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DEPARTMENT OF
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RE-OPENING OF SCHOOLS IN THE DISASTER STRICKEN DISTRICTS.

By Conny Mabunda

A tale of excellence and resilience unfolded as education teachers and parents celebrated success while confronting the realities of flood damaged school infrastructure. MEC for Education Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya visited two schools within the Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality as part of her oversight programme, celebrating academic excellence at Magoza Secondary School while monitoring infrastructure damage at Marito Primary School caused by recent floods in Petanenge.

At Magoza Secondary School, the MEC congratulated the Class of 2025 for their outstanding academic performance. The school achieved a 92% pass rate in the 2024 National Senior Certificate examinations which further improved to

an impressive 95% in 2025. The school currently has 1 938 learners enrolled for the 2026 academic year, including 230 Grade 12 candidates.

The MEC selected Magoza Secondary for the visit in recognition of its consistent performance and used the opportunity to encourage the current cohort to maintain discipline, focus and commitment in pursuit of continued success. In a show of community support, Councillor Maria Moola, representing the Greater Tzaneen Municipality in collaboration with the Department of Education, donated school shoes and sanitary pads to learners. She also encouraged learners to aspire towards higher education and apply to institutions of higher learning to further their studies.

Mr Thabo Nicholas Shai, an SGB member, highlighted the high levels of learner motivation and pledged continued support to both learners and educators to ensure a conducive teaching and learning environment.

Speaking on behalf of fellow learners, Grade 12 candidate Bongani Maimela expressed confidence and determination. ***“We promise to listen to our educators and pledge to give the MEC 100% in the Class of 2026 and to make it to the stage where our results will be announced,”*** she said.

The visit proceeded to Marito Primary School, where the MEC assessed the extent of infrastructure damage caused by floods. The school currently has 303 enrolled learners, with numbers expected to increase as parents were still queuing for late application. Despite being one of only two primary schools in the area, access to the school remains difficult due to severely damaged roads.

The damage at Marito Primary School includes a collapsed administration block roof, ceilings that caved in, three damaged classrooms, destroyed textbooks and ablution blocks. Despite these challenges, the school reopened and continues to operate, demonstrating resilience and commitment to learning.

The MEC acknowledged the presence and support of Greater Tzaneen Municipality representatives and the support from the community and stakeholders. Addressing learners, she urged them to remain focused from the moment they enter the school premises, condemned bullying, discouraged teenage pregnancy and substance abuse, encouraged learners to share notes and support one another academically. ***“Do not let yourselves down as you owe it to the people who believe and invest in you. You have not reached your limit. Where you are meant to go, you can only live better when you live your age,”*** concluded Lerule-Ramakhanya.





NOTICE

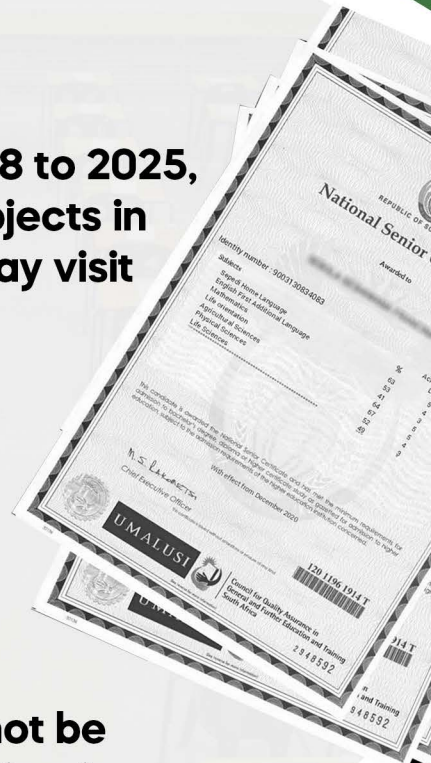
Candidates who wrote NSC from 2008 to 2025, and wish to re-write some of their subjects in June 2026 to improve their results, may visit the nearest Circuit Office to register.

Closing date: 06 February 2026

Documents required for registration:

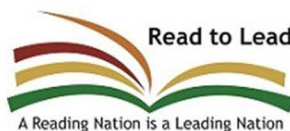
- ID copy
- Copy of NSC results statement

Candidates who did not register will not be allowed to sit for the June 2026 examinations.



MEC

Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya





PREMIER LEADS CAMPAIGN TO SUPPORT UNDERPERFORMING SCHOOLS

By Hanedzani Mbedzi

Sekhukhune- As part of back-to-school campaign, Limpopo Premier Dr. Phophi Ramathuba, and Team Education led by the Head of Department, Maropene Seshibe visited two underperforming secondary schools in the Sekhukhune South Education District. The visit followed the release of the 2025 National Senior Certificate (NSC) results where the two schools were identified amongst the underperforming.

The two schools visited were Naledi Ya Meso High School, which recorded 0.00% pass rate and Ngwanakwena High School which achieved 64.9% pass rate during the 2025 National Senior Certificate results. Naledi Ya Meso High currently has a total enrolment of 99 learners, including nine returning Grade 12 learners, while Ngwanakwena High School has 898 learners, with 150 in Grade 12.

Addressing learners at Naledi Ya Meso High School, Premier Dr Phophi Ramathuba spoke directly to the nine returning Grade 12 learners, following the school's dismal performance in which all 15 candidates failed in 2025. The Premier delivered a firm but emotional message, urging learners to take responsibility to turn the tide.

"We are the only who can save this school and improve its performance. I want to see

this school move from 0% to 100%. I want you all to pass and remember, your future is in your hands. I came here with a painful heart, but also with hope," said Premier Ramathuba.

In showcasing commitment to learner academic support, the Premier and HoD brought educational essentials for learners, including school shoes, sanitary towels and school bags. She assured learners that government would provide the necessary resources to support their academic journey.

The senior traditional leader of the Bakgaga Ba Kopa Traditional Authority in Tafelkop area Kgoshi Boleu Rammupudu, committed to play an active role in supporting the school.

"I will personally visit the school regularly to check on the learners and ensure that they remain focused on their studies," he said.

Speaking on behalf of the learners, Grade 12 Mathematics and Science learner Maripane Mokgadi acknowledged the disappointment felt by the school community and pledged a renewed commitment to academic excellence.

"Our 2025 NSC results are not pleasant at all. As a returning Grade 12 learners, we are determined to put our school on the map by passing and becoming one of the top-per-

forming schools. We have disappointed many people, but we will attend extra lessons including Saturday classes, morning and afternoon studies. We are not happy with our results, and we promise to do better and achieve a 100% pass rate,” said Mokgadi.

A concerned parent and community member Daniel Matlou said parents are disappointed by the results but determined to work closely with the school to improve results.

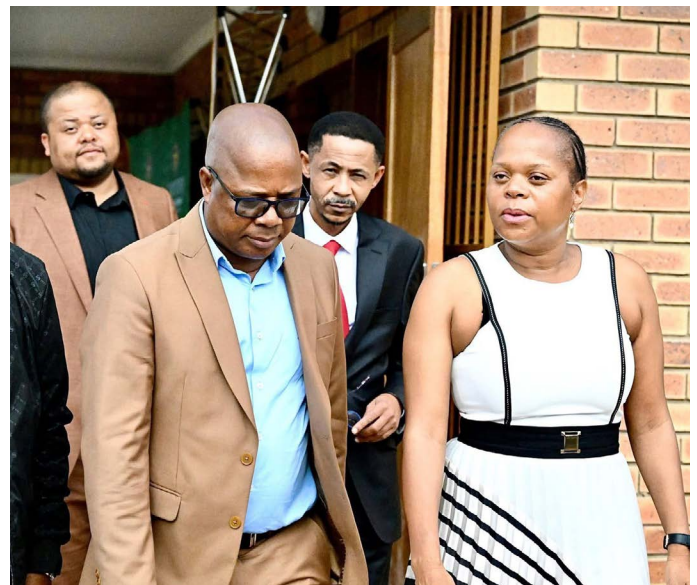
“As parents, we are disappointed, but we are determined to go back to basics and return to the drawing board. We will support the school during Saturday classes and engage retired teachers and former high-achieving learners to motivate and assist our children,” said Matlou.


Addressing Grade 12 learners of Ngwanakwena High, Head of Department for Education, Maro-

pene Seshibe, emphasised the importance of discipline, commitment and consistent academic support. He urged learners to fully utilise extra classes and assured them of improvements to the learning environment.

“My dear Learners, you must always be on time. Form study groups, attend Saturday and Sunday classes and be part of all the school programmes. We want nothing less than a 100% pass rate. Take your studies seriously and listen to your teachers. My responsibility when I return to head office is to ensure that you learn in a conducive environment with well-built classrooms,” concluded Seshibe.





The visit highlighted a united effort by government, traditional leadership, educators, learners and parents to restore confidence and improve academic performance in underperforming schools across the province.



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Education is a pre-condition for development

The heartland of southern Africa - development is about people



DEPARTMENT GEARS UP FOR THE START OF THE ACADEMIC YEAR

By Katlego Mashula

The back-to-school campaign is in full swing as learners across the province report for the start of the school academic year. Limpopo Department of Education MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya and Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi of the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development paid a visit to Mankgaile Primary school at Ga-Molepo in Capricorn South Education District to engage with learners at the school.

The Minister's programme is aimed at promoting safety, security and rights-based learning environments by raising awareness on child bullying, statutory rape and the National Register for Sex offenders. The session involved Grades 6 and 7 learners from Mankgaile, Moria and Sione Primary schools respectively as well as Grades

8 and 9 learners from Mokwatledi secondary school.

Minister used the opportunity to donate various items including books, backpacks, sanitary towels, dignity packs and toiletries to support teaching and learning. Department is committed to ensure that schools are safe spaces for learners to receive quality education as fear and violence is detrimental to the holistic development of learners.

Violence amongst learners especially in schools requires a concerted and integrated response from all sectors of society, government and other formations.

Every child is National Asset





Education is a pre-condition for development

The heartland of southern Africa - development is about people



EDUCATION OPENS DOORS FOR THE NEW COHORT IN BENDOR

By Hanedzani Mbedzi

Polokwane- Limpopo Department of Education begins the 2026 academic year with the official opening of a new school in Bendor, Polokwane. Head of Department Maropene Seshibe and a team of top officials visited the school in Capricorn South Education District as part of the department's ongoing programme to assess the state of readiness, to provide the necessary guidance and a sense of school and responsibility to achieve a high standard of academic excellent.

Performance is not just about our ability to learn but a need to have the fundamentals in place and strong support from all stakeholders. Bendor High School, currently located in Capricorn high school is the newly established school effective from 2026 serving 220 grade 8 learners. The school has been allocated five educators for a start. It is currently operating in six mobile classrooms, three blocks of mobile toilet and one administrative block.

District Director for Capricorn South Education District, Tinyiko Nkuzana, encouraged learners to remain focused and disciplined, reminding them of the responsibility they carry as the future of the school and the province. ***"We don't want anyone to go out there and do things that are not expected of you. Boys and girls, this is your school, and you are making history."***

"Make sure that by 2030, all of you achieve Level Seven results. It starts now. You will be in Grade 12 in 2030, so begin working towards that goal from today. We are very grateful and honored to have the entire executive of the department here with us. As a public institution, we truly appreciate this support," she said.

During the visit, HoD Seshibe and the team also inspected the school's facilities to ensure they meet basic teaching and learning requirements. Chief Director for Examinations and Assessment, Ntlhashana Wilmot Mphahlele, encouraged learners and teachers to uphold integrity and prepare diligently for assessments.

"We do not want irregularities or learners who copy. We want learners who use their own minds, prepare well and become technicians, engineers and future leaders," Mphahlele said. Officials also used the opportunity to motivate learners, highlighting the importance of dedication, integrity and setting high goals from the start.

They reminded learners that their actions today will shape both their own future and the legacy of Bendor High School.

Head of Department for Education, Mr Maropene Viniel Seshibe, encouraged learners to value the historic moment of being the first intake at Bendor High School. "You are truly fortunate to be the first group of learners at this school, an opportunity that comes once in many years. You are the pioneers of Bendor High School and with that honour comes responsibility, as you are laying the foundation for the school's name, history and future," concluded HoD Seshibe.

The visit to Bendor High School set a positive tone for the 2026 academic year, reinforcing the department's commitment to supporting learners and educators from the outset. As the first intake of pioneers, the learners have the unique opportunity to shape the school's legacy, guided by discipline, dedication and a vision for excellence.



UP CLOSE AND PERSONAL WITH MS KONA SALOME SANGA, CIRCUIT MANAGER OF THABAZIMBI

By Seshoka Lephale



For more than two decades, Ms. Kona Salome Sanga has dedicated her life to shaping education in Limpopo. From her early days as an educator at Naletsana Combined School to her role as Assistant Director in Institutional Governance, and now as Circuit Manager of the Thabazimbi Circuit.

Her 22-year journey reflects resilience, faith and commitment. Guiding 14 schools, including high-performing Frikkie Meyer High School and the struggling Mabogopedi High. Sanga's leadership is anchored in her belief that **"I can do all things through Him who strengthens me."** Supported by her District Director and driven by thorough planning, she continues to execute her duties with excellence, ensuring that every learner has the opportunity to grow.

During her tenure as Assistant Director at Dwaalboom Circuit, her responsibilities included; learner affairs such as admissions, progression and learner welfare, deregistration of schools, implementation of Norms and Standards for school funding, capacitating and training of SGBs in governance, finance, policy and recruitment, school safety oversight, including policies, safety audits and collaboration

with SAPS, ensuring that infrastructure and furniture were available and compliant with DBE guidelines as well as supporting school on governance, finance and administrative matters

Sanga is currently appointed as the Circuit Manager, is responsible for ensuring curriculum delivery, provide leadership, policy compliance, monitoring curriculum coverage, governance and assessments, amongst others.

Her plans include strengthening school compliance, enhancing SGB governance capacity, strengthening Grade 12 performance through targeted interventions, strengthening collaboration with community and stakeholders, ensuring efficient infrastructure reporting systems and promoting safer, well-resourced schools across the circuit.

She says one major challenge remains limited parental involvement in school activities and learner support. This is an area the circuit plans to strengthen through engagement with QLTC structures and sustained community mobilization, ensuring parents actively participate in the educational process. School Governing Bodies have shown commitment and support to schools, however there is a need to further strengthen their understanding of their roles and responsibilities.

The circuit plans to capacitate the SGB members through targeted training and mentoring, enabling them to effectively execute.

She remains optimistic that the circuit will grow to be counted amongst the best.



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