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FROM TEMPORARY STRUCTURES TO MODERN CLASSROOMS, DZJ OFFICIAL HANDOVER

By Hanedzani Mbedzi

Under the 2026 theme “A Year of Transformation and Development” D.Z.J. Mtebula High School in Tzaneen, Mopani West Education District, marked the beginning of a new chapter when Limpopo MEC for Education, Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, officially handed over a fully furnished and completed school infrastructure. The long-awaited development provides a modern, safe and dignified learning environment, reaffirming government’s commitment to strengthening teaching and learning and investing in the future of every learner in Limpopo.

The school currently has an enrollment of 1 408 learners from Grades 8 to 12 and has benefited from major infrastructure upgrades. The scope of work included the construction of 27 new class-

rooms, among them two fully equipped Physical Sciences and Life Sciences laboratories, a renovated computer laboratory, as well as the upgrading of 24-seat sanitation facilities. The total make-over of the school has brought confidence and hope in the community that has for years demanded intervention from government.

The School Governing Body (SGB) Chairperson of DZJ Mtebula High School, Mr Vincent Mavulani, expressed his appreciation to the Limpopo Education Department for the newly completed school infrastructure, while also commending the school’s consistent academic performance and progress over the years.

“We are very thankful to the MEC for officially handing over our beautiful school.

The new infrastructure, which includes laboratories for Physical Sciences and Life Sciences as well as a computer laboratory, will enable us to produce future doctors, scientists and artisans. Moving forward, we will ensure that learners take care of the school and keep it clean, while continuing to work closely with parents to maintain discipline,” said Mavulani.

Grade 12 science learner Zanie Muhluri Mushwana, who has been attending D.Z.J Mtebula High School since 2022, shared her excitement and optimism about the newly completed school infrastructure, which marks a significant turning point in the learners’ academic journey.

“I am a Grade 12 science learner, and I have been studying at D.Z.J Mtebula High School since 2022. Over the years, we attended classes in temporary structures, so the announcement of new classrooms was truly exciting for us. As science learners, we now have access to fully equipped laboratories, with Physical Sciences on one side and Life Sciences on the other. This gives us a greater advantage to learn beyond textbooks and online lessons, as we can now conduct experiments and learn practically.

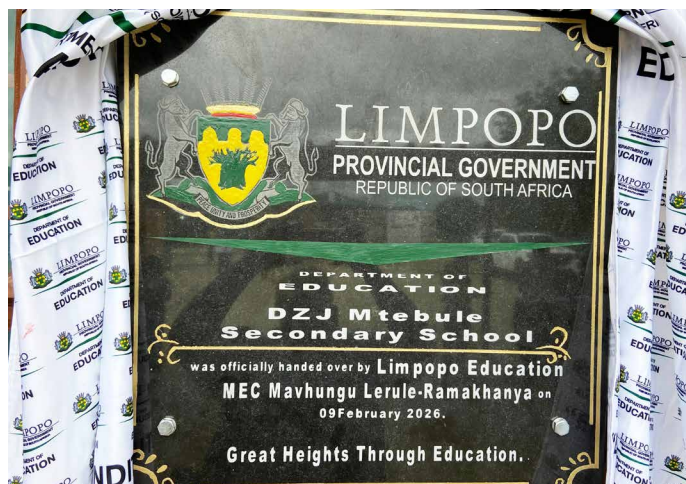
This infrastructure motivates us to work harder and excel, especially as the Class of 2026. Our goal is clear results, no excuses and we are aiming for a 100% pass rate,” she said.

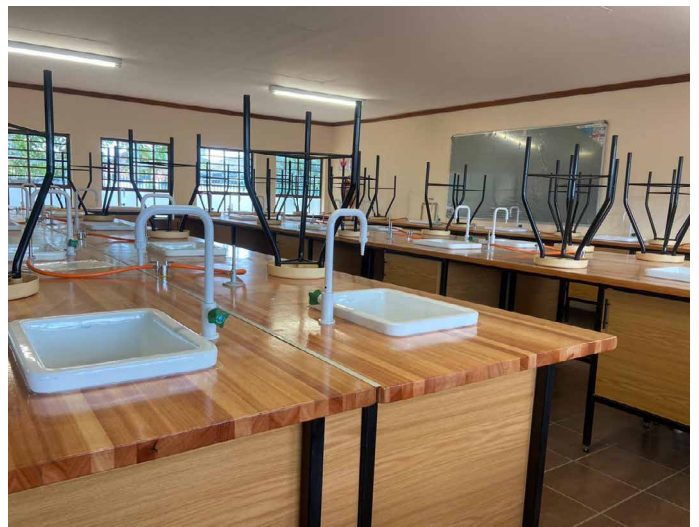
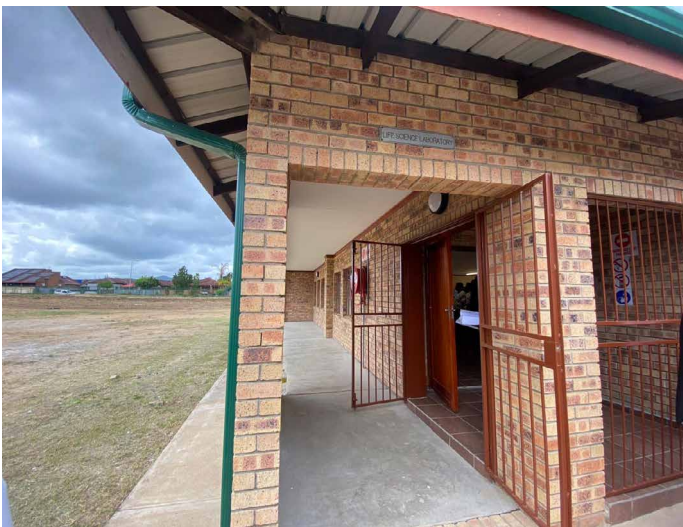
During her address, MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya emphasised the central role of collaboration in building functional schools and nurturing future leaders. “Education thrives where partnership exists. When parents, educators, unions, governing bodies and communities work together, schools become centres of excellence and learners are empowered to reach their full potential.

Our responsibility is to protect their dignity, unlock their talents and create spaces where learning brings freedom and opportunity.”

The MEC further highlighted that the handover of the completed school infrastructure marks more than the end of construction, but the beginning of a new chapter one where learning, innovation and hope take centre stage.

The Limpopo Department of Education remains committed to inclusive education and prioritising of school infrastructure.







BASIC EDUCATION MINISTER CELEBRATES WORLD READ ALOUD DAY IN LIMPOPO.

By Conny Mabunda

Books opened, voices amplified and young imaginations set free as Limpopo celebrated the power of storytelling and the importance of indigenous languages. The echoes of learners reading aloud signalled more than words, as they reflected a growing culture of literacy, inclusion and learning.

Limpopo commemorated World Read Aloud Day at Megoring Primary School in the Capricorn South Education District under the theme **“My Story, My Language.”** The event aimed to promote literacy, encourage reading for meaning and enjoyment and foster a lifelong culture of learning among learners. The event is hosted annually on the first Wednesday of February.

Education stakeholders, including ECD representatives, Chief Directors, District Directors, circuit managers and educators gathered to demonstrate their collective commitment to improving literacy levels. The programme emphasised the importance of partnerships in strengthening literacy initiatives and ensuring that learners in both rural and urban areas receive equal educational opportunities.

Director for reading under department of Basic Education Dr. Mohohlwane, highlighted reading as a fundamental skill that empowers individuals

and strengthens societies. She emphasised that literacy development begins at Early Childhood Development (ECD) level, which is why the Minister prioritises visits to ECD centres. Parents and educators were also urged to support and motivate learners to develop strong reading habits. The programme aims to reach more than three million learners nationwide.

Nal'ibali Programmes Manager Ms Erens, described the celebration as a milestone in strengthening the culture of reading. She praised the inclusion of sign language interpretation during the event, which promoted accessibility and ensured that every learner was supported.

Room to Read Operations Manager Ms Ngwane, added that the organisation has already established over 600 libraries across schools in the province to support literacy development. More than six schools participated in the event, showcasing literacy activities such as reading in home languages, poetry, drama, storytelling and singing. Inclusivity remained a key focus, with learners demonstrating Braille reading and sign language performances.

MEC for Education, Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, expressed appreciation for the programme being hosted in Limpopo, noting that education

remains the foundation of societal development. “The society and communities have a duty to ensure that learners go to school and not dropout. We’re here to enhance reading and we’re at the core of what makes the society,” concluded Lerule-Ramakhanya.

Minister of Basic Education, Siviwe Gwarube, reaffirmed the importance of promoting mother tongue literacy and reading for meaning. She highlighted that literacy is for everyone and that inclusion is essential in building strong education-

al foundations. “My vision is to push programmes that put children at the center of everything and my vision is to see learners reading for meaning. I am very pleased with how the learners were articulated.

Stories help children to step away into a world of wonder and that’s what reading does. It’s not a distraction but a gateway for learning and partnerships are also very essential in ensuring the success of the programmes,” concluded Gwarube.





PRIVATE SECTOR STEPS IN TO ASSIST NEEDY LEARNERS

By Sehoka Lephale

Limpopo Education MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya together with Sports, Arts and Culture MEC, Jerry Maseko and Lepelle Nkumpi Mayor, Meriam Molala were part of the launch of 5000 school shoes ceremony, a partnership with private sector meant to assist needy learners from disadvantaged background. The event was held at Kgogonoko Primary school, Mphahlele Circuit in Capricorn South Education District.

MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya was extremely excited to attend the august occasion as the initiative is meant to benefit many learners and to ensure that they attend school without fail. In her address to the parents, MEC explained that the launch of the 5000 school shoes brings 5000 smiles “We want to take this opportunity to thank you manager of SABC combo for remaining true to

the world. We thank you for your commitment to the spirit of Ubuntu by sharing what you have gave our learners courage and this is a step forward to better future. We encourage our learners to learn with precision.” Said MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya

The 5000 school shoes initiative symbolizes a collective effort and a testament that education is a societal matter. The MEC went further to thank the sponsor for his effort and vision in ensuring that the dignity of a black child is maintained.

The donation made possible by the collaboration of the South African Broadcasting Corporation, Government and the Private Sector will go a long way in ensuring that all learners access quality basic education.







LIMPOPO EDUCATION AND THUTO TRUST CELEBRATE RURAL EDUCATION GRADUATES

By Hanedzani Mbedzi

The Limpopo Department of Education in partnership with Thuto Trust hosted a Graduation Ceremony at Mastec in Seshego, to celebrate seven graduating B.ed Work Integrated Learning (WIL) students who have successfully completed the Thuto Trust Rural Education WIL Programme.

The event aimed to acknowledge the graduates' commitment to strengthen teaching and learning in rural schools, while highlighting the programme's role in bridging the gap between teacher training and effective classroom practice and reinforcing partnerships that support quality education in Limpopo.

Thuto Trust Chairperson, Lerato Ngwenya delivered a comprehensive programme overview and impact report, highlighting the critical importance of preparing and supporting novice teachers, particularly those entering challenging and rural school environment.

She reflected on the high attrition rate among newly qualified teachers globally and underscored the Trust's commitment to providing mentorship, workplace readiness and sustained support to ensure young teachers are equipped to thrive, remain in the profession and contribute meaningfully to unlocking the potential of learn-

ers in under-resourced communities.

"Congratulations to each of you. I want to sincerely acknowledge the dedication and perseverance it took to reach this point. This journey has been incredibly challenging, and I don't think any of us can fully appreciate the personal sacrifices and immense effort you've invested to achieve this significant milestone in your career," said Okoye.

Dr Moses Mulaudzi commended the Thuto Trust for the programme, noting that he had not previously been exposed to an initiative of this nature and emphasized that the current generation is privileged to benefit from such opportunities.

Florence Ngwenya, a graduate of the Thuto Trust programme, delivered a heartfelt reflection on the transformative impact of the initiative, both professionally and personally.

Drawing on the biblical Parable of the Sower, Ngwenya encouraged the Trust to remain steadfast, emphasizing that despite challenges, the initiative has planted seeds that have borne meaningful fruit.

She highlighted that the initiative produces quality educators, not merely numbers, noting that its graduates are already making a tangible difference in classrooms and communities. Ngwenya

shared that the programme equipped her with practical skills that enabled her to secure employment at her first interview, strengthened her reflective teaching practices and deepened her understanding of learners through trauma-informed education.

“This programme has transformed how we teach, how we understand learners and how we continuously improve as educators,” she said, expressing hope that Thutho Trust will continue to grow and expand its reach to every district in Limpopo Province.

DDG for Corporate Management, Martin Mashamba, highlighted that the Department’s work is guided by a clear vision of excellence in the provision of innovative, inclusive and transformative quality basic education. He noted that this vision is not merely a statement, but a commitment reflected through policy choices, strategic investments and high expectations,

particularly in rural and historically marginalized communities.

“Our vision of excellence in the provision of innovative, inclusive and transformative quality basic education must guide everything we do. While we continue to invest in infrastructure to restore dignity and create conducive learning environments, true excellence is achieved through empowered educators who are equipped to meet the realities of rural schooling. Teacher education remains central to transforming learning outcomes and shaping the future of our learners,” he concluded.

The ceremony reaffirmed the strong partnership between the Limpopo Department of Education and Thutho Trust in developing skilled, committed teachers for rural schools, as the graduates step forward to make a meaningful impact in classrooms and communities across the province.





EDUCATION EMPOWERS SOCIAL WORKERS TO SUPPORT MARGINALISED CHILDREN

By Sehoka Lephale

In an effort to assist children overcome barriers to development and to ensure that families receive the emotional and practical support needed, the Early Childhood Development directorate in the Limpopo Department of Education held a two days provincial ECD Social Workers workshop at Euphoria Golf & Lifestyle Estate in Waterberg Education District.

About 71 ECD Social Workers across the 10 Education District received training on the implementation of the integrated ECD policy and funding guidelines to ensure universal Equitable access to comprehensive quality services for children from 0 to 4 years. The workshop prepared the practitioners to have full understanding of the policy while ensuring that there is an increase in access and improvement in the quality of learning.

Social Workers plays an integral component in the department by assessing family environments, identify at-risk children and advocate for policy changes that prioritize child welfare.

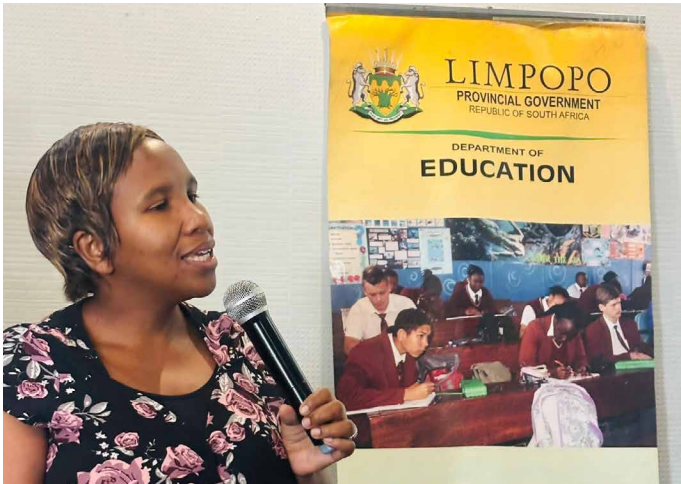
Social Workers further received training on Maintenance Assessment Requirements and Data capturing on the ECD centres. The workshop emphasized that the Department of Education should assist community owned ECD

centres with renovations through its conditional grants budget. Social Workers across the 10 Education Districts are responsible for assessing conditionally registered ECD centres that may qualify to be assisted with renovations to enable them to move from conditional registration to full accreditation.

This will ensure universal access, quality education and safe environments for children. Social Workers are expected to play a crucial role in assessing compliance with regulations, conducting screenings and linking children and families to essential social services. With regard to funding guidelines, they are expected to act as advocate, planners and administrators who can translate community needs into financial resources.

They are entrusted with the responsibility to identify gaps in services, testifying to the needs of vulnerable populations by ensuring equitable distribution of resources.







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EDUCATION

HEALTH AND WELLNESS DAY



MEC
Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya

TO: ALL EMPLOYEES

**MEC MAVHUNGU LERULE-RAMAKHANYA INVITES YOU TO
THE DEPARTMENTAL FUN DAY TO BE HELD AS FOLLOWS:**

VENUE: CAPRICORN HIGH SCHOOL

DATE: 25 FEBRUARY 2026

TIME: 07H30 - 16H30

ACTIVITIES FOR THE DAY:

**WALK, AEROBICS, TUG OF WAR, MUSICAL CHAIRS,
SACK, EGG RACE, LADIES SOCCER,
CATCHES IN NUMBERS AND MALE NETBALL**

ALL EMPLOYEES ARE ENCOURAGED TO PARTICIPATE

BRANCH COORDINATORS:

FINANCE: NAKEDI LEGODI OFFICE NO: D06

CORPORATE MANAGEMENT: THEMMY MATHEBULA OFFICE NO: J BLOCK

BLANTINA THOBEJANE OFFICE NO: A54

CURRICULUM SUPPORT AND DELIVERY: WALTER KEKANA OFFICE NO: 213

ZANE RAKOBELA OFFICE NO: B59

INSTITUTIONAL GOVERNANCE AND DISTRICT COORDINATION: DAN RABOSHIANA OFFICE: G19

MEC/HOD/INFRASTRUCTURE: MASILA CHARITY: D44 HOD'S OFFICE



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