

S'bukosetfu

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Content

3	Editorial Comment
4	Mpumalanga Education is Caring4Girls
6	MEC Mhaule Delivers the 2014/14 Budget and Policy Speech
7	South African Choral Eisteddfodd
8	Learner Performance in the Spotlight
9	Advancing the Teaching of Maths, Science and Technology
10	King Makhosoke II Promoting Education
12	IEC and DBE Take Electoral Democracy into the Classroom
14	Developing Educators Through CAPS Workshops
15	A New Leaf for Bohlabela District
16	School Governing Bodies Indaba
17	Mpumalanga Provincial FET Arts Competition

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

We start the new year with enthusiastic spirits as we celebrate the class of 2013 for registering a magnificent 77.6% in their grade 12 examination.

This achievement assures us that the Province of Mpumalanga continues to take strides in elevating the standards of our education systems which will in turn have a positive outcome on our children.

We take this opportunity to appreciate all people who have supported the Department in reaching greater heights.

The Mpumalanga Province congratulates Mistry Bhavika Sureshkumar, who is the overall top learner of the province. We wish her all the best in her future endeavors.

As we rejoice and celebrate another milestone, we do not forget to acknowledge and mourn the life of a fallen hero, the former President, Mr. Nelson Mandela.

We pride ourselves in the life that he has lived.

We are even more encouraged to follow in his footsteps and ensure that his legacy lives forever.

The late former President, Nelson Mandela lives us on the eve of the year; we are to celebrate 20 years of freedom.

As we celebrate the two decades of our young democracy we lift up his name and acknowledge the huge role he has played in building a democratic nation.

Let us keep his dream alive by all taking a stand on 07 May 2014 and voting for our party of choice to govern our country.

The Department of Education does not only ensure that our learners are well taken care off in the classroom, but also that their surroundings are kept in a good condition.

The Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena campaign encourages communities to volunteer and clean their schools, so that when learners go back to school, they are encouraged to even work harder.

Let us encourage more girls to study towards Maths and Science subjects so that they can explore new avenues in the future.

The Department has established a Maths, Science and Technology Academy so that more of our learners are improve their Maths and Science participation in our schools.

The month of January dawns a new beckon of hope, it presents us with the opportunity to start over again. It is therefore important that as we begin a year, we put out best foot forward so that our learners are presented with a great year ahead.

A blessed 2014 colleagues!



The Editor: Mr. Jeffrey Makhumba

In appreciation and acknowledging the patriotic gesture of goodwill in the presented in the form of a sponsorship for a car to the top learner in the Province, the MEC for the Mpumalanga Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule paid a courtesy visit to Imperial Toyota Nelspruit. The meeting took place on 31 January 2014 and MEC Mhaule intended to extend her profound words of appreciation for Imperial Toyota Nelspruit's support in rewarding the exceptional performance by the overall top learners with a car during the past two academic years 2012 and 2013.

The meeting has been initiated as a direct consequence of Imperial Toyota Nelspruit, dubbed the lifestyle dealer, having sponsored the 2012 and 2013 overall top achievers in the Province with a Toyota Etios to the value of R140 000. Calvin Mawere and Mistry Bhavika Sureshkumer have been the two recipients as the 2012 and 2013 top learners respectively.

"As a Department, we would like to applaud this meaningful contribution by Imperial Toyota Nelspruit, it is through partnerships such as this one where as a country we can be on the frontline towards building a brighter future for all South Africans. It is therefore, my wish that this partnership of purpose continue as we embark in the course of delivering quality education to our learners.



May all our stakeholders continue to partner with the Department and lend a helping hand in order to enhance Education Delivery in the province. They all have a role to play and their contributions brings hope of a better tomorrow to the learners". Said MEC Mhaule

The Mpumalanga Department of Education extends its profound appreciation to Imperial Toyota Nelspruit as the sponsorship goes along way in encouraging other learners to work hard and emulate the two recipients of the Toyota Etios.

As they hear about the incentive of going to University with your own car, learners around the province will do their best to pass with flying colours and that has the effect of raising the pass rate. More partnerships with business are encouraged to improve the standard of education as well as to improve the living standards of the people of Mpumalanga. Thank you Imperial Toyota Nelspruit for the good work.

"You made it my daughter!" Mrs Mahlasedi Mhlabane, Head of Department with Bhavika Mistry



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The aspirations and hopes of learners who need high levels of support and care with regards to their learning needs received a huge boost as the Mpumalanga Department of Education officially handed over Thanduxolo Specialised School to the community of Emalahleni.



The official hand over took place on 18 March 2014 and was graced by the MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule and her counterpart MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Ms Dikeledi Mahlangu as well as the Executive Mayor of Emalahleni Municipality, Cllr Salome Sithole.

Thanduxolo Specialised School is one of the 18 special schools in Mpumalanga Province, its new building consists of 10 classrooms, 4 workshops, an administration block, 2 garages and sport grounds. The Specialised school caters for 345 learners from Kwaguga, Mhluzi, Ogies, Phola, Klarinet and the surrounding mine villages within Emalahleni Municipality.

All 345 learners have severe disabilities and their lives changed radically when the department built them a fully fledged state of the art special school so that their lives could be further improved and advanced.

These learners rely on the skills acquired from this brand new school for development and advancement. The skills offered at Thanduxolo Specialised School include self care, socialisation, perceptual motor development, functional scholastic, work skills, job preparation programmes such as woodworking, painting,

renovations, needle work, cane work knitting laundry, domestic and mesh-wire making, beadwork and other mental stimulating programmes.

The construction of this new school started in February 2013 and was completed at the end of July 2013 to ensure that learners with special educational needs also take pride of their learning environment that helps to instil a sense of belonging and true citizenry.

The construction was allocated R 39 million to ensure that these special learners benefit from the country's schooling system and are guaranteed the right to an education as prescribed by the constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

Mr Aaron Magagula, the Chairperson of the School Governing Body appreciated the construction of the school and highlighted the importance of the facility in the improvement of the lives of the learners.

In her Keynote Address, the MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule said, "We can say it without any fear of contradiction or doubt that South Africa is really far better today than it was before 1994. Prior to the 1994 dispensation, such schools were built only for a privileged few. Today, As I stand before you, I am proud that of our achievement that we have ensured in our life time that any child irrespective of his or her race or disability can and is guaranteed the constitutional right to access to an education.

In the past 20 years, we have seen that it is true that disability should not at any stage be a barrier to education. This is indeed a good story to tell. It is a tale that will remain in the books of history, and will always bring a smile to the descendants of this country. "



Demonstrating the importance of cleanliness, Sri Sathya Sai Baba, an Indian leader once said, “The mother must set the example in holding out the shrine as the heart of the house hold! She must enforce discipline over the children in personal cleanliness in humility and hospitality, in good manners and acts of service.”



In keeping with a clean environment for learners and educators to enjoy the teaching and learning process, the Mpumalanga Department of Education calls on all communities and structures to volunteer their time and skills to clean, repair anything that can be easily fixed and help to create an enabling environment for teaching and learning.

This call is in keeping with the Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena (Love your School) Campaign which was launched by the MEC for education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule in 2010.

The cleaning and renovations are encouraged to be effected before schools reopen each year to



assist in ensuring that when learners arrive on the first school day teaching and learning starts without any hindrances.

The 2014 Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena main activity was held at Emalahleni Local Municipality on 13 January 2014 at Maloma Primary School in Ackerville.

The Campaign encourages communities to volunteer their time in ensuring that schools are clean and broken and depilated school furniture is rehabilitated.

District officials and principals are also urged to work with communities through this campaign to limit instances of vandalising and stealing of school material since these rob the children of what they deserve.

The Department also collaborates with different stakeholders such as FET Colleges, Department of Correctional Services, Mpumalanga Regional and Training Trust, Church organisations and volunteers from communities in order to ensure that the dream of creating a safe and conducive learning environment for children is realised.





ISINDEBELE/ENGLISH DICTIONARY ISIHLATHULULI-MEZWI



ISINDEBELE

NATIONAL LEXICOGRAPHY UNIT



PHUMELELA
BOOKS

Section 6 (2) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa promulgates that “Recognizing the historically diminished use and status of the indigenous languages of our people, the state must take practical and positive measures to elevate the status and advance the use of these languages.” Section 30 of the Bill of Rights states that, “Everyone has the right to use the language and to participate in the cultural life of their choice, but no one exercising these rights may do so in a manner inconsistent with any provision of the Bill of Rights.”

These two pieces of legislation were put into practice on 28 March 2014 at the launch of the IsiNdebele Monolingual and Trilingual Dictionaries and Mother Tongue Celebration event held at the Ga-Morwe Community Hall in Kameelrivier, Dr. JS Moroka Local Municipality. The event came about as a result of a collaboration by the Mpumalanga Departments of Education, Culture, Sport and Recreation and the Pan South African Languages Board to promote IsiNdebele as one of the two languages, the other being SiSwati, to be promoted and nurtured by the Mpumalanga Provincial Department.

The event which was also intended to celebrate Mother Tongue Day, which is traditionally held worldwide on 21 February of each year, marked a sequel to the first launch of the bi-lingual dictionary which is already in use. Signifying the importance of the event was the presence of the MEC for Education; Mrs. Reginah Mhaule, Member of the Legislature, Mr. Siphosizwe Masango as well as the traditional leadership of the area who are the traditional custodian of the IsiNdebele heritage; Ubukhosi bakwa Manala and Ubukhosi bakwa Nzunza.

A token of appreciation of the late Dr. Skhosana, a former chairperson of PanSALB, was presented post-humously to her widow uMa Skhosana as it emerged that Dr. Skhosana played a very pivotal role in the development of IsiNdebele. The hall was imbued with the splendour of the colourful tones of the traditional IsiNdebele attires worn by some attendees who were excited by the expression of government and the PanSALB to develop and honour mother tongue languages in this case IsiNdebele.

According to Census 2011, there is a notable growth in the number of isiNdebele speaking people in the country. In the year 2001, there were 711 821 people speaking isiNdebele compared to the 1, 090 223 in 2011 and thus there are even more reasons to promote these indigenous languages.

Teachers, learners, curriculum implementers as well as the best performing district in the province were also honoured in the event. Nkangala District was crowned as the best performing district with regards to indigenous languages. Learners who were honoured were Norje Danielle (Afrikaans), Siyabonga Mabaso (Isindebele), Letsoale Eva (Setswana), Nkosi Nomfundo (IsiZulu), Mtsepo Tumedisso (Sesotho), Pitso Ramalelo (Setswana), Scott Leroy Sepedi Precious Masinga Xitsonga as well as Prudence Simelane SiSwati.

In her keynote address, MEC Reginah Mhaule encouraged learners and parents to use and preserve their mother tongue languages. To that effect, she said, “All schools in the province should be able to learn, understand and speak the indigenous language of the province. This is a challenge we have and a challenge we are committed to confront.

Equally we will expect parents to also play their role in ensuring that our indigenous languages get promoted from their homes. Let us encourage our kids to know their languages.”

In giving thanks, the traditional leadership of the area, Nkosi Sliho Mahlangu, representing King Mabhoke III appreciated the good work of government and the PanSALB with regards to the launch of the dictionaries.

He said the Ndebele people are happy that IsiNdebele has been developed to such a level where mono and trilingual dictionaries are launched.

This in his words promotes the Ndebele culture and preserves the Ndebele heritage which is also a responsibility of each and every Ndebele person.

As the catch phrase of the Department states, the importance of stakeholder engagement has never been elevated to a higher level than before. Sisonke Sifundzisa Sive is an affirmation of taking everybody on board to get involved in the teaching and learning process so as to advance the quality of life of the citizenry.

In pursuit of quality education delivery, stakeholders in education within Mpumalanga convened at the Ingwenyama Lodge on 14 April 2014 to map a way forward towards the improvement of learner performance towards the 10% pass improvement target set by the Department. Circuit patrons, business partners and QLTC from all over the province attended the meeting to listen and discuss matters of education advancement.

Representing the Ehlanzeni District Municipality, Councillor and Member of the Mayoral Committee Mabuza, welcomed all the patrons, business people and QLTC members in the meeting. She also wished the meeting all the best for deliberations to take the level of the quality of education to greater heights. Veteran gospel music group, Masibuyele kuJehova presented their serenading voices as they sang "I have joy and happiness in my soul as well as Angimbonanga ofana naye," which totally changed the mood of the meeting for those who are religiously inclined.

In an exercise to motivate the meeting, Ps. Mduduzi Khoza spoke about the need to excel in the education fraternity and the need of moving in such an attitude and philosophy second to nothing but excellence. To that effect the pastor said that excellence is not by co-incidence but by choice and challenged all attendees to embrace the spirit of excellence.

The meeting was intended to share best practices as well as information with regards to the performance of the province both on the GET and FET phases. Best practices from Nkomazi West and Xhimungwe Circuits were shared with the meeting and presentations from Mr. Chikudu Manyabeane, Director: Public Examinations and Dr. Van Zyl Henry, Chief Director: GET, painted a clear picture of performances from the GET and

FET bands respectively. Mr Manyabeane's presentation focused on Grade 12 performance while Dr. Van Zyl presented the ANA performance featuring grade 3, 6 and 9.

The MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule began her keynote address by thanking all the QLTC and Circuit Patrons for their efforts and contributions, stating that their contributions are always not acknowledged.

She appreciated Circuit Patrons particularly for their financial contributions with regards to the funding of extra classes during weekends and school holidays. The most significant part of the MEC's message was that the financial support from Circuit Patrons has not been officially solicited but voluntarily offered and thus the MEC saw it fit to acknowledge the contributions as the department has in the past celebrated grade 12 pass improvements without inviting the Circuit Patrons.

It emerged from the meeting that the best municipality in terms of grade 12 performances is Nkomazi Local Municipality which initiated the school patron as well as winter and camp classes that are funded by the Circuit Patrons.

MEC Mhaule also encouraged other circuits and municipalities left behind to emulate Nkomazi Circuits and schools in elevating their performance towards the attainment of the target of the Department.

As a token of appreciation, MEC Mhaule presented patrons with certificates of appreciation for their contributions and efforts in lifting the quality and standard of education in the province. The following patrons were presented the certificates:

The MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule officially handed over the Toyota Etios to Mistry Bhavika Sureshkumar, the overall top learner in the Province from Hoërskool Hoogenhout in Bethal, Gert Sibande District.

The handover ceremony took place on 15 January 2013 at Hoërskool Hoogenhout in Bethal, Gert Sibande District.

Ms. Mistry Sureshkumar, as the overall top learner in the Province obtained distinctions in 7 subjects; i.e. Mathematics, Physical Science, Accounting, Life Sciences, Life Orientation, English Home Language and Afrikaans.

The car was sponsored by Imperial Toyota Nelspruit driven by their quest to partner with the Mpumalanga Department of Education towards rewarding exceptional performance.

On top of being the most improved provincial department in terms of grade 12 learner performance as well as the only provincial department to get an unqualified audit opinion for three years in a row, the Mpumalanga Department of Education has once more surpassed all other provincial education departments by being the only department to offer a car to the Grade 12 overall best learner.

With overwhelming joy written all over her face, Bhavika, who has been accepted at the University of Pretoria to study Actuarial Science could still not believe that she has her own car.

"I always wanted to be academically and spiritually smart and that has helped me to set up my mind to achieving at the highest levels.

I would also like to thank my parents who are smart and always pushing me to achieve at the highest levels", said Mistry.

On advise to other learners, Bhavika Mistry said that learners should start studying early in the year to get ahead with their work.



Izimbali is Nguni for flowers which are accessories for beautifying and adornment. This name is befitting the splendour of the state of the art boarding school that was built following a pronouncement made by the Honourable Premier, Mr. DD Mabuza. The construction of this boarding school to the value of R189 million was intended to bring to fruition a programme to phase out multi-graded schools as well as unsafe schools.



The school community of Amsterdam was elated as the boarding school facility was officially handed over to them by the Honourable Premier, Mr. DD Mabuza on 24 February 2014.

Izimbali is one of the four boarding schools which were established in order to ensure that learners from rural communities including farms are able to access quality education they deserve.



This is in keeping with the Corporate Rural Development Programme and it intends to ensure that vulnerable children such as orphans and



child-headed families are given the required support and a new leaf of life through education.

The building of the Izimbali Combined Boarding School, in Amsterdam started towards the end of the 2012 academic year and it constitutes of 24 Classrooms, a science laboratory, a library, a computer centre; 40 toilets, a state of the art administration block, 4 sets of boys dormitories, 4 sets of girls dormitories, fencing, water and electricity.

This school will cater for learners from Broadholm; Idalia; Nongena, Samlee, Thokomala, Westoe, Zandspruit, Riverbend and Lithole Primary School. The Office of the Premier also donated school uniform.

"Today ladies and gentlemen, we are making a commitment that your efforts are not in vain; we have embraced your vision and appreciate your foresight and leadership because had it been not



your persistence these children were not going to be as delighted as they are today.

Our people can celebrate the 20 years of Freedom and Democracy because they are witnesses to real progress," said the MEC for Education in her message of support.

Speaking at a hand-over ceremony Premier Mabuza said the new boarding facility will relieve the burden from parents as their children will no longer have to study and sleep on empty stomachs.



"This venue is a like a small heaven. No one can complain, I have given everyone in this community everything; even the teachers will have tea here. We are doing this because we want to stress that there is no child that will be deprived of education because we want them to look after the cattle. These children have their own future.

"The ball is in their court. I am aware that the parents are faced with poverty, but I want to say, when well looked after these children will change this environment their parents are living in. You are getting a big school, what a blessing. I want you to know that I am associated with good

achievers, please do not disappoint us. This is your school, look after it for years to come. You will use it to educate your children in future. This is but one of our good stories to tell as this provincial government. It is only those who do not want to see who will say there is no good story," said Premier Mabuza.

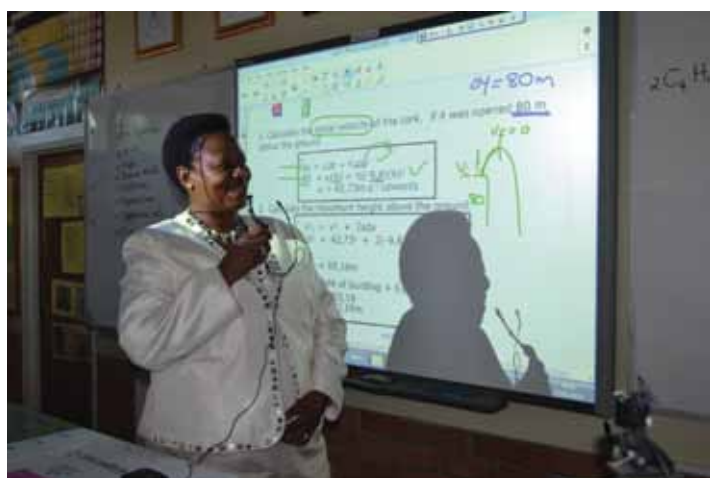


The lives of these learners have literally changed for the better as lack of classroom space and learning material which is compounded by walking long distances will now be thing of the past. For the first time in their lives, they will now have access to hot shower water daily; they will now get to be taught inside a science and computer laboratory, they will now even be able to create time for going to the library to enrich their knowledge.

The laundry facility at the new school will also relieve them from stress and will make it easy for them to concentrate on learning while doing other things such as playing soccer, netball and cricket on fine grass as the school boasts with these amenities.



One wonders how life could be without Mathematics as our everyday activities hinges on mathematical calculations to progress smoothly or make sense of a situation. The value of Maths in our everyday life could not thus be down played in any way as even those who claim to be mathematically illiterate use mathematics for their simple tasks on a daily basis without even being aware of it. Such value and importance begs to ask questions about the promotion of Mathematics at school level so as to boost enrolment performance pass percentage.



The teaching and promotion of Mathematics has taken a huge boost in Mpumalanga as the Mpumalanga Department of Education has established a Maths, Science and Technology Academy to boost Mathematics participation and performance at hundred schools that are linked to the Academy. Mathematical promotion was taken even higher in the hierarchy as the Department hosted the Maths Summit on 20 March 2014 at the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality Banquet Hall in the Nkangala District.

The Summit focused on the thrust of challenges and opportunities of teaching and learning Mathematics in South Africa as well as familiarising delegates with the draft Mathematics Strategy. Delegates were expected to make improve the content of the Strategy by making inputs and recommendations that will impact positively on the teaching and learning of Mathematics at classroom level. The Strategy focuses on making mathematics a subject of choice with high numbers of participation and good performance at all grades in the GET and

FET bands.

A total of 1000 delegates from different backgrounds, ranging from departmental officials, business, Non Governmental Organisations, Institutions of Higher Learning, to teachers and top learners in Mathematics attended the Summit. The elevation of Mathematics, Science and Technology also seek to address the economic drivers of the province with regards to skills development.

A live transmission of a Ligbron Academy of Science and Technology e-learning lesson was transmitted to the Summit for delegates to experience Mathematics e-learning programme in progress. The transmission featured five schools within the Msukaligwa local municipality jurisdiction linked to share lessons by digital means through the Ligbron Academy. The lessons are interactive in nature with all learners and facilitators being able to participate, be seen and heard simultaneously in all the participating schools.

Three presentations covering opportunities and challenges facing the teaching of Mathematics in South Africa as well as learners' perspective on mathematics teaching and learning were made. Delegates were then requested to go into five commissions to deliberate on the main thrust of the Summit.

In her keynote address, the MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule painted a picture of the performance analysis of the Province with regards to ANA and Grade 12 mathematics pass rates. In that regard she emphasised the importance of mastering subject content knowledge and teacher development to cover a lot of ground on the mathematics promotion and good performance.

She also emphasised the importance of schools to develop their five year Mathematics development plans so as to ensure that the Strategy feeds into the unique needs of a particular school. The rationale being that the tailor made approach will be undertaken to avoid the one fits all kind of an undertaking in an effort to ascertain improvement and progress towards meeting the objectives of the Strategy.



Muzi Tshabalala
100% in Maths in 2009

Bongl Mnisi
100% in Maths & Physical Science in 2010

Sibusiso Khoza
100% in Maths in 2013





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