



LIMPOPO  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

The Official Internal Newsletter  
of the Department of Education

# NEWSFLASH

Bringing you EduNews timeously

09-JULY 2025

## LIMPOPO SCHOOLS LEAVES A LASTING MARK AT THE 2025 SASCE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

By: Hanedzani Mbedzi



For a week, South Africans took their time to witness the choral music competitions when learners from various school backgrounds across the country showcased their vocal talents by participating in music. The mood was set on full bars of joy and celebration at the annual 2025 ABC Motsepe South African Schools Choral Eisteddfod (SASCE) National Championship. The 2025 SASCE Edition took place for 4 days at Rhema Bible Church in Randburg, Johannesburg where school choirs and soloists from all the nine provinces gave their best performances.

About 16 schools that represented Limpopo gave their best and gave their counterparts a tough competition. The learners did more than just singing, they told stories,

shared emotions and represented their Limpopo with pride. Eisteddfod remains one of the most crucial school enrichment programs coordinated by the Department of Basic Education to promote unity in diversity, national reconciliation, positive values, a new South African national identity, social transformation and social cohesion amongst school going South African youth.

The MEC for Education, Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, attended the one of the sessions, making the occasion even more special. Limpopo schools stood out with strong and titillating performances. "As the Department of Education, we can't pull this off without the support of parents, educators, and principals. Thank you to the Limpopo

learners, all our schools, educators, conductors, and every learner who has participated in the competition," said MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya. Dr Precious Moloi-Motsepe who is a passionate advocate for education, used the Motsepe Foundation platform to uplift learners and improve schools' music talents to across South Africa.

"On this platform, we support the power of Education. To the learners, we stand with you to unleash your talent. We believe in the power of education to break barriers, unlock potential and transform lives. Every learner deserves the chance to rise and we are here to help them soar," said Dr. Moloi-Motsepe.

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Mokidikitle Eartha Masemola is the passionate choir conductor at Bosele special school (MID, PD, Deaf and Blind) that got position 3 in the SASCE national competition is committed to helping her learners grow through music despite limited resources.

“Everyone is a good singer; we just have to train ourselves to sing better than we can.” concluded Mokidikitle Eartha Masemola

SASCE 2025 has ended but the memories and music created on the stage will remain in the hearts of many. Limpopo stars have set a high standard, and their voices will continue to reverberate in the minds of the magnitude in attendance. Congratulations to Bosele Special School and Makgoka Secondary School for winning in the National stage.



# LIMPOPO CELEBRATE THREE DECADES OF MATHEMATICAL EXCELLENCY FOR QUALITY EDUCATION

By Conny Mabunda



**T**urfloop: The University of Limpopo hosted the 30 years annual National Congress of the Association for Mathematics Education of South Africa (AMESA) for 4 days under the theme “Envisioning Equitable Mathematics Education – Promoting Relevance and Engagement”. The event was more than just a gathering, as the country celebrates more 30 years of passion, purpose and progress in Mathematics education

Professor Zwelithini Dlamini, the Congress Director expressed his delight to the Association for Mathematics Education of South Africa (AMESA) for choosing the University of Limpopo to host the crucial congress. He spoke about the past inequalities, social injustices, ongoing challenges in Mathematics education which include language barriers, limited access, inadequate resources and questions related. He also urged educators, researchers

and policymakers to seek meaningful solutions and challenge conventional approaches.

In her presentation to the congress, Ms Rebecca Maluleke, a Foundation Phase Senior Education Specialist who specialised in elementary mathematics, coding and Robotics fully explained the title: From classroom practice to systematic support and envisioning Equitable Mathematics. This clearly outlined the importance of building stronger connections between what happens in the classroom and the support provided by the education system. Maluleke emphasized that learners from foundation phase should be able to know numbers, to identify them and to be able to make use of pictorials, identify signs and to answer immediately. “Learners should be allowed to use different strategies as long as they can explain how they got to an answer.” concluded Maluleke.



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MEC for Education Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya shared her gratitude for having the congress held in the province and further appreciated the collaboration between AMESA and the University of Limpopo. She believes that the vibrant congress will elevate teaching intelligence, access to quality education, foster a culture of nurturing learners to analyse numbers, build resilience and promote positive mind-sets. Researchers were urged to share their findings, to be open-minded and to be curious, to adopt new strategies and to seek solutions that are equitable. Educators were urged to be not too hard on themselves and that Teacher development will continue to be encouraged. "The province is eager to learn more from this initiative and not just the Congress, this Congress should ignite the passion for mathematics and renews energy thereof. A bold change



is demanded from every educator because for us to be a competitive country, there should be change” concluded MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya.

AMESA President, Nkensani Duba extended her sincere gratitude to the organisers, partners, various speakers, sponsors and delegates for their valuable contributions to making AMESA year 30 Congress successful. She encouraged delegates to make the most of the insightful knowledge they gained and return home enriched. AMESA is the voice of Mathematics Education in South Africa representing the interests of discipline and its members at national and provincial levels. Duba say all who have interest in the teaching and learning of Mathematics should belong to the dynamic Association.



## SANDRA LESHABELA CROWNED NATIONAL RCL PRESIDENT AT LEARNER LEADERSHIP SUMMIT 2025

By Hanedzani Mbedzi



Gauteng- Limpopo' Sandra Leshabela was crowned RCL president at Learner Leadership summit 2025 held at the Convention Centre in OR Tambo, Benoni under the theme "Strengthening Foundations for Learning Towards a Resilient Future -Fit Education System. Young leaders, educators, policymakers and partners from across the nation gathered under one roof, not just to talk but to act on what to achieve in fulfilling their objectives. The three -day summit became a vibrant platform for learners' voices to rise, ideas to

spark and visions to align.

The aim of the summit was to empower the next generation of changemakers with the tools, networks and inspiration needed to lead the transformation of the education system, making it more inclusive, future-ready and grounded in the real needs of learners. From dynamic panel discussions to the thrilling RCL National Elections and a global-minded G20 learner debate. Every moment was driven by the belief that youth are not just beneficiaries of Education, but they are its architects.

Seventeen-year-old Sandra Leshabela, a Grade 11 learner from Millennium Combined School in the Capricorn South Education District (Petersburg Circuit) was one of the 15 RCL delegates proudly representing the Limpopo province. She was elected the National RCL President, becoming the voice of learners across all nine provinces.

"My goal is to ensure quality education for every learner, break language barriers, and promote

equality. Leadership to me is a calling rooted in humility, integrity and listening. I have learned that I can't do it all alone, but together with others we can raise every learner's voice from school level to national. Always stand up for what is right and value every learner as they are," said Sandra Leshabela.

Her Teacher Liaison Officer, Daisy Mashalane described Sandra as a confident and consistent leader with a natural ability to inspire change.

"She applies her mind to every decision and remains consistent in everything she does. Sandra is a true motivator who doesn't hesitate to find solutions when she sees challenges in other schools. She constantly reminds her peers that they are leaders too," Mashalane said

As the summit concluded, it left behind not only a renewed sense of hope but a clear message that South Africa's learners are ready to lead. With voices like Sandra's at the helm, the future of education looks not only resilient but inspiringly learner driven.



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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**



# Benefits of Studying Mathematics and coaching by Mr. Tovhowani Maswime, the Director responsible for Maths, Science and Technology.

By Conny Mabunda



Mr. Tovhowani Maswime, the Director for Mathematics, Science and Technology in the Limpopo Department of Education has committed to elevate the educational outcome with special focus in mathematics. His interest in mathematics began in high school when he enrolled for Mathematics and Agricultural Science. He went on to pursue a Bachelor's degree at the University of Venda where he majored in Mathematics and physics, did an Education Diploma and further obtained an Honours degree in Physics from the same institution. To complement his academic qualifications, Mr Maswime also completed a qualification in Electrical Engineering from Capricorn TVET College.

## 1.What does it mean to study Mathematical Literacy?

Studying Mathematical Literacy means learning to use basic mathematics in practical and real-world situations. It emphasizes understanding numbers, data and measurements in everyday contexts such as budgeting, interpreting graphs, understanding interest rates

or reading maps and schedules.

## 2.What are the benefits of studying Mathematical Literacy?

Learners gain the ability to make informed decisions in daily life (e.g. managing finances and understanding news statistics). Maths Lit is a subject designed to be more approachable, especially for students not pursuing math-intensive careers. It enhances logical reasoning and problem-solving skills in practical contexts. It equips learners to engage confidently with mathematical aspects of society.

## 3.How does the subject differ from pure mathematics?

Mathematics prepares learners for careers in science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM) while maths literacy prepares learners for daily problem-solving. It is focused on real-life applications and deals with everyday topics such as budgets, graphs and measurements.

## 4.What career paths are available to Mathematical Literacy learners?

Mathematical Literacy limits access to highly technical fields. However, it can still support careers in: Business and retail, Hospitality and tourism, Marketing and sales, Public administration, Social services, Creative industries (e.g. design, fashion) and Entrepreneurship. Learners can also access pathways with high performance scores in Maths Lit and additional qualifications.

## 5.What skills are developed through it?

The following skills are developed through the study of Mathematical Literacy: Numeracy, Data interpretation, Financial literacy, Measurement and estimation, Logical reasoning and Communication.

## 6.How can it be applied in everyday life?

It can be applied in everyday life when people do the following: Budgeting and financial planning, Reading

utility bills, payslips, and contracts, understanding product discounts and taxes, Planning travel using time schedules and maps, analysing data in the media and advertisements, Measuring for cooking, DIY projects and fitness.

## 7.What are the underlying assumptions about Mathematical Literacy that contribute to the stigma?

Mathematical literacy is seen as a "lower tier" or "easier" subject. Some schools encourage learners to choose it to boast learners' schools' overall performance. There's a belief that learners who choose it are not academically strong. Some educators, schools and institutions undervalue it due to its non-abstract focus. It's assumed to close doors to prestigious careers which is not always true.

## 8.How does the stigma around it impact learners and educators?

Learners may feel inferior or less capable, impacting their confidence and motivation. Educators may feel undervalued or less supported compared to Mathematics teachers. It may discourage students from seeing the value and relevance of the subject. Peer and parental pressure might push learners into subjects not suited to their strengths or interests.

## 9.How can we work to challenge and overcome the stigma around the learners?

We should educate parents, learners and teachers about the purpose and importance of Mathematical Literacy. Every success story of learners who used Mathematical Literacy to pursue meaningful careers should be celebrated. Mathematical Literacy should be promoted as a valid, empowering option – not a fall-back subject. Educators should incorporate real-life success applications into the curriculum to show its relevance. The department should provide career guidance that aligns subject choices with personal goals and strengths not status and encourage a growth mind-set: "intelligence isn't defined by subject choice but by effort and purpose", said Maswime.

**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)
<b>Total</b>	<b>43</b>	<b>209 (213)</b>	<b>7+3</b>	<b>199 (203)</b>