

Sibukosetfu

VOLUME 02/2016

WHEN THE SUN RISES

WE WORK HARD TO DELIVER

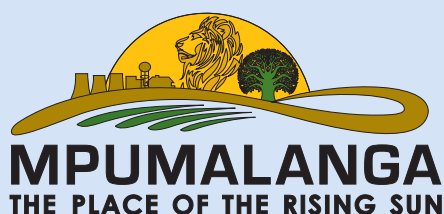
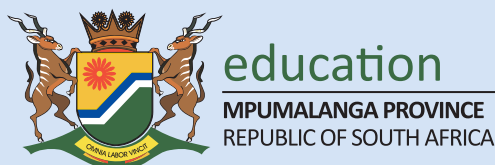


2	Message by Editor
3	Education is a Basic Right.
4	Steve Tshwete Boarding School
6	Choral Eistedfodd
9	Old Mutual Green Kitchens Project
10	Barberton Secondary School
11	Delivering in School Infrastructure Projects
12	Taking Education Delivery to Greater Heights
14	Visit to Sijabulile Primary School
15	In Conversation with Representative Council of Learners
17	Handover of Sibongidawo Primary School
18	Policy and Budget Speech
19	Honouring the Madiba's Legacy



Editor: Mr Jeffery Makhumba
 Designer: Eddie Brunette
 Information is correct at press time.
 Check www.mpumalanga.gov.za/education for updates.

Disclaimer: Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Mpumalanga Department of Basic Education



Amongst other basic rights such as the right to life, freedom of speech and freedom of association, the Constitution renders Education as a basic human right. It is in the spirit and letter of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa that we offer our support to the Nelson Mandela Foundation in its effort to bring life and meaning to our children in this country and beyond.

In our quest to educate and skill the nation, we are all expected to be equipped with life changing information and systems that enable us to make positive sound decisions that benefit not only us, but our communities at large, please read more on this on page 03.

The South African Schools Eisteddfod was founded sixteen years ago as part of school curricular enrichment. The objectives of the Eisteddfod are to promote unity in diversity, national reconciliation, a new South African National Identity, social transformation and social cohesion among learners. Chayaza, Theu Theu, Mkhuhlu and Amadlelo Aluhlaza made the province proud by their sterling performance. The Mpumalanga Department of Education is proud of all the schools that participated in the ABC Motsepe Eistedfodd and the provincial leg. Bravo Mpumalanga.

The Mpumalanga Department of Education extended its appreciation to Old Mutual for the patriotic benevolence following the donation of a fully equipped kitchen on 16 April 2016 at Siyathokoza Primary School in Ogies, Phola Location at Emalahleni Local Municipality.

The Old Mutual Green Kitchens project, now in its third year, aims to mobilise resources to tackle infrastructure problems at schools that serve South Africa's disadvantaged communities. In addition to the kitchen facilities, 100 pairs of school shoes were donated to underprivileged learners of the school.

The MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule delivered a message of support at the Nelson Mandela Foundation function on 10 May 2016. The event was attended by both representatives of the Nelson Mandela Foundation and the Hanns Seidel Foundation.

This is the extract of the speech delivered by MEC Mhaule.

"I feel honoured and privileged by the invitation extended to my office that I should be part of this auspicious occasion to offer a message of support. I really appreciate this opportunity greatly and my heart goes out to the Nelson Mandela Foundation in its celebration of the Constitution of the Republic of



South Africa.

The 10th of May is a very historic day in the calendar of our nation as it marks the anniversaries for both the celebration of the Constitution and the inauguration of the first democratic President of the Republic, President Mandela.

Amongst other basic rights such as the right to life, freedom of speech and freedom of association, the Constitution renders Education as a basic human right. It is in the spirit and letter of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa that we offer our support to the Nelson Mandela Foundation in its effort to bring life and meaning to our children in this country and beyond.

In our quest to educate and skill the nation, we are all expected to be equipped with life changing

information and systems that enable us to make positive sound decisions that benefit not only us, but our communities at large.

The founding father of this Foundation, Dr. Nelson Mandela once said, "We were inspired by the idea of bringing into being a democratic republic where all South Africans will enjoy human rights without the slightest discrimination: where African and non-African would be able to live together in peace, sharing a common nationality and a common loyalty to this country, which is our homeland."

It is thus a duty and responsibility of every South African to embrace unity and work against all forms of prejudice and discrimination that seeks to dehumanize and rob people of their dignity.

It is unfortunate that in South Africa in recent times, the social media space has been inundated with narratives of racism and racial slurs. As a country and a nation, we should not provide any latitude to the evils of racism but set our energies on building equality in our society. We should always be wary that once spoken or written, hurtful words can never be retracted or reversed hence the need to be cautious and vigilant with regards to upholding human dignity and equality as espoused in our Constitution.

Through education we are able to lay a foundation of hope and change the lives of our people for the better. We are happy that the Nelson Mandela Foundation ensures that our children enjoy a 21st century learning environment of the Constitution through technology.

We should also not forget that poverty and marginalisation are the greatest causes of inequality and human rights abuse hence the need to work hard banish them to them from our society.

At the level of the school, we teach our learners that personal growth and skills development is very important but empowering those that are less informed plays a vital role in the growth of our communities. It is through life orientation that learners are appealed to always keep their flames glowing and burning by taking part in the growth and development agenda of the country.

One must remember that life orientation aims to ensure that learners know who they are, not only on a personal level but are also able to find a balance in their communities, we therefore are able to use this subject as a vehicle to equip learners to be responsible citizens, with respect for fellow human beings embracing Ubuntu as Madiba did.

The education sector, is supportive and more than happy that the Civics Academy is launched today, bringing forth the understanding of the Constitution as well as the broadening of the culture of human rights to the youth of our nation towards nation building and racial harmony in our country."





Steve Tshwete Boarding School is one of the five boarding schools established by the Mpumalanga provincial government to get rid the multi-grade small unviable schools.

It is part of government endeavour to guarantee quality education to learners from rural areas and those that live below the breadline.

The Boarding school intends to curtail learner dropout rate and other social ills such as teenage pregnancy and most significantly to provide a safe haven for children from farm areas.

Steve Tshwete boarding school was operationalized from 18 July 2016 (Mandela Day) following the closure of six schools namely Hamelfontein, Ongesiens, Bosmaanspan , Imbabala, Poolzee, and Elandslaagte.

It is the only boarding school named after and in honor of a struggle Icon and as such it must epitomize the values that the icon epitomized.

"We are really grateful that today we in our collective witness yet another milestone in our province, adding on our endeavour to



improve the provisioning of quality of education for all.

05

This is history in the making and confirmation that indeed South Africa has a good story to tell. Today, we also open another page of hope and courage still adding on our desire to make the lives of our people better through the delivery of quality education.

Allow me to extend my greatest regards to everyone who has contributed to this Boarding School to come to fruition. We can safely make a commitment that your efforts will not be in vain.

This is a kind of a school that invokes emotions when you look at it.

Tears floods one's eyes because of the fact that it can only be made possible by a caring government and a democratic dispensation inspired by meeting the special needs of its people.” Mrs MOC Mhlabane



Mpumalanga partake in the ABC Motsepe School Choral Eisteddfod

06

The Mpumalanga Department of Education participated in the ABC Motsepe Schools Eisteddfod from Tuesday, 28 June to Friday, 1 July 2016 at the Rhema Bible Church in Randburg, Johannesburg. The Eisteddfod was organised by Department of Basic Education in partnership with the Motsepe Foundation as a national competition with all provinces represented except the Northern Cape. The national leg was heralded by the provincial competition held from 27 to 29 May 2016 at Graceland in Secunda. All the four districts of the province were represented vying for honours in the different categories from the primary to secondary level.

The ABC Motsepe Schools Eisteddfod, formerly known as the South African Schools Eisteddfod (SASCE), is one of the Department's prestigious events in the annual school calendar and is sponsored by the Motsepe Foundation to the tune of R3 million per year. Most of the sponsorship money goes towards the prizes to incentivize winning participants (i.e. positions 1, 2 and 3) in all the 38 categories at the National Eisteddfod.

The South African Schools Eisteddfod was founded sixteen years ago as part of school curricular enrichment. The objectives of the Eisteddfod are to promote unity in diversity, national reconciliation, a new South African National Identity, social transformation and social cohesion among learners.

In forging a South African Identity and social cohesion, this year's Eisteddfod, themed, "Commemoration of the 1956 Women's March" and the "Commemoration of the 1976 Youth uprising," featured the recitation of the Preamble of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and singing the "Plea for Africa" piece as a symbol of commemorating our past. The South African National Anthem, which is a permanent feature of this programme, was also sung.

Mpumalanga school choirs stole the show as Chief KJ Malaza took position one under the farms schools category with the presentation of Lo tsha - It's a new day by E Netshivhambe. Chief KJ Malaza proved to be the darling of the crowds with their sterling performance. Ndawonye Primary school also made their angelic voices heard by the adjudicators as they obtained position 1 in the AU Anthem presentation. Mkhulu senior secondary also took position 1 while Amadlelo Aluhlaza obtained position 2 in both the AU Anthem and mixed choirs' presentation of Ingoduso by RT Caluza while they got position 3 in the National Anthem category.

Chayaza senior secondary also put the province on the national map by



obtaining position 1 in the male voice rendition of Love Sounds the Alarm by GF Handel. In the trio, Zitti Zitti Piano Piano by G Rossini Dlomodlomo obtained position 3. In the female voice open section category Ndlela secondary obtained position 3. In the HIV /AIDS Jingle and Folklore category Gedlembane took position 2.

Theu Theu primary come to position 2 with the rendition of the South African National Anthem. Njanji Mixed Choir delivered the spiritual Roger Emerson's Elijah Rock and outdid themselves as they dominated the stage with their recitation of the South African Constitution preamble and obtained position 3.

These schools made the province proud by their strling performance.

The Mpumalanga Department of Education is proud of all the schools that partiapiated in the ABC Motsepe Eistedfodd and the provincial





**TAKE ACTION. INSPIRE CHANGE,
MAKE EVERY DAY A MANDELA DAY.**

The Mpumalanga Department of Education extended its appreciation to Old Mutual for the patriotic benevolence following the donation of a fully equipped kitchen on 16 April 2016 at Siyathokoza Primary School in Ogies, Phola Location at Emalahleni Local Municipality.

The Old Mutual Green Kitchens project, now in its third year, aims to mobilise resources to tackle infrastructure problems at schools that serve South Africa's disadvantaged communities. In addition to the kitchen facilities, 100 pairs of school shoes were donated to underprivileged learners of the school.

Old Mutual in partnership with the Department of Basic education has identified one of the pressing issues in thwarting quality teaching and learning delivery at schools, which is the delivery of the School Nutrition Programme. The donation of well equipped kitchens is an intervention in that regard as well as for food security and improved child nutrition and education.

Education is a key focus area for Old Mutual as the fully-equipped and self-contained kitchen units donated to under-resourced schools will go a long way in nourishing the young bodies and minds by ensuring that those coming from disadvantaged backgrounds will at least get one hot meal a day.

Old Mutual is involved in various other educational projects nationwide to empower and equip communities with the knowledge, skills and tools they need to become self-reliant and sustainable.

In the Province, Old Mutual has also donated Mobile Science Laboratories to improve Mathematics and Physical Science subjects as part of their programme to uplift underperforming schools. The company also wants to improve school management and teaching capabilities.

Old Mutual is keen to provide these kitchen facilities nationally, and is also looking to partner with other companies to provide a truly off-grid kitchen solution. By using solar energy and water-from-air technology, for example, reliance on municipal electricity and water could be reduced. Grey water from the kitchens can also be used to irrigate schools' food gardens.

Above all, this initiative is essential that the health of our children improves as the School Nutrition Programme is operated in a conducive environment. It is an imperative to avail good nutrition to our learners as good nutrition and good education cannot be separated. In South Africa and Mpumalanga in general, we have to contend with learners who travel long distances to

schools hence the importance of good nutrition to boost their concentration span.

Some of our learners travel long distances to school without food. This affects them to concentrate in class and eventually their education is affected. Spending hours at school without food is almost impossible to concentrate on their lessons.

"This gesture goes a long way in creating an improved environment for teaching and learning practice. We are very grateful to Old Mutual for this donation. It will make the needed difference in the lives of our pupils. Old Mutual is committed to contributing positively to communities and investing responsibly in a greater future for South Africa," said Chief Director for District Coordination; Mr. Mfana Lushaba.





The Mpumalanga Department of Education, the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation, the Department of Correctional Services and the Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust collaborated on a Mandela Day Programme on Friday, 15 July 2016 at Baberton Secondary School at Umjindi Local Municipality.

The programme included cleaning of the school, painting, cultivating food and flower gardens and replacing broken windows and furniture.

Take action. Inspire change, make everyday a Mandela Day



culture, sport & recreation
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



correctional services
Department
Correctional Services
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



education
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



MRTT



The Mpumalanga Department of Education in collaboration with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport has been hard at work constructing schools and handing them over to different school communities within the province.

The delivery of school infrastructure development is more than bricks and mortar as the concepts of boarding schools and the No Fee Schools seek to meet the need of access to quality education to the poor and marginalized.

During the first quarter of the 2016 financial year, the Department has successfully handed over the Ezakheni Boarding School which was established in 2012 to improve the delivery of education for learners who are residing on the farms, to phase out some of the multi-grade schools and to ensure that children who are orphans are taken care of. The overarching aim was to improve the quality of lives of the people living in rural areas and thus break the cycle of poverty through the provision of quality education to children.

The Department also handed over Ubuhlebusile secondary school in the Mkhondo Local Municipality on 05 April 2016, Portia Shabangu secondary school in Mbombela local municipality was handed over on 22 April 2016 and Schuzendal primary school near Matsamo border post in the Nkomazi local municipality on 30 May 2016.

The Department emphasizes its commitment to open access to qualitative and quantitative teaching and learning in the whole province as the number and volumes of projects that have been completed and handed over speak for themselves. The Department is of the view that creating a safe teaching, learning and conducive environment has restored the confidence and dignity of our learners.

The winds of change are blowing in Mpumalanga and the Department is convinced that the lives of our people are already changing through these projects. What we are therefore witnessing is really encouraging and will remain a real investment in the future of the province.

"Our children deserve nothing less than state of the art schools, which will offer them a secure area of learning and development. Many a time, our schools are seen as shelters that our learners require in order to go through their academic journey. We forget that our immediate environment influences our mood and behaviors. We are thus convinced that the improvement of the school environment will positively impact upon the delivery of education at the classroom level up to the level where all grade passes are elevated," said the MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule on 23 June 2016 during the handover event of Ezakheni Boarding School.

MEC Mhaule also re-iterated the call to all school communities to take good care of the facilities and to take ownership as they belonged to them. She cautioned them against vandalism, theft and destruction of community facilities as these are meant to benefit them and their future generations.

These schools are state of the art and equipped with science laboratories, computer centres and libraries.



Mrs. Reginah Mhaule
MEC for Education



Ms. Dumisile Nhlengethwa
MEC for PWR&T



To bolster quality education delivery and improve the grade 12 learners' performance, the Mpumalanga Department of Education unveiled its intervention strategy at a press conference held on 19 May 2016 at Emnothweni Arena in Mbombela. The media was briefed by the MEC for Education Mrs. Reginah Mhaule.

To that effect, MEC Mhaule spelt out that the target improvement for the 2016 Grade 12 results is 88.6% pass rate, an increase by 10% from the 2015 results.

The intervention strategy was to focus on learner improvement plans, teacher development, improvement of the intake and pass rate of Mathematics, Physical

Science and Technology, strengthening Early Childhood Development, support to out of school youth and infrastructure development.

The Department seeks to deliver a public value service that will play a greater role in building an inclusive society, providing equal opportunities and helping all learners within the province to realize their full potential, in particular those who live below the breadline and people with disabilities.

In this regard, the department intensified the implementation of learner improvement programmes by conducting the June/July holiday classes also known as winter classes from 27 June to 08 July 2016 in 125 Centres spread throughout the four districts of

the province.

These classes were compulsory for all schools that obtained a pass rate below 60% in 2014 and those of 2015. The Department took this approach after realizing disturbing trends where the schools that participate in the programme improve and those outside declined, leading to a yoyo effect.

The identified subjects were Mathematics, Mathematical Literacy, Physical Science, Life Science, Accounting, Agricultural Science, Geography, English (FAL), Economics and Business Studies.

The Department also provided School Nutrition to all learners who participated in the classes while Scholar Transport was available only in areas that were in dire need.

Teachers who participated in the programme were only those with a proven record of excellence following the results of the past four years and they were compensated accordingly.

RADIO LESSONS

Over the years, radio lessons have proven to be an integral part of a programme to improve learner performance as

such the department has already entered into agreements with the SABC and 11 Community Radio Stations to implement them as follows:

- Ligwalagwala FM will implement this programme on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 17H30 to 18H00 starting on 23 May 2016.
- Ikwekwezi FM will implement this programme on Tuesdays and Wednesdays from 14H30 to 15H00 starting on 23 May 2016.

Both these stations will add Thursdays after the local government elections in August 2016.

- 11 Community Radio Stations will implement this programme from 23 May 2016 every Monday to Thursday from 14H00 to 15H00.

MATHS, SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY

The Department continues to priorities Mathematics, Science and Technology as the subjects of choice which are a gateway to better career prospects and economic development.

Moreover, the Department has received a Conditional Grant to the value of R42 Million to focus on the following:

- Provision of ICT resources, laboratory apparatus and consumables to 136 schools and workshop equipment, machinery and tools to 15 Technical Secondary Schools
- Conducting study camps, road shows and Mathematics, Science and Technology competitions to stimulate learner interest in these subjects targeting 20 000 learners in the province.
- Training of 88 teachers on the introduction of CAPS for technical subjects and the training of 1200 teachers on pedagogical content knowledge.

In addition the Department has prioritised MSTA feeder primary schools by training teachers and procuring resources for these schools.

As we speak our officials are already using the well-equipped Maths, Science and Technology Academy that was donated to the Department by South32 (former BHP Billiton)

We are encouraged that all grade ten learners in the 101 designated schools that are part of the academy are taking pure Mathematics and Physical Science. Equally the training of grade 10 teachers on quarterly basis is progressing very well.

Through this initiative by the province, we are optimistic that going forward the province will produce the desired number of mathematics and physical science graduates

MRTT

The Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust (MRTT) is another vehicle that the Department uses to capacitate and empower the youth, industry workers and government employees in disadvantaged communities in order for them

to participate in the broader economic sphere of the province.

ARTISAN DEVELOPMENT PROGRAMME

Our mission following the pronouncement by the Honourable Premier in his State of the Province Address was to develop 5000 artisans by 2019.

The Department has committed R130 Million towards this programme to continue with the training of 1 173 students registered in 2015/16 and has commenced with the training for 1000 new students this financial year.



Giving honour and to commemorate the fallen heroes and heroines of the 1976, the MEC for Education for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule held a conversation with Representatives Council of Learners from the province on 09 June 2016. The meeting follows the undertaking made by the MEC made earlier this year to convene a meeting with the leaders of learners from the secondary schools spread throughout the province.

The meeting came to sit in June which is celebrated as Youth Month in South Africa, with a specific focus on 16 June, which is also known as Youth Day where we are all expected to pay tribute to the school pupils who lost their lives during the 16 June 1976 uprising in Soweto. This year marked the 40th anniversary of the Soweto uprisings and all celebrations were conducted under the theme: "Youth Moving South Africa Forward".

The objective of the meeting was to take educational matters to greater heights by providing a discussion platform to learners to speak to the MEC directly, to closely look at a number of issues affecting the delivery of education in the province.

The meeting was well attended and in an opening statement, the MEC for Education said:

"To be upfront I must indicate that the province was highly disappointed when the Department could not improve the 2015 grade 12 results by 10%. Instead the province's grade 12 results declined by 0.4%.

This was seen as retrogression given that since 2009 the province has been constantly improving its outcomes. The sad reality about such an outcome is that the dreams and aspirations of many parents were tarnished and hopes of a better tomorrow were diminished. Some of the learners did not return to schools beside our call for such to happen and chances are that many of them are now in the streets lingering."

The Representative Councils of Learners should take their rightful roles and responsibilities to work with all school role-players to make schooling an education fashionable and attainable.

Some of these roles and responsibilities includes representing learners, their interests and aspirations; promotion of good relations between the parents, teachers and learners; provide leadership and initiative at all times; promote and assist in instilling school discipline; uphold school pride and traditions; contribute to a positive school spirit; and assist in maintaining all school facilities.

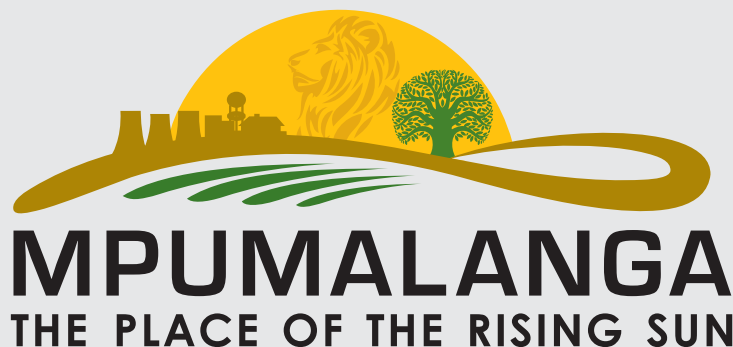
The Department's view is that if these functions were carried out to the latter, it was going to be easy for the province to improve its results. The RCL was also conscientised with regards to the rate of violence, drug tracking, vandalism, bullying, and the numbers of teenage pregnancies in schools.

As alluded to by the MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule in her 2016/17 Policy Budget Speech, the Department is currently working in unison with the Department of Community Safety, Security, and Liaison, the South African Police Services, the Department of Social Development and the Department of Health, in order to curb these social ills.

The Department is very fortunate having the support of stakeholders such as the Caring4Girls programme courtesy of Richard Mabaso and Sibusiso Vilane's Imbumba Foundation, these are organisations that have the interest of our girl child at heart. They aim to free young girls from any threat or danger that may make them vulnerable.

The Department seeks the support of every learner and especially the RCL in curbing social ills affecting learners in and outside of school. Of great concern is the increase in the use of drug substance nyaope and as well as the practice of unsafe sex influenced largely by the "Blesser" phenomenon. This was re-iterated by Kamhola secondary school learner, Bambatha Khumalo who requested that the Department should focus on improving school safety at every school because of violence and drug abuse.

"As leaders, you need to remind your peers that they are the story tellers of their own lives, and that it is up to them to create their own legends. There are many negative things that will compete for their attention and time, but their positive attitude towards your studies is the only equalizer to keep you on track and focus," said MEC Mhaule.





The Sibongindawo Pre and Primary School was made possible by the following partners:



2016 Policy and Budget Speech

The American prolific writer, poet and activist, Maya Angelou, once said, "One isn't necessarily born with courage, but one is born with potential. Without courage, we cannot practice any other virtue with consistency. We can't be kind, true, merciful, generous, or honest."



As the Department of Education, we continue to tread the path of teaching, education, growth and development. It is in this course that we have fulfilled the words of Maya Angelou by transferring skills, knowledge, values and attitudes to our learners bringing them closer to the virtue of good citizenry.

Let me say that, as a Department we are proud of that and we accept that there is still a long way to go.

These were the opening remarks of the Honourable MEC for Education; Mrs Reginah Mhaule as she delivered her 2016/17 Policy and Budget Speech on the 28th of April 2016 at the Provincial Legislature in Mbombela.

MEC Mhaule was accompanied to the Legislature by Maudas Banda, an exceptional 18 year old grade 12

learner from Hoërskool Bergvlam who is also an athlete that has recorded outstanding achievements in long jump by breaking the record for the school inter-house Athletics, took position one in the Mpumalanga championships and further added another gold medal to his collection at the Athletics South Africa Junior School's Championships in Bloemfontein.

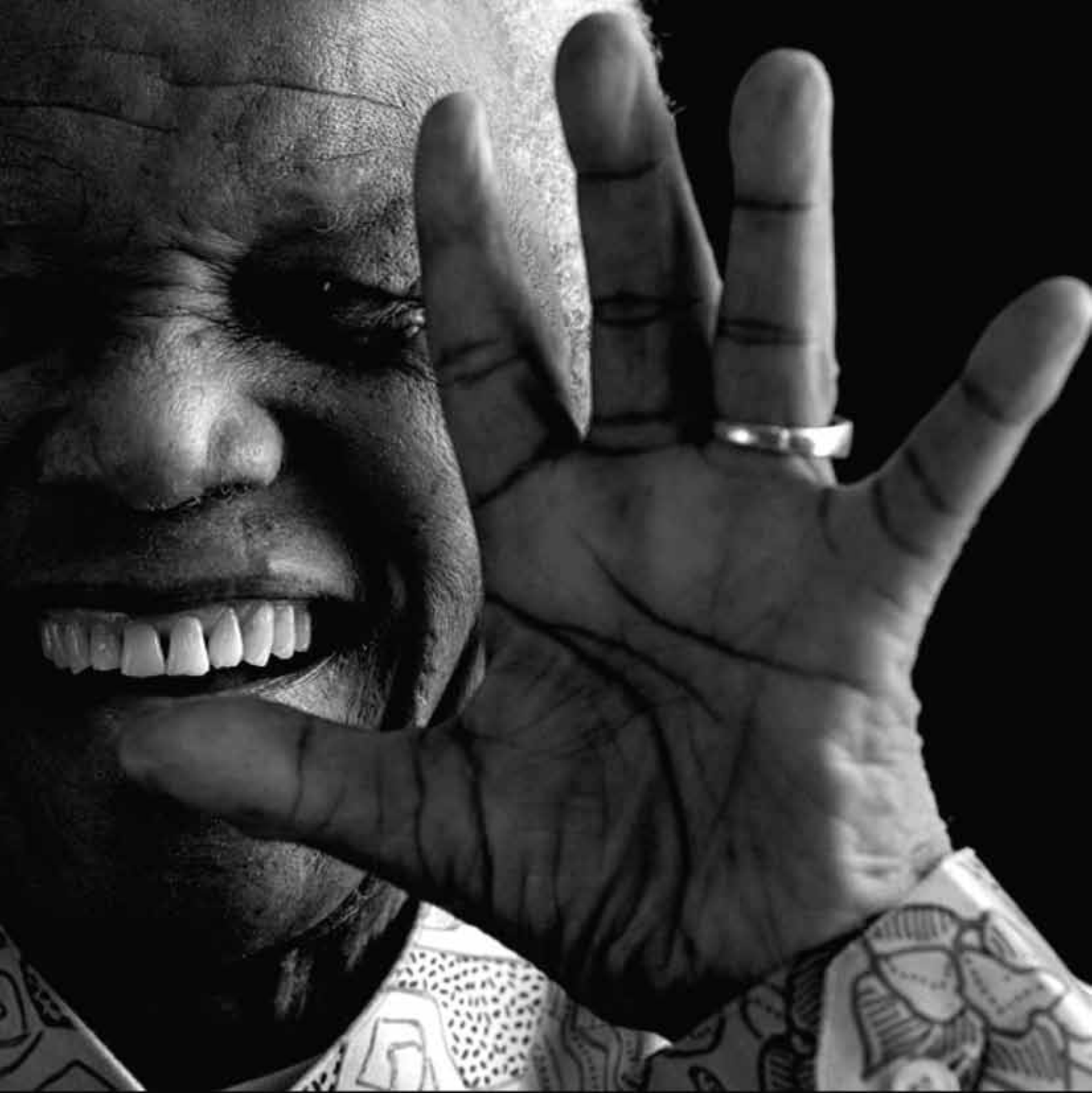
On the day, MEC Mhaule took the opportunity to request the house to grant approval for the Department of Education to utilise the 17 billion 916 million and 783 Thousand Rands allocated in 2016/17 financial year to fulfil all the programmes that will move the delivery of quality education services in Mpumalanga forward.

Please read the whole 2016/17 Policy and Budget Speech which is available at the Departmental website; www.mpumalanga.gov.za/education



**WHEN THE SUN RISES
WE WORK HARD TO DELIVER**





**IT IS IN YOUR HANDS
TO MAKE OF OUR WORLD
A BETTER ONE FOR ALL**