day' observed
29 April	Special school holiday
30 April	Special school holiday
01 May	Workers' Day
02 May	Special school holiday
16 June	Youth Day
09 August	National Women's Day
24 September	Heritage Day
16 December	Day of Reconciliation
25 December	Christmas Day
26 December	Day of Goodwill

April 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

May 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				1	2	3
4	5	6	7	8	9	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

June 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
1	2	3	4	5	6	7
8	9	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

July 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		1	2	3	4	5
6	7	8	9	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30	31		

August 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
					1	2
3	4	5	6	7	8	9
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

September 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

October 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			1	2	3	4
5	6	7	8	9	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

November 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						1
2	3	4	5	6	7	8
9	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30						

December 2025						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	1	2	3	4	5	6
7	8	9	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30	31			

	Weekends		School days		Special school holidays
	Days for administration		Public holidays		School holidays

SUMMARY OF 2025 CALENDAR FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

Duration	No. of weeks	No. of days	No. of public holidays	Actual no. of school days
(13) 15 January - 28 March	11	53 (55)	1	52 (54)
08 April – 27 June	12	59	5+3	51
22 July – 03 October	11	54	1	53
13 October – (10) 12 December	09	43 (45)	0	43 (45)
Total	43	209 (213)	7+3	199 (203)