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LIMPOPO SCHOOLS AIMS FOR TOP SPOT IN NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP COMPETITION

By Selina Molope

Limpopo Education Department in collaboration with the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture hosted the 2025 School Cross Country Championship at Capricorn High school in Capricorn South Education District in Polokwane.

Schools Cross -Country Championship is a competitive long-distance running event for students across various schools in the province held over natural terrain like grass and hills. Winners in this competition are crowned the best school or individual runners and the winning teams

for both girls and boys represent the province at the 2025 National Cross-Country Championship to be held on the 03-04 October 2025 in White River, Mpumalanga Province.

The competition offers a platform for talented students to showcase their skills, foster sportsmanship and promote physical activity. It is a platform where learners participate in an organized sport, unearth future talents and encourage nation-building and social cohesion.



The heartland of southern Africa - development is about people



EDUCATION DEPARTMENT COMMITS TO EXCELLENCE IN TRANSFORMING POLICY TO ACTION

By Hanedzani Mbedzi

In a move to address the department's overarching issues, Education Department held a three days Strategic Planning Session at Zebula Golf Estate in Waterberg District to align itself and develop a comprehensive roadmap on future direction of the department.

The MEC for Education, Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, together with HoD Maropene Viniel Seshibe, led senior officials to foster collaborations and to ensure that officials understand where the department is going.

In her opening remarks, MEC urged senior managers to develop strategies that will sustain the department's upward trajectory, with a focus on improving academic performance and audit outcomes. She also highlighted the Department's role in driving job creation and poverty alleviation through a skilled-focused curriculum, emphasizing stronger governance, efficient budgeting, decisive action on Early Childhood Development (ECD), disaster readiness, and better support for learners, while integrating key programmes and aligning with the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

The session provided a platform to review progress, set clear priorities, and align departmental programmes with the strategic direction of the 7th administration. Key priorities included strengthening infrastructure, enhancing learner academic performance, developing and supporting educators, and creating safe, inclusive, and high-quality learning environments across the province.

As part of the 2025–2030 Departmental Strategic Planning process, officials went into commissions led by the branches of Governance, Curriculum, Finance, and Corporate Management. The commissions worked throughout the second day before reconvening in plenary on the third day to consolidate reports and presented a collective way forward.

The Head of Department reminded senior officials that the Strategic Planning Session was not just about drafting ideas but about building a coherent roadmap that delivers tangible results in classrooms. "As administrators, our role is to ensure that the policies and directives of the MEC and the 7th administration are transformed into

programmes that yield measurable impact. Every resource we allocate and every initiative we drive must ultimately improve learning outcomes for our learners,” said HoD Seshibe. In her closing address Lerule-Ramakhanya urged senior managers to sustain the department's upward trajectory and turn strategies into action. “Our task now is to strengthen infrastructure, enhance learner performance, support and develop our educators and create safe, inclusive schools.

This plan is our roadmap to transformation and excellence,” MEC said. The Limpopo Department of Education's 2025–2030 Strategic Planning Session resolved to fast-track service delivery through stronger stakeholder collaboration, new systems like a learner admission platform, updated policies, and social programmes addressing school safety and teenage pregnancy. Revised plans are set to be finalised in October 2025.





DEPARTMENT ENGAGES STAKEHOLDERS TO STRENGTHEN BASICS AND CREATE IMPACT IN EDUCATION

By Hanedzani Mbedzi

Education Department in Limpopo held important session that brought together departmental officials, academics from various universities and the Human Sciences Research Council (HSRC). The session aimed at encouraging dialogue, collaboration and research-driven solutions to strengthen basic information while also laying out fundamental principles for education in the Province.

Central to the discussions was the call to embrace research as a guiding force in shaping education policies and practices. Participants stressed that scientific methods remain the most reliable way to establish truth in education and that research should serve as a practical tool to support educators, inform decision-making and improve learning outcomes.

Stakeholders further emphasized collaboration between internal role players such as learners, educators, and departmental officials and external partners that included universities and research

institutions to strengthen knowledge production and generate evidence-based solutions. The Departmental Research Committee also presented its agenda to develop research niches, encourage publishing and align studies with practical challenges, thereby unlocking new funding opportunities while avoiding duplication.

HOD Maropene Seshibe urged officials to move from diagnosing problems to finding solutions, this meant probing beyond current initiatives and taking strategic recommendations seriously. ***Leadership should promote gender equality and create space for women in key positions. The functionality of SGB members must also be prioritised with recognition of the unique skills each person brings,*** conclude Seshibe.

MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya added that while self-development is vital, officials should also acknowledge progress, noting that research must speak to all 10 districts while considering geographical barriers, cultural and language differences.



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CHAMPIONING EVERY LEARNER:

MS. MATU MAKGATO LEADS LIMPOPO'S INCLUSIVE EDUCATION VISION

by Conny Mabunda

Ms Makgato, a princess from the Makgato Royal Family is a teacher by profession who started her teaching career at Helene Franz Special School at the age of 20, fostering inclusive culture and raising awareness in education for learners with barriers to learning and development.

She was promoted from a CS1 teacher, Departmental Head, Deputy Principal to a Circuit Manager in Capricorn North Education District at Koloti Circuit. Her passion for learners with Special Education needs led to her migrating from circuit management to being a Chief Education Specialist for Inclusive education and Special Schools in the Limpopo Department of Education provincial level. Matu was recently appointed Director for Inclusive Education and Special Schools in the province, leading the provincial efforts in ensuring that all learners receive quality basic education including those experiencing barriers to learning and development.

She furthered her studies after completing a Secondary Teachers Diploma at Dr CN Phatudi former College of Education and acquire the following qualifications on a part-time basis:

1. National School of Governance (NSG) pre-entry SMS certificate with National School of Governance
2. Further Diploma in Special Needs Education with University of South Africa (UNISA)
3. Post Graduate Diploma in Special Needs Education, UNISA
4. Bachelor of Education Honours in Educational Management with University of Limpopo
5. Bachelor of Education Honours in Inclusive Education with UNISA
6. Master's degree in educational management University of Venda
7. Certificate in Strategic Planning, Accredited Facilitator, Assessor and Evaluator
8. Data analysis Programme: Wits University
9. Circuit Improvement Leadership and Management Programme: University of Pretoria
10. Gender mainstreaming training programme: Public Administration Leadership and Management Academy (PALAMA)



She had an ambition in providing and developing a system that includes all learners disregarding their different abilities, implementation of a differentiation approach where each learner is supported in accordance with his or her capabilities. Led to betrothed numerous research projects including the development of white paper No: 06 of 2006 on Special Needs Education. She is also a community builder, A Table Tennis and Wheelchair Tennis coach 2000-2006 and a member of an executive team Wheelchair Tennis South Africa 2003-2006. As a sport fanatic who travelled the world, proven her ability to nurture talent and investing time in developing learners with barriers to learning and development, produced a top seed in Africa (Singles) and in the world (doubles) Lawn wheelchair tennis player in the name of Kgothatso Montjane.

In music she participated in Tirisano music Competition, South African Schools Eisteddfod Championships (Provincially) and Old mutual Music competition (Nationally)

She also served in the Senwabarwana branch of SADTU as a BEC member of the Development of Concept Document for Operation Hlasela MEC 's task team in 2014, member of the Task Team that developed Limpopo Department of Education leadership and management programs, 2010. She also contributed as a Facilitator, Assessor and Evaluator Limpopo Academy of Sport 2003-2006.

As Koloti Circuit Manager she also Served in the Bahlaloga Royal Council under the leadership of Kgoshi Kgabo Moloto 111 in the Education Portfolio Desk focusing on assisting needy learners to further their studies.

As a member of the Makgato Royal Council, she is given a responsibility of being Advisor to Kgoshi Makgato.



Did you know?

2025 academic year, Limpopo Education Department has 101 173 candidates to seat for Grade 12 NSC examination

