



**LIMPOPO**  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**

**The official Internal Newsletter  
of the Department of Education**



[www.edu.limpopo.gov.za](http://www.edu.limpopo.gov.za)   [@edu\\_limpopo](https://twitter.com/edu_limpopo)   [limpopoeducation](https://www.instagram.com/limpopoeducation)   [limpopoeducation](https://www.facebook.com/limpopoeducation)



## **Limpopo MEC Strengthens Commitment to Inclusive Education at Flame of Hope Torch Handover Ceremony**

*By Hanedzani Mbedzi*

As part of her continued efforts to support learners with special educational needs, Limpopo Education MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya joined the Special Olympics South Africa Flame of Hope Torch Handover Ceremony in Maubane. During the ceremony, the Limpopo Provincial Government officially passed the torch to the North West Provincial Government ahead of the 2025 National Celebration of the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, that took place in Rustenburg. The event marked the North West's hosting rights and reaffirms the collective commitment to advancing disability inclusion.

The Limpopo Department of Education remains steadfast in its dedication to inclusive education and support of learners with intellectual and

developmental disabilities. This commitment was recently demonstrated through the donation of 30 buses to 25 special schools across all 10 Education Districts. The initiative aims to improve access to education, enhance learner mobility and ensure that no child is left behind due to barriers of distance or disability.

During the ceremony, MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya officially handed over the Flame of Hope Torch to SAPS North West as part of the build-up to the national celebration. Limpopo Province and the Education Department in particular has consistently been at the forefront of supporting Special Olympics South Africa, participating actively in previous events and championing equal opportunities for people living with disabilities.

[www.edu.limpopo.gov.za](http://www.edu.limpopo.gov.za)   [@edu\\_limpopo](https://twitter.com/edu_limpopo)   [limpopoeducation](https://www.instagram.com/limpopoeducation)   [limpopoeducation](https://www.facebook.com/limpopoeducation)

**Aiming for Top 5 spot**

The Flame of Hope Torch, a powerful symbol of government's unwavering commitment to promoting the maximum participation of persons with disabilities in various sporting codes, will now travel under the custodianship of the North-West Government. It was presented at the International Day of Persons with Disabilities event in Rustenburg on Wednesday, 3 December 2025.

“Today we reaffirm our commitment to inclusive sport. As a Department, we have proudly supported Special Olympics over the years and

we remain fully behind our athletes and educators. To all our learners who participate in Olympics, we believe in you and wish you nothing but success,” said MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya.

Through these efforts, the Limpopo Department of Education continues to demonstrate that inclusion is not merely a policy principle, but a lived priority reflected in action, partnership and ongoing community support.





## LIMPOPO'S LANGUAGE ENRICHMENT ACTIVITIES STRENGTHEN LEARNERS' CONFIDENCE AND ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE

*By Hanedzani Mbedzi*

Language enrichment programmes across Limpopo schools continue to make a remarkable impact on learners' confidence, academic performance and communication skills. Through activities such as debates, storytelling, creative writing and Spelling Bee competitions, learners are gaining abilities that extend far beyond the classroom.

This year, three outstanding learners from the Limpopo Department of Education will represent the province at the national stage of the 2025 South Africa Spelling Bee Competition, to be held in Rustenburg, Sun City, from 10 to 12 December 2025. Their exceptional performance in the provincial rounds has earned them well-deserved spots at this prestigious event.

The 2025 Spelling Bee competition is aimed at strengthening language proficiency by promoting a culture of reading, enhancing communication skills and improving academic performance through inclusive language enrichment activities. It also seeks to build learners' confidence, develop essential 21st-century skills and prepare them to compete effectively at both provincial and national levels while fostering teamwork, critical thinking and comprehensive language development.

Among the top achievers is Naphtali Luvuno, a Grade 6 learner from Laerskool Zebediela, who participated in all levels of the competition. He secured 1st Runner-Up positions at both Circuit and Cluster stages before rising to become the District and Provincial Champion.

Thapelo Monyebodi, a Grade 5 learner from Dendron Primary School, also advanced through every stage of the competition. He emerged as Champion at Circuit and Cluster levels, later finishing as 1st Runner-Up at both District and Provincial levels.

Adding to this list of achievers is Mbalenhle Tlou, a Grade 6 learner from Bafaladi Primary School, who demonstrated consistent excellence across all stages. She was a 1st Runner-Up at Circuit level, became Cluster Champion, secured 1st Runner-Up at District level and concluded her journey as 2nd Runner-Up at Provincial level.

Provincial Coordinator for English InterSen, Magaga Mosana, expressed confidence in the progress made so far and the value of these enrichment initiatives. "These activities are more than competitions; they are tools that shape confident, articulate and academically driven learners. We are proud of how far our learners have come and

we remain committed to ensuring they are fully prepared for the national stage,” she said. MEC for Education, Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, also extended her best wishes to the learners as they prepare to represent Limpopo. “We are incredibly proud of these young champions. Their dedication, discipline and love for learning have brought them this far. As they carry the

Limpopo flag to the national stage, we wish them the very best. We believe in them and know they will shine,” said MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya.

As Limpopo continues to invest in language enrichment, the province is steadily nurturing confident, well-rounded learners who are ready to excel on national platforms.



**THE BEE TAKES FLIGHT!**

Join our Bee as he begins his journey around South Africa to collect letters and words, and buzz his way to Sun City, for the finals of the South African National Spelling Bee on **11 Dec 2025**.

basic education  
 Department: Basic Education  
 REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

SOUTH AFRICAN NATIONAL SPELLING BEE

NATIONAL EDUCATION COLLABORATION TRUST



LIMPOPO  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**

# DID YOU KNOW?

INTERESTING FACT

Inclusive Education (IE) is committed to transforming our education system to ensure that every learner, especially those facing barriers to learning and development can participate fully. Through this approach, the Department strives to build a truly inclusive system where all learners are supported to reach their potential.

 [www.edu.limpopo.gov.za](http://www.edu.limpopo.gov.za)  [@edu\\_limpopo](https://twitter.com/@edu_limpopo)  [limpopoeducation](https://www.instagram.com/limpopoeducation)  [limpopoeducation](https://www.facebook.com/limpopoeducation)

Editorial Team:  
Mike Maringa  
Seshoka Lephale  
MosebJane Kgaffe  
Ndivhuwo Mukhada  
Selina Molope

Hanedzani Mbedzi  
Conny Mabunda  
Katlego Mashula

Layout and Graphic design:  
Tshepho Letsoalo

# MEET THE CIRCUIT MANAGER OF MUDASWALI: MR. DAVID RAMAGOMA

*By Ndivhuwo Mukhada*



He has also fostered a strong culture of teamwork among educators and principals.

His leadership excellence is evident in the dramatic improvement of the Niani West Circuit's performance, which rose from 70.5% in 2018 to 86.8% in 2019, and further to 89.1% in 2020, earning 2nd position out of 18 circuits in the district during his tenure as Acting Circuit Manager. Today, he continues to maintain Mudawali Circuit's performance above 80%.

Through Circuit Manager Ramagoma's guidance, principals have embraced greater accountability, and community involvement in education has significantly increased.

With more than 35 years of service, beginning as a teacher in rural schools and rising through various leadership roles, Mr. Ramagoma's journey has shaped a leader who understands education at every level. His past roles have refined his approach, grounding his leadership in experience, empathy, and strategic vision.

## **A career built on dedication and growth**

Over 36 years, Mr. Ramagoma has built an impressive professional path, a humble beginning as a Physical Science Teacher from 1989 to 1995 at Mphalaleni Secondary School. He rose through the rank where he served as an HoD for Mathematics and Physical Sciences, a Deputy Principal before moving to Sambandou circuit as SES for physical science. He had a short stint at the Vhembe District office where he serves as a DCES before taking an acting role at Niani Circuit and later moved to Mudawali Circuit.

Each role strengthened his leadership philosophy, prioritizing learner success, empowering educators, and building systems that sustain excellence.

When asked what fuels his passion after so many years, he responded with a big smile,

"It's the learners. Seeing a child from a disadvantaged background succeeds reminds me why this work matters." Said Mr. Ramagoma.

In a quiet office within the Limpopo Department of Education, I had the privilege of meeting Mr. Ramagoma Mpariseni David, the Circuit Manager entrusted with guiding 29 schools in the Mudawali Circuit under the Vhembe Education District. His portfolio includes 20 primary schools, 8 secondary schools, and 1 independent institution. The responsibility he carries is immense, ensuring that every learner, regardless of background, receives quality education that can open doors for a brighter future.

Under Mr. Ramagoma's leadership, the circuit has experienced remarkable progress. Matric pass rate has steadily improved, teacher development initiatives have strengthened classroom delivery, and digital learning programs are transforming the way learners engage with content.

One of his most notable contributions is cultivating a deep appreciation for Mathematics and Science among learners, sparking interest in careers across Engineering, Technology and Health Sciences.



He added that his motivation also comes from the unwavering support of his family, his wife and children along with his desire to empower others, witness young people thrive, and celebrate the joy of learners achieving their goals.

“I am also inspired by the support and encouragement I receive from my supervisors,” he added. His words reflect a leader driven not by titles, but by purpose.

Despite the progress, the circuit continues to face significant challenges. These include:

Overcrowded classrooms, limited resources and infrastructure

Non-viable small schools that struggle to build strong learning foundations

Dilapidated and unsafe classroom blocks, poor access roads, weak network connectivity across most schools, limited capacity for e-learning and e-teaching

Learner migration to schools outside the circuit, lack of funding for motivational programs and educator recognition.

Yet, Mr. Ramagoma approaches these obstacles with determination. He works closely with stakeholders to advocate for improved infrastructure, strengthens teacher support programs, and encourages community involvement.

He continues to push for digital readiness and collaborates with district leadership to secure resources and partnerships that can uplift the circuit.

His approach is proactive, solution-driven, and rooted in the belief that every challenge presents an opportunity for growth.

As Mr. Ramagoma reflects on the milestones achieved and the hurdles still ahead, one thing remains undeniable, his dedication to education is steadfast.

His leadership continues to inspire hope, strengthen communities, and shape the future of learners across the Vhembe East District and beyond. His story is a reminder that true leadership is not just about managing systems, it is about transforming lives.

# 2026 CALENDAR FOR PUBLIC SCHOOLS

January 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

February 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28

March 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30	31				

April 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30		

May 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				01	02	
03	04	05	06	07	08	09
10	11	12	13	14	15	16
17	18	19	20	21	22	23
24	25	26	27	28	29	30
31						

June 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
	01	02	03	04	05	06
07	08	09	10	11	12	13
14	15	16	17	18	19	20
21	22	23	24	25	26	27
28	29	30				

July 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
			01	02	03	04
05	06	07	08	09	10	11
12	13	14	15	16	17	18
19	20	21	22	23	24	25
26	27	28	29	30	31	

August 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
						01
02	03	04	05	06	07	08
09	10	11	12	13	14	15
16	17	18	19	20	21	22
23	24	25	26	27	28	29
30	31					

September 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		01	02	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	10	11	12
13	14	15	16	17	18	19
20	21	22	23	24	25	26
27	28	29	30			

October 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
				01	02	03
04	05	06	07	08	09	10
11	12	13	14	15	16	17
18	19	20	21	22	23	24
25	26	27	28	29	30	31

November 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
01	02	03	04	05	06	07
08	09	10	11	12	13	14
15	16	17	18	19	20	21
22	23	24	25	26	27	28
29	30					

December 2026						
S	M	T	W	T	F	S
		01	02	03	04	05
06	07	08	09	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 2026	
01 January	New Year's Day
21 March	Human Rights Day
03 April	Good Friday
06 April	Family Day
27 April	Freedom Day
01 May	Workers' Day
15 June	Special School Holiday
16 June	Youth Day
09 August	National Women's Day
10 August	Public Holiday
24 September	Heritage Day
16 December	Day of Reconciliation
25 December	Christmas Day
26 December	Day of Goodwill

Weekends

School days

Special school holidays

Days for administration

Public holidays

School holidays

Term	Duration	No. of weeks	No. of days	No. of public holidays	Actual no. of school days
1	(12) 14 January – 27 March	11	53 (55)	0	53 (55)
2	08 April – 26 June	12	58	3+1	54
3	21 July – 23 September	10	47	1	46
4	06 October – 09 (11) December	10	47 (49)	0	47(49)
<b>Total</b>		<b>43</b>	<b>205 (209)</b>	<b>4+1</b>	<b>200 (204)</b>