



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

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LIMPOPO EDUCATION MEC KICKS OFF 2026 ACADEMIC YEAR WITH “EARLY BIRDS” MATRIC VISIT

VHEMBE WEST – The Limpopo Education MEC, Ms Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya, this morning visited the “Early Birds”, the Grade 12 class of 2026, at Elim Senior Secondary School in the Vhembe West Education District.

The visit highlights a proactive, community-driven initiative where thousands of Limpopo learners have begun the academic year a week ahead of the official provincial schedule. Elim Senior Secondary, which commenced learning and teaching on Monday, 05 January, has a total enrolment of 2,319 learners for 2026, including 255 matriculants.

This early start is a community-led strategy, initiated by School Governing Bodies (SGBs) and parents, to ensure learners gain momentum and excel in their critical final year. The practice, now common across the province, reflects a shared commitment to academic excellence and a dedication to outstanding National Senior Certificate (NSC) results. All schools will officially resume next week following the release of the 2025 NSC examination results.

MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya praised the initiative and motivated the eager matriculants. “It is inspiring to see communities taking ownership and leading the charge for their children’s education. This early start demonstrates the remarkable commitment of teachers, parents, and the learners themselves as they prepare for their final-year hurdle,” she said.

She added, “I wish the Class of 2026 the very best. I have every confidence they will build on the success of previous cohorts and make us all proud.” The MEC’s engagement underscores the provincial department’s support for grassroots efforts to improve educational outcomes and foster a culture of diligence and achievement.

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