



## WINNERS OF THE NATIONAL TEACHING AWARDS MAKES PROVINCE PROUD

By Katlego Mashula

Limpopo Department of Education celebrated the outstanding achievements of educators who represented Limpopo Province at the 2025 National Teaching Awards (NTA). In this remarkable milestone, MEC for Education Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya personally welcomed and congratulated the educators upon their arrival back home at Polokwane Gateway International Airport. The MEC, joined by officials from the department hosted a warm reception to honour the educators' contribution to educational excellence and to inspire others across the province.

The National Teaching Awards ceremony was held at the Birchwood Hotel in Kempton Park, to recognise exceptional teachers from across South Africa who continue to demonstrate excellence and dedication in shaping the country's education landscape. Limpopo had 15 educators competing in various categories and an impressive six educators walked away with top awards, showcasing the province's growing

commitment to quality teaching and learning.

"It is an honour and a blessing to have achieved this milestone. I thank Almighty God for this recognition," said Tshehla Frank, Excellence in Teaching Mathematics award winner.

Among the winners, two Limpopo educators claimed first place in their respective categories, each receiving prestigious prizes that included brand-new cars. Their success reflects the value of hard work, innovation, and passion for teaching qualities that continue to drive the province's vision for excellence in education.

MEC congratulated and applauded teachers who have won awards. "Congratulations to our exceptional teachers who have made Limpopo proud at the National Teaching Awards. Your dedication, excellence, and passion continue to shape the future of education in our province." MEC said.





## CONFERENCE FOCUSED ON CAPACITY-BUILDING TO EMPOWER NURSES

*By Conny Mabunda*

The South African Special School Nurses Organisation (SASSNO) national elective and education congress kicked off at Flora Park Comprehensive High School in the Capricorn South Education District. The three-day conference which brought together special school nurses from all nine provinces to exchange knowledge, share experiences and strengthen support for learners with special educational needs was officially opened by the Limpopo MEC for Education Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya.

The congress served as a crucial platform for nurses who work daily with some of the most vulnerable learners, those that are physically or mentally challenged and, in some cases, living with chronic conditions such as HIV. These professionals' nurses have to ensure that every child receives the support they need to learn and thrive.

The conference programme included a series of

capacity-building and information-sharing sessions aimed at uplifting the knowledge and skills of special school nurses. Among the topics discussed were wound care management, ensuring the availability and proper use of medication and effective interventions for learners with complex medical or behavioural needs.

The conference further discussed the importance of collaboration and learning from colleagues across provinces, highlighting how shared practices and peer support can improve outcomes for learners. It provided a space for participants to exchange ideas, seek solutions and build lasting professional friendships that will continue beyond the event.

As part of the conference programme, national leadership elections for SASSNO were held to elect the new top structure that will drive the organisation's agenda forward. A gala dinner was

also planned as part of the closing programme to celebrate the contributions of special school nurses and acknowledge their invaluable service.

"The Congress held from 6 to 8 October ran smoothly despite funding challenges and financial support from schools' affiliations. "I am thankful for the MEC in the Limpopo Department of Education for delivering a powerful keynote address that opened the congress and to all speakers as they managed to be present. The elections concluded successfully with five elected and three additional

members that represent all provinces," concluded Silas Maphakela, Limpopo provincial secretary.

In her keynote address, the MEC for Education commended the nurses for their dedication and resilience, praising them for the remarkable work they continue to do despite limited resources. She emphasised the importance of their role in ensuring that learners with special needs receive holistic care that supports both their health and learning development. "The future of inclusive education depends on you," concluded Lerule-Ramakhanya





## TAKING READING OUT OF THE CLASSROOM

*By Katlego Mashula*

The Limpopo Department of Education in collaboration with N'wala Foundation and InterSen hosted a Book Fair which involved 31 teams of Grade 4,5 and 6 learners from 16 Primary Schools across Capricorn South Education District at the University of Limpopo.

The Book Fair follows President Cyril Ramaphosa's call for learners to read for meaning by age 10 as well as support of the Read to Lead Campaign which serves to improve the reading abilities to all South African. The main aim of the Campaign is to ensure that all learners are able to demonstrate age-appropriate levels of reading by 2019 and NDP Goal (2030) which aims to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality.

Learners engaged in literary games such as Dictionary Dash, Sentence Construction Relay and Descriptive Language Speed Challenge. An

opportunity to interact with renowned authors and storytellers that were part of the Book Fair was also afforded to learners.

Taking Reading outside the classroom means improved mood, concentration and lead to enhanced creativity, and a deeper connection to nature. Learners were awarded with bronze/silver/gold medals for finishing 3rd,2nd and 1st in the games.

“Reading makes the lessons interesting and light for learning. It accommodates all types of learners- the Visual, Auditory and Kinesthetic. Activities are demonstrated for all to follow, regardless of their learning barriers. Some games are played in teams in which advanced readers support emergent readers,” said Magaga Mosana, Provincial Coordinator- English InterSen.



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## HOPE WORLDWIDE SA EMPOWERS ECD CENTRES WITH HEALTH AND SAFETY PACKS

*By Conny Mabunda*

In a move to strengthen early childhood learning and wellbeing, Hope Worldwide South Africa has begun the handover of Health and Safety Packs to Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres across Limpopo. The initiative which kicked off with 29 centres in the Capricorn, Mopani West and Mogalakwena Education Districts, aims to create safer and more conducive environments for young learners.

Hope Worldwide South Africa is an international charity organisation that changes the lives through the compassion and commitment to deliver sustainable and community-based services to the materially poor and needy. It is dedicated to transforming the lives of young and vulnerable children through early childhood development.

The project forms part of a broader collaboration with the Department of Basic Education, the Oppenheimer Memorial Trust (OMT), NGOs and various private sector partners. It also aligns with the department's new mass registration drive, ensuring that all ECD centres in the province are formally recognized and supported.

Hazel Sengani, a representative from Hope Worldwide SA has emphasised the importance of the initiative in promoting holistic child development. "The packs are essential and will provide a nurturing and conducive learning environment for children. This gesture marks a significant milestone for their growth and development," said Sengani.

A Development Officer from the National Development Agency (NDA) under the Department of Social Development, Kagiso Moloto highlighted that the handover reflects a shared commitment to community upliftment.

“Today is about honouring the ECD centres. The money that would have been used to purchase these items can now be redirected towards improving infrastructure. We also encourage centres to start background gardening projects to grow various crops,” Moloto concluded.

Dr. Azwindini Moses Molaudzi, a Director for Institutional Governance in the department of Education has acknowledged the socio-economic challenges faced by many communities in the province, including poverty and lack of scholar transport. He praised the initiative for addressing these gaps and for receiving the full support of the Minister of Basic Education and MEC for Education. He further revealed that under Phase 1 of the Limpopo Provincial Rollout, 29 creches have already received their packs, with another 12 and 9 set to follow soon bringing the total to 77 centres.





## LAST PUSH IGNITES DETERMINATION FOR MATRIC LEARNERS

By Conny Mabunda

With only few days to go before the commencement of the National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations, the atmosphere was electrifying as the Last Push event was launched while learners, educators and parents rally together for the crucial countdown to success. The MEC for Education in Limpopo Mavhungu-Lerule Ramakhanya addressed more than 1000 grade 12 learners at Piet Potgieter Hoerskool in Mokopane, Mogalakwena Education District. The MEC accompanied by Executive Mayor of Waterberg District and the mayor of Mogalakwena Municipality councillor and other stakeholders motivated learners as they prepare to sit for their final NSC examinations, a crucial test for the future academic and career opportunities.

The annual calendar event unites education officials and stakeholders including SGB associations, sector unions, and learners who go

all out to ensure that a day is a success. The gathering served as a powerful reminder that the journey isn't over until the final bell rings and 9 learners representing all the circuits under Mogalakwena pledged and committed to perform above 90%.

Education department through the Director for Human Resource Development Director Ms. Sussan Malim and Life Skills and Wellness Coordinator Moloko Seema emphasised the importance of mental and physical wellness during the examination period and urged learners to pass with good marks to qualify for government funding schemes.

MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya encouraged learners to give their absolute best in the final stretch towards their matric examinations. She encouraged them to remain focused, disciplined

and put extra effort in making the most of the remaining days before their exams.

“To the Class of 2025, today marks the journey of 101 173 matric candidates preparing to sit for their final examinations. The foundation has been laid brick by brick and this Last Push represents the final stretch. Let it be a season of focus, revising thoroughly, practicing past papers and seeking clarity from your educators. The future isn't waiting for you as you are the future. I wish all candidates luck, success and abundant blessings,” concluded MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya.

The MEC will lead the Pledge signing in Capricorn North with more than 1000 learners on Friday this week.





## DEPARTMENT PRIORITISES QUALITY INFRASTRUCTURE IN SCHOOLS

*By Hanedzani Mbedzi*

As part of the continued efforts to improve learning conditions and address infrastructure backlogs for learners, MEC for Education Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, officially handed over five newly built classrooms and two blocks of sanitation facilities at Mphaphuli Secondary School in Vhembe East Education District, Sibasa.

The project was made possible through a partnership between the Limpopo Department of Education, NASPER, Cyril Ramaphosa Foundation and Adopt-A-Child Foundation. The initiative forms part of the department's ongoing infrastructure development programme aimed at ensuring access to quality education in both rural and urban areas.

By improving school facilities, the department seeks to create conducive learning environments that promote academic excellence and learner

safety.

Speaking during the handover ceremony, the CEO of Adopt-A-Child Foundation Steven Lebere said the organisation remains committed to supporting government efforts in transforming education infrastructure. "The partnership with the Department of Education is a long-term relationship and our goal is to ensure that no child is left behind due to poor learning conditions. We believe that when schools have proper facilities, learners are motivated to dream bigger and perform better," said the CEO.

The handover was attended by community members, educators, traditional leaders and learners who were joyful for the milestone. The newly build infrastructure will ease overcrowding in classrooms and enhance hygiene standards at the school, ensuring learners focus on learning in a conducive environment.

Chief Musiwa Gole Mphaphuli graced the occasion and commended the department and its partners for their dedication to uplifting the school community. "This development is not just about classrooms and sanitation, it is about restoring hope and investing in our children's future. Education remains the foundation of progress in our community," he said.

MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya expressed her gratitude to all stakeholders involved in the project and reaffirmed the department's commitment to transforming the province's education landscape. "Partnerships like these strengthen our mission to deliver quality education for every learner, regardless of where they come from. We will continue to prioritise infrastructure because no child should have to learn under unsafe or undignified conditions," said the MEC.

Limpopo Department is committed to continue prioritising infrastructure provisioning in the Province through handing over of all completed school.

