



AIMING FOR A TOP 5 SPOT

By Hanedzani Mbedzi

With the countdown to the 2025 matric exams underway, Limpopo Premier Dr. Phophi Ramathuba and MEC for Education Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya led more than 1 000 Grade 12 learners during a solidarity walk in Sekhukhune East Education District. The walk was to mark 22 days before more than 120 000 fulltime and part-time candidates sit for the National Senior Certificate examinations. The countdown serves as a symbolic and practical call to action, study, discipline and a collective effort to ensure a successful examination period. The walk was not

just a show of unity, but a wakeup call for learners to finish strong. Addressing learners gathered at Setlhaku Technical Secondary School, Dr. Ramathuba reminded them of Limpopo's improved matric results from 67% in 2022 to 85,01% in 2024 and urged them to raise the bar even higher this academic year to reach 90%.

The Premier together with MEC for Education and other senior officials, used the platform to inspire learners while outlining the provincial executive's expectations. The solidarity walk also set the tone

for two more build-up events scheduled in Mogalakwena and Capricorn North ahead of the exams.

“With just 22 days left before the matric exams, the countdown makes everything feel real, it pushes us to work harder, manage our time better and stay focused on our goals. It’s not just about passing, but about proving to ourselves and our families that all the years of hard work have been worth it,” said Boikanyo Precaution Komane, a Grade 12 learner from Kweledi secondary school.

Premier Ramathuba urged learners to trust their preparations, protect their integrity and take care of their health as exams draw closer. She also called on parents to support their children by creating a conducive environment. “Sekhukhune East, I am

rooting for you to rewrite history. You are our hope and I trust in you, We are on the finishing line, so focus on what you have studied,” she said. Her message of encouragement was further reinforced by the Limpopo MEC for Education, Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, who joined learners in a session of commitment to success. The MEC led a learner commitment session with 14 schools from the Sekhukhune East Education District, where one learner from each school pledged on behalf of their peers to achieve a 100% pass rate. As the exams draws closer, the Department of Education has reassured learners of its full support, pledging to provide every necessary resources to help them succeed. With learners, parents, educators, and government working together, Limpopo is determined to make the Class of 2025 one of the province’s best-performing cohorts yet.



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DEPARTMENT HELD COMPETITION TO DEVELOP READING FOR MEANING

By Katlego Mashula

Limpopo Education Department hosted a 3 Day Provincial Foundation Phase Annual Reading, Writing, Mathematics and Spelling Bee competition at Bolivia Lodge in Polokwane. Reading is fundamental in helping to find and convey information, and it is an essential skill that is developed at an early young age.

This initiative in partnership with Funda Wande, Room to Read, Vivlia Publishers, Book Sellers and Old Mutual formed part of the President's initiative of Reading for meaning to strengthen literacy and numeracy in the early grades. The event not only highlighted learners growing talents but also unleashed confidence, problem solving skills, soft skills, creativity and the passion for learning from an early age.

Day 1 featured Grades R and 1 from all 10 Education Districts showcasing their talents from emergent literacy, writing, puzzle building and mathematics. Learners used the opportunity to demonstrate their creativity and storytelling skills. In recognition of their skills learners were awarded with trophies and bags with goodies according to their categories.

Grade 2 learners were granted the opportunity to showcase their capabilities in Reading Aloud, Creative Writing, Mathematics and the Spelling

BEE in Day 02. The activities were showcased in different official languages namely: English, Afrikaans, Xitsonga, Sepedi and Tshivenda. In day 03, Grade 03 learners took part in mental Mathematics, mathematics, creative Writing and Reading Aloud.

“Reading forms part of the province's year reading plan aimed at strengthening the reading strategy by celebrating the strides by schools”, said Thandiwe dlodlo, Director for Early Childhood Development.

The competition was tight however learners brought out their A game from the start till the end. Adjudicators applauded teachers for their hard work and highlighted that learners will transition well from learning to read to reading for learning. It is important that learners showed understanding of what they are reading.

We are all products of teachers, when you go for National competitions, do not be discouraged knowing that you are strongly a winner. Things that start well have a potential of ending well, said Philip Dikgomo a representative from Department of Basic Education.

MEC highlighted on the importance of having these competitions to enhance learners understanding. “These competitions are more than just games but

a powerful statement that Limpopo Department of Education believes in that foundation is everything. We are investing in the backdrop of learning, the ability to read with understanding, to write with

creativity, think logically with numbers and solve problems with confidence, concluded MEC Mavhungu-Lerule-Ramakhanya.



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TVET COLLEGE CELEBRATES DECADE OF EXCELLENCE AND ACHIEVEMENTS IN QUALITY EDUCATION

By Katlego Mashula

Capricorn TVET College, Ramokgopa Campus celebrated 10th years anniversary of existence at Mokomene village in Botlokwa area. The celebrations became a collaborative effort between the Department of Higher Education and Training and the Limpopo Department of Education to provides inspiration to others and to reinforce the shared goals by fostering a culture of continuous improvement and high achievements.

The College celebrated the achievements with a theme, "A decade of achieving excellence together, towards building capable communities", to serve a purpose of providing platform to reflect on the impact of the college's role in success, sharing of success stories of graduates while also commemorating a huge milestone they have achieved. The institution believed the performance is not just about the ability to learn but further reflects the social dynamics that form the performance foundation which supports learning and development.

Learners at Ramokgopa community and surrounding villages struggled to access higher education in the previous years due to the distance travelled and this resulted in many dropping out and indulging in substance abuse. In making the fight against all the bad habits, Ramokgopa foundation collaborated with the Capricorn Tvet college to build a satellite campus to assists the community to have access to education and equip young people with skills.

The Campus became operational in January 2014 with 10 staff members, 3 support staff and 600 students per annual registration with less resources.

Maropene Ramokgopa one of the founder members of the college emphasised that it had been a rocky road for the campus to be where it is today. "We are proud that you have turned this place into a conducive centre for excellence. Excellence is not a skill but a habit which requires working consistently, striving for quality, being

focused and a mindset of growth. Indeed, there is phenomenal growth marked by the awards students received. We note with appreciation the sterling work done in this campus where lectures burn the midnight oil in pursuance of excellence towards students", Ramokgopa said.

Ramokgopa Campus keeps on thriving as they produce successful candidates to bring an impact in the economy of the country. The campus became involved in going green, and recently recognized at the international exchange Programme in China and other programmes that bring change.

Campus Alumni shared their success stories which served as an inspiration to current students.

"Nothing is impossible only if you put in the work, school circumstances do not stop you from prospering," said Happy Mabitse, a site manager at Valtera.

MEC Mavhungu-Lerule Ramakhanya thanked guests and stakeholders for their presence. "It is a privilege and a profound honour to join you today as we celebrate this milestone. This celebration is not just about the past, it is a reflection of the shared vision of the future. Over 10 years Ramokgopa College Campus has become the cornerstone of Education as it transformed lives and contributed to the Socio-Economic development of our communities", said MEC.



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LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
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DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

DID YOU KNOW?

The Limpopo Department of Education currently has 35 Public Special schools across the province. These schools cater for learners with various barriers to learning including intellectual developmental, and physical disabilities.



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STAKEHOLDERS ENGAGE IN HIGH LEVEL DISCUSSIONS TO IMPROVE THE STANDARD OF EDUCATION

By Katlego Mashula

Limpopo Department of Education led by MEC Mavhungu-Lerule Ramakhanya engaged in a high-level meeting with Sector Unions and School Governing Bodies associations at the departmental premises. The objective was to discuss the state of education in schools across the province mainly focusing on Post Provisioning Norms (PPN) declaration and key policies affecting the entire education landscape.

The province has declared education as an apex priority and everyone should realize that education is an essential service for our learners. This collaborative session emphasized the importance of stakeholder input in shaping a successful implementation strategy. The department is

dedicated to transparency and partnership throughout the process of providing quality education, ensuring that the decisions made serve the best interests of the province's educational future.

The session unanimously agreed to elevate education to its rightful place, and to see an improvement in the quality of learning and teaching and the management of schools. They agreed that there must be an improvement in attitudes, posture and outcomes and ultimately turning our schools into centre of excellence. The meeting was concluded with a declaration signing by the MEC in the presence of the Unions and SGB Associations



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LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CELEBRATES WOMEN AND HERITAGE

By Cony Mabunda

Women in the Limpopo Department of Education held a glittering event to celebrate women's month at Tiveka lodge outside Polokwane. The celebration was aimed at preserving the diverse rich cultures and heritage of all the indigenous people in the province. The celebrations reflected on women's resilience in upholding Heritage and culture both in the workplace and society. Celebrating Heritage Day provides a sense of identity and belonging, fosters cultural continuity, and provides a platform for communities to connect and share common values and experiences.

The highlight of the day was a reflective session where staff members were encouraged to close their eyes and confront the painful experiences

they had endured. Speakers emphasized the importance of self-love, resilience and mental health as key foundations for women's empowerment.

Ms. Mothiba, speaking on Gender Based Violence and Femicide reminded women that everything begins with loving and appreciating one self because it makes it easier to extend the same love to others. She further addressed gender-based violence, noting that societal expectations such as giving boys toy guns and girls dolls can shape harmful gender outcomes as children grow.

Sharing the same sentiment was Ms. Sibiya, a Mental Health and spiritual upliftment expert who

encouraged women to be content with what they have and to prioritize their mental health. “We all face challenges, but they should not define who we are. Women must normalize speaking out or seeking professional help when needed,” concluded Sibiya.

Deputy Director for Service Delivery and Special Programme in the Limpopo Department of Education Nekhavhambe Alugumi expressed gratitude for the strong turnout despite earlier challenges in planning. “I was worried about the delays and postponements, but I am grateful for the

support from the MEC and pleased to see so many women joining us in celebration,” she said.

Head of Department, Mr. Maropene Seshibe, applauded the women for embracing the day in their traditional attire and reminded them of the resilience of the women of 1956. “Female educators have been central to building the heritage of education and also nurturing learners in our province. Today, 39% of senior posts in the country are held by women. As we celebrate, we must commit to preserving this legacy for generations to come,” He concluded.

