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

Together Educating the Nation is not just a slogan for the Mpumalanga Department of Education. We are indeed moving on with the improvements on quality education delivery as we work together with our stakeholders.

The Mpumalanga Department of Education is grateful of the partnerships forged with all communities and stakeholders to drive education delivery forward. This edition features part of the programmes and activities that are intended to uplift the lives of our communities through education.

We kick-off with MEC Mhaule's fight against teenage pregnancy and restoring the dignity of girl learners through the publication of the Caring4Girls booklet which came about as a collaborative effort with Imbumba Foundation.

27 April 2014 marks the 20th anniversary of South Africa's democracy and freedom. It is no secret that such a feat needs to be celebrated by all. There will be a build up of events leading to the main event to be held on 27 April 2014. In this edition, we feature what South Africans need to consider concerning the day and the meaning associated with 27 April.

There has also been great strides made with regards to the partnership between the department and big business. Big business has injected a lot of money for projects through the Mpumalanga Education Development Trust.

The department is also in a deliberate drive to utilise ICT as a tool of information that provides quality education and represents a paradigm of learning systems. These and many more other programmes are featured in this publication for your read-through.

As the editorial team, we appeal to all our readers to communicate with us on their experiences and opinions on issues that may drive education in our province forward.

Thank you have a wonderful read.

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The Editor: Mr. Jeffrey Makhumba



The Mpumalanga MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule has put bold plans in action to curb teenage pregnancy. This is done against the backdrop of the increasing number of girl learners who have fallen pregnant in the first quarter of the 2013 school year.

Mhaule makes a clarion call to communities and stakeholders to work together with her department to curb the spread of teenage pregnancies.

Of great concern to her is that these unfortunate developments may be an impediment for government's quest to emancipate the girl child from socio-economic hardships.

Tabling her Policy and Budget Speech on 21 May 2013, she said:

"Our desire is that all social ills which have a potential to rob our children of their bright future can be addressed in a more decisive manner.

The implementation of Curriculum Enrichment Programmes is central to rid our schools of these hindrances to education delivery.

In this regard, the department has set aside R18 million to cascade the Mpumalanga HIV and Aids Council Prevention Strategy by increasing sexuality and reproductive knowledge as well as appropriate decision making skills available to learners.

This will ensure the implementation of the integrated school health programme and will assist in reducing the predisposition of children to HIV and STD infections with particular attention to orphaned and other vulnerable groups.

Last year, there were 1 602 girls who fell pregnant in this province and figures for the first quarter of 2013 indicate that there are 1 564 girl learners who are pregnant.

We need to work tirelessly with all stakeholders and civil society to curb this scourge."

The MEC applauded initiatives that are already ongoing led by young people of the province to help reduce the vulnerability of young girls and in this regard, she said:

"I was delighted to read that the reigning queen of the province, Ms Mpumalanga 2013; Ntandoyenkosi Kunene intends to develop a programme to curb HIV infections and teenage pregnancy. This is a noble endeavour indeed, especially coming from a young person."

Caring for girls booklet

The MEC further used the endorsed booklet called Caring 4 Girls which is developed by Imbumba Foundation, and empowers girl learners and their parents on issues relating to puberty, adolescence, hormonal transitions, menstruation, and hygiene. We intend to make it available to all schools in the province in collaboration with the Banking Association of South Africa.

We need to work around the clock and make every effort to fight any thing and everything that has a potential to rob our children of their bright future.

The department has also set aside R1.2 million to implement a focused employee health and wellness programme through awareness campaigns and other referral systems.

Measures put in place to curb the scourge

- Training of educators on Sexual reproductive health programmes
- Training educators on issues of care and support
- Training of learners on peer education and collaborating with structures such as Soul Buddyz
- Capacitating schools in the integrated school health programmes
- Procuring first Aid kits for some schools
- Convening community dialogues
- Ensuring that some schools become centres of care and support
- Supporting initiatives of Ms Mpumalanga 2013
- Working with Imbumba Foundation and the Banking Association of South Africa on their programme of Caring 4 Girls
- Distributing sanitary towels to needy learners
- Donating school uniform to needy learners and

" My plea is that we must all support such initiatives and I also wish to invite the church, the media, big business, our celebrities and parents not to stand on the sidelines but to join the bandwagon on such important matters of life,"
MEC Mhaule said.

**LOVE
LIFE**



**WORLD
AIDS
DAY**

**Department of Social
Development**

MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT

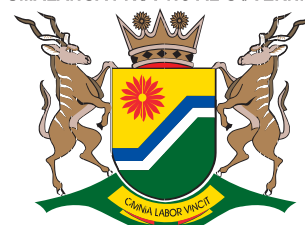
**THE BANKING
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SOUTH AFRICA**



basic education

**Department:
Basic Education
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**

MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT



DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH

The 20th anniversary of South Africa's democracy on 27 April 2014 will end the second decade of our freedom.

It will also mark the year in which those born in 1994, 1995, and before April 1996 will have the opportunity to vote in their first ever election. It is important to prioritise this generation, and appreciate that it has got a vested interest in the future.

During this time, South Africans will be afforded an opportunity to recall the momentous events leading up to 27 April 1994 and reflect on the next 20 years; and the kind of South Africa we want in 2034. Every sector of society will likely reflect on the progress made and the challenges that the nation has faced over the past 20 years.

The 20-year mark will be a time for national celebration through formal and spontaneous events, in an inclusive manner, with friends from both the rest of the continent and the world. The celebration will bring an opportunity for further international marketing and positioning.

It will be an opportune moment to capture through print and electronic media reflecting how far we have come as a country. This will present an opportunity to cement South Africans' national identity and promote social cohesion, and present an opportunity for projecting into the future.

The objectives of the 20 YEARS OF FREEDOM logo:

- Mobilising collective ownership of our 20 years of democracy by all South Africans and sectors of society. This will involve encouraging sectors to develop and implement their own celebration plans that will link to the broader national celebration. Critical to collective ownership, is ensuring direct participation and ownership by all South Africans.
- Engendering social cohesion and a national identity that is representative of our rich and diverse culture.
- Creating a build-up of public awareness and excitement, towards Freedom Day and sustain it thereafter throughout 2014. This includes

promoting a national mood that encourages popular participation in the various initiatives, including the buildup to the national elections.

- Promoting coherence through encouraging participation by all sectors in a way that lends sustainable momentum and promoting widespread use of the logo and message.
- Promoting awareness of the progress that freedom has brought and a sense of the challenges of the third decade.
- Reposition South Africa within the international community. Includes promoting awareness of the role that international solidarity and partnership played in our liberation and will play in development, and of how the reconstruction and development of SA depend on our engagement in international efforts to create a system of international relations more favourable to development and eradication of poverty.
- Promoting awareness of the vision for the next 20 years and mobilising South Africans to take active part in realising the vision.
- Patriotism – the 20 Years of Freedom and Celebration should be used as an opportunity to build patriotism. The 20 year milestone could be a trigger to initiate a citizen driven patriotism campaign through collaboration with stakeholders towards building up to the next 20 years (i.e. every year a 20 + year with a report on progress publicised on the 27 April each year).



The Steve Tshwete Municipality hosted the MEC's meeting with big business on the 16 April 2013. This breakfast meeting was sponsored by ABSA and had the Middelburg Chamber of Commerce's Mrs. Alta Baartman, representatives of the Mpumalanga Education Development Trust and Executives from Big Business were in attendance at this breakfast meeting.

The MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule appreciated the role played by business in the quest to deliver quality education in the province.

To this effect she said, "I think at this level there will be no need to over emphasize the significance of education and its positive manifestations, but to use this opportunity to express my profound appreciation to the business community for the interest shown in adding impetus to our quest to improve the delivery of quality education to the children of this province."

There are a lot of strides that the partnership between the department and big business has achieved and the intention of the department is that we could find space to converge and appreciate the contribution that each partner is making in any area of influence.

In the previous financial year the department alongside with big business has managed to successfully centralize the Provincial Bursary Management, developed and launched the Mpumalanga Human Resource Development Strategy, convened an Early Childhood Development Summit and thereafter developed an integrated approach to ECD, improved the delivery

of school infrastructure in the province, improved the Management of the Annual National Assessment including the Grade 12 Examinations, facilitated the establishment and the launch of the Siyabuswa Campus and improved the Grade 12 results to 70% pass rate just to mention a few.



Imperial Toyota donated a car to the overall best learner in the province

The Mpumalanga Education Development Trust which was established in accordance to the legal framework and is mandated to facilitate progressive interaction between the Department and the business Community, has already made significant strides on a number of projects including but not limited to two world class Interactive Science, Career Guidance and ICT Resource Centres in Mkhondo and Emalahleni Municipalities as well as the Ligbron Academy e-Learning project which is recognized as a leader in the adoption and integration of classroom technology to improve teaching and learning in rural and underperforming schools.



Premier DD Mabuza with BHP Billiton President, Mr JH Dreyer



MEC Mhaule with Vodacom representatives

The MEC for Education, Mrs. Regina Mhaule took time to meet big business in the province for breakfast and to attend to educational matters.

There are no words abundant enough to over-emphasize the significance of education and its positive manifestations hence the MEC used the breakfast meeting to express profound appreciation to the business community for the interest shown in adding more value in the quest to improve the delivery of quality education to the children of Mpumalanga.



Mr Frans Kalp demonstrating the interactive white board functions

True to the byline, “Sisonke Sifundzisa Sive” the department remains proud because it is indeed not alone in this patriotic journey of ensuring that the doors of education and culture are open to all.

The provincial grade 12 results bear testimony to the success story of working together with stakeholders to attain good results and thus there was a need to strive to close the communication gap between the department and big business to further improve on achievements going forward.

There are a lot of strides achieved by working together with big business and thus space to converge and appreciate the contributions made was essential.

In the previous financial year the department alongside with big business managed the following:

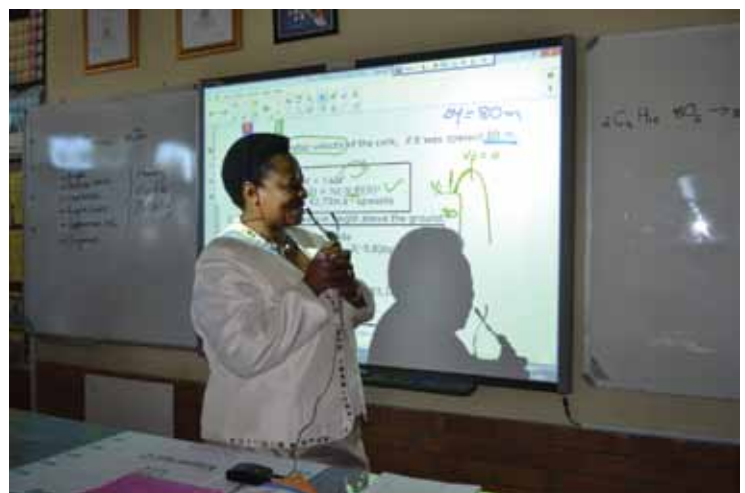
- Successfully centralized the Provincial Bursary Management
- Developed and launched the Mpumalanga Human Resource Development Strategy

- Obtained an unqualified Audit
- Convened an Early Childhood Development Summit and thereafter developed an integrated approach to ECD
- Improved the delivery of school infrastructure in the province
- Improved the Management of the Annual National Assessment including the Grade 12 Examinations
- Facilitated the establishment and the launch of the Siyabuswa Campus
- Improved the Grade 12 results to 70% pass rate and this was the first time in many years that the province entered this bracket.

These outcomes and many more can only confirm that the systems in place are maturing and yielding the expected results in a sustainable manner.

They also confirm that the more we work together, the greater the chances of achievements.

In 2009 a school in KaNyamazane called ZB Kunene obtained 19% pass rate, Vodacom decided to intervene, they identified some of their officials to teach at that school on weekends, guess how the school performed that year: The school moved to 65% in 2010 and 77.7% in 2011.



MEC Regina Mhaule interacting with learners through e-learning

Vodacom did not receive an invitation from the Department, but saw an opportunity and used it to the benefit of the whole nation. Not only did they teach on weekends but made it their obligation that the school has a state of the art, fully furnished and equipped library.

“I am making this example to demonstrate how

important your resourcefulness is to us, and how your contributions can make this nation a proud one full of possibilities.

There are a lot of interventions from business and I share a view that if we could communicate and coordinate properly, we can sleep peacefully knowing that indeed we have made the necessary impact,"said MEC Mhaule.

To co-ordinate the involvement of big business in education matters, the department has established the Mpumalanga Education Development Trust to add value in making sure that contributions to education are acknowledged and supported.

It is established in accordance to the legal framework and it's mandated to facilitate progressive interaction between the department and the business community.

The trust is functional, chaired by the Head of Department and it enjoys the endowment of the executive authority of the Department and the MEC persuaded big business to have faith and trust in MEDT.

The MEDT has already made significant strides on a number of projects including but not limited to:

- Two world class Interactive Science, Career Guidance and ICT Resource Centres in Mkhondo and Emalahleni Municipalities.
- The Ligbron Academy e-Learning project which is recognized as a leader in the adoption and integration of classroom technology to improve teaching and learning in rural and underperforming schools.

The MEC also attested that the Ligbron project is similar to the Samsung School which she visited on her trip to South Korea.

The MCE requested big business to partner with the department in order to address the infrastuctural back-log to construct new facilities, sport facilities, toilets, administration blocks and ICT laboratories.

She also expressed her wish to prioritise the placement of new graduates for experiential training in business entities in co-oporation with government.

"There are many students that are beneficiaries of bursaries from the provincial government. These and many other learners should undergo some form

of training before they could graduate.

Some have already graduated but need to be offered some form of basic training in the form of learnerships so that they could be employable.

I therefore use this opportunity to request that we also need to collaborate on these matters," said MEC Mhaule.

"I also want to use this opportunity to express our profound appreciation for the sponsorship and support you accorded to the Department for occasions such as the Mandela Day Celebrations, Announcement of the 12 Grade 12 results and so on.

This event was also sponsored by ABSA and we want to thank you dearly from the bottom of our hearts. I think we live to your mantra "Today, Tomorrow Together," she concluded.

The department also made a commitment to create an enabling environment for the enhancement of cooperation between Government and Business.



Mr Frans Kalp , Mrs Sharon Marais , Mrs Nukuthula Mthetwa, Cllr VCN Madini, Mrs MOC Mhlabane and MEC Reginah Mhaule

The 21st century is the age that has been dubbed the digital age, with the break of technology and its integration into the world, Information Communication Technologies have enhanced the way of communication and access to information, they have made life a bit more convenient, enhanced ways of teaching and also give more in depth information on research. Information Communication Technology has become a tool of information that provides quality education and represents a paradigm of learning systems.

With this new learning system the education system has embraced this new change and has been enlightened with its benefits and roles in learning and took charge of this opportunity to enhance the skills much needed in the country, bringing about a new era of teaching. The recent national education system within South Africa strives to make available to learners a curriculum designed to enrich and install within them skills of reasoning, problem solving and learning strategies. With the information communication technologies learners are expected to produce exceptional results and also advance their skills also making teaching more effective and convenient for educators.

The Mpumalanga Department of education in partnership with The National Department of Mineral Resources, MTN, Anglo American, Vodacom and Eskom launched a career guidance and information communication technology resource centre In Emalahleni in 2010. The partnership aims to serve the school communities in the Emalahleni area in the Nkangala District. The collaboration wishes to educate learners within rural areas about ICT so as to improve and enhance their access to education while bridging the gap of communication which exists within rural communities. The project strives to enrich learners' way of connecting and close the communication gap that exists. The success of the project will ensure that schools are developed using Information Communication Technologies (ICT).



Learners at an Information Sharing Session

The centre enriches and encourages interactive learning using high tech resource facilities, which will be utilized by educators and learners through out the Nkangala District. The project's main focus is on the field of science, mathematics and information technology. The ICT resource centre strives to enhance the delivery of excellence in education system within the Mpumalanga Province.



The ICT resource centre enables learners to explore and access internet services as a pilot to discover the uses and advantages of computer technology. The partnership wishes to encourage and motivate learners and grow the quality of education learners receive and also enhance their performance. Educational aids and training for supervisors will also

be provided within the centre, these include guidelines for educator. The project also aims to have successful placement of graduates for experience training.

The Vodacom programme has a success of 54 computers that have been distributed in schools and a number of 609 sites that are active and help connect learners. Within the Emalahleni area there are 30 schools which fall under the Vodacom hub and with the partnership 69 schools will undergo an evaluation to determine whether there are existing and functioning point and computer systems.

The success of the project will produce access of information to learners in rural areas at a young and tender age gradually instilling in them the benefits of the use of information technologies.



Searching for career knowledge and the future

If your actions create a legacy that inspires others to dream more, learn more, do more and become more, then you are an excellent leader." This is a famous quotation of the legendary country musical icon, Dolly Paton, which captures the universal truth about leadership.



The unveiling: King Makhosoke II with Mr Jan Mkhwanazi; Chief Director for FET

On 30 May 2013, King Makhosoke II lived up to that quotation when in collaboration with the Mpumalanga Department of Education, the King Makhosoke II Student Support Centre was launched in Siyabuswa.

This centre has been established to promote literacy and numeracy owing to poor learner performance following the Annual National Assessment (ANA) results for 2011, there were many voices of disquiet in the education and training sector about the levels of literacy and numeracy in our schools.



Beneficiaries of the programme, celebrating through song

As a concerned leader of his people, King

Makhosoke II, approached the South African National Tutor Services (SANTS) with the intention to find a solution to the poor ANA results in his area and to address this fundamental inconsistency in our education and training system through substantive interventions for educators, learners and school communities.

King Makhosoke II, collaborated with SANTS, the Mpumalanga Department of Education, SADTU and other school communities in implementing the Back-to-Basics Programme which is a Holistic Integrated Programme (HIP) that intends to address the low levels of literacy and numeracy in an integrated manner. The funding hereof was secured from SANTS' own internal reserves. This initiative has been piloted in 12 primary schools benefitting 5 266 learners.

The King also signed a memorandum of understanding with Venda University to encourage students to take their studies seriously, promote and preserve IsiNdebele and other languages that are marginalized as well as to promote other learning programmes such as Maths and Science. He further collaborated with private institutions that deal with the training of Educators at Siyabuswa to also play a role in this initiative.



The Ndebele heritage, so colourful and beautiful

DIAL-A-TUTOR PROGRAMME

The Department has resuscitated the Dial-A-Tutor programme to assist learners who experience challenges with subject content while studying at home.

Learners should dial **087 805 1350** from **Mondays- Thursdays** between **18H00 and 20H00**.

This call is at no charge to a learner even if they use their cell phones. In this case when a learner phones, the system will terminate the call and immediately call back.

The learner will be guided on options to follow leading to an interaction with the relevant Tutor.

All learners are urged to take advantage of this opportunity aimed at improving their school performance.



In its quest to deliver quality education and attain the 10% set target for performance improvement, the Mpumalanga Department of Education has developed a priority list for 2013/14 which also includes but is not limited to Early Childhood Development, Literacy and Numeracy promotion, Grade 12 Improvement strategies and increased Mathematics and Science uptake and output.

Acknowledging the importance of the role played by educators at the classroom level, the department has also decided to prioritise School Management and Governance, Teacher Development as well as improve safety in schools to leverage the delivery of teaching and learning.

The Mpumalanga Department of Education is working around the clock to improve the delivery of school infrastructure, maintenance and refurbishment of school buildings.

This will add value in creating conducive environment for teaching and learning.

The Department intends to upgrade special schools, construct Grade R facilities, and construct kitchens for the improved implementation of School Nutrition Programme.

The bridging of the digital divide remains an imperative for the Department hence ICT Improvement is essential. The establishment of the Maths, Science and Technology Academy in eMalahleni is evidence of the department's intent to increase the use of ICT in the daily education life in the province.

With regards to the promotion of wellness and physical well being, the Department intends to promote school sports and cultural programmes.

This will in many ways promote embracing diversity, social cohesion, elevate sport as a career for those who are talented and also help improve the quality of competitiveness of South Africa at a global stage.



Shrewd Administration: HOD MOC Mhlabane

Admission of Learners to Public Schools for 2014

25 July - 20 September 2013

The Mpumalanga Department of Education request to all parents to register their children of school going age for the **2014** school year before **20 September 2013**.

Early registration of learners enables schools to plan in advance and to commence with teaching and learning on the first day of school re-opening.

Parents are required by law to produce the following documents as requirements for registration:

- An application form from the school;
- Official birth certificate of the child;
- Proof of immunization;
- A transfer card if a learner transfers from one public school to another and
- The last report card issued by the previous school.

No learner can be refused admission on the basis that his/her parents are unable to pay school fees.

Learners with special disabilities must also be admitted to schools in line with the dictates of White Paper No 6.

Should a parent experience a problem regarding the registration of a child to a school, he /she should request a written explanation from the principal or contact the nearest circuit office for assistance.

For more information on the admission of learners please contact the following officials:

District	Official	Contact numbers
Bohlabela	Ms TL Shirindzi	Tel: (013) 766 7416 Fax: 086 568 0657 tj.ndlovu@education.mpu.gov.za
Ehlanzeni	Mr MT Khoza	Tel: (013) 766 0453 Fax: 013 794 1772 tm.khoza@education.mpu.gov.za
Gert Sibande	Ms PP Magagula	Tel: (017) 801 5185 Fax: 086 241 2067 nomncube@education.mpu.gov.za
Nkangala	Mr S A Mokone	Tel: (013) 947 1513 Fax: 013 947 2782 smokone@education.mpu.gov.za





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