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## Editorial Team

Mr JI Zwane      Chief Editor  
Mr J Makhumba      Editor

### Contributors

Mr B Ntandane  
Mr GS Sambo  
Mr MJ Mokoena  
Ms MF Ndlovu

### Design & Layout

Mr E Brunette

## Write to Us

**Private Bag X 11341,  
Nelspruit, 1200  
Government Boulevard  
Riverside Park  
Building 5, Mpumalanga Province, South Africa  
Tel: +27 13 766 5510  
E-mail: [j.makhumba@education.mpu.gov.za](mailto:j.makhumba@education.mpu.gov.za)**

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**O**The 2013 school calendar has kicked off with caring for the environment in the form of the Randza Xikolo Xa Wena Campaign held in Masitakhe Secondary School in Matsulu on 05 January 2013. A clean school environment is in essence of what the campaign seeks to highlight and promote. School communities are called upon to heed this noble call to take care of their school property and environment.

This edition features the collaboration between the Mpumalanga Department of Education and the Department of Correctional Services in projects carrying for our schools.

The release of the 2012 Grade 12 results also receives attention to highlight the increase in the pass rate by 5.2%. An improvement with regards to all the District performances has also been recorded. Bohlabela District recorded the highest improvement at 9.8%.

Moral regeneration is also a key subject to bolster community development which in turn can have positive results in learner performance as a school is a microcosm of the community. We look at the prayer event, where pastors were deliberating on such an issue and chatting the way forward about going to the basics of morality.

The issue of women, child abuse and rape has also come to the fore as a result of the surge in such atrocious acts in the nation. The stop rape campaign is one of the strategies of the department to counter the spread of rape and abuse. We also look into this matter as we explore the programme of the department in this regard.

Tenteleni primary school is one inclusive institution in the province that has received national prominence through the Basic Education Department and the Presidency. We also feature Tenteleni to look at the programmes on offer to learners with special educational needs.

The launch of the Siyabuswa Bachelor of Education foundation phase has been a landmark achievement for the department. We feature two beneficiaries of the programme, i.e. Thulani Sombili and Mapule Mbebe to tell a human story on this development.

This edition has been produced with you, our reader in mind. We always look at interesting topics to inform you.

This is a good read. Enjoy it.



The Editor: Mr. Jeffrey Makhumba



The Mpumalanga Department of Education held its 2012 Announcement of Grade 12 results on Thursday, 03 January 2013 at the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality in Middleburg, Pienaarsdam Lodge.



The prestigious event was graced by government officials who included amongst others the Honourable Speaker of the Provincial Legislature, Honourable SW Lubisi, Members of the Executive Committee, sponsors of the event and also in attendance was the most important persons of the day, the top class of 2012 accompanied by their parents and guardians.

In her statistical report the MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule, stated that Mpumalanga had registered a 5.2 % improvement. The class of 2012 stands at a 70% pass rate compared to the 64.8 % that the class of 2011 had recorded.

These figures confirm that out of 47 889 learners who wrote the 2012 Grade 12 examinations 33 504 passed. Of these learners 9 495 qualified for bachelor programmes as against 14 277 for Diplomas, 9 633 for Higher Certificates and 99 achieved the National Senior Certificate in 2012.

The 2012 provincial pass rate improvement is a true testament of the commitment made by Mrs. Reginah Mhaule at the announcement of 2011 event; that the Department will spend sleepless nights in ensuring the improvement and the credibility of the examination process, true to her words the 2012 examination process were an incident free exam.

The Mpumalanga provincial districts also improved with Ehlanzeni District not only reclaiming its number one glory at a 74 percentage but also being the only district to get a percentage higher than the national performance. Nkangala, Gert Sibande and Bohlabela Districts registered 73%, 69% and 65.4% respectively.

The Bohlabela District in the past years was regarded as the most improved district in the province after it recorded an improvement of 30.6% in three years from 2009 to 2011. The challenge with this District was that it was performing far behind the rest of the districts in the province, said MEC Reginah Mhaule.



She continued to state that this challenge necessitated a focused programme for Bohlabela District alone, which seemed to be yielding the expected results as Bohlabela District in 2012 improved its results by 9.8% and is currently at 62.5%. This means that it has recorded an improvement of 32.6% in the past four years.





Bohlabela circuit was also the district that produced the overall provincial best learner, Calvin Mawera from Bushbuckridge Secondary School in Maviljan Circuit. He obtained eight distinctions in Sepedi Home Language, English First Additional Language, Agricultural Sciences, Accounting, Physical Science, Life Sciences, Mathematics and Life Orientation.

The MEC also announced on the day that Hoërskool Nelspruit was the overall best school in Mpumalanga. The school had 203 candidates sitting for the 2012 exams and out of these 169 of them satisfied the requirements for Bachelors programme, 32 for diploma and all the 203 candidates passed. 83.3% of candidates at Hoërskool Nelspruit obtained bachelor passes and it therefore becomes the school

with the most bachelor passes in the province. It was also at this gracious event whereby the MEC also stated firmly that any school that will produce results below 50% from 2013 will be considered as dysfunctional schools.

“We are serious about this and should this happen heads will roll just as the same will be applicable to those who obtained results below 30% for the second time. We reiterate our position that a school is as good as its principal, as such principals will always be held to account for the results of their respective schools,” retorted the MEC.

It was only fitting that educators and learners were also appreciated on the day, as it is after all through their hardwork and dedication that we continue to meet our set standards as a province. The Department aims to better the 2012 results by 10% with the support of teachers, parents, religious leaders, municipalities, the private sector and every other stakeholder that holds the same sentiments which are to build and teach the nation, but mostly with the dedication of the class of 2013.

**Sisonke Sifundzisa Sive.**



In the beginning of February, South Africa watched with shock and outrage at news reports of the late Anene Booysen, a young teenage girl from the Western Cape who lost her tender life in a gruesome manner. Anene was not only gang raped but her body was also mutilated.

The stop rape campaign spear headed by the Department of Basic Education and Leads SA pleads with every South African to create a caring school environment that will make every school child feel safe and respected while they receive quality public education.

The campaign seeks to bring together stakeholders to work towards stopping rape because it is time to act. The South African community is conscientised to take a stand and fight this dreadful attack. Schools are the microcosms of the broader society and the high levels of sexual abuse, violence and rape in our society is a cause for great concern for the department of education.

The department acknowledges that the creation of an overall culture of safe, healthy, caring and child friendly schools are paramount for the well being of learners and teachers, and essential for rendering quality teaching and learning.

Educators should promote levels of trust amongst learners, young boys should be eager to protect young girls. This also means that older girls should be able to protect their little brothers from any harm. We should be able to rely on each other for safety in our schools. Learners in schools should be educated on the impact and signs of sexual abuse.

The Department of Education has always tried to prevent and offer support to the victims of this traumatic ordeals, some the initiatives that the National Departments of Basic Educations has done over the years are:

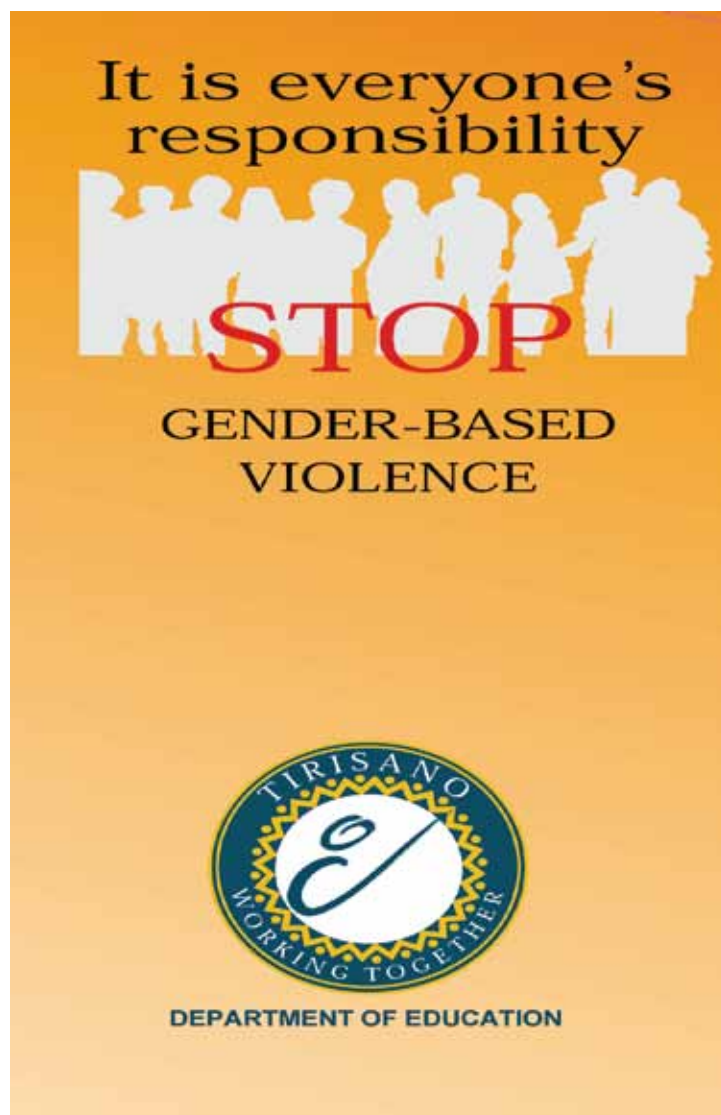
- Included a subsection on Gender, including the prevention and management of Gender Based Violence in the schools in the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS) of the school curriculum
- Developed and trained teachers on the guidelines for the prevention and management of

sexual violence and harassment in public schools.

To also highlight the anti rape message, the Department has Developed and distributed to learners the resource book, "Speak Out! This is a handbook for learners which guides them on how to prevent sexual abuse in public schools."

There has been a lot of work done with campaign partners in the NGO sector to provide support to schools with NGOs such as MiET, Soul City, Love Life, Sonke Gender Justice, Gender Links, Tshwaranang, Film and Publication Board, Childline, Camp I am and many more.

All these efforts are grand and to the benefit of our society but ultimately it lies to each and every one of us to make this campaign a success. It is important that we are always aware of our surroundings, and if something should happen to you as a young girl or boy, speak out!







# STOP RAPE CAMPAIGN

## A PLEDGE BY LEARNERS TO PARENTS AND COMMUNITIES

***We, the learners of this country hereby make  
a call to you our parents:***

- *To uphold the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa which enjoins you towards observance of fundamental human rights, including children's rights under Section 28;*
- *To abide by the laws of this country, which make sexual assault a criminal offense;*
- *To respect our rights as children irrespective of our race, age, class, gender or sexual orientation;*
- *To denounce and act upon all forms of abuse including sexual harassment and rape;*
- *To report cases of abuse, especially rape, to authorities; and*
- *To honour your responsibilities as parents and to never put children in harm's way*
- *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrica*



basic education

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**D**elivering the equality report compiled by the SA Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) in 2012, Deputy Minister for Women, children and people with disabilities, Ms Hendriette Bagopane-Zulu, stated that 10 % of school going disabled children are not attending school in the country. This could be the case as many of our local communities are not aware of their rights and are not able to access relevant information which will assist them.

Mpumalanga has 18 special schools that make provision for learners with multiple disabilities, these disabilities or special needs include severely mentally challenged, epileptic, cerebral palsied, physical disabled, hard of hearing, partially sighted, blind, deaf and autistic.

The schools are equipped with not only trained staff but related aids and systems that are of importance to the daily needs of the children.

In the year 2002, Tenteleni Primary School, in Ehlanzeni District, became one of the schools that accommodates learners with different disabilities except for those with severe cases.

In 2012, of the total number of 1132 registered learners, 232 of these learners were experiencing different learning barriers including disabilities.

Entering the school grounds one is immediately alerted by the basic physical structure that Tenteleni Primary School is a full service school. Wheelchair bound learners have special ramps provided for them. This of course makes it easier for learners to move around and also offer them a feeling of independence as not much assistance is required when they have to carry on with their daily school routines.

The computer centre is armed with different special gadgets that enable all learners to have access to the lab. These gadgets include the use of joysticks or round balls instead of a mouse. This makes it easier for learners with Semi- Cerebral Palsied to control the cursor.

Short sighted Bongani “Bongza” Shube, 12, who is not only one of the top learners at the school but is also the Head Prefect for the year 2012, speaks greatly of the school; “The education at this school is





the best, the teachers here are very good. We also have great extra curricular activities, I play hockey and chess.” The education driven young man continued to say that he would like to study Actuarial Sciences after he had completed Grade 12.

Miss. F Makhubela, a teacher at the school further elaborated that, Tenteleni Primary School holds awareness campaigns at the beginning of every year to encourage and orientate new learners on the characteristics of the school. These campaigns seek to encourage everyone to assist disabled learners wherever they may need help. They also try to make away with any negative stigma that might be associated with disabled persons.

The school was blessed with the opportunity of being part of the Siyahlola Presidential Monitoring visit which took place on 04 December 2012, the Presidential visit was in line with the National Disability Month ( 03 November 2012 – 03 December 2012). It is through this visit that the Basic Education Minister, Ms Angie Motshekga visited the school and approved of the

The patience and dedication put in by all staff members at Tenteleni, is evident on the contagious smile of Nkosingiphile Ngomane, a nine year old girl in Grade 01.

Nkosingiphile expresses her profound appreciation for being able to attend school with her peers. When asked about what makes her happy, she shyly answers while reluctantly taking her eyes off her laptop and says that she is happy to be able to study. Nkosingiphile also looks forward to becoming a doctor one day. It is her mother though, Phindile Ngomane, that sings praises about the school. “I have seen great improvements in my child’s development, she is doing very well academically, and she always talks about how her teachers are taking care of her at school”.

The school is constantly sourcing for sponsors in order to try and cater for the learners needs. These needs vary from one learner to the next. Miss Makhubela highlighted that Nkosingiphile like many other young children who are wheelchair bound, uses a wheelchair which is not relevant to her disability. Her teacher explains that she suffers from a spinal disability, which does not affect the use of her hands. If she continues to use her current wheelchair she could in the future injure other parts of her body. It is for these reasons that the school appreci-

ates donations from any possible sponsor.

Since the introduction of Inclusive Education in the school, Tenteleni has become a safe haven for many parents with disabled children. Parents are always eager to enroll their children and have no fears as it is evident that the children are well taken care off.





**T**he National Teaching Awards is the South African zenith of conferring honour and glory to educators who have immensely contributed towards the upliftment of learners and community wellbeing. Five Mpumalanga educators made the Province proud once again in the 13th Annual National Teaching Awards held at Gallagher Estate on 07 March 2013.

These five educators represented the Province in two categories and are amongst the eight who made it as finalists at national level and proved by deed that, “Education is our number one priority in the country”.

In his keynote address, his Excellency, President Jacob Zuma, indicated that the educators are an instrument of liberation and empowerment. “Education has the power to liberate people from poverty; it is an investment and a prerequisite towards building a country that works.

These educators continue to make sure that the profession regains its respect from the communities.

Educators carry an enormous responsibility on their shoulders. The nature in which they nurture our children will help us in our efforts towards creating a better South Africa.” He further indicated that this is a noble call of building model citizens.

Mrs. Hanlie Swanepoel from Estralita Special School received the first price in Excellence in Special Needs Teaching. She was awarded for her efforts in ensuring that the rights of learners with special needs are protected in as far as education is concerned. She is a dedicated educator who has a soft spot for learners with special needs and believes that learners with special needs have a right to basic education.

Mr France Kalp, Ms Susanna Reiners, Ms Johanna Van Zyl and Ms Magdeline Bosman received second price in the Excellence in Technology-Enhanced Teaching and Learning category awarded for the Ligbron e-learning Project. This project connects five schools within a 50 km radius to each other for the purpose of sharing lessons in Mathematics, Physical Science and



English.

The facility is able to connect Ligbron Academy in Ermelo with Camden Combined, Umzimvelo Agriculture School, Ermelo Combined, Ithafa Secondary and Masizakhe Secondary. Camden and Umzimvelo are schools 25km and 30km from Ligbron in the town, Ermelo.

Umzimvelo Agriculture is a rural school on a farm and Camden is situated near a power station. Ermelo Combined and Ithafa are based in the local community of Ermelo about 7km - 10km from Ligbron. Masizakhe Secondary is in the town of Breyten, 45km from Ermelo. Ligbron Academy of Technology is a multi cultural school since 1993 and is one of the leading schools in South Africa when it comes to the use of educational technology in the classroom.

The schools are able to interchange ideas and develop each other and the e-learning project has also played a major role towards the improvement of grade 12 results more especially in the rural and township schools.

The MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule highlighted the fact that educators have a noble

role to play in shaping the minds of the children they teach on daily basis.

She said, "It is only through education that we can address the shortage of skills in our country. Like our State President, I am very passionate about education and it is only through educators like these, who do not believe in mediocrity but always strive for excellence that we can enhance the quality of learning and teaching.

I would like to take this time and commend all educators who have dedicated their lives towards educating the nation". The winners attributed their success not only to individual efforts but also to teamwork, respect and determination.

The Mpumalanga Department of Education congratulates the winners and all the nominees who made it to the finals. "Their nomination is also a sign that they too are committed in improving the lives of our learners" said the MEC, Mrs Reginah Mhaule.



**W**ith just a few days left for our schools to reopen, the Mpumalanga Department of Education in collaboration with the Department of Correctional Services stood tall and encouraged communities to also stand up and clean their schools as they prepare for a new year.



Hard at work: MEC Reginah Mhaule

This annual initiative deemed, “Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena Campaign,” takes place to mobilize the Provincial School community as a whole to take pride in their schools. Different activities are completed by community members as they lend a helping hand and assist by cleaning the school environment, repairing and renovating school infrastructure and making sure that school children are received by a clean environment as they report on the first day of school.

The Department of Correctional Services operates as a rehabilitation centre. The Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena campaign therefore serves as a platform for rehabilitated inmates to contribute towards the building of our communities.



The 2013 launch of this campaign took place at Masitakhe Senior Secondary School on Saturday, 05 January 2013. The Matsulu based school has improved its results by 13% this year from 71.2% in 2011 to 84.6% in 2012. In total the school has produced 38 bachelor entries, 60 diplomas and 34 certificate programmes candidates.

Masitakhe also prides itself with one of the top ten learners in the Province, Mr. Sifiso Vincent Mpila, who obtained five distinctions.

The MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule graced the event and exchanged her formal wear with overalls ready to paint the school, fix broken doors and also planted a few trees on the garden of the school.

During a short formal address the MEC for Education expressed her appreciation towards the community, “It humbles us that the entire community of Matsulu and the leadership of the ruling party at this level has taken a lead in making sure that the objectives of the campaign are embraced in totality”.

She continued to say, “Your involvement and interest in this noble effort will not go unnoticed and I take this time to express my profound appreciation. Thank you very much to all of you who made this campaign possible.”

The campaign promotes a virtue of teachers being not left alone in the process of nurturing, grooming and developing school-going children but supported by the greater community throughout as they teach learners under very challenging circumstances.



In the quest to recover integrity and restore African pride amongst learners of the Mpumalanga Province, The MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule on Thursday, 24 January 2013 hosted a number of religious leaders at the Ingwenyama Lodge. This event was a collaboration with the Moral Regeneration Movement.



Pastors flocking to the event

The Mpumalanga Department of Education has over the years sought out assistance from the provinces religious leaders as an external stakeholder that plays a vital role in the grooming of society. This initiative speaks true of the African proverb “it takes a village to raise a child’ It also serves as a vehicle to drive religious leaders to a common place whereby they can openly participate in school matters and to ensure that schools are always motivated throughout the year by religious institutions.



Prayed for: MEC for CSR; Sibongile Manana, MEC Reginah Mhaule and the Executive Mayor, Ehlanzeni District; Cllr Letta Shongwe

Speaking at the event the honourable MEC was quick to express her gratitude towards all the religious fraternities present at the meeting. She

further stated that the office of a religious leader is regarded highly in government in general and in the Mpumalanga Department of Education.



Delivering a convicting sermon

“The importance of the role and function of a Religious leader in our communities cannot be over-emphasised as most if not all of our community members derive strength and spiritual guidance from religion and as Religious leaders, you are representatives of God and carry out such a huge responsibility .

It is in this context that we will for ever remain indebted to you for this gesture and your conduct in dealings with the Department as well as the government in general,” said MEC Reginah Mhaule.

In 2012, MEC Mhaule requested all religious leaders to extend their blessings to all the Mpumalanga Matriculants as they were about to sit for their final exams. The meeting was used as a platform for the Department to render a detailed report on how the class of 2012 had performed. The MEC also took the opportunity to present the Departments improvement plan for the year 2013.

Bishop Johnny Mhlanga, speaking on behalf of the religious leaders stressed that a lot of children are faced with many challenges in their daily lives; it is therefore advisable that these children receive spiritual guidance to deal with these challenges.

He also expressed that it should be the duty of every religious leader to offer moral support and prayer for children of the province.

**O**n 26 February 2013, the Mpumalanga Department of Education in collaboration with the Department of Higher Education and Training, The National Institute for Higher Education and the University of Johannesburg launched the Bachelor of Education in Foundation Phase programme at Siyabuswa Campus.

This programme is aimed at empowering teachers with necessary skills and training. Deserving students were awarded with Bursaries to study at the Siyabuswa Campus. We got hold of Mapule Mbebe, one of the students who were awarded with bursary.

Mapule Mbebe is an 18 year old female from Naas in Nkomazi Municipality, born in a family of seven children and raised by both parents. She studied at Mgubho Combined School, where she matriculated in 2012. She grew up in a small developing township where opportunities are scarce and the youth is faced with many challenges, however even though there are challenges nothing could stop this young lady from chasing her dream.

She dedicated her whole life to education because it a key to a better future, with the combination of hard work and determination Miss Mbebe succeeded in receiving a B.Ed bursary.

Miss Mbebe find out about the Siyabuswa Campus' Bachelor of education foundation Phase through presentations which took place at her school. It was through the help of her teacher who also played a role of a mentor, who advised her to approach Mangweni Teachers Centre for a bursary application.

She sees this opportunity as a life changing experience, as it will bring change to her family and the community at large, her parents are delighted about her success and also support her for making such a great career choice.

Her father is her role model and he has always been the most influential in her life. In her view being educated is a blessing that is meant to bless others, that is why she finds education as a powerful tool that needs to be shared and passed from one person to another.

She also believes in sharing and wants to share her education with the entire universe.

When asked about the programme and the campus environment, the 18 year old student said. 'I find the programme very fascinating and the Campus is welcoming full of Individuals with a common goal. I am truly enjoying myself and my passion for education grows everyday'.

Apart from studying Mapule loves spending time in the library reading books and also attend Church services and choir practices as she is part of the worship team at her church.

She feels honoured and cannot imagine her life without this opportunity.

The Mpumalanga Department of Education congratulates and wishes her all the best with her studies.





**T**hulani Sombili a resident of Siyabuswa in Nkangala is one of the beneficiaries of the Siyabuswa B.Ed Foundation phase programme. The 24 year old is amongst the 100 new enrolments this year. He looks forward towards the beginning of his studies as he has always been a straight A student most of his academic life.

Through the years he has also acquired leadership qualities as he has been involved an SRC member from Grade 9 to 11. It was in his Grade 12 where he was elected as a President of the SRC Board in his school, Hlanganani Secondary School. Thulani's parents are high school teachers and this has encouraged him, to be more involved in education, especially in teaching others.

"I have a passion for teaching as I grew up in a family of educators; I have also volunteered teaching school children during winter schools. We are faced with the challenge of being in a community with a high rate of uneducated youngsters and also a high rate of teenage pregnancy, I therefore want to create a vibrant environment that will encourage children to go to school and be eager to learn, with the Bachelor of Education Foundation phase programme this is possible," he said.

The young man considers being chosen for the programme as a once in a lifetime opportunity that will make a huge difference in his underprivileged community. Speaking at the launch of the Siyabuswa Campus on Tuesday, 26 February 2013 Mr. Blade Nzimande, Minister of Higher Education stated that; "In terms of planning our projections we will be producing in excess of 14 000 new teachers by 2014".

The programme plans to tackle the gap that currently exists between teacher supply and demand. It is an implementation of the Integrated Strategic Planning Framework for Teacher Education and Development (ISPFTED) launched with the Minister for Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga two years ago. The programme is a collaboration between the Department of Higher Education and Training, the Mpumalanga Department of Education, the National Institute of Higher Education and the University of Johannesburg.





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