



Bringing you EduNews *timeously*



DEMOCRACY EDUCATION ACTIVATION LAUNCH

By Katlego Mashula

In a significant step towards empowering young citizens, the Limpopo Department of Education launched a Democracy Education Activation Programme at Hoërskool Ellissras in Lephalale Waterberg Education District.

The impactful initiative brought together Grade 12 learners from Matshwara Secondary School, Tielelo Secondary School, Mabalane Seleka Technical School, and Hoërskool Ellissras.

The programme was designed to encourage active participation in democracy among learners

by strengthening civic literacy, promoting constitutional values, and fostering a culture of active citizenship and learner leadership. Through this activation, the Department reaffirmed its commitment to building a generation that is informed, engaged and ready to contribute meaningfully to society.

Beyond classroom learning, the activation introduced social cohesion programmes in schools and created a vital platform for direct engagement between learners and the MEC for Education.

Learners were equipped with knowledge about their rights and responsibilities, the importance of civil engagement, and the role of leadership in addressing societal challenges. They were further encouraged to think critically and develop solution-driven approaches to issues affecting their communities.

The programme was implemented in collaboration with the local Lephalale Municipality and the Independent Electoral Commission. This collaborative effort underscores a unified commitment to strengthening democracy education across various sectors.

“I want to acknowledge MEC for choosing Lephalale for the activation of Democracy Education. You have really made a difference in our town and want you to know that we really take Education serious through investment and support from our municipality, said Cllr Aaron Mokgetle Mayor of Lephalale municipality.

Learner representatives from the participating schools highlighted what democracy is by explaining the symbolisation of colours on the South African flag and their meanings.

“one of the powerful ideas that shaped our nation, which is democracy. It is highly important that we acknowledge that democracy is not only

about the government. It is also important that we as the citizens of South Africa uphold the principles and whims of our democratic constitution. I encourage the youth to register to vote so that when the time comes for us to index we elect the people that we believe they want to stand for us,” said Tshegofatso Mafalela RCL provincial president.

When addressing learners, MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya highlighted that the activation marks the beginning of a broader rollout of democracy education programmes across the province. She stressed the importance of understanding one’s rights and responsibilities, while also encouraging learners to actively engage in civic processes and embrace leadership roles.

“The Democracy Education Activation not only affirms our commitment to democracy but also prepares learners for future engagements, shaping a generation of informed and active citizens,” The Democracy Education Activation Programme forms part of ongoing preparations for the district rollout of similar initiatives across Limpopo, ensuring that more learners are empowered with the knowledge and skills needed to actively participate in shaping the country’s democratic future.







AN EVENING OF ELEGANCE AND IMPACT: HONOURING SOCIAL WORKERS AT THE RANCH

By Conny Mabunda

Elegance filled the room as social workers arrived dressed to impress, radiating confidence and pride. The atmosphere was electric, vibrant and purposeful. It was more than just a gala dinner, it was a celebration of passion, resilience and unwavering service.

The Social Workers Gala Dinner held at The Ranch Resort in celebration of Social Worker Day, brought together dedicated professionals committed to changing lives and strengthening communities. The evening served as a powerful reminder of the essential role social workers play in society, providing support, restoring hope and standing at the forefront of social change.

Throughout the programme, speakers reflected on the significance of social work and its profound impact on individuals and families. "Social workers carry solutions that many people need, often becoming a source of comfort and guidance during difficult times. Their work goes beyond words as they shape how people feel, heal and rebuild their lives," said Tebogo Chake

of the Department of Basic Education, currently working with the Bana Pele initiative.

Various speakers also highlighted the importance of collaboration with the Department of Education, emphasizing a shared vision of ensuring that all children regardless of background are supported, protected and given equal opportunities to thrive.

"Every child matters and efforts must continue to ensure that all Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres are registered and accounted for. Protecting children's rights remains a priority, reinforcing our collective responsibility to nurture and safeguard the next generation," said Marumo Sekgobela, a representative from Save the Children South Africa.

Professor Sello Sithole from the University of Limpopo underscored the significance of the profession, noting that without social workers, such a day would not be possible. "South Africa is on the right track in addressing social challenges but we must continue to rise and awaken

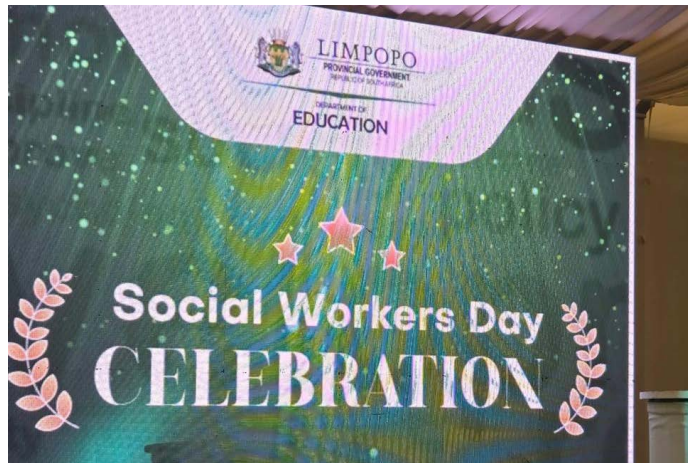
the African giant,” he added. As the evening drew to a close, Professor Malesa Kgashane of the South African Council for Social Service Professions (SACSSP) led social workers in an oath-taking ceremony, marking a moment of unity, commitment and renewed purpose.

The celebration stood as a powerful reminder of the critical role social workers play in addressing societal challenges, advocating for the vulnerable and building stronger communities.

The MEC commended all attendees and expressed appreciation to the stakeholders who contributed to the success of the event. “As we celebrate Social Worker Day, we honour a pro-

fession that confronts persistent social challenges, including high rates of HIV and AIDS and the reality of child-headed households. Social work is one of those professions that does not allow one to simply retire, it is a lifelong calling. You are entrusted with protecting children in their most vulnerable stages, often having to intervene and remove them from harmful environments,” she said.

She further reflected on the significance of the occasion taking place during Human Rights Month. “As we celebrate, we must remember those who fought for the rights we enjoy today. The struggle for human rights continues and so does your role in upholding and protecting those rights,” she concluded.





SPECIAL SCHOOLS ATHLETES SHINE AT 2026 SASA II PROVINCIAL ATHLETICS CHAMPIONSHIPS

By Katlego Mashula

Sport continues to play a vital role in the holistic development of learners, strengthening both the mind and character.

Participation in athletics promotes discipline, teamwork and perseverance while enhancing mental sharpness and emotional balance. These experiences also help learners develop important life skills such as leadership, respect and self-confidence, which contribute positively to both their academic and personal growth.

The Limpopo Department of Education School Sports, in collaboration with the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture, successfully hosted the 2026 SASA II (South African School Sports Association for Visually Impaired) Provincial Athletics Championships at the Old Peter Mokaba Stadium.

Hosted by Rethuseng Special School, the event brought together learners from special schools across the province in a celebration of talent, determination and sportsmanship.

A total of 23 special schools participated in the

championships, with athletes demonstrating remarkable skills and enthusiasm across a variety of track and field events. Under-15 learners competed in high jump, long jump, shot put and track heats, including the 100m, 200m and 800m races.

The championships continued with athletes from under-17 to over 25 years categories competing in events such as javelin, high jump, long jump and shot put, as well as track races including the 100m, 200m, 500m, 800m and 1 500m heats. The competition provided a platform for learners to demonstrate their talents while building confidence, resilience and a sense of achievement.

Importantly, the provincial championships also serve as a selection platform to recruit outstanding athletes who will represent Limpopo at the SASA II National Championships scheduled to take place in September. The event therefore plays a critical role in identifying and nurturing talented athletes from special schools who have the potential to compete at national level.

By bringing together learners from across Limpopo, the 2026 SASA II Provincial Athletics Championships not only celebrates athletic excellence but also promotes inclusion, equal opportunity and the empowerment of learners with special educational needs.

Chairperson for SASA II (South African Sports Association for Intellectually Impaired) Rocky Makgoka appreciated all athletes for taking part in

the competition including everyone from cheers, coaches and LOC (local organizing Committee). "I wish you all the best for the day. Do your best and may the best athlete win," said Makgoka.

Through initiatives like these, the Limpopo Department of Education remains committed to nurturing talent, encouraging healthy lifestyles and creating opportunities for learners to reach their full potential both on and off the field.



THE CIRCUIT CORNER WITH DR SINYOSI, CIRCUIT MANAGER FOR LUVHUVHU

By Ndivhuwo Mukhada



In 2011, Dr Sinyosi was appointed Principal of Denga Tshivhase Secondary School, a school that was underperforming at the time. Through focused instructional leadership, accountability, and targeted interventions, the school improved significantly, achieving an 87% pass rate in the Grade 12 National Senior Certificate (NSC) results. In 2013, she was transferred to Dzata Secondary School, which was then a P4 school. The school later progressed to a P5 status in 2020, reflecting both growth in learner enrolment and performance. At its peak, Dzata Secondary School had 2,307 learners and 65 teaching staff, a complex environment that required strong leadership, effective delegation, and disciplined systems. Her tenure at Dzata Secondary School was marked by consistent improvement in learner performance across all grades.

The Limpopo Department of Education proudly highlights the work and leadership of Dr Sinyosi Livhalani Bridget, the Manager of Luvuvhu Circuit, whose commitment to educational excellence continues to strengthen school performance and community collaboration across her circuit. With a distinguished career rooted in service, integrity, and continuous improvement, Dr Sinyosi stands as a key contributor to the Department's mission of providing quality education to every learner in the province. She is responsible for 32 schools, comprising 22 primary schools, 8 secondary schools, and 3 independent schools under Vhembe East Education District.

Dr Livhalani's career in education spans over 15 years in managerial and leadership positions, during which she has served as Head of Department, Deputy Principal, and Principal at P3, P4, and P5 school levels. These experiences have shaped her leadership philosophy and equipped her with the practical insight required to drive meaningful and sustainable school improvement.

Her transition into Circuit Management was driven by a desire to influence systemic improvement, strengthen governance, and ensure that schools operate efficiently and effectively.

Under her leadership, the school emerged as the best-performing school in the Nzhelele East Circuit, earning recognition at district and provincial levels. In 2018, Dzata produced the top Economics learner in the province, and in 2020, the school achieved position one in the Vhembe West District. A key contributor to this success was the implementation of a learner incubation strategy, which focused on intensive academic support, structured extra classes, close learner monitoring, and strong educator accountability. This results-driven approach reinforced her belief that hard work, commitment, and teamwork are non-negotiable pillars of success.

Her appointment as Circuit Manager was a natural progression, allowing her to extend her impact beyond a single school to the entire circuit. Dr Sinyosi's experience as a school principal has made circuit-level leadership both effective and practical, as she understands the realities principals and educators face daily.

As Circuit Manager, she provides strategic leadership and direction, ensuring that all circuit activities are aligned with the policies of the Department of Basic Education and the Provincial Department. she led the development and imple-

mentation of circuit operational plans aimed at improving learner outcomes and sustaining high standards. In 2022, Luvuvhu Circuit achieved position one in the Vhembe East District and position six in the province, a testament to collective effort, disciplined monitoring, and shared accountability.

More recently, the 2025 NSC results saw outstanding achievements, with two schools attaining 100% pass rates, four schools above 90%, and one school above 86%, culminating in a 93.3% district position—first overall.

A core focus of her daily work is monitoring teaching and learning. This includes ensuring effective curriculum coverage, adherence to Annual Teaching Plans (ATPs), and alignment with approved curricula. She promotes data-driven decision-making, using assessment results, item analysis, and learner profiling to guide interventions.

Under her leadership, schools are supported to develop and implement School Improvement Plans (SIPs), particularly in underperforming subjects and gateway areas. Regular school visits, performance review meetings, and accountability sessions with principals ensure that standards are maintained and continuously improved.

Dr Sinyosi places strong emphasis on policy compliance, proper record-keeping, learner and educator attendance, and time management, holding school leadership accountable for both academic performance and governance.

Dr Sinyosi's educator and leadership development is central to circuit success. She provides professional guidance and mentorship to principals, facilitates capacity-building workshops for School Management Teams (SMTs), and encourages collaboration and sharing of best practices across schools.

Her support strategies include regular classroom monitoring and constructive feedback, subject workshops and cluster meetings, leadership coaching for SMTs and motivation, recognition, and performance celebration.

She believes that empowered educators deliver quality teaching, and quality teaching leads to improved learner outcomes.

Dr Sinyosi believes that effective education cannot exist in isolation. She actively strengthens partnerships with parents, School Governing Bodies (SGBs), traditional leaders, churches, and community organisations.

Through regular stakeholder meetings and community engagement, she addresses challenges such as learner absenteeism, discipline, and parental involvement. Learner welfare remains a priority, with focused programmes on discipline, attendance, inclusive education, and psychosocial support. She also provides leadership during crises, ensuring schools implement safety and risk management strategies.

Regarding the Innovation, Vision, and Guiding Principles, Dr Sinyosi advocates for the integration of technology and innovative practices in teaching and school management, including digital communication platforms, electronic learner performance tracking, and multimedia teaching tools.

Her leadership is guided by clear principles such as learner-centred decision-making, integrity, transparency, and accountability, collaboration and empowerment and commitment to excellence and continuous improvement. Her vision is excellence in inclusive, innovative, and transformative quality education.

Dr Sinyosi holds a Doctoral Degree in Philosophy, a master's degree in Curriculum Studies, and a BEd Honours in Education Management, among other qualifications.

What motivates her most is witnessing learners succeed, educators grow, and schools excel. "One learner story that stands out is of a learner who, despite serious illness during the year, persevered and achieved five distinctions, a powerful reminder of the impact of dedicated support and strong leadership, Said Dr Sinyosi".

Excellence is not accidental, it is intentional, disciplined, and sustained. Her guiding theme remains, "Hard work never kills."

Through teamwork, commitment, and unwavering focus on learner success, she continues to lead with purpose, ensuring that excellence remains the standard across the Luvuvhu Circuit.



MEC PRIORITIES GOVERNANCE AND NUTRITION

By Conny Mabunda

MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya convened a strategic engagement with the Institutional Governance and Coordination Services (IGCS) branch, reaffirming the department's commitment to strengthening service delivery and enhancing school support.

The meeting brought officials ranging from District Directors, Special Programme teams and 133 circuit officials. A significant focus of the meeting was the National School Nutrition Programme and Scholar transport.

The MEC acknowledged the breadth of expertise in the room and highlighted the critical role played by officials responsible for the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) and scholar transport.

Emphasising the importance of institutional governance, the MEC described it as the core of the department, noting that it is the component that most directly impacts schools and communities. She emphasized knowing people responsible for the two critical programmes of the department.

The MEC stressed for stronger collaboration, accountability and visibility across all levels of the department.

She further reminded officials that they are the face of government in communities and their conduct and performance shape the daily experiences of learners and educators.

To strengthen its impact, the MEC outlined key priorities, including mandatory training for all food service providers and strict adherence to food safety and nutritional standards.

To improve efficiency, she announced that a dedicated training team will be deployed to lead capacity-building initiatives, ensuring that properly equipped personnel handle training. All districts will also be subjected to audit queries to strengthen accountability.

Looking ahead, the MEC revealed plans to develop selected schools into fully-fledged agricultural institutions capable of supplying produce to other schools.









LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

2026 the year of **Transformation and Development.**

 www.edu.limpopo.gov.za  @edu_limpopo  limpopoeducation  limpopoeducation

Limpopo Department of Education Editorial Team:

Editor: Mike Maringa

Sub Editors: Seshoka Lephale, Mosebjane Kgaffe

Layout and Graphic Design: Tshepho Letsoalo

Corporate Writers and Photographers: Ndivhuwo Mukhada,
Selina Molope, Hanedzani Mbedzi,
Conny Mabunda, Katlego Mashula