



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
EDUCATION

The Official Newsletter of the
Department of Education

Thuto news

2nd Quarter, Edition 2022/2023

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MEC's foreword



*Limpopo Department for Education,
Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya*

It's all about mixed feelings and I am humbled as I assumed my executive responsibilities in a new department and environment. The excitement I have been feeling to be joining team Education understanding that there are new challenges ahead and also taking into consideration the expectations that come with the new responsibility. A lot has been done and much more still needs to be done. This is a responsibility that I am prepared to execute to the best of my abilities, as such, a very strong and dedicated team is needed for such to be realised. Having been part of the Provincial Executive Council since 2020, Education matters are not an entirely new venture. Being part of the administration for a while means that I have participated in some of the key decisions that were taken in the past with the collective to better the standard of education in our Province.

As expected, I will hit the ground running to ensure that the ship is kept afloat. The fact remains that I am not here to re-invent the wheel,

but to continue with the good work that my predecessor MEC Polly Boshielo has done. One of the immediate tasks I had undertaken was to meet with all the branches of the Department and I must say the presentations that I was furnished with have given me hope that together we will restore the glory days and take Limpopo back to where it belongs.

I also had an opportunity after my appointment to meet with all the staff members at the head office. Our interactions on various platforms were very positive and continue to inspire hope for progress. It is in that spirit that I am urging all the departmental staff as well as all other enabling personnel to continue with the good work, that continues to be done in their respective spaces of work across the department of education. The success of this department is entirely in our hands. I may be at the helm or the face of the organization, but with your support we are destined for greater things and change has to happen.

As the department of Education, we are mainly judged on the outcome of the matric results which does not address the bulk of work we do at the level of administration, the efforts we are putting into the level of ECDs, primary and secondary schools. I am calling on all our stakeholders to come on board and take ownership of the work we do. We have been very consistent in our call for everybody to embrace education as a societal matter, we must continue and to galvanize the community behind the banner of education. I have no doubt that with the support from parents, guardians, and other relevant stakeholders, we will be able to turn the tide and be counted amongst the best.

I also want to applaud the educators at all levels for holding the fort and to ensure that learning and teaching remains a priority despite our current challenges. We are judged based on your performance and the results you produce at the end of the year. Your contribution to the society is glaring and through your passion, a lot of lives have been changed for the better. The socio-economic challenges will not change without your commitment to teach and guide. In my meetings with labour unions, I have been appraised about the imminent challenges in various schools and we are already working towards addressing some of them.

Matric countdown will be launched to encourage our learners to remain focused and encouraged. It will also give me time to interact with all our stakeholders about the kind of support that we need to give to our learners ahead of the final examination. I will also make time to visit matric camps in various schools and centers across the province for the most needed moral support. Education is a societal matter, and we need all parents and all stakeholders to come on board, walk with us in the path to improve our results. Our current position needs our collective commitment and dedication. We cannot continue pointing fingers for the dismally performance when we all have a role to play. The provision of quality education cannot be left for teachers in the classroom, we must all shoulder the responsibility.

A special thanks to all our Unions for the warm welcome, the HOD and team Education for the support you continue to give since day one.

HOD's message



HOD for Limpopo Department of Education, Onica Dederen

In this quarter the Department is happy to announce the appointment and arrival of our new MEC, Ms Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya. MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya is a visionary executive and a strategic leader with significant public sector expertise in the transformation turnaround strategy, corporate governance, public sector policy implementation management and monitoring.

Her success in promotion of quality and innovative education programmes for learners in grades RR to 12, depends on our support as a department. As a department we declare our educational support to our MEC.

Our 2022 Grade 12 candidates will be sitting for their preliminary exams from 29 August to 22 September 2022. All this is in preparation for the final examinations to commence from 31 October 07 December 2022.

Candidates are urged to create study groups, past question papers

and study timetable, as they prepare themselves for a brighter future. To parents and guardians, support your children and give them time to do their studies. Take charge of your children's education and future.

The department, through teachers and school management teams (SMTs) put in place measures that ensures that learning and teaching takes place daily. Teachers and SMTs are appreciated and requested to continue giving educational support to all learners. Our core responsibility remains to equip all learners as they leave schools to have acquired relevant skills and firm foundation for further studies and the world of work.

Schooling has always been in class with a pen and a book, with e-learning we are moving in a space where things will be done electronically. Teachers will provide learning tools and experience to learners with video recordings, quizzes, online live tutorials. As we aim to bridge the digital divide, 25 000 tablets have been delivered to schools to be utilised by learners and teachers. A training team from Head Office has been dispatched to districts to train teachers on how to use the gadgets so they can be able to train and assist the learners.

The department continues to prioritise infrastructure provisioning. This has been evident in more than 4 schools be handed over to communities within 4 months. At schools learners continue to be transported and feed, bringing dignity back to our communities remains a key responsibility of the department.

Teenage pregnancy rate in our schools is soaring and it is a

challenge. Teenage pregnancy leads to a future that is ruined for most girl learners. *Munwe muthihi a u tusi mathuthu! Tau tša hloka seboka di šitwa ke nare e hlotša! Ritiho rin'we a ri nuse hove!* As we celebrate women's month under the theme: **Women's Socio-Economic rights and empowerment: Building back better for women's resilience**; teachers, social partners, parents and guardians; let us unite and fight the scourge that is destroying young girls' lives.





SCHOOL SAFETY



The Department of Basic Education takes school safety very seriously and as an apex priority the department has put in place various policies and measures to ensure that the safety of all learners, educators and relevant stakeholders in schools.

The Department reiterates that there is no place for violence, drug-use/abuse, sexual harassment and other criminal acts in schools as it poses a serious barrier to learning. There is great focus on the inculcation of values and ethics and of a just and caring society within schools and communities. The Department views these ills in a serious light because they carry a potential to deprive our learners of their inherent constitutional rights to life, education, equality and dignity.

Interventions have focused on addressing elements of physical infrastructure related to proper fencing, alarm systems and burglar proofing, resilience-building programmes for young people and the strengthening of partnerships with relevant stakeholders.

The Department has a solid partnership with the South African Police Services (SAPS) aimed at linking schools with local police-stations and the establishment of functional School Safety Committees.

Schools are critical in instilling discipline and ensuring safety, thus the emphasis on Codes of Conduct for Learners at all public schools. Schools are therefore directly responsible for providing an environment conducive to the delivery of quality teaching and learning by, among other things, promoting the rights and safety of all learners, teachers and parents.

A National School Safety Framework has been developed to serve as a management tool for Provincial and District Officials responsible for school safety, principals, Senior Management Team Members, SGB members, teachers and learners to identify and manage risk and threats of violence in and around schools. The Framework is critical in empowering all responsible officials in understanding their responsibilities regarding school safety.

The Department has developed a National Strategy for the Prevention and Management of alcohol and Drug use amongst learners in schools. As schools mirror the communities, curbing drug use in schools will in turn prevent drug use within the communities

and render them safe for all citizens. Schools have been provided with a Guide to Drug Testing in South African Schools.

In terms of the Regulations for Safety Measures at all Public Schools the Minister has declared all public schools as drug free and dangerous weapon free zones.

Sexual harassment and violence affect learning environments negatively, creating an atmosphere of fear and aggression. These are certainly not conditions under which our learners should be subjected to as part of their learning experiences. Guidelines for the Prevention and Management of Sexual Violence and Harassment; have been developed and distributed to schools to support schools and school communities in responding to cases of sexual harassment and violence against learners. The guidelines set out clearly how public schools should treat victims of sexual harassment and violence and the steps that must be taken to deal with those who have or are alleged to have committed such acts.

The department has released a handbook for learners on how to prevent sexual abuse in public schools, titled Speak Out - Youth Report Sexual Abuse. The purpose of the handbook is to equip learners with knowledge and understanding of sexual harassment and sexual violence, its implications, ways to protect themselves from perpetrators, and where to report. The handbook also provides very useful contact details of national and provincial organizations that can assist.

It is important for parents and communities to actively participate in addressing and promoting school safety. Parents and communities are well positioned to see to it that children are safe wherever they are.

The Department will continue in earnest to protect the rights of all children in schools. The success of these efforts rely largely on collective efforts of parents and communities to work together with schools to ensure that all children are safe and realise their full potential in school.

TSHIAWELO SECONDARY SCHOOL NETBALL TEAM CAPPED AS NATIONAL CHAMPIONS



Tshiawelo High school from Elim Circuit was crowned the U/14 Ubuntu netball champions. Pic: LDoE

By Charlotte Nkgapele

The Limpopo flag flew high as Tshiawelo High school from Elim Education Circuit was crowned the U/14 Ubuntu netball champions. The sporting event took place in Boksburg at EG Jansen Secondary school during the South African Schools Netball Championship 2022 held from the 5 to 8 August.

They were awarded a trophy and certificates for each team member after clinching the number one sport. Ms. Sarah Singo, the team coach expressed that they had awaited the good outcomes from the hard work they had put in as

they lived and breathed netball each day.

A congratulatory gathering was held at the school to welcome back the winning team by the Department of Education in collaboration with the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture.

The local education office has appreciated the effort by teachers and the learners. "The girls have made us proud as we celebrate Women's month. An event of this magnitude marks the beginning of a journey of recognizing efforts and sacrifice of our learners and teachers. Sports unites us as people and I encourage all learners

to continue giving their all in sports and educational activities as one of you might play in the National team in future." said Mr Rantsu N.J, Elim Circuit Manager.

The team is a bold link to the South Africans sports and should remain supported by the parents, educators and other stakeholders to represent the province on the international stage as well.

The victory in the school sports aids in the development of the physical and mental abilities for learners to achieve goals in life furthermore improving performance in their academic tasks.

ABC MOTSEPE MUSIC CHAMPIONSHIP CONTINUE TO SHOWCASE CREATIVITY AMONG LEARNERS



Setotolwane Elsen Secondary School, in Maraba Circuit, Capricorn South District obtained Position 2 at the 2022 ABC Motsepe South African Schools Choral Eisteddfod (SASCE) National Championship. Pic: LDoE

By Ndivhuwo Mukhada

Johannesburg - The ABC Motsepe South African Schools Choral Eisteddfod (SASCE) National Championship held the 20th choral music competition at Rhema Bible Church in Randburg, Johannesburg from the 28 June to 01 July 2022. The objective of the competition is to unearth and enhance the various singing talents of the South African learners through various stage performances and music. It further aims to showcase the creativity, inspiration, and artistic talent

among South Africans.

The ABC Motsepe SASCE National Championship unmutes two years after the Covid 19 pandemic. The four-days national choral competition has opened many doors and had more than 20 different categories acclaimed at national level. The first day of the competition was dedicated to primary schools. The other three days showcased secondary schools that performed various pieces from choir, opera, and indigenous folklore. Over 70 000 learners from Quintile 1 to 3 and Special schools from across the country were battling it out in categories like Folklore

(indigenous), Soprano, sextet and mixed choirs to name a few. The Limpopo province was represented by 10 choirs who gave their best performance to scoop the prizes.

The categories performed spoke to some of the social ills that our country is facing such as alcohol & drug abuse, school dropout, bullying, teenage pregnancy and Gender Based Violence. The primary schools started off on the 28 Jun and showcased their vocal talents whilst the secondary schools continued till the last day of the competition on 01 July. The Minister of Basic Education Mrs Angie Motshekga articulated



Minister Angie Motshekga giving a keynote address at the 2022 ABC Motsepe SASCE National Championship at Rhema Bible Church in Johannesburg. **Pic: LDoE**



Acting DDG Matthews Mhlongo and HOD Onica Dederen at the 2022 ABC Motsepe SASCE National Championship at Rhema Bible Church in Johannesburg. **Pic: LDoE**



Capricorn South District Director, Tinyiko Nkuzana (centre) visited Setotolwane Elsen Secondary School to convey a special gesture of appreciation to the school, pictured with the Principal Magdaline Molepo (2nd from left) and Choir Conductor (far right) for its achievement of position 2 at the ABC Motsepe SASCE National Championship last week. **Pic: LDoE**

that the event of such magnitude is empirical as it promotes unity and diversity. She further indicated that it enhances the hidden talents that are buried in the learners as they interact while nurturing their singing talents.

In the Own Choice Category: (Any Voice Combination) for Special Schools only, **Setotolwane Elsen Secondary School under Maraba**

Circuit, Capricorn South District obtained Position 2 with 77% marks and scooped a Trophy, certificate, Melodical Instrument and a cash price of R7500.

The Main sponsors of the 2022 ABC Motsepe SASCE National Championship was none other than The Department of Basic Education (DBE) in association with National Department of

Sports, Arts and Culture, ABC Motsepe, Motsepe Foundation and Cape Town Opera (CTO).

The ABC Motsepe SASCE has previously opened many doors for acclaimed international artists such as Pretty Yende, Phumeza Matshikiza, Given Nkosi and Hlengiwe Mkhwanazi.

MEC MAVHUNGU LERULE-RAMAKHANYA MEET WITH THE HEAD OFFICE DEPARTMENTAL STAFF

By Tshegofatso Makgato
Charlotte Nkgapele

Polokwane - The MEC embraced the beginning of a new bond at a meet and greet session held at the Head office, near the Block G Entrance.

The MEC used the opportunity to emphasize the importance of education and encourage all employees to keep the momentum as usual.

She emphasized on the professionalism and the quality of services that the entire staff must uphold in an endeavor to realize the vision and objectives of the Department. The MEC says the commitment by staff will go a long way and assist to improve the overall provincial performance.

“Our educational political interests will be fully embraced by the face representing the department. Let us collectively continue to shine the educational torch to grow the nation and brighten the future of our learners. The provision of quality education begins with the dedication and support from the Early Childhood Development (ECD) level to the last grade of matriculates” said the MEC.

Team Education was equally excited to meet with the newly appointed MEC, Mavhungu LeruleRamakhanya.



MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya(standing) addressing departmental staff at the Meet and Greet Session. **Pic: LDoE**



DDG for Corporate Management Services, Martin Mashaba. **Pic: LDoE**

EDUCATION MEC APPLAUDS STERLING WORK BY EDUCATORS AND LEARNERS AT WINTER ENRICHMENT PROGRAMME

By Selina Molope

Tzaneen - The Limpopo Department of education, MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya paid a visit to the two enrichment camps in Mopani West District on 8 July 2022. The MEC visited Makgahleng and Seagotle secondary schools respectively at Ga-Sekororo on the final day of the Winter Enrichment Classes to assess the progress already made by learners and educators since the start of the program at the centres. The two walk-in centres have over 480 matric learners from various schools in the area. They are part of the 426 camps set by the department in the ten education districts to assist learners with extra lessons in an endeavour to improve matric results.

The two weeks long programme had designed lessons offered by expert subject teachers with an excellent track record. Four thousand and nine teachers responsible for just over one hundred and twelve thousand matric learners are expected to sit their final examinations at the end of the year.

MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya used the opportunity to encourage learners to take their lessons serious and continue with the study groups in their final preparations for the trial and final examination. She urged parents to also monitor and support their children and ensure that they are afforded enough time to study endeavour to improve matric results.



MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya handing over a donated stationery including a calculator to learners of Makgahleng Secondary School. **Pic: LDoE**



MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya interacting with Grade 12 learners of Seagotle Secondary School. **Pic: LDoE**



basic education

Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE (NSC) OCTOBER/NOVEMBER EXAMINATIONS TIMETABLE 2022

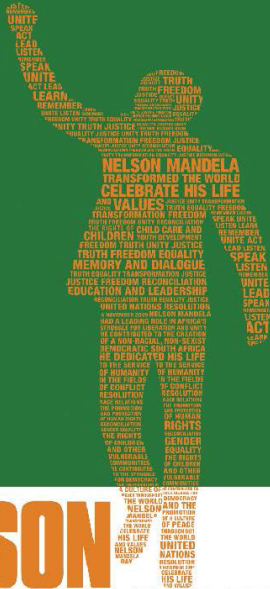
| WEEK 1 | 09:00 | 14:00 |
|--------------------|---|---|
| Monday 31/10 | English HL P1 (2hrs) English FAL P1 (2hrs) English SAL P1 (2hrs) | Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telegu, Urdu HL P1 (2hrs) Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telegu, Urdu FAL P1 (2hrs) Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telegu, Urdu SAL P1 (2hrs) Hebrew SAL P1 (2hrs) German HL, SAL P1 (2hrs) |
| Tuesday 01/11 | Economics P1 (2hrs) | Arabic, French, Italian, Mandarin, Modern Greek, Serbian, Spanish SAL P1 (2hrs) Latin SAL P1 (3hrs) Portuguese HL, FAL, SAL P1 (2hrs) |
| Wednesday 02/11 | Afrikaans HL P1 (2hrs) Afrikaans FAL P1 (2hrs) Afrikaans SAL P1 (2hrs) | Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telegu, Urdu HL P2 (2½hrs) Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telegu, Urdu FAL P2 (2hrs) Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telegu, Urdu SAL P2 (2hrs) Hebrew SAL P2 (2hrs) German HL P2 (2½hrs), SAL P2 (2hrs) |
| Thursday 03/11 | History P1 (3hrs) | Engineering Graphics and Design P1 (3hrs) |
| Friday 04/11 | Mathematics P1 (3hrs) Mathematical Literacy P1 (3hrs) Technical Mathematics P1 (3hrs) | Arabic, French, Italian, Mandarin, Modern Greek, Serbian, Spanish SAL P2 (2hrs) Latin SAL P2 (1½hrs) Portuguese HL P2 (2½hrs), FAL, SAL P2 (2hr) Equine Studies (3hrs) |
| WEEK 2 | 09:00 | 14:00 |
| Monday 07/11 | Mathematics P2 (3hrs) Mathematical Literacy P2 (3hrs) Technical Mathematics P2 (3hrs) | Hindi, Gujarati, Tamil, Telegu, Urdu HL P3 (2½hrs) FAL P3 (2½hrs) Portuguese, German HL P3 (2½hrs) Portuguese FAL P3 (2½hrs) |
| Tuesday 08/11 | isiZulu, isiXhosa, Siswati, isiNdebele HL P1 (2hrs) FAL P1 (2hrs) SAL P1 (2hrs) | Economics P2 (2hrs) Maritime Economics (3hrs) |
| Wednesday 09/11 | Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, Xitsonga, Tshivenda HL P1 (2hrs) FAL P1 (2hrs) SAL P1 (2hrs) | Computer Applications Tech P2 (Theory) (3hrs) |
| Thursday 10/11 | History P2 (3hrs) South African Sign Language HL P1 (2hrs) | Information Technology P2 (Theory) (3hrs) |
| Friday 11/11 | Physical Sciences (Physics) P1 (3hrs) Technical Sciences P1 (3hrs) | Religion Studies P1 (2hrs) |
| WEEK 3 | 09:00 | 14:00 |
| Monday 14/11 | Physical Sciences (Chemistry) P2 (3hrs) Technical Sciences P2 (1½hrs) | Religion Studies P2 (2hrs) |
| Tuesday 15/11 | Geography (Climate and Weather, Geomorphology and Mapwork) P1 (3hrs) | Dance Studies (3hrs) |
| Wednesday 16/11 | Accounting P1 (2hrs) | Engineering Graphics and Design P2 (3hrs) |
| Thursday 17/11 | English HL P2 (2½hrs) English FAL P2 (2½hrs) English SAL P2 (1½hrs) | Civil Technology (3hrs) |
| Friday 18/11 | Life Sciences P1 (2½hrs) | Visual Arts (3hrs) |

| WEEK 4 | 09:00 | 14:00 |
|-----------------|--|---|
| Monday 21/11 | Life Sciences P2 (2½hrs) | Electrical Technology (3hrs) |
| Tuesday 22/11 | Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, Xitsonga, Tshivenda HL P2 (2½hrs), FAL P2 (2½hrs), SAL P2 (1½hrs) | Geography (Rural and Urban Settlement, Economic Geomorphology of SA and Mapwork) P2 (3hrs) |
| Wednesday 23/11 | isiZulu, isiXhosa, Siswati, isiNdebele HL P2 (2½hrs) FAL P2 (2½hrs) SAL P2 (1½hrs) | Business Studies P1 (2hrs) Marine Sciences P1 (2½hrs) |
| Thursday 24/11 | Afrikaans HL P2 (2½hrs) Afrikaans FAL P2 (2½hrs) Afrikaans SAL P2 (1½hrs) | Tourism (3hrs) |
| Friday 25/11 | Accounting P2 (2hrs) | Agricultural Sciences P1 (2½hrs) Nautical Science P1 (3hrs) Sport and Exercise Science (3hrs) |
| WEEK 5 | 09:00 | 14:00 |
| Monday 28/11 | isiZulu, isiXhosa, Siswati, isiNdebele HL P3 (3hrs) FAL P3 (2½hrs) SAL P3 (2½hrs) | Agricultural Sciences P2 (2½hrs) Nautical Science P2 (3hrs) |
| Tuesday 29/11 | Sepedi, Sesotho, Setswana, Xitsonga, Tshivenda HL P3 (3hrs) FAL P3 (2½hrs) SAL P3 (2½hrs) South African Sign Language HL P3 (3hrs) | Business Studies P2 (2hrs) Marine Sciences P2 (2½hrs) |
| Wednesday 30/11 | English HL P3 (3hrs) English FAL P3 (2½hrs) English SAL P3 (2½hrs) | Mechanical Technology (3hrs) |
| Thursday 01/12 | Consumer Studies (3hrs) Hospitality Studies (3hrs) | Design (3hrs) |
| Friday 02/12 | Afrikaans HL P3 (3hrs) Afrikaans FAL P3 (2½hrs) Afrikaans SAL P3 (2½hrs) | Agricultural Management Practices (3hrs) |
| WEEK 6 | 09:00 | 14:00 |
| Monday 05/12 | Music P1 Theory (3hrs) South African Sign Language HL P2 (2½hrs) | Music P2 Comprehension (1½hrs) |
| Tuesday 06/12 | Dramatic Arts (3hrs) | Agricultural Technology (3hrs) |
| Wednesday 07/12 | CAT rewrite (3hrs) Practical IT rewrite (3hrs) Practical | |
| Thursday 08/12 | | |
| Friday 09/12 | | |

| | 09:00 |
|--------------------------|--|
| Monday, 5 September | Life Orientation (LO CAT) (2½hrs) |
| Tuesday 25 October | Computer Applications Tech P1 (3hrs) Practical |
| Wednesday 26 October | Information Technology P1 (3hrs) Practical |
| 15 August to 14 October | Performing Arts Practical |
| 06 October to 15 October | Visual Arts and Design Practical |

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012-357 3900

*“Do what you can,
with what you have,
where you are.”*



**NELSON
MANDELA DAY™**

By Ndivhuwo Mukhada
Tshegofatso Makgato

Giyani - Mageva village outside Giyani became a hive of activities when the Limpopo Provincial Government, donors and community members descended to Ukhuthula Primary School on 18 July 2022 for the commemoration of Mandela Day. The 2022 Mandela Day was celebrated by planting of indigenous and fruit trees and handing over food to the needy.

Education MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya who represented the Premier and the entourage comprising MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure Nkakareng Rakgoale, MEC for Social Development Dickson Masemola and Mopani District Municipality's Executive Mayor Cllr Pule Shai graced the event by



MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya(right) planting trees during Nelson Mandela Commemoration at Ukhuthula Primary School. **Pic: LDoE**

celebrating the day with learners and community members. When delivering the keynote address, MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya emphasized the promotion of community and backyard gardens and the renewal of the values that inspired Nelson Mandela. “Food security is an important element in developing communities. Let’s us mark this day by doing acts of goodwill to humanity in recognition of Mandela’s commitment to human rights, conflict resolution and reconciliation. We must make sure that tomorrow is not the same as yesterday, we are empowered to become who we are; donate time by supporting and helping those less fortunate. A symbol of hope is depicted through Ubuntu which is seen as ‘I am because you are’.” said Lerule-Ramakhanya.

In another event to celebrate Nelson Mandela Day, Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation

(DPCI/HAWKS), Department of Transport and Community Safety (DTCS), Department of Education (DOE), Makhado Municipality, South African Police Service (SAPS) and other stakeholders handed over gifts to Rivoni School for the Blind in Waterval Community Hall. Gift items donated included blankets, soccer kit, toys, talking calculators, tug of war rope and may other items.

Maj. General Jozi, Limpopo Provincial Head for DPCI and MEC for Department of Transport and Community Safety, Polly Boshielo including stakeholders and community members, embarked on a 1,5km walk with learners of Rivoni school for the Blind.

“Since 2020 the day is always celebrated in different ways, touching the lives of each and every one around us. As we all



MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya handing over donated gifts to the learners of Ukuthula Primary School in Mageva village. **Pic: Supplied**



Principal of Rivoni School for the Blind(far right) receiving the donated gifts from the Hawks, SAPS and other stakeholders. **Pic: Supplied**

know that it is only about 67 minutes, but today we use our 67 minutes to remember how Tata Mandela made the world made a better place for humanity by taking our 1,5km walk with our learners from Rivoni school for the Blind,

most of the time we know that these learners are always indoors, we took them by hand, dance and moving with them, and they were so happy. Tata believed in Ubuntu. Ubuntu is behaving well towards others and act in

ways that benefits the community. Always remember that God loves cheerful giver and whatever you have donated here today, we know it is coming from your heart" said Major General Jozi, Limpopo Provincial Head for DPCI." "As SAPS, we are fully part of this project. Like the former President Nelson Mandela said, and I quote, as SAPS, we are also here to make sure that our children of Rivoni School for the Blind are protected and looked after" said Acting SAPS Provincial Commissioner, Lt. Van der Walt.

The gesture by the two departments and the Police was warmly welcomed by the learners of the special school. When acknowledging the presents handed over, Tshepo Makwela said, "We appreciate your discipline as you heard the call and come back to school as early as possible. Let me say that it is indeed an honour and privilege to have all the greatest people that south Africa can produce under one roof, and we feel so special to have you commemorate Nelson Mandela Day with us today under this beautiful theme to". The Department will participate in various activities planned to commemorate Madiba's legacy.

MEC LERULE RAMAKHANYA HANDSOVER KGOLOUTHWANA SECONDARY SCHOOL

Bochum - Limpopo Department of Education MEC, Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya officially handed over Kgolouthwana Secondary School in Bochum, Capricorn North Educational District to Dilaeneng community. It is the third completed school by the Independent Development Trust (IDT) in 2022/23 financial year across the province.

By Mankoe Manamela

The handover was graced by the IDT Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Tebogo Malaka; Polokwane District Municipality Representatives; Blouberg Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr Maria Thamaga and Local Ward Councillors.

The building construction and rehabilitation of Kgolouthwana Secondary School comprises of a newly built Admin Block, Nutrition centre and four Enviro-loo toilets. The project also included repairs and renovations of eight classroom blocks, drilling and equipping of a borehole, paving and erection of a carpot.

MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya earnestly asked the community to look after the school infrastructure and encouraged them to do a proper maintenance on the school buildings. "Please take good care of the infrastructure, guard it jealously against any form of destruction, keep it clean and spare it for the coming generation" said the MEC.

The delighted school principal, Shirley Sehlapelo said "As the head of the school, I am humbled and feel honoured. We are promising to look after the infrastructure so that it benefits the coming generation of the community of Delaeneng and surrounding villages". The school building was warmly received by the teachers, Moshate wa Malebogo and the community of Dilaeneng.



Cllr Maria Thamaga, MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya and Cllr Blanco Boloka unveiling the plaque and officially handing over Kgolouthwana Secondary School in Bochum. **Pic: LDoE**



MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya (centre) entering a newly built Nutrition Block. **Pic: LDoE**



Renovated and newly built Classroom Blocks of Kgolouthwana Secondary School. **Pic: LDoE**



Kgolouthwana Secondary School learners performing 'Dinaka', Sepedi traditional men dance. **Pic: LDoE**



Kgolouthwana School Principal, Shirley Sehlapelo (far left) during the handing over ceremony. **Pic: LDoE**

EDUCATION INTRODUCES LITERACY HUB TO BENEFIT GRADE R RURAL PRIMARY SCHOOL LEARNERS

Sibasa - Limpopo Department of Education in partnership with Shout SA, Nelson Mandela Foundation, Child Upliftment Corner Foundation, Rotary International and Literacy 4Life converged to Mamali Sikhwivhilu Primary school outside Thohoyandou for the launch of 'Sasaladzi a Fhulufhelo' Literacy Hub on the 29 July 2022.



Literacy Hub Launch at Mamali Sikhwivhilu Primary School in Ngovhela Backside Village, Thohoyandou, Vhembe East District. The Department is working in partnership with Shout-SA, Nelson Mandela Foundation, Rotary and The Child Foundation in this project. Pic. LDOE

By Tshegofatso Makgato

A literacy hub is a facility to assist young people to develop their literacy skills and knowledge. It further supports school leaders, teachers, and families to engage in effective literacy practices. The aim of this project was to advance literacy amongst children in poorly resourced rural schools in South Africa and it is anticipated to directly benefit over 395 learners and staff at the school. It seeks to use the magic of books to develop literacy skills, stimulate curiosity

and grow young minds in the quest to broaden freedom of information and eradicate poverty and inequity through education.

Teaching your child to read early is the key to your child's academic future because reading is at the heart of all formal education. As children learn to read, their vocabulary increases, and they gain a greater understanding of the meaning of words.

This enables a child to be more expressive when they speak, and to use a broad range of words to share what they're thinking about.

Children can also learn how to communicate with others through the dialogue they read in their books.

"We have built and stocked libraries in rural communities in desperate need of reading and learning resources for both the learners and their educators. We have built thirteen (13) libraries so far in the poorest areas of our country, because children have a propensity to want to learn. If the words of a book can inspire you, go ahead and do what you have to do. Please don't praise a Shout SA Foundation, this is as a result of Tata Mandela month, who gave us values, visions and a purpose. And like my hero boxer Muhammed Ali said, and I quote "Service to others is the rent you pay for your room here on earth" said Gavin Koppel, Chairperson of Shout SA.

"As a department, we are pleased that we have initiatives such as this one. Last year we approved a reading plan, and **there are two (2) objectives of the reading plans namely:** (1) **Read for comprehension so that learners can pass in school,** (2) **to read for pleasure.** If you don't allow learners and give them skills to read for pleasure, it is going to be very difficult for them to read to pass in the examinations, these two go together.

Therefore, we are happy that today you are now launching a reading hub, it is in line with our reading plan, because we are promoting the establishment of libraries, reading corners and so on. Vehicle that will enable us to promote a reading nation." said Dr Komane Mphahlele, DDG for Curriculum Management and Delivery.

INCLUSIVE EDUCATION STRENGTHENS CURRICULUM SUPPORT FOR LEARNERS WITH DISABILITY



Participants from all public schools across the province at the 3 days Workshop in Royal Hotel, Polokwane. **Pic: LDoE**

By Tshegofatso Makgato

Polokwane - Limpopo Department of Education held a three days workshop for all Public Special Schools at the Royal Hotel in Polokwane. The Province through Inclusive Education Directorate regards teachers as the cornerstone of government's commitment to provide quality learning and teaching hence the priority to strengthen curriculum delivery and improve learning outcomes for learners with special needs in the province.

The workshop provided guidance to Principals, School Based Support teams, and other stakeholders for learners with intellectual and cognitive development disorders on the importance of the right to education.

The officials from the Department of Basic Education who were present to grace the occasion, outlined a variety of issues relevant to Special schools and further advocated the understanding of Education White Paper number 6(EWP6), SIAS policies and other related educational policies regarding the rights of learners to education and support. They further focused on learners with intellectual disabilities, classifying them into Mild Intellectual Disability (MID), Profound Intellectual Disability (PID) and Severe Intellectual Disability (SID) and providing for their educational needs and support.

Curriculums are created as vocational streams which primarily target learners who excel in practical work. This assists in exposing learners to situations that enable them to take care of

themselves. DCAPS as one of the curricula, is currently being offered until grade 6 learners but plans are underway to extend the scope to grade 9.

The director for Inclusive Education in the Limpopo Department of Education Dan Mabote, indicated that Learners are named bullies due to misinterpretations of their disabilities. Some of the key aspects discussed include the most appropriate curriculum for these learners which mainly differentiated CAPS and technical occupational curriculum that focuses on life skills programmes, realizing a paradigm shift from the medical model to the social model and focus on barriers to learning (the systematic, pedagogical, and societal barriers) rather than the learners and his disabilities.

The workshop emphasized that educators and parents of the learners should know and understand the element of Neurodiversity which makes it unique and different to their conditions such as Autism Spectrum Disorders, Down Syndrome, Epilepsy, Cerebral Palsy. Moreover, learning difficulties and associated disorders including (ADHD/ADD), (ODD), (EBD), Bipolar disorders, Conduct disorders, social anxiety disorders and antisocial personality disorders.

Mabote further asserted that to foster collaborative partnerships with stakeholders and parents with regards to providing collective support and information to parents in an intersectoral and multidisciplinary manner, opportunities like this should assist in providing more enlightenment for the improvement of our education system.

MINISTER HANDS A LIFELINE TO THE SCHOOL



Minister Ronald Lamola officially opens the computer laboratory by cutting the ribbon. **Pic: LDoE**

By Ndivuwo Mukhada

Sibasa - The Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Ronald Lamola, in partnership with the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) Regional Office for Southern Africa, donated a computer laboratory with eleven (11) computers to Mphaphuli Secondary School learners in Vhembe East on 1 August 2022.

The donation is anticipated to inspire confidence among learners, develop rural schools and to fight the challenge of human trafficking experienced at school level. Performance is not just about the

ability to learn or limited to well-resourced schools, it should reflect the social dynamics that form the performance foundation which supports learning and teaching.

Limpopo Department of Education MEC, Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya accepted the computers on behalf of the school. She indicated that for learners to perform, we need to have the fundamentals in place and strong support from all stakeholders because this will inspire confidence despite the social challenges that these schools face on a daily basis.

Minister Lamola and the UNODC

urged people to commemorate the World Day Against Trafficking in Persons under the theme: **“Use and abuse of technology.”** The theme focused on the role of technology as a tool that can both enable and obstruct human trafficking.

Minister Lamola and the Head of UNODC in the SADC Region, Dr Jane Marie Ongolo and Limpopo MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya, all shared with learners, stakeholders and members of the community, the message on the dangers of human trafficking and further educate about the use of technology and its great responsibility. This initiative further affirms a commitment by Government to work with all



Mphaphuli Secondary School computer laboratory officially opened by Minister Ronald Lamola. Pic: LDoE



MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya planting vegetables (left) and watching learners giving demonstration after officially receiving a Computer lab at Mphaphuli Secondary School. Pic: LDoE

stakeholders to eradicate human trafficking.

UNODC representative Dr Jean-Marie Ongolo explains that Internet and digital platforms offer traffickers numerous tools. Among other tools cited were to recruit, exploit, and control victims, organize their transport and accommodation, advertise victims, and reach out to potential clients, communicate among perpetrators, and hide criminal proceeds, and all that with greater speed and secrecy.

Traffickers use social media to identify, groom and recruit victims, including children. Emails and

messaging services are used for the moral force of the victims, and online platforms allow traffickers to widely advertise services provided by victims, including child photographic material.

“As we entered the women’s month, we planted two seeds here today, one: bridges the digital divide in terms of raising awareness on cybercrime, grooming on the internet for human trafficking, secondly: enhances the use of our land by means of vegetable garden, planting a crop of vegetables with the help of the parolees to grow veggies for the school’s

nutrition programme.

The initiative was realised through offender labour by the Department of Correctional Services. Parolees will also help by cleaning and assisting with minor renovations such as painting” said Minister Ronald Lamola.

MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya in delivering a word of appreciation, emphasized the importance of navigating the internet safely, including not to accept friendship from strangers as well as falling for offers that appear to be too good to be true.

DEPARTMENT GIVES PRIMACY TO DEVELOP LEARNERS IN THE PROVINCE

By Tshegofatso Makgato

Makhutswe - Inspiring learners to believe in the power of education is one of the fundamental objectives of the Limpopo Department of Education. The province through the Molteno's flagship programme hosted an event to support Grade R learners with School Readiness Initiative (SRI) programme at Makhutswe circuit, in Mopani West on 27 July 2022.

The Molteno's flagship programme is funded by the Roger Federer Foundation (RFF). It was encouraging to see major stakeholders such as Penreach SA, Read Education Trust, local businesses and Schools Governing Bodies (SGB) joining the event to witness such a big initiative at the educative creative natural playgrounds.

The workshop was held under the guidance of trainers and change agents, to support education leaders and to share best practices among schools. Educators face a daunting challenge of improving the education system and therefore it is vital for them to engage and share important information as they build the momentum and to encourage collaboration. Many people often get so fixated with the challenges facing the education sector and on the statistics, that they forget there is a child at the center of everything.

The program of improving and modifying Grade R playgrounds and classrooms started in February 2022 in the Mopani Education District and it has already been concluded in the Capricorn and Sekhukhune Education Districts respectively after schools adopted their budgets to procure adequate Grade R material and resources.



*The School Readiness Initiative Programme (SRIP) under Molteno's flagship programmes funded by the Roger Federer Foundation (RFF), including Penreach SA and Read Education Trust visited the creative and educative natural playgrounds for Grade R learners in Mopani West Education District, Makhutswe Circuit. **Pic: LDoE***



*Creative and educative natural playgrounds for Grade R learners in Mopani West Education District, Makhutswe Circuit. **Pic: LDoE***

This program has undoubtedly transformed classrooms because they were embroidered with lots of charts which were not in line with the pacesetter for a particular quarter. The layout of Grade R classes is known, with relevant teaching aid per quarter. For instance, Grade R learners should at times wear uniform apparel that would accord them free and adequate movement to play without

any hindrances. The workshop also outlined how the learning terms are segregated.

Term 1: About me, in the classroom, my body, health living, friend

Term 2: My home, safety, my family, senses, weather.

Term 3: Transport, jobs people do, water, on the farm, health environment.



Creative and educative natural playgrounds for Grade R learners in Mopani West Education District, Makhutswe Circuit. **Pic: LDoE**



Grade R classroom nicely packed one of the ECD centres in Makhutswe Circuit. **Pic: LDoE**



Creative and educative natural playgrounds for Grade R learners in Mopani West Education District, Makhutswe Circuit. **Pic: LDoE**



Grade R classroom nicely packed one of the ECD centres in Makhutswe Circuit. **Pic: LDoE**

Term 4: Dinosaurs, Birds and Reptiles, Wild Animals, Sport, celebrations.

Through play, learners develop large muscles including fine motor skills. They also develop motor skills. Their small muscles develop immensely and get exposed to different shapes. Learners also have an opportunity to develop self-confidence. They cope with frustrations and can

focus on the tasks. They build social and environment skills SRI has privileged all the Grade R educators/practitioners with tablets to help them complete administrative duties and have 21 African stories to read for learners. Grade R playgrounds are fascinating, user-friendly, and conducive for teaching and learning. All communities are encouraged to continue assisting

school programs. As the month of Tata Nelson Mandela comes to an end, let us remember his words of wisdom when he said ***“Our children are the rock on which our future will be built, our greatest asset as a nation. They will be the leaders of our country, the creators of our national wealth, those who care for and protect our people”.***

OLD MUTUAL AIMS TO SUPPORT LEARNER PROGRESS IN EDUCATION

Polokwane - The MEC and Old Mutual Group Executive Management led by Themba Mathebula, Head of Stakeholders Relations met in a Stakeholders Engagement Breakfast meeting on early August at Fusion Boutique Hotel in Polokwane.



MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya (3rd from right) and CFO Yvonne Mathabatha (4th from right) together with Old Mutual Executive Management team at the stakeholders meeting at Fusion Boutique Hotel in Polokwane. **Pic: LDoE**

By Ndivuwo Mukhada

The objective was to discuss and identify the priorities as well as to develop mechanisms of bridging the gaps regarding the needs and services in the education sector. Old Mutual has continuously demonstrated interests and care about the well-being of the learners and the education sector in the province.

“We are very fortunate and privileged to have this opportunity to meet with the department as our key stakeholder, this is to present ourselves as Old Mutual and say these are the capabilities that we have as a corporate citizen that belongs in South Africa. It is no longer about donations or about charity giving, it’s about stakeholder relationships and partnerships where we say, collectively as a company, we know we have a responsibility to our communities”

said Themba Mathebula.

MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya appreciated the effort of old mutual as one of the department’s key stakeholders. MEC believes that involving stakeholders in decision-making and communicating regularly through meetings and other communication platforms is a good way to keep stakeholders informed on issues that have an impact.

“Every child is a national asset, our attitude as the Department of Education is not just about focusing on the child within the school environment, but also finding ways and means of making education fashionable. Through our engagement with stakeholders, we can make education fashionable, and change the mindset of our communities” says MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya.

The foundation phase and Early Childhood Development education was also part of the agenda. The MEC is calling on the private

sector to extend the support to assist learners in the foundation phase. MEC also pleaded that efforts must be taken to embrace teacher development. She says that the department will bring in technology at school level, Universities should introduce IT space in a faster way including computer courses so that educators can easily interact with the learners.

“As the department, we have just received the Early childhood development (ECD) chapter as well. We need to also start looking through that to widen our horizon as ECD is now part of education. When we started way back in 1994, we all relied on Madiba magic for things to happen, but the miracle didn’t build all the schools as we would have wanted. Backlog on the infrastructure, and on restoring the dignity of the black child is still very huge in our schools” concluded MEC

WOMEN IN SPORTS DAY



Departmental women participating in Tag of War during the Women in Sports Day at Noordeland High School. **Pic: LDoE**



Departmental women participating in Tag of War during the Women in Sports Day at Noordeland High School. **Pic: LDoE**

By Tshegofatso Makgato

Polokwane - A saying that a health body produces health results was put into practice as part of the Women's month commemoration. The Department saw it befitting to gather female employees to partake in the departmental Sports day on 3 August 2022 at Noorderland High School.

Women in sports was organized by the health and wellness directorate as one of the

build-up activities for women's day celebration. The glamorous sporting event was extended to staff at head office, districts and our circuits offices.

Speaking after the event, the Director of Employee Health and Wellness, Reggy Mothatha could not hide her excitement on how the day unfolded and to see liberated women partaking in various sporting codes.

Those who were reluctant to sweat it out, were encouraged to use the special occasion to relieve work stress and to consider exercising.

"Ladies you do not have to be professional to participate in any of these activities, it is all about having fun. 'The aim was to motivate and inspire women in their respective fields to lead a healthy lifestyle and improve productivity'" said Mothatha.

The departmental women celebrated the women month under the theme, "**Women's Socio-Economic Right and Empowerment: Building Back Better for Women's Improved Resilience**".



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