



**LIMPOPO**  
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF  
**EDUCATION**

Media Statement

To: All Media Houses

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For Immediate Release

**MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya warmly welcomes the commencement of the Basic Education Laws Amendment Bill**

MEC Mavhungu Lerule-Ramakhanya welcomes the presidential signing of the BELA Act into operation with immediate effect. This act aims to transform the education system in South Africa, ensuring that all children have equal access to quality education.

The BELA Act is a crucial step towards building an education system that is more effective, equitable, and inclusive. It strengthens the ability of schools to give effect to Constitutional rights, ensuring that every child receives a decent, quality education, regardless of their background or language.

President Cyril Ramaphosa signed the BELA Bill into law on September 13, 2024, but delayed its implementation by three months to allow for further discussions on contentious issues <sup>1</sup>. After consultations with various stakeholders, the Government of National Unity agreed that the Act should be fully implemented without amendments.

"Our immediate step is to conduct an in-depth training for all our School Governing Bodies [SGBs] on the provisions of the BELA Act at the beginning of the year 2025" MEC Lerule-Ramakhanya said.

The important aspects that BELA Act seeks to address are the following:

- \* Early Childhood Development- Grade R will be compulsory starting age for school.
- \* Parental role- Parents must ensure school attendance for their children and face stricter accountability.
- \* Abuse- Corporal punishment is banned, including actions that humiliate, belittle, threaten, or ridicule learners.
- \* School Safety- Drugs, alcohol, and weapons are prohibited in schools, with schools empowered to search and confiscate them.
- \* Doors of learning- Admission policies are now controlled by the Department of Basic Education.
- \* Equality- School language policies require approval from the provincial head of department.

Issued by Limpopo Department of Education Communication Services.

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