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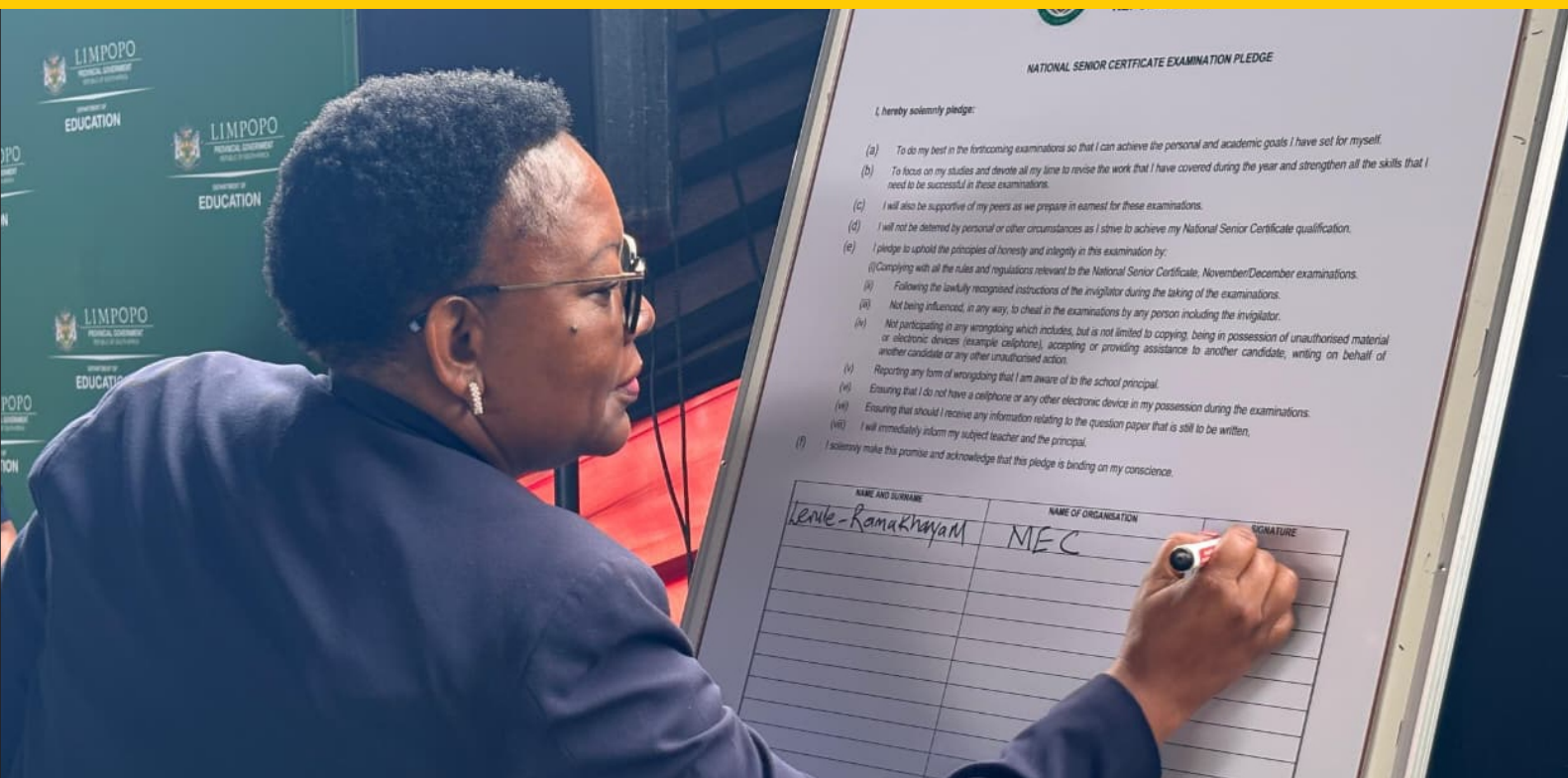
DEPARTMENT OF  
EDUCATION

The Official Internal Newsletter  
of the Department of Education

# NEWSFLASH

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22 October 2025



## CONFIDENCE BOOST TO LEARNERS AS THEY REACH FINAL STEPS IN EXAMINATION

By Katlego Mashula

More than 1,100 matric learners from 17 schools in Capricorn North Education District gathered at Harry Oppenheimer Secondary school to publicly pledge to symbolically commit themselves to academic integrity, honesty and discipline for the upcoming 2025 examinations. The ceremony was led by Limpopo Department of Education MEC Mavhungu Lerule Ramakhanya bringing learners, educators, parents and stakeholders under one inspiring theme "Limpopo Aiming for the Top 5 Spot". The Matric Pledge represents a public commitment by candidates to uphold the National Senior

Certificate (NSC) Examination Code of Conduct, pledging to maintain honesty, integrity, and accountability throughout the examination period. It motivated and prepared learners mentally and emotionally as they approach their final examinations.

In a symbolic moment, MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya led the pledge, with learners reading aloud the rules and committing themselves to good behaviour during exams. The MEC, alongside senior officials and learners, then signed the pledge, sealing a

collective promise to uphold the department's values of discipline and excellence.

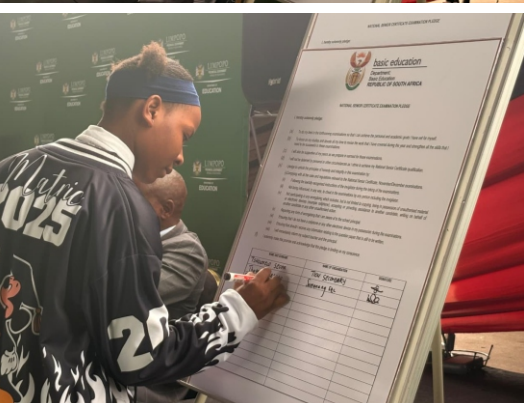
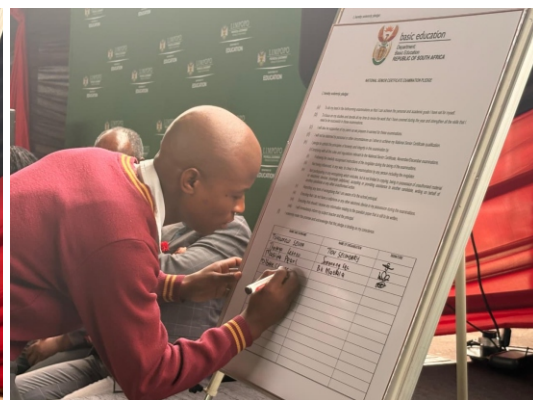
Learners were reminded about the importance of surrounding themselves with the right peers, seeking academic help when needed, and maintaining emotional balance. "Asking for help does not mean you are weak, it shows strength. Success is not only measured by marks. We are proud of you and believe in your potential to succeed. Go forth and shine your future begins now. All the best in your exams," said Jane Mabapa, one of the speakers.

Adding words of encouragement, Capricorn District Executive Mayor, Teffo Mamedupi, urged learners to remain confident and focused. "You have been working hard in preparation for examinations

throughout the year; now it's time for that commitment to bear fruit. The whole district is behind you there is no reason to fail," Teffo said.

In giving closing remarks, MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya emphasized the importance of discipline and wellness during this critical period. "As we sit for our examinations this week, I want to wish you well. Quit smoking, avoid cell phones, alcohol, and unnecessary distractions to prevent any irregularities. Set the bar high for the next generation to look up to you. Study hard, rest well, stay hydrated and remember, we believe in you," said MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya.

The ceremony concluded with renewed hope and determination among learners, marking the final step in their journey toward success in the 2025 National Senior Certificate Examinations.





## **CIRCUIT MANAGERS AND DISTRICT DIRECTORS COMMIT TO DELIVER QUALITY EDUCATION**

*By Katlego Mashula*

In a move to achieve quality education, a basic right for every child in the province, Department of Education MEC Mavhungu-Lerule-Ramakhanya and HoD Maropene Seshibe held a three days progressive meeting with District Directors and Circuit Managers at Aventure Warmbath resort in BelaBela, Waterberg Education District.

This progressive meeting made a concerted effort to strengthen departmental planning and implementation, with strong emphasis on improving the quality of education and learner excellence as learners prepare for their final examination.

The meeting featured key presentations with a strong focus on Reading and Writing, Inclusive Education, Language and Literacy including Three Mainstream Models to address examination performances in schools and developing practical interventions in aiding these challenges, to achieve excellence in the education.

“In conclusion of our academic session, let us all go out, inspired and to make our last push as we conclude the 2025 academic year. We are a

province on the rise, let us all remember that our mission is based on excellence and as such there is no room for underperformance,” said HoD Maropene Seshibe.

The districts were given a platform to engage insightful presentations analysing Term 1 to 3 results in Day 2, while Subject Advisors shared impactful strategies to enhance teaching and learning, with a strong emphasis on improving the quality of education and learner excellence.

Schools, circuits and districts are doing exceptionally well looking at their Term 3 results, however with similar challenges hindering them from achieving a 100% such as school furniture, math's participation, poor attendance of revision classes, highly enrolled schools and retired principals with no posts filled all this hamstrung their progress.

The meeting was concluded with a Follow-Up Planning Session for the Review and Endorsement of 2026/27 Plans which took place on day 3. Detailed presentations on the Progress Report of

the 2025–2030 Strategic Plan, the 2024/25 Audit Action Plan and 2025/26 Audit Strategy, 2026 Draft Plans, the 2026/27 Medium Term Expenditure Framework (MTEF) Budget and Proposed Performance Improvement Strategies were shared.

A clear way forward was provided to maintain consistency in strategies regarding the last push to prepare learners until the last paper on subjects to be written.

MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya concluded

the meeting by thanking all Circuit Managers and District Directors for a job well done. “You gave us a picture of how you are performing in your respective areas. Let us follow best practices and learn from one another. We have made a commitment before the Premier and the Executives that you will rise to the top 5 Spot and therefore the realization of that commitment lies with you. As we get to the final push for National Senior Examinations final stages, let us all go out and support the principals, educators and learners who will need the final push,” said MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya.





## FROM RURAL ROOTS TO NATIONAL RECOGNITION: THE INSPIRING JOURNEY OF LIMPOPO'S TOP MATHEMATICS EDUCATOR

*By Katlego Mashula*

Tshehla Sebetle Frank's dedication and innovation in Mathematics teaching earned him first place in the category of Excellence in Teaching Mathematics (FET) at the National Teaching Awards (NTA) ceremony hosted by the Department of Basic Education at Birchwood Hotel, Kempton Park.

At just 29 years old, Frank, Deputy Principal at Kgahlanamorulana Secondary School in Ngwaritsi Village in the Sekhukhune South Education District is living to the proof that excellence can emerge anywhere including the most rural corners.

Awarded by Minister Siviwe Gwarube, this historic win marked the first time in nearly a decade that

Limpopo claimed the top spot in this category. Frank was born and raised in Tikathone Village, attended schools at Dikwetse Primary School and Mphele-A-Mphele Secondary School. A firm believer in lifelong learning, he holds a Master's degree in Mathematics Education (2025) from Sol Plaatje University, a BeD Honours in Mathematics Education (2019), and a BeD (Senior Phase and FET) from the University of Limpopo (2017). He plans to pursue a PhD in 2026, focusing on strategies to improve Mathematics performance in under-resourced schools.

"I wanted to change the perception that rural learners cannot excel in Mathematics, Quality

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**AIMING FOR TOP 5 SPOT**

education should not depend on where you come from,” said Tshethla Sebetle.

Holding a role of Deputy Principal and Head of the Mathematics Department at Kgahlanamorulana Secondary School, Tshehla also teaches Grades 10–12. He brings Mathematics to life by using real-life examples, songs, and interactive group work, fostering collaboration and critical thinking. On weekends, he tutors at the Kutlwanong Centre for Maths, Science, and Technology (ProMaths) an Investec-sponsored Programme.

He also mentors fellow teachers, shares innovative teaching practices, and collaborates with universities and education partners to enhance learner outcomes.

Before joining Kgahlanamorulana, Tshehla taught at Moreko Secondary School, where he served as Head of Department for Mathematics and Natural Sciences. He also managed the Epoch & Optima Trust Weekend Enrichment Programme, enrolling more than 120 learners annually and achieving pass rates above 90%, with multiple distinctions.

His outstanding performance earned him international recognition. In 2023, he represented South Africa at the Seminar on Mathematics Education for Primary and Secondary Schools at Zhejiang Normal University in China an experience that broadened his perspective on global teaching methodologies.

Tshehla's journey to national success was marked by persistence. He first entered the NTA competition in 2021, placing second at provincial

level for three consecutive years before finally achieving first place nationally in 2025.

***“Each year taught me patience and resilience. Every setback was a lesson that strengthened my teaching and leadership.”***

He reflects with his national recognition, Tshehla hopes to amplify his impact on Mathematics education by mentoring aspiring Mathematics teachers, conducting research on effective teaching strategies, collaborating with communities and industries to promote STEM education, and advocating for equity in learning resources across rural schools.

Sebetle's journey is a powerful reminder that greatness often rises from humble beginnings. Through faith, innovation, and determination, he continues to redefine what is possible for educators and learners in rural South Africa.

His story embodies resilience, leadership, and the transformative power of education. It stands as motivation to young educators and learners across Limpopo, a reminder that hard work, faith, and perseverance can turn humble beginnings into national recognition.

“It is an honour and a blessing to have achieved this milestone. My dream is to ensure that every learner, regardless of background has the opportunity to see the beauty and logic in Mathematics. You can turn challenges into opportunities and dreams into reality,” Concluded Tshehla Sebetle.

**The heartland of southern Africa - development is about people**



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## NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE (NSC) OCTOBER/NOVEMBER EXAMINATIONS TIMETABLE

### WEEK ONE

WEEK 1	09:00	14:00
Monday 20/10	<b>NON EXAMINATION DAY</b>	
Tuesday 21/10	Computer Applications Tech P1 (3hrs) Practical	Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telegu, Urdu HL P1 (2hrs) Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telegu, Urdu FAL P1 (2hrs) Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telegu, Urdu SAL P1 (2hrs) Hebrew SAL P1 (2hrs) German HL, SAL P1 (2hrs)
Wednesday 22/10	Information Technology P1 (3hrs) Practical	Arabic, French, Italian, Mandarin, Modern Greek, Serbian, Spanish SAL P1 (2hrs) Latin SAL P1 (3hrs) Portuguese HL, FAL, SAL P1 (2hrs)
Thursday 23/10	English HL P3 (3hrs) English FAL P3 (2½hrs) English SAL P3 (2½hrs)	Arabic, French, Italian, Mandarin, Modern Greek, Serbian, Spanish SAL P2 (2hrs) Latin SAL P2 (2hrs) Portuguese HL P2 (2½hrs), FAL, SAL P2 (2hr) Equine Studies (3hrs)
Friday 24/10	Afrikaans HL P3 (3hrs) Afrikaans FAL P3 (2½hrs) Afrikaans SAL P3 (2½hrs)	Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telegu, Urdu HL P2 (2½hrs) Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telegu, Urdu FAL P2 (2hrs) Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telegu, Urdu SAL P2 (2hrs) Hebrew SAL P2 (2hrs) German HL P2 (2½hrs), SAL P2 (2hrs)

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# UNIVERSITY OF VENDA CELEBRATES INTERNATIONAL DICTIONARY DAY: EMBRACING INTELLIGENT LEXICOGRAPHY IN THE AGE OF ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

*By Conny Mabunda*

The University of Venda (UNIVEN) joined the world in celebrating the power of words and language during the 2025 International Dictionary Day, held under the theme “Intelligent Lexicography: Inclusive Dictionary Making in the Age of AI.”

The event was hosted at Porche Villa Lodge in the Vhembe East Education District, bringing together linguists, scholars, students and language practitioners to explore how technology is shaping modern dictionary development and promoting linguistic inclusivity. Seven (7) new dictionaries were officially launched, marking a significant milestone in preserving and advancing African languages.

One of the major discussions at the event revolved around the role of artificial intelligence (AI) in lexicography. Speakers agreed that AI is not here to replace human expertise, but to empower people and enhance the development of inclusive and data-driven dictionaries. They noted that AI tools

can analyse vast digital texts, transcribe oral histories, track evolving slang and even generate new words, bridging the gap between traditional and digital language preservation.

The event also featured performances, cultural showcases and awards to acknowledge outstanding contributors in the field of language development and lexicography. Delivering the keynote address, MEC for Education Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya commended the pioneers, writers and translators who have dedicated their efforts to ensuring that indigenous languages are preserved and celebrated. She applauded the team behind the development of the Tshivenda Dictionary, noting that it represents the richness, depth and beauty of culture and identity.

The MEC also highlighted the importance of promoting mother tongue education, emphasising that some provinces are already advanced, and our province will continue to make steady progress in

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integrating indigenous languages into the education system.

The Department of Education as a basic education reaffirms that the vitality of indigenous languages forms the foundation of a quality, inclusive education system. "We cannot expect learners to read and think critically if they struggle to comprehend the very language of instruction. A modern, comprehensive and accessible Dictionary is not just an academic resource, but it is also a fundamental pedagogical tool that supports meaningful learning and identity preservation," concluded Lerule-Ramakhanya.





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## **Did you know?**

Limpopo Department of Education  
has audited and verified 1650  
examination centres