







## Editorial Comment. . . .

In January 2026, the Department of Basic Education announced that South Africa’s matric class of 2025 achieved an impressive national pass rate of 88%, a milestone that reflects the highest performance in our democratic history. Mpumalanga Province stood tall as a pillar of this success, securing an magnificent overall pass rate of 86.55%. This represents a meaningful leap from the previous year’s 84.99%, with every single district - Ehlanzeni, Gert Sibande, Nkangala, and Bohtabela - soaring past the 80% mark target. While we pause to celebrate these numbers, we remain mindful of the “quality” of these passes, as our focus shifts toward bolstering Bachelor’s degree entries to ensure our youth are not just finishing school, but are ready to lead in our universities and industries.

Education, however, is far more than a statistic or a curriculum; it is the cornerstone of a thriving society and a bridge to a life of dignity. Here in Mpumalanga, our hearts are full as we celebrate the Class of 2025. These young men and women have conquered a twelve - year mountain of challenges, both personal and academic. Their journey is etched in the memory of cold winter mornings spent waiting for the bus and the quiet flicker of lamps during late - night study sessions. It is a victory of grit over circumstance, proving once again that the youth of the “Place of the Rising Sun” possess a resilience that can move mountains.

A vital part of this success is the Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena campaign, our flagship initiative that calls on every citizen to “Love Your School.” By bringing together learners, parents, and local businesses, we are transforming our schools into clean, safe, and nurturing sanctuaries. Through the practical work of repairing furniture, repainting walls, and planting gardens, we are doing more than just maintenance; we are building a social shield against vandalism and drugs. This campaign ensures that the physical environment of our schools reflects the high value we place on the minds growing within them, fostering a deep sense of community ownership and pride.

This triumph belongs to all of us - it is a shared victory that resonates in every corner of our province. We extend our deepest gratitude to the parents, teachers, and community stakeholders who served as the invisible backbone of the Class of 2025. Behind every diploma is a teacher who stayed late to explain a difficult concept, a mother who sacrificed her own needs for a school uniform, and a neighbor who offered a word of encouragement. This is the true spirit of Ubuntu - the collective heartbeat of a community that refuses to let its children fail, proving that when we stand together, our potential is limitless.

As we look toward the new horizon, we are guided by the wisdom of Nelson Mandela, who reminded us that education is the most powerful weapon we can use to change the world. To our incoming learners and dedicated educators: you are now the custodians of that weapon. You carry a flame that doesn’t just light up a classroom, but illuminates the very future of Mpumalanga. As the new term begins, let us pledge to keep our schools as sanctuaries of growth where every dream is given wings. We are building a province that works for everyone, fueled by the knowledge that our greatest wealth is not the minerals beneath our soil, but the bright minds sitting at our school desks.



Comments and suggestions are welcome. Send them through to the Editor-in-Chief [gpmthethwa@mpg.gov.za](mailto:gpmthethwa@mpg.gov.za).

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### CODE OF CONDUCT

Our aim is to provide accurate, truthful and balanced reporting. As a publication that subscribes to The Press Code of Ethics and Conduct for South African Print and Online Media, we are serious and remain committed to accurate and fair reporting.

# MPUMALANGA SCOOPS 86,5 PERCENT PASS RATE AMID PERSISTENT CHALLENGES

Despite ongoing national and provincial challenges within the basic education sector, Mpumalanga continues to demonstrate resilience, progress, and a firm commitment to improving learning outcomes.

According to the Department of Basic Education a significant number of public schools across South Africa still lack access to essential infrastructure such as libraries, laboratories and adequate sanitation facilities. These constraints continue to hinder the delivery of quality education. Mpumalanga has not been immune to these challenges. Persistent overcrowding, limited learner admission spaces in fast-growing towns, a high unemployment rate among qualified educators, and pressure on existing school infrastructure remain areas of concern.

Against this backdrop, the 2025 National Senior Certificate (NSC) results reflect a year of determination and collective effort. Learners, educators, school leadership, families, and communities worked together to overcome obstacles and seize opportunities within an evolving educational landscape.

The Mpumalanga Department of Education achieved a major milestone by recording an overall matric pass rate of 86.55 percent in 2025. This represents a sustained upward trajectory from 77.0 percent in 2023 and 85.0 percent in 2024, highlighting growing

system stability and improved learner support mechanisms.

During the announcement of the results in Secunda, the Premier, Mr Mandla Ndlovu congratulated the Class of 2025 while MEC Masina of Education praised learners, educators, parents, and school leaders for their resilience, dedication, and commitment to excellence.

For the first time in the province's history, all districts achieved pass rates above the 80 percent benchmark, signalling a systemic improvement in education delivery across Mpumalanga.

Luyanda Ndlozi from Elangwane Secondary School emerged as the province's top achiever and a Top 40 national performer, receiving a brand-new car in recognition of her outstanding academic achievement.

Siyanda Welcome Nkuna from Inkomazi Secondary School achieved a perfect score of 100 percent (300/300) in Mathematics, earning the title of Top Mathematics Achiever nationally.

Premier Mandla Ndlovu highlighted that Mpumalanga has achieved a 97.1 percent learner retention rate, ranking the province third nationally.

"We must track the 32.2 percent of missing youth who are not in education or have dropped

out, as this ultimately contributes to the youth graduate unemployment rate of 14.2 percent recorded in the third quarter of 2025. The Mpumalanga Provincial Government remains committed to supporting the education sector," said the Premier.

He further announced key interventions aimed at strengthening digital learning and access:

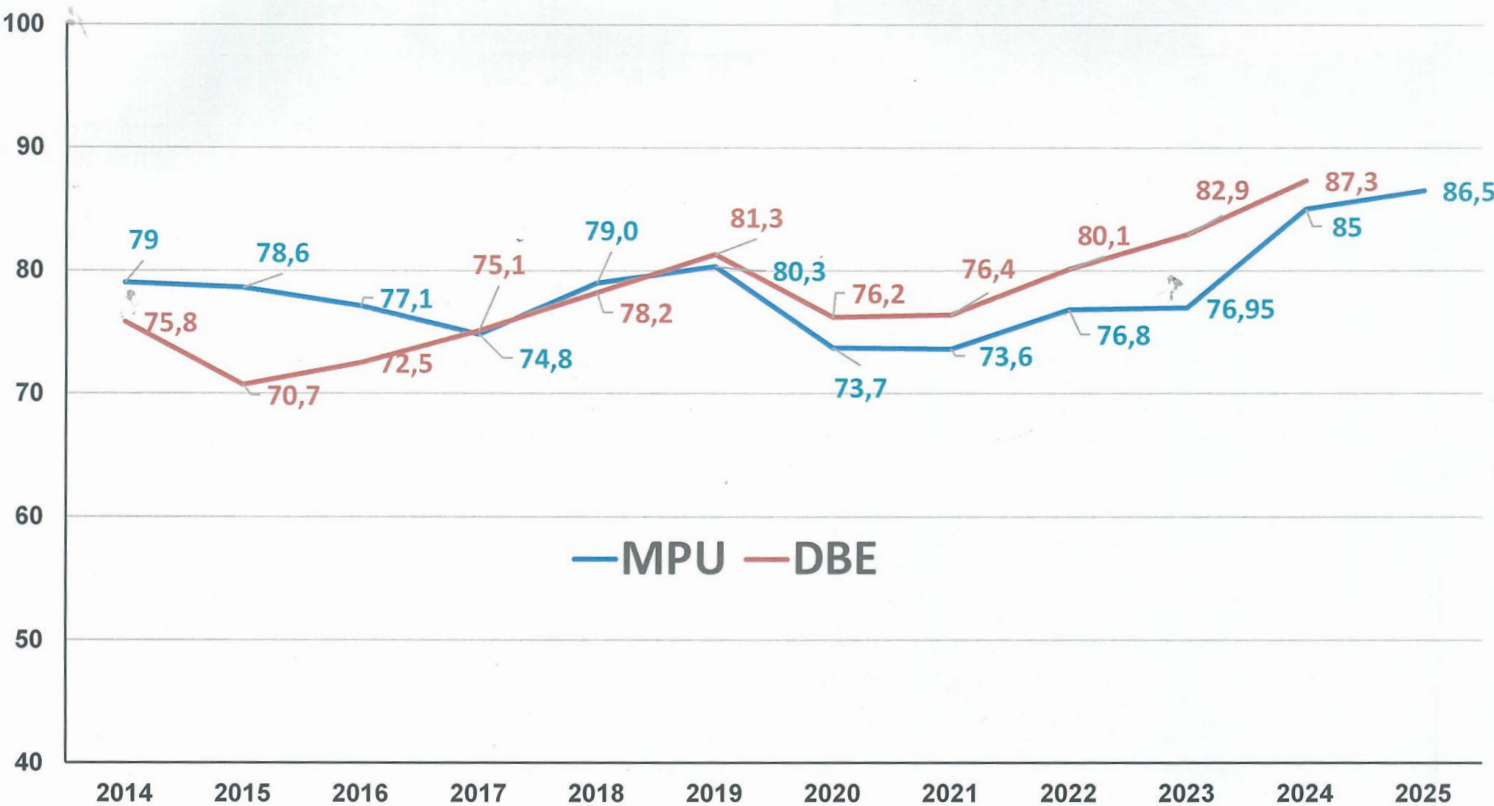
- Tablets distributed to all 2026 matric learners
- Grade 10 learners to receive tablets in 2026, marking a major milestone in digital education
- Ongoing modernisation of school infrastructure, including free Wi-Fi access to support digital learning tools

MEC for Education Ms Lindi Masina expressed gratitude to educators for their dedication and patriotic service.

All districts exceeded the national benchmark of 80%:

1. Ehlanzeni: 88.0% (Top-performing district)
2. Nkangala: 87.4% (Improved by 2.1%)
3. Gert Sibande: 87.1%
4. Bohlabela: 83.5% (Most improved, +4.9%)

Mpumalanga V/S National (NSC From 2014 – 2025)

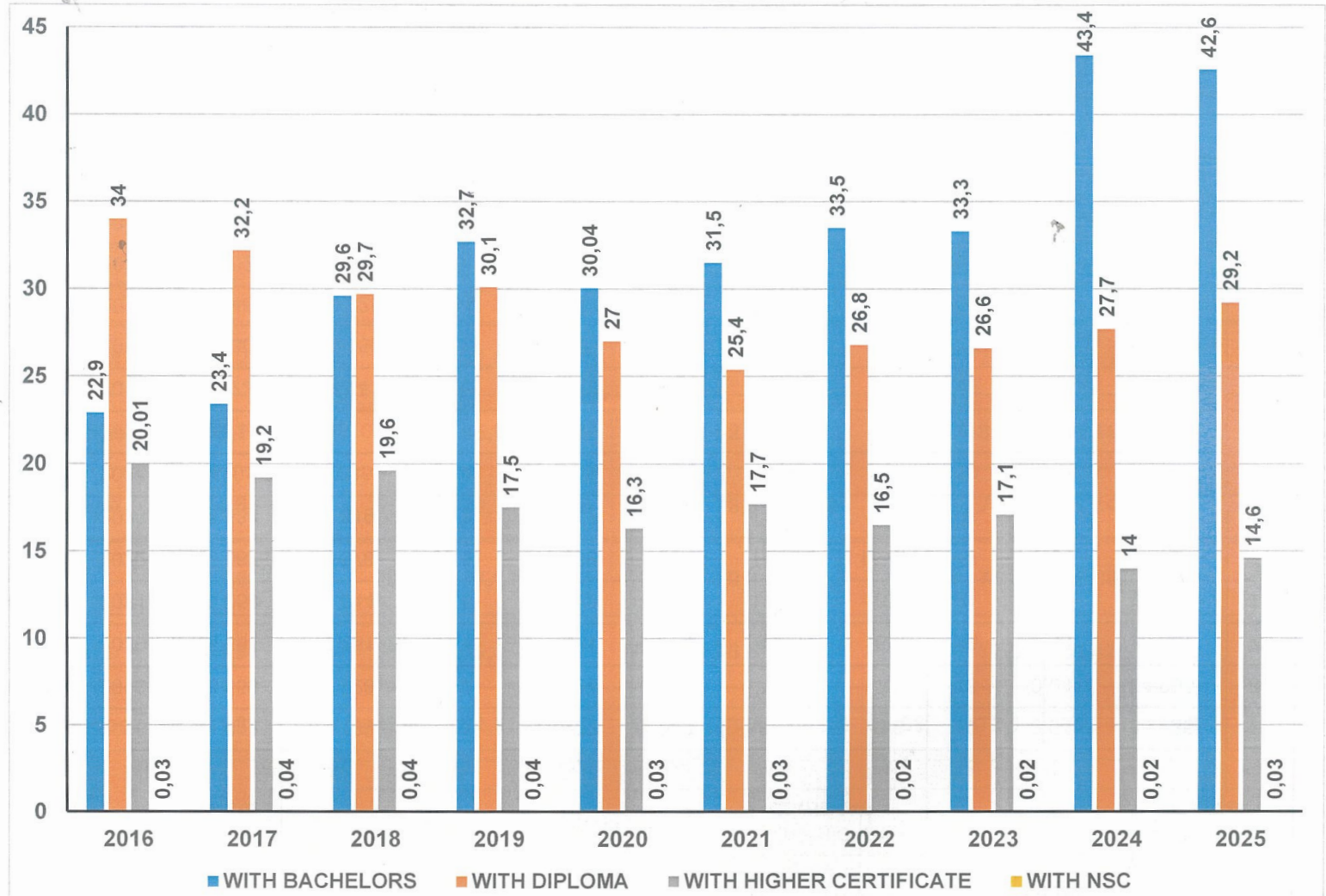




DISTRICT PERFORMANCE 2021 - 2025

YEAR Districts	Wrote 2021	Passed 2021	Pass % 2021	Wrote 2022	Passed 2022	Pass % 2022	Wrote 2023	Passed 2023	Pass % 2023	Entered 2024	Wrote 2024	Passed 2024	Pass % 2024	Entered 2025	Wrote 2025	Passed 2025	Pass % 2025	Variance
Ehlanzeni	18 545	14 011	75,6	18 786	14 320	76,2	17421	14254	81,8	17612	16772	14832	88,4	18820	17742	15605	88,0	-0,4
Nkangala	17 060	12 319	72,2	17 866	13 314	74,5	16915	12921	76,4	16352	15799	13467	85,2	17407	17051	14899	87,4	2,2
Gert Sibande	15 121	10 914	72,2	15 822	12 300	77,7	15747	12571	79,8	16008	15512	13600	87,7	17047	16515	14383	87,1	-0,6
Bohlabela	16 030	11 889	74,2	14 893	11 817	79,3	15451	10683	69,1	16964	16118	12668	78,6	16236	15806	13197	83,5	4,9
Province	66 756	49 133	73,6	67 367	51 751	76,8	65534	50429	76,95	66936	64201	54567	84,99	69510	67114	58084	86,55	1,5

PERFORMANCE: PROVINCIAL PASS CATEGORIES 2016 - 2025





# PRIVATE SECTOR URGED TO DEVELOP COMMUNITIES

Infrastructure development remains key in tackling service delivery challenges in the country, especially in rural areas. The mining sector, which plies its trade in farming areas, has urged to contribute towards infrastructure development. In each of the country's provinces, the top four largest industries include a mix of finance, personal services, mining, manufacturing and trade. In 2024, mining was the main driver of economic activity in Mpumalanga, North West and Northern Cape, and the second largest in Limpopo.



During the 2026 school's re-opening programme, to assess the state of learning and teaching by the Executive Council and councillors, Mpumalanga MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements, and Traditional Affairs, Mr. Speed Mashilo visited Lehlaka Combined School in Rietspruit, eMalahleni Local Municipality. This farming school has been on a steady rise in producing great results across the board, including Grade 12.

It is very important that people benefit from companies or mines operating in their communities. "I should be convening a meeting with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport, the municipality and the mines, including Glenco, Seriti and other stakeholders to explore ways to tackle issues of infrastructure, especially roads, electricity and water and on a bigger scale, social responsibility initiatives by the mines", charged Mashilo.

Just like most mining towns, the community of Rietspruit suffered a serious set-back when the mine shut down few years ago, leaving scores stranded and without jobs. Though in a municipal jurisdiction, the area was managed by the mine. Established in 1979, the 550 pupils, 19 educators, and 69 matriculants school, it owes its existence to the private sector. It was recently renovated and is in a good condition, thus enabling teaching and learning, to take place unhindered. Over the years, the schools has seen a steady improvement on matric results from a meagre 35%, 25%, 69%, 55%, 72.9% and 91% from 2020 to 2025.

Thriving on discipline and commitment, the school is becoming a beacon of hope for the once flourishing community. School Principal, Mr. Vusi Zikhala appreciated the support they are getting from the private sector. The school was fully renovated by Seriti Mining last year. "I still plead with the private sector to give

more support when it comes to infrastructure development of our school. We still need a science and computer laboratories", he pleaded. According Zikhala, they have set themselves a 100% target for matric results for the class of 2026. Support from parents, government and the private sector remains critical to this aspiration.

Mining activities are responsible for the bulk of the country's manufacturing value added. Meanwhile, Glencore Mine donated school shoes to 200 learners and tablets, benefiting a sizable number of pupils and the school. "On a yearly basis as a mining company, we assist all the schools around here as part of our social responsibility", indicated quipped Glencore's Community Development Superintendent, Mr Sibusiso Mbebe. The 2025 results include 23 Bachelors, 21 distinctions, and a massive 100% pass rate in six subjects. Lehlaka Combined School is a classical example that, if you put your mind to it, you are bound to succeed.

## BUILDING EXCELLENCE, TOGETHER

Steve Tshwete Local Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Mhlonishwa Masilela proudly celebrated the success of the Class of 2025 recently during a special awards ceremony. The top 10 learners from across the Municipal jurisdiction were honoured for their outstanding academic performance and were presented with trophies, certificates, and gift vouchers.

Executive Mayor Masilela congratulated the learners for their hard work and excellent results, and encouraged school principals to continue striving for excellence to ensure that the Class of 2026 works harder

and performs well. He further expressed his hope that the Municipality will produce the best learner in the province, who stands a chance to receive a car at the Provincial Awards. The celebration also marked a proud milestone for the Municipality, which continues to be among the top-performing municipalities in the province, and acknowledged the 100% pass rate achieved by, Bankfontein Secondary School, Middelburg Muslim School and Middelburg Hoërskool.

HALALA to the Class of 2025, your hard work has made the entire municipality proud. Keep shining!





# DREAM BIG, WORK HARDER

A delegation led by the Speaker of the Nkhalanga District, Cllr. Kabelo Boshomane and the Executive Mayor of Dr JS Moraka Municipality, Cllr. Nomsa Mtsweni visited the Malebo Secondary School to promote the back to School Campaign.

The delegation received a warm welcome from the school's Principal and the school

staff. Addressing the learners, the Speaker of NDM encouraged them to dream big and believe in their potential, while emphasising the importance of discipline, respect, and hard work. "Boys and girls, I want you to know that the world is full of opportunities and you can achieve anything you set your mind to but the key is Education. It is very important to remain

disciplined and to respect your teachers and elders," he said.

Closing remarks from the Ward Councillor D Kekae were full of appreciation as she thanked the delegation for this very important visit, she ended the campaign in prayer and learners dispersed to their classrooms.





# THE BLUEPRINT FOR SUCCESS

The Executive Mayor, Cllr Mogotle Friddah Nkadimeng, visited Mashishing Secondary School as part of the Back-to-School Campaign. During her visit, Cllr Nkadimeng congratulated the school on achieving an outstanding 96% matric pass rate. She described this remarkable achievement as clear proof that hard work, discipline, consistency, and dedication yield positive results.

The Executive Mayor further highlighted the school's impressive upward performance trend, which improved from 62.8% in 2023 to 89.99% in 2024, and now an exceptional 96% in 2025. "The baton is now handed over to the Class of 2026. The bar has been set high, but it is attainable if you remain focused, disciplined, and determined. Learn from those who came before you, believe in your abilities, and remember that excellence is a daily choice. The

future is watching, and we have no doubt that you can take Mashishing Secondary School to even greater heights," said the Executive Mayor.

Addressing the Grade 8 learners, the Executive Mayor encouraged them to embrace learning, respect their educators, work hard, and never underestimate themselves. She also commended the crucial role played by educators, parents, the School Governing Body (SGB), the private sector, and other stakeholders in the collective effort to shape a brighter future for learners.

A representative from the District Office of the Department of Education, Mr Tshehla, also congratulated Mashishing Secondary School on its matric results and challenged the school to aim for a 100% pass rate in 2026. Community leaders in attendance also shared words of encouragement and pledged their continued support for the school.



## THE FIRST STEP IS THE GREATEST



As part of 2026 back to school campaign, the Executive Mayor, of Bushbuckridge Municipality Cllr Lydia Moroane, visited Godide High School at Rolle. During the visit, the Executive Mayor welcomed the learners, Educators and the support staff of the school on their first day in 2026, she encouraged the learners to take their studies seriously from day 1, listen and respect their educators and parents/guardians.

The Executive Mayor did not go to the school empty handed, as she also handed over 100 full kit uniform.



# DELIVERING A CREDIBLE NSC EXAMINATION

The Mpumalanga Province remained confident and ready to administer an incident-free 2025 National Senior Certificate Examination which commenced in full scale on 23 October and proceeded until 27 November 2025. This was to ensure a credible, transparent, and fair examination process that upholds the integrity of the National Senior Certificate,” said the MEC for Education, Ms. Lindi Masina.

Candidate registration was successfully completed through the SA-SAMS system, with all data uploaded to the Examination System by 30 June 2025. A total of 69 980 candidates have registered to write the 2025 NSC examinations in the province. This number constitutes an increase of 2 749 candidates compared to the previous year, 2024.

Ehlanzeni District recorded the highest number of learners at 18 764, followed by Nkangala District with 17 490, Gert Sibande District with 17 061, and Bohlabela District with 16 665 learners. Examinations were conducted across 583 centres, all of which have been successfully audited.

The Department provided the necessary support for candidate registration and data verification, with 39 centres being accredited as independent schools. A comprehensive Risk Management Plan was developed to mitigate potential disruptions, including community protests, load-shedding, floods, and other natural disasters. The printing and packaging processes for examination papers were significantly strengthened.

It is encouraging that for the past 14 years, the Mpumalanga Education Department has successfully managed incident-free examinations with no question paper leakages, a record we are determined to uphold. Indeed, security, integrity and credibility of

the examination remains a top priority for the Department. All storage points are centrally monitored to ensure strict compliance with security protocols in close collaboration with the South African Police Service (SAPS).

The Department sought a buy in from communities by making a clarion call to all school communities, associations of school governing bodies, education sector unions and non-governmental organizations to rally side by side with the Department and to be the first line of defence. These stakeholders were called upon to be vigilant and play an active role in safeguarding the examinations.

All grade 12 learners across the province participated in signing the Pledge of Good Conduct on 17 October 2025. The pledge signing was intended to appeal to learners’ conscience and reinforce ethical conduct throughout the examination period. The Department thus urged all learners to adhere strictly to the examination rules and regulations as any form of irregularity or misconduct, as such actions compromise the credibility of the entire examination process and would not be tolerated.

Chief Invigilators and Invigilators were trained during September 2025 and both the Department of Basic Education and Umalusi have conducted audits confirming compliance with the appointment processes for markers. The marking commenced on 02 November until 12 December 2025 in 21 marking centres across the province. All centres completed self-evaluation audit instruments, and new centres underwent physical inspections to ensure full compliance. The Department ensured that all learners achieve exceptional results. However, should that not be the case, a provincial pass rate that exceeds 90% will still be appreciated.

This pass target was informed by the support rendered to the Class of 2025 in the past 12 years of their studies within this Province including

the work done by our teachers. “We take this opportunity to appeal to all communities, parents, faith-based organisations, and social partners to continue supporting the Class of 2025 as they take this final and defining step in their schooling journey.

The Department, in partnership with the Moral Regeneration Movement, hosted a Provincial Prayer Session on Thursday, 16 October 2025, at Graceland Hotel, Secunda, to seek divine guidance and blessings for our learners during this examination period. We call upon all religious leaders to continue praying for success, calmness, and for our learners.

To the Class of 2025 – this is your moment to shine. You have worked tirelessly, overcome challenges, and shown resilience throughout the year. As you approach these final examinations, remember that success is built on preparation, discipline, and belief in your own abilities.

Stay calm, focused, and confident. Read each question carefully, manage your time wisely, and always give your best effort in every paper you write. You are not just writing for yourself, you carry the hopes of your families, your schools, and your communities. We believe in you. We are proud of you. And we are confident that you will rise to the occasion and make Mpumalanga and South Africa proud.

On behalf of the Mpumalanga Provincial Government, we wish every learner the very best in the 2025 National Senior Certificate Examinations. May your hard work bear the fruits of excellence, and may your results open doors to endless opportunities and a brighter future. The 2025 National Senior Certificate Examination Results were officially announced on 13 January 2026,” concluded MEC Masina.





# A HEALTHIER MPUMALANGA STARTS IN OUR CLASSROOMS

As part of the back-to-school campaign the MEC for Health, Ms Sasekani Manzini visited Marcia Mokoena Secondary School in Marite, Bushbuckridge, to provide support and monitor the school's state of readiness as the academic year begins. Marcia Mokoena Secondary School, which has over 800 learners, continues to show encouraging signs of improved academic

performance. The school's matric pass rate increased from 65.1% in 2024 to 73.5% in 2025, reflecting the commitment of both learners and educators. The Department's School Health Team conducted health screenings for all learners to identify any health-related challenges that could hinder learning. Furthermore, we reaffirmed our commitment to supporting

learners throughout the year to help them achieve top academic results. Addressing the learners MEC Manzini said "as government, we firmly share the belief that children are our future, and it is our responsibility to ensure that no obstacle stands in the way of their academic success" Manzini concluded her visit by donating school shoes, school backpacks, and sanitary towels to learners in need.



## A LEGACY OF ENCOURAGEMENT

Social Development MEC, Ms Nompumelelo Hlophe visited HTS Middelburg Secondary on January 14, 2025, as part of the Provincial Government's back- to- school campaign, to assess its readiness for the academic year. The MEC discovered that the school is ready, with textbooks, books, and other materials having been delivered

the previous year. Learners are ready and motivated to do well. When delivering her speech, MEC Hlophe first congratulated the class of 2025 at HTS Middelburg Secondary School and further emphasized the importance of proper communication between the School Governing body (SGB) and the Department

of Education. The MEC encouraged parents and teachers to continue supporting learners to create a conducive learning and teaching environment. The Department of Culture, Sports, and Recreation should be engaged to assist the school with Netball development and the construction of the courts, said MEC Hlophe.





# WALKING THE FIRST MILE TOGETHER

**M**EC for Culture, Sport and Recreation, Ms Leah Mabuza, paid a visit to Highveld Secondary School in Elukwatini as part of the Provincial Government’s Back to School Campaign. The campaign sees Members of the Executive visiting schools across the province on the first

day of school to assess progress and identify challenges that may affect school operations, teaching and learning. Highveld Secondary School has much to celebrate, having achieved an outstanding 100% matric pass rate for the Class of 2025. The MEC also came bearing gifts in the form of sporting equipment

and sanitary and hygiene packs which were given to the school for future use. Congratulations to the learners, educators, parents and the entire school community on this remarkable achievement. We wish all learners a successful and productive 2026 academic year.





# THE HEARTBEAT OF DAY ONE



The MEC for Economic Development and Tourism, Ms. Jesta Sidell says the Department and its Public Entities will continue unashamedly to support the efforts of the Department of Education by lending a hand to students who are coming from indigent backgrounds. Sidell echoed these profound words during the 2026 Provincial Government School Reopening Programme, at Tikhontele Secondary School, situated in Matsulu, in the City of Mbombela Local Municipality.

The School Re-opening Programme is an annual programme, whereby public representatives and government officials are deployed to primary and secondary schools across the Province to encourage both learners and teachers to work hard as the academic year begins in order to produce good results at the end of the school year. The programme also seeks to assess and evaluate school readiness ahead of the new academic year.

Of importance, this Programme affords the schools with an opportunity to raise the challenges they are faced with, which may lead to poor performance. It is also through this Programme that the deployed public representatives lays a solid and conducive foundation for teaching and learning. Addressing the learners during their first assembly period of the year, MEC Sidell congratulated the learners, for making it to the 2026 academic year and further encouraged them to continue working hard on their studies.

“I wish to take this opportunity to congratulate you for making it to yet another academic chapter in your lives. We are not here to disturb your first day of learning but to encourage you to continue working hard, as this will further propel you to succeed in life. A journey of thousand miles begins with a single step”, MEC Sidell said. The school re-opening programme culminated in a donation of school uniforms and sanitary towels by the

philanthropic MEC Sidell to pupils who were identified as needy by the school and the governing body.

“The donation of the school uniform and sanitary towels should serve as a clear indication of government’s commitment to education. We are not going to allow a situation where family circumstances impedes our children from attending school. The fact that more than 40 percent of the provincial budget is allocated to the education sector is a clear indication that the Province takes education very seriously. Accordingly, the provincial government will continue to provide the necessary resources from the available financial resources to match the societal expectations and to enable the learners to get basic education”, MEC Sidell concluded.



# ON THE GROUND FOR OUR CHILDREN



As part of the 2026 Schools Re-opening Programme, MEC Thulasizwe Thomo visited The Gem Masuku Secondary School in the Msukaligwa Local Municipality, together with the Chief Whip of Msukaligwa Local Municipality, Cllr Sibeko, and MMC Cllr Motha. The visit, conducted in collaboration with the Department of Education, aimed to evaluate the school's preparedness for

the 2026 academic year and to support a smooth and effective start to the year. MEC Thomo congratulated The Gem Secondary School on its excellent achievement of a 92% pass rate, including producing the top-performing learner in the circuit. He further applauded the commitment and hard work of the educators, learners, and the broader school community in attaining this

impressive result. The school was also encouraged to maintain that positive momentum and to continue pursuing academic excellence in the 2026 academic year. These engagements are an essential component of the 2026 Back-to-School Programme, which seeks to establish a strong foundation for a successful and productive academic year ahead.

## SUPPORT FROM THE VERY FIRST STEP



The Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Ms Sindisiwe Chikunga, emphasised the importance of education as a foundation for the future of the country.

Addressing learners and educators, Minister Chikunga emphasised the importance of education as a foundation for future success and encouraged learners to take their studies seriously and to uphold discipline both in and outside the classroom.

The Minister, flanked by the Chief Albert Luthuli municipal leadership, visited two schools within the municipality, namely Hambanatsi Primary School in Ward 12 and Hlabangemehlo High School in Ward 16, to assess the state of readiness at the schools and to motivate learners to remain disciplined and committed to their studies.

As part of the campaign, the Minister, with the support of the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), donated school shoes to learners from disadvantaged backgrounds. The initiative aims to remove barriers that may prevent learners from attending school regularly, ensuring that no child is distracted from learning due to a lack of necessities.





**T**he MEC for DARDLEA Ms Khethiwe Moeketsi visited Maqhawuzela Combined School in Tjakastad in the Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality kick-starting the 2026 academic year, encouraging the leadership at the school, the educators and learners to commit

their work for better results. Maqhaquzela achieved 87, 9% matric pass rate for the class 2025, a slight drop compared to their 2024 results.

The MEC's visit, which was part of the School Reopening Programme, saw key stakeholders joining hands, including

the Mjinti Traditional Council, discussing issues that will see a general improvement at the school henceforth.

## GUIDING THE CLASS OF 2026

**D**ipaleseng Local Municipality leadership rolled out its annual Back to School Campaign to assess institutional readiness for the 2026 academic year within its jurisdiction.

The Executive Mayor, Cllr. NB Khanye, together with the ward councillor and MMC for Community Services and Public Safety, Cllr. AN Carrim led a delegation that visited IM Manchu Secondary School in Ward 3, Balfour.

The visit formed part of the ongoing commitment to strengthening education and creating a conducive environment for learning and teaching within the municipality.

The delegation deliberated on a range of issues and agreed on concrete plans to ensure uninterrupted teaching and learning, aligned with the Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign (QLTC) principles. The Mayor commended the IM Manchu Secondary School management, led

by Principal Mr ML. Ndaba, for its outstanding academic performance, has achieved a 97% matric pass rate in 2025. The results included 80 Bachelor's passes, 55 Diploma passes, and 18 distinctions. The delegation also visited other schools to provide necessary support and ensure a successful start to the new academic year.



# LISTENING TO THE FIRST BELL



**M**EC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Mr Jackie Macie, visited three schools in Ehlanzeni to share words of encouragement to the school community as part of the Back-to-School Programme 2026.

The MEC encouraged the learners to focus on their books, listen attentively to their teachers and show respect to both educators and parents.

Each of the three visited school, that is DD Mabuza and Manzolwandle high schools in Nkomazi and Enzani Primary School in the City of Mbombela Local Municipality, were gifted with 100 pairs of shoes for learners, along with laptops, a photocopier, and a 12-month unlimited Wi-Fi subscription.

The MEC also praised the security cluster for ensuring an incident-free Grade 12 exam period, including safe transport of papers and scripts and zero leaks across Mpumalanga.

“We are proud as a province that there were no leaks of examinations. We had to ensure we deploy people who will protect the papers at all costs to safeguard the integrity of the exams,” said the MEC.

Meanwhile, the Head of Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Ms Gloria Mazibuko, called on teachers to speak out against teenage pregnancy, which she said negatively impacts learning.

## OUR JOURNEY, OUR CELEBRATION



**T**he Executive Mayor of Ehlanzeni District, Cllr Shabangu, visited Langa Secondary School in Boschfontein, Nkomazi, to celebrate the school’s remarkable achievement of a third consecutive 100% matric pass rate.

In his address to the school community, Mayor Shabangu announced that the school will soon relocate to a new building, adding that this should give the principal, teachers, and learners even more reason to celebrate

this milestone. The Mayor expects the new facility to provide a more conducive learning environment and further strengthen the school’s performance for years to come. To further motivate learners, the Mayor handed over 50 pairs of school shoes and 50 school bags to the School Governing Body (SGB) to give to deserving learners.





The MEC for Education, Ms Lindi Masina, together with the Executive Mayor of Mkhondo Local Municipality, Cllr. Ngelosi Ndhlovu launched the Provincial Second Chance Matric Programme at Inqubeko Secondary School in Mkhondo on 24 January 2026.

The Provincial Second Chance Matric Programme is designed to provide individuals who did not pass the National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations, as well as those who wish to improve or obtain a matric qualification, with a

renewed opportunity to achieve their NSC.

Through this programme, registered participants attend scheduled classes designed to support and prepare them to rewrite their examinations.

The programme is offered free of charge to ensure accessibility for all eligible candidates.

Participants are permitted to rewrite the examinations until they successfully obtain their National Senior Certificate.

The launch highlighted the Department's commitment to improving educational outcomes and expanding opportunities for learners who wish to complete their matric qualification.

The launch was attended by officials from the Mpumalanga Department of Education, representatives from the Gert Sibande District Municipality, Circuit Managers from both the East and West Circuits, Members of the Mayoral Committee (MMCs) from Mkhondo Local Municipality, and various school principals.

# YOU DREAMED IT, YOU DID IT

Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Local Municipality celebrated academic excellence by hosting the annual matric excellence awards, where top-performing learners were recognised for their outstanding results in the 2025 National Senior Certificate Examinations.

The event, held at Battlefield Country Resort, was attended by educators, parents, community leaders, and municipal officials.

Executive Mayor Cllr BJ Mhlanga delivered a keynote address, commending students for their hard work and resilience.

"These learners have shown that, with dedication and support, great achievements are possible. Today, we not only honour their success, but also in their future", said Cllr Mhlanga.

During the ceremony, learners received certificates of achievement and vouchers for books and stationery to support their transition to higher education and ensure t

hey have the resources needed to continue their studies.

The Municipality reaffirmed its commitment to supporting education through initiatives such as bursary programmes, school infrastructure upgrades, and partnerships with local businesses to create opportunities for youth.



The programme was made possible through the generous contribution of Munsoft's Corporate Responsibility Flagship, which donated the prizes for the awards ceremony.



# CARRY THE TORCH FORWARD

The Executive Mayor of Gert Sibande District Municipality (GSDM), Cllr Walter Mngomezulu, led a School Re-opening Oversight Visit Programme starting at Qhubulwazi Secondary School in Vukuzakhe on 14 January.

The visit followed commitments made by the Premier of Mpumalanga, Mr Mandla Ndlovu, during the 2025 Provincial Executive Council Outreach Programme. These commitments included donating school uniforms, school bags, and choir uniforms, as well as a full teaching bursary for the school choir conductor.

During the visit, Cllr Mngomezulu handed over school uniforms and school bags donated by Premier Ndlovu to 175 learners. In his keynote address, the Executive Mayor further

pledged an additional R50 000 towards the tuition fees of the school choir conductor, who is currently completing Grade 12.

Cllr Mngomezulu also congratulated the Class of 2025 on their outstanding academic performance, which contributed to an improved national pass rate of 88%. Mpumalanga Province achieved 86.55%, and the Gert Sibande District recorded 87.1%. He encouraged the current learner cohort to build on this achievement and strive for excellence in advancing the country, province and district.

As part of ongoing learner support initiatives, 400 learners from KwaDela, Davel, and surrounding areas received a donation of school shoes on 16 January, easing their daily journey to and from school. The donation was made possible through Seriti Green.

In his capacity as Chairperson of Seriti Green's Umbila Emoyeni Steering and Communications Committee, Cllr Mngomezulu also handed over school shoes to four schools at a ceremony held at the KwaDela Community Hall in Davel, Msukaligwa Local Municipality. Additional support was provided by PEP Stores, which donated sanitary towels and stationery, while ASGINC and Peg Security donated 10 laptops to the four beneficiary schools. The event was attended by the Executive Mayor of Msukaligwa Local Municipality, senior officials from Seriti Green and other stakeholders.

These collective interventions underscore the value of collaborative partnerships in strengthening learner dignity, access to education and improved educational outcomes across the Gert Sibande District.





# 7<sup>th</sup> PROVINCIAL ADMINISTRATION IN ACTION



**Mr Mandla Ndlovu**  
Premier of Mpumalanga

## KNOW YOUR MEMBERS OF THE EXECUTIVE COUNCIL IN MPUMALANGA



**Mr Speed Mashilo**  
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Governance, Human  
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**Mr Thulasizwe Thomo**  
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**Mr Jackie Macie**  
MEC: Community Safety,  
Security & Liaison