



**Upholding the Integrity of Examinations
and Improving Learner Performance**

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

Opening the doors of education for all our children in the Province is important to the Mpumalanga Department of Education. In pursuit of the education mandate, the provision of physical school infrastructure is very important. As a Department, we have made a lot of strides in this regard following the handover of ten school infrastructure projects to school communities in 2012.



The Editor: Mr. Jeffrey Makhumba

This edition also covers the infrastructure development stories that are highlights of the year as the Department ensures that conditions for teaching and learning are conducive for all our learners. We also have to appreciate that owing to limited funds, this journey is on going.

It is also key that our readers carry on with the dialogue on the education discourse, as the Zulu saying goes, "Injobo ithungelwa ebandla." This edition thus serves as an invitation to all our experts and the citizenry in general to make their valuable

contributions to take our education delivery further. Also keep us informed with positive developments happening around your communities.

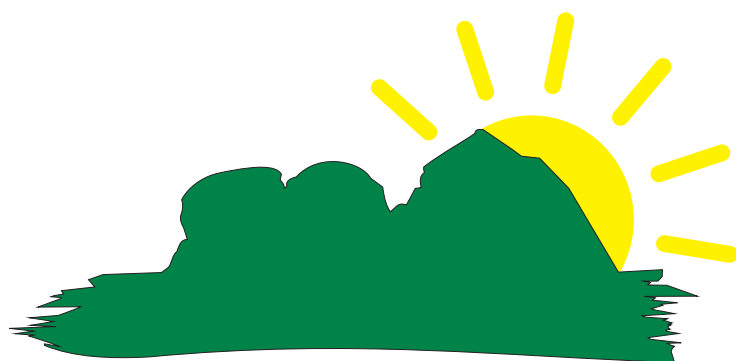
The Mpumalanga Department of Education prides itself in its educators who are the engine room and frontline of the department at the classroom level. This edition takes a look at the moment of honour where some of our best educators were honoured for the splendid job they have done in the Province leading to the national leg of the National Teaching Awards.

We also cover the guidelines for learner admission in public schools in an effort to keep both parents and learners informed. The private-public partnership leads us to the Eskom initiative of providing 116 bursaries to tertiary students in the Province.

On the curriculum front, we highlight the need for taking Mathematics and Physical Science as a learning areas of choice as we believe that such a campaign will put not just Mpumalanga but South Africa in good stead in as far as meeting the demands for scarce skills. These skills are very important for the growth of the economy.

Have a good read and let us hear from you.

Cheers.



MPUMALANGA A Pioneering Spirit

Guidelines for Learner Admission in Public Schools

The imperative of a smooth and seamless admission process for learners cannot be overemphasised, thus the Mpumalanga department of Education pulled all stops to conscientise communities about learners rights to admission in public schools.

The Department has provided detailed guidelines to ensure a seamless process for the admission of learners for the 2013 school year by explaining the different roles at the different levels of the line function.

This is in keeping with the admission policy for ordinary public schools which was gazetted on 19 October 1998.

The Head of Department has determined a process of registration for admission to public schools in order to enable the admission of learners to take place in a timely and efficient manner.

Schools' admission policies must always take the constitutional mandates into account and should be inline with the dictates of the South African Schools Act no 84 of 1996.

Roles of principals

- All principals of public ordinary schools must acknowledge that this is a delegated function that must be managed efficiently and in line with the admission policy.
- They must develop clear plans on how they are going to administer the admission process in accordance with the dates provided herein, and ensure 100% adherence to the plan;
- They must set reasonable time frames to administer the admission process;
- They must inform parents about their rights and responsibilities;
- They must always be available to address challenges that arise from the process;
- They must at all times communicate with parents, communities and stakeholders in a manner befitting of the teaching profession.
- They must compile reports and make every effort to give applicants feedback on time.
- They must treat every applicant with dignity and ensure that the process of admitting learners is free from any form of unfair

discrimination.

- They must ensure that no child is denied admission to a school on the basis that his/her parents are unable to pay or have not paid school fees, or does not subscribe to the mission statement of the school or refuse to enter into contract in terms of which the parents waive any claim for damages arising out of the education of the learner.
- They must go an extra mile to assist parents who seek admission in line with the admission policy and engage the Circuit Office, should they experience any difficulty in resolving some of the problems that arise from the process.

Roles of Circuit Managers

- All Circuit Managers are expected to support principals and ensure that the process of admitting learners progresses smoothly.
- They must develop a monitoring framework and compile reports in line with the dates provided above.
- They must ensure that parents are informed of their rights and responsibilities.
- They must develop a strategy to address critical cases in consultation with principals.
- They must help to ensure that all cases are resolved amicably and in the best interest of learners.
- They must ensure that the administrative processes are not compromised and that the policy framework is adhered to at all times.
- They must always be available to address the concerns of parents and principals including those from School Governing Bodies.
- They must make it their responsibility that on the first day of the re-opening of schools there are no glitches and that teaching and learning takes place smoothly.

Roles of the District Managers

- District Managers are expected to ensure that this process is managed meticulously and with the professionalism it deserves.
- They must support schools and parents who seek admission and ensure that they are given the required assistance at all times.

Admission of Learners to Public Schools for 2013

The Mpumalanga Department of Education request to all parents to register their children of school going age for the 2013 school year before 28 September 2012.

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) 708 5029 Fax: 086 605 3180 t.Shirindzi@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 N Mncube	Tel: (017) 801 5164 Fax: 017 819 4358 nomncube@education.mpu.gov.za
Nkangala	Mr S A Mokone	Tel: (013) 947 1513 Fax: 086 723 8669 smokone@education.mpu.gov.za



Kusile Student Bursary Breakfast

Supporting South Africa's youth in critical skills through higher education" that was the message conveyed by Eskom at the University Students Bursary Breakfast held at Kusile Power Station Wednesday, 11 July 2012.

The venue was filled with jubilant young faces who are excited to take the next step of their lives. These are 116 deserving students chosen across the province who have acquired bursaries from Eskom. The Eskom bursaries enable them to study in any of their chosen Universities in the country. The bursaries cover for registration and tuition fees, study materials, and accommodation.

On behalf of the Department of Education, Mrs Lucky Moeketsi, Chief Executive Officer; Accelerated Capacity Building flagship project thanked Eskom on giving the province's young boys and girls an opportunity to further their studies, as this will play a huge role on increasing the number of persons with scarce skills in the future. This initiative will therefore limit the province on the quest to always source for skilled workers in other provinces.

She also took the moment and reminded the learners of how privileged they are as stats show that 76 % of South African youth is not educated, not in any form of training, nor employed. She also emphasized that they should grab this opportunity with both hands and not just wait for government to always do everything for them.

The learners on the day were also treated to a few presentations from different speakers who are qualified in the different fields of study that the learners are to embark on.

One of the speakers, Ms Prenola Naidoo, a Mechanical Engineer, jokily shared how people thought she was studying to be a mechanic, and expected her to fix cars; she explained what a Mechanical Engineer does in a language that the learners understood. It was clear from the learners' eyes that they were even keener to further their studies as these speakers proved that with hard work and determination they also could achieve their goals.

Miss Prudence Moloko, who is registered to study Electrical Engineering at the Tshwane University of Technology, Emalahleni Campus, could not hide her

excitement as she shared how privileged and honored she was to be part of the chosen as one of the selected few. She was also quick to remind future grade 12 learners to attend all their classes, including any extra classes even if they fall on a Saturday; she maintains that studying hard pays off.

Every South African child has the right to education, it is saddening to witness how many young education hungry South Africans fail to acquire higher education due to lack of funds. It is therefore very exhilarating to witness companies such as Eskom working together with the Department of Education in educating the nation.



Ms Lucky Moeketsi



Ogies Phola Career Exhibition

The community of Phola in Ogies was honoured as the Mpumalanga Department of Education in collaboration with the Emalahleni Local Municipality and other stakeholders held a career expo for grades 9 to 12 learners in Phola on 21 July 2012. The objective of the expo was to conduct a Career Exhibition in Ogies/Phola in Emalahleni Municipality and exposing learners to Career opportunities that are offered by Government Departments, Institutions of Higher Learning and Private Sector companies

The career expo was organised to coincide with Mandela month in honour of the international peace and freedom icon and first citizen of the democratic South Africa, Dr. Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela.

Companies such as Extrata, Transnet and Anglo American exhibited their career, bursaries and learnership programmes on offer in their respective companies. Institutions of higher learning such as the University of Pretoria and Nkangala FET were also present and made presentations on the courses that they offer at their institutions of learning.

Government Departments such as the Government Communications Information Services, COGTA as well as the Department of Education also had their stalls exhibited on the day.

This was a victory for the learners of Phola as they were assisted with choosing good careers, how, when and where they can apply for financial assistance to further studies of their choice.

The expo also took into account the role that Government, Institutions of Higher Learning, Private Sector and the community needs to play in order to create awareness on the importance of education, targeting Grade 10 – 12 learners.



Learners putting the mobile career unit to good use

I attended the career exhibition on 21 July 2012 organised by the Department of Education. At the career exhibition, there were two young men, Thabiso Moabi and Bonginkosi Mnisi, who encouraged us as they told us their interesting stories of how they succeeded in their studies when they were doing their Grade 12s. What really inspired me is that they both came from poor families and one of them is from a farm, so that really made me believe that I can also succeed.

If they could do it, I can also pass my Matric with distinction. They advised us not to have doubts nor be ashamed about our backgrounds. As I'm still planning my future, I have learnt that I need to prioritise my education then other things shall fall into place.

I need to set my goals straight and work so hard so that I can succeed. I have learnt that one needs to have goals, pave a good way for your future as it is in your hands.

We should respect ourselves as they always say: ***"Respect yourself first and everybody will respect you"***

As students, to get more information you should go around and find information about companies that issue school children with bursaries, learnerships and other programmes that may benefit them. It is also important to go and seek help from professionals in that career of your choice; the one that you want to pursue after Grade 12.

Also do not forget to get websites on the internet that will help you gather as much information about your career as possible.

The future lies within our hands, it is up to us to build or break it. As the youth of today, we should make our parents proud of us, the world is now ours and we should make the best out of it. Respect and help each other most of all, unite as one country and show the love and unity to other countries, students and other schools.

***Zamekile Nkosi a learner from
Mehlwana Secondary School in Phola,
Ogies, Nkangala District.***

Spring Classes for Grade 12 Learners

The Mpumalanga Department of Education conducted Spring Classes from 1st to 5th October 2012 for grade 12 learners from schools which performed below 50% in the 2011 grade 12 examinations.

This is an endeavour to prepare these grade 12 learners for the forthcoming final examination following the successful winter classes which were conducted during the June/July school holidays.

These spring classes were conducted in 55 centres in all four provincial districts:

- **Bohlabela District** : **22 centres**
- **Ehlanzeni District** : **15 centres**
- **Gert Sibande District** : **12 centres**
- **Nkangala District** : **06 centres**

The MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule requested learners to take advantage of this opportunity. Mpumalanga Province was declared the most improved province in the country following an 8% increase in the 2011 grade 12 results and the province intends to improve the results by 10% from the current 64.8% to 74.8% in 2013.

The results will be released on 3rd January 2013.



Mabharule Secondary School learners

59 Centres Established for Winter Classes

In an effort to meet the set 10% improvement target for the 2012 Grade 12 results, the Mpumalanga Department of Education has scheduled conducting Winter School Classes from the 02 to 13 July 2012.

25 of these centres will be in Bohlabela District in the Bushbuckridge Municipality which is currently performing below the rest of the other three Districts in the Province, 12 in Gert Sibande and Nkangala Districts respectively and 10 will be in the Ehlanzeni District.

All schools that are currently performing below 50% are obliged to participate in these Winter School Classes and the Department expects a total of 14 520 Grade 12 learners to attend these.

11 school subjects will be taught in these centres namely; Mathematics, Mathematical Literacy, Physical Science, Life Science, Economics, Accounting, Business Studies, History, Geography, Agricultural Science and English First Additional Language.

Only subject teachers with proven record of outstanding performance have been appointed to participate in this programme and will be paid in accordance with the framework that governs their appointment.

The Department has set aside R 6.4 million to achieve this endeavour.

The MEC for Education; Mrs Reginah Mhaule encourages schools and learners to take advantage of these classes to improve their scholastic results at the same time calls on all parents to make it their business that their children attend and benefit from these classes.

“It will be prudent that all the intended beneficiaries take advantage of the opportunity that government present to improve their results so that it can be easy for the children to access institutions of Higher Learning,” said MEC Mhaule.

Steelcrest High Triumphs

The MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule congratulates Steelcrest High School in Middelburg in the Nkangala District for winning the 2012 National Economic and Management Sciences Quiz competition for grade 9 learners that took place at Fourways in Johannesburg on the 8th of September 2012.

The three winning learners, Aishwarya Lala, Lala Choonara and Naeem Abdool Carrim were coached by Mr. Dave Whitcombe.

Mpumalanga together with three other provinces namely, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal and Eastern Cape took part in this quiz competition where learners were fielded with a range of questions on economic matters. Mpumalanga won this competition for the third time since its inception in 2009.

The quiz competition was incepted to raise learner performance at school level where the competition starts to progress to circuit, provincial and national level.

"We are delighted as Mpumalanga Department of Education for the sterling performance of Steelcrest High School in winning the 2012 National Economic and Management Sciences Quiz competition for grade 9 learners. This feat has once more lifted the Mpumalanga flag so high. We have set the bar high as a Province; we therefore have to maintain the same standard henceforth.

Let me take this time to congratulate the learners, educators and parents who have made this feat possible," said MEC Mhaule.



Noble Professionals Honoured

The 05 October 2012 at Hayzview Protea Hotel was a historic day for educators in Mpumalanga. This day heralded the announcement of the provincial finalists who will proceed to partake at the national level of the National Teaching Awards.

As the clock ticked closer to mark the time for the announcement of the names of the finalists from Mpumalanga, one could cut the tension in the air with a knife. All delegates were eager to know who had conquered while the candidates could no longer withstand the amounting pressure and suspense.

The gala event was attended by about 600 delegates who intently listened to the Head of Department, Mrs Mahlasedi Mhlabane as she, on behalf of MEC Mhaule, delivered the keynote address.

The Head of Department, Mrs Mahlasedi Mhlabane congratulated all participants and expressed her profound appreciation on the noble role that the teachers are playing in shaping the character of children and had this to say:

“Ideally contributions of teachers are something that needs to be appreciated everyday by all the people of the world considering the amount of energy, time and sacrifice they dedicate in shaping the minds and character of our children.

We are what we are today because of the mammoth efforts and trust that some of our teachers had on us and surely they deserved to be appreciated all the time.

Our teachers have clearly demonstrated their commitment to quality education and the development of our children.

The finalists today indeed are all winners; they are true South African patriots. We have no doubt that they will represent us well at the National Teaching Awards.

I am certain that all these teachers would agree that the core business of our schooling system is to prepare our youth and children for lifelong learning.

I therefore urge all of you to continue your outstanding work in your different schools, which contributes towards building a better country and a

prosperous South Africa”.

The finalists are:

Category	District	Name(s) of the winner
Prim School Teaching	Nkangala District	Ms T Gibson
Sec School Teaching	Gert Sibande District	Ms. PP Mbatha
Prim School Leadership	Ehlanzeni District	Mr. E Thela
Sec School Leadership	Ehlanzeni District	Mr. ES Chibi
Grade R Teaching	Bohlabela District	Ms P Mthombeni
Life Time Achievement	Ehlanzeni District	Mrs M Green
ICT Enhanced Teaching	Gert Sibande District	Mr. F Kalp Ms. M Bosman Ms. F Reiners Ms. L Van Zyl
Special Needs Education	Bohlabela District	Ms.HC Swanepoel

These teachers are going to represent the province at the occasion of the National Teaching Awards in February 2013.

The Department wishes them all the best at the National level.



HOD Mhlabane with Mr. Franz Kalp, Ms. Frankie Reiners, Ms. Melinda Swanepoel and Mr. Antonie Swanepoel

The importance of studying mathematics and physical sciences

The MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule has at every given opportunity encouraged learners to take up Mathematics and Science as their subjects of choice. This follows her pronouncement in the 2012/13

Policy and Budget Speech where she made an undertaking that the Province will ensure that learners take up Mathematics as a subject of choice at Grade 10. This noble request is inspired by the will to succeed as a nation and province by ensuring that there is ample supply of the skills and knowledge required to drive the economy of Mpumalanga and South Africa forward.

The Mpumalanga Department of Education has embarked on a campaign to popularise the study of Mathematics and Sciences. These learning areas are important to grow the economy of the country as we need skilled people especially in Maths and Science related fields. The shortage of skilled people in South Africa in the science-related fields poses a significant limitation on the country's long-term economic growth potential. South Africa has mineral resources like gold, diamond and platinum just to mention a few, but has a shortage of skills to refine and process these resources.

This shortage of skills is the main reason why these mineral resources are processed outside the country and are brought back as products at a much higher price, this in a way steals a lot of jobs for South Africa as a result of the lack of beneficiation. There are shortages of skills in various fields like general health care, paramedical services, engineering, building and construction, accounting, actuarial sciences, mathematics and science teaching and many more. All these careers demand a good pass in mathematics in Grade 12 and most of them require a combination of Mathematics and Physical Sciences. South Africa is importing some of the scarce skills from other countries and thus the future is in our learner's hands.

To put forward projections on job prospective and demands using the present average age of Civil Engineers in SA, which is at approximately 57 years of age, South Africa will experience major problems over the next 10 to 30 years with roads, dams, electricity, water reticulation, and building and

construction industries.

Advantages of taking mathematics at school

A pass in Mathematics opens a wide range of career opportunities in many professions in the science fields such as a medical practitioner, an engineer, pharmacist, geologist, etc. In the Business and commerce fields, an entry requirement for B Com is a pass in mathematics. All learners have the capacity to explore Mathematics and Physical Sciences and develop their confidence levels by solving more challenging problems. They must enjoy and feel challenged by the higher level of thinking and reasoning required in by these subjects. This will equip them to study anything at tertiary level. With a pass in maths and science all the doors are open in tertiary education and the employment world. Without these subject many doors are closed and the future is dim.

Application of mathematics to the different career options.

Algebra is very important for computer science, cryptology, networking, study of symmetry in Chemistry and Physics. Calculus (including differential equations) is used in Chemistry, Biology, Physics, Engineering, the motion of water (hydrodynamics), rocket science, molecular structure, option price modelling in Business and Economics models. The SA government is offering more bursaries in the fields of Mathematics and Science, Engineering and IT.

Learners are the future labour force

Our learners are our future labour force and thus the need to encourage and inspire them to take up Mathematics and the Sciences as subjects of choice to ensure ample supply of a highly educated and skilled labour force that will drive innovation and production. But think also of the individuals and what they can derive through upward mobility, income growth for families, and access to opportunity. As the nation shifts into a new, non-industrial economy, we will need a well-trained, technically competent workforce to manage and staff the science and technology businesses that create the high-paying jobs. Where will we get this workforce if our learners do not take maths and physical science at school today?

There is a need to increase the number of qualified maths and science teachers. Where will these teachers come from if our learners in school today do not take mathematics and Physical Sciences?

The Mpumalanga Department of Education aims to increase the number of learners taking mathematics and physical sciences in grade 10 and also increase the number of learners who pass mathematics and physical sciences. The department targets to have 30 000 learners taking Mathematics and 17 000 taking Physical Sciences in grade 10 in 2013. The province aims to have 75 % of the learners in the province taking Mathematics. Learners are encouraged to enrol for these subjects in grade 10 in 2013.

Learners choose and register subjects that they will write in grade 12 when they start in grade 10. Therefore parents are requested to assist learners to choose the grade10 subjects. It is the responsibility of the parent to assist the child / learner to choose the subjects. Schools can advise learners which subjects to take but the final say lies with the parent and the learner. Schools must advise learners which subjects to take in grade10 in consultation with the parents. Schools cannot choose subjects for learners.

The department is appealing to parents and community at large to encourage learners to take mathematics at grade 10. The department has several programmes to assist teachers with the teaching of maths and science. These are in the form of formal structured programmes offered by Institutions of Higher learning, short courses, workshops conducted by Curriculum Implementers as well as peer support through cluster meetings.

Through a conditional grant the department is providing resources to Dinaledi project schools. Mathematics is not a difficult subject as many believe. It requires one to spend a lot of time practising, working out problems. With enough practice it is possible to score 100 % in a subject. Two learners disadvantaged backgrounds have demonstrated that it can be done.

1. In the 2009 Grade 12 results, Muzi Tshabalala from Kutsalani Secondary school obtained 100 in Maths and is currently at the University of Pretoria.
2. In 2010 Bonginkosi Mnisi obtained 100% in Maths and Physical Science and is currently at the University of Cape Town doing Astrophysics.



Science Wizz kid: Thabiso Moabi

Top learners motivation Sessions

The Mpumalanga Department of Education conducted Information Sharing Sessions in the Dipaliseng, Pixley Ka Seme and Bushbuckridge Municipalities in an effort to engage learners in Career and Bursary discussions. As a result learners were exposed to career opportunities offered by government departments, institutions of higher learning and private sector companies.

The Mpumalanga NSC Grade 12 Examinations results analysis for 2011 reflects underperformance in the three municipalities and thus these information sharing sessions sought to motivate grade 11 and 12 learners and the out-of-school youth in preparing them to pursue good career choices.

The information sharing sessions were conducted in Gert Sibande District on 02 and 03 October 2012 at Sinethemba Thusong Centre and Volkrust Multipurpose Centre in the Pixley Ka Seme Municipality respectively. The Bushbuckridge Municipality's turn came on 05 October 2012 in Marite Community Hall.

These sessions provided much needed opportunities to Thabiso Moabi, Bonginkosi Mnisi and Muzi Tshabalala, three former Grade 12 learners in the province who were in the overall best learner category between 2009 and 2011 to motivate learners in attendance. The sessions exposed learners from the three municipalities to the best practices of the top learners who performed outstandingly so that they could in turn look towards the forth coming examinations with greater determination and focus.

Solomon Thabiso Moabi is the first and only black learner from the previously disadvantaged schools to become the overall best learner following the 2011 grade 12 results. He studied under candlelight to produce not only the best in the province but also one of the country's top results, with 100% in accounting and distinctions in all his seven subjects.

Bonginkosi Mnisi, a son of a truck driver, was the only learner in the province to bag distinctions in both Maths and Physical Science following the 2010 Grade 12 Examinations. His feat was achieved besides coming from a district that was fraught with unsatisfactory performance. He also achieved

distinctions in life sciences and Xitsonga and B symbols in Agricultural Science, Life Orientation and English First Additional Language. He now has a laboratory named after him in his former school courtesy of the Independent Development Trust corporate social investment.

Muzi Tshabalala, from Khutsalani secondary school in Kabokweni got a 100% pass in Mathematics in 2009 following the grade 12 examinations and is one shinning example to the rest of us. He really personifies the narrative of a discovered gem which has become a polished diamond, his story can vouch for this affirmation.

The information sharing exercise of these top learners is valuable to other learners who find themselves in the same or worse socio-economic circumstances with regards to inspiring and motivating them to do well in their studies.



Mathematics Whizzkid: Muzi Tshabalala

Unqualified Report: Two years in a row

The Department of Education has once more celebrated the good news from the Office of the Auditor General. The Department has maintained its achievement of an unqualified Report following the very same feat for the last financial year. Now the only way to move up is to get a Clean Audit Report as espoused by the MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule.

MEC Mhaule took time to thank all departmental officials for their varying contributions in making the unqualified report possible.

"It always excites me to meet and talk to members of staff and today is no exception from the norm. I am encouraged to stand before you and gladly say that you make us proud as a province and department for the sterling job you are doing in ensuring that first and foremost service delivery is effected and enhanced.

What also excites me is that this enhanced service delivery is in a way that we also stick to the set prescripts of the PFMA and the DoRA to the effect that the financial books of the department are certified good and sound.

The main objective of our meeting today is to celebrate the unqualified audit report as a clean bill of financial health to the department. This audit report is welcomed and appreciated as it has been received for two years in succession from the Auditor General."

The report from the Auditor General states that the financial statements and other regulatory requirements of the Mpumalanga Department of Education for the year that ended on 31 March 2012 were found to be sound, efficiently and effectively managed during the year under review.

In his report to the Department the Auditor General said:

"In my opinion, the financial statements presented fairly, in all material respect, the financial position of the Department of Education as at 31 March 2012 and its financial performance and cash flows for the year ended in accordance with the Department financial Reporting framework presented by the

National Treasury and the requirements of the PFMA and DoRA."

The MEC also expressed her profound pleasure and commended the Head of Department; Mrs Mahlasedi Mhlabane for her administrative acumen and her persistence and leadership in ensuring a clean administration in this regard.

MEC Mhaule was appreciative and thankful of the work done by the Chief Financial Officer, Mr. Casper Mnisi and his team. "I want to also spell it out that no one should be left out of this equation as the report from the Auditor general reflects the condition of our the financial standing of the Department," she said.

As officials of the Department, we are all equally responsible for this good report, hence my gratitude to all staff members for your contributions as well.

The Department appeals to all officials to focus on the work ahead by ensuring that records are kept well for accountability reasons and do everything mindful of the need to come out clean when the department is put under the spotlight of such oversight institutions as the Office of the Auditor General.

Let us not be complacent and take things for granted as for the past two years both the Grade 12 examinations results and the Audit reports have helped us to win public trust and confidence.



Mr. Casper Mnisi
Chief Financial Officer

OR" a Stalwart of the Liberation Movement

Oliver Reginald Kaizana Tambo (OR) was born in the village of Nkantolo, Bizana, in the Mpondoland (eQawukeni), region of the Eastern Cape, on 27 October 1917. His father had four wives and ten children and, although illiterate, was comfortably off. As a young boy, he was given the task of herding his father's cattle.



The Legendary Oliver Tambo

His father, intent on providing his children with a good education, moved his children to the Ludeke Methodist School, some 16 kilometres away from the homestead. Tambo excelled at his studies, but due to a lack of funds, he was forced to repeat Standard Six (Grade Eight) two times, in spite of passing at his first attempt. In 1934 he set out for St Peter's Secondary School in Rosettenville, Johannesburg with the assistance of Miss Tidmarsh his former teacher.

Tambo initially wanted to study medicine, but at the time, no tertiary medical school accepted Black students in that field. He opted to study the sciences at the University of Fort Hare. At university, he first met Nelson Mandela, where both were members of the Students Christian Association.

In 1941, a white person, in charge of the University

kitchen, assaulted Black women working there. An enquiry into the issue exonerated the man involved. Students convened a meeting and following intense debate, influenced by Tambo's guidance, went on a boycott.

During this period Tambo led an initiative for students to rebuild a disused tennis court on the campus in order to pass time on Sundays. When the tennis court was completed, the students scheduled an opening ceremony, which Tambo reported to the Warden. The authorities declined permission for the students to play tennis on Sundays, as they believed it was a breach of the faith. The students then embarked on a policy of non-cooperation with the university authorities. As a consequence, Tambo who at the time was Secretary of the Students' Representative Council, together with 45 other students was expelled. All but 10 of them were readmitted after two or three weeks.

After his expulsion, Tambo went back to his home in Kantolo. He then applied for teaching jobs but was turned down when prospective employers learnt that he was expelled from University. Fortunately, he was offered a position as a teacher in Physics and Mathematics at his alma mater, St Peter's, where he spent five years. Former students taught by him recall his engaging style of teaching and consider him as an outstanding teacher. During this period Tambo became part of a small network of the young African elite in Johannesburg.

Tambo, Sisulu, Mandela and other young intellectuals of the time regularly visited the house of Dr A B Xuma, a medical doctor who was also the President of the African National Congress (ANC). Here they formulated a plan to revive the ANC and make it more accessible to ordinary people. Tambo became informally involved in discussions of a committee of ANC members and Xuma on drawing up a document called the African Claims in South Africa. He continued to do so until the final stages of its preparations. The ANC adopted this document at its 1943 Bloemfontein conference.

On 24 July 1951, Tambo qualified as an attorney. Mandela, by now also a qualified lawyer, had previously approached him to join in a partnership. They set up offices in Chancellor House, known as 'Mandela and Tambo Associates'.

At the 1954 ANC Congress, Tambo was elected as Secretary General. That same year Tambo received his banning orders from the State. However, he remained actively involved, in the background working as a member of the National Action Committee which drafted the Freedom Charter following extensive nationwide input and consultation.

This was in the run-up to the Congress of the People (COP), convened in June 1955. When the COP was convened, Tambo could not attend due to the restrictions placed on him and had to observe the proceedings from a hiding place at Stanley Lollan's residence in Kliptown, overlooking the square where the Congress was taking place.

During 1955 Tambo became engaged to Adelaide Tsukhudu, a nurse employed at Baragwanath Hospital. Their wedding was set for 22 December 1956, but it was nearly put off as Tambo was detained on treason charges on 5 December 1956. After all the accused were granted bail, the wedding took place as scheduled.

As early as April 1958 Tambo had confided in Adelaide that the ANC had wanted him together with the family to go into exile. By now the couple had three children, Thembi, Dali and Tselane.

In 1959, Tambo headed the ANC's Constitutional Commission. The Tambo Commission recommended that more constitutional recognition be given to the ANC'S Women's League (ANCWL) and the ANCYL, and endorsed non-racialism and the Freedom Charter, amongst other issues.

Arrangements were made for Adelaide and the children to travel to Swaziland and from there to Ghana and then on to London. A farmer from Swaziland, Oliver Tedley, transported them across the border into Swaziland. On 15 September 1960, Adelaide and the children landed in London. Initially they stayed with James Philips a South African exile. OR lived under constant pressure and stress, which at times affected his health and, given the demands of his position, he had little time to recuperate from illness. At the same time, there were strident criticisms from rank and file members over a host of issues ranging from military to social to political.

A memorandum from Chris Hani's group that was incarcerated in Botswana following the Wankie

Campaign issued a scathing memorandum, upon their release, of various senior ANC leaders and accused Tambo of failing to adhere to democratic principles. Tambo was disturbed by the memorandum and at the low morale in the camps. As a result, he decided to call a consultative conference of the ANC. He sent word, secretly, to the leadership on Robben Island about the conference. After months of intense preparation, the conference of about 700 ANC members in exile, MK and the Congress Alliance partners took place on April 1969 at Morogoro, Tanzania. In his address to the conference, Tambo emphasised that it was a consultative conference.



Mr OR Tambo with Nelson Mandela

At this meeting, Tambo tendered his resignation from the ANC, following personal attacks. This threw the conference into disarray and Tambo was persuaded to return. A new executive was elected and Tambo was unanimously re-elected as President. This position was endorsed by the leadership on Robben Island in a message conveyed by Mac Maharaj following his release from the Island.

Tambo was very mindful of the rights of women. He commissioned a Code of Conduct that saw that women's rights are respected and upheld by all in the organisation. He tried to ensure that the abuse of women was eradicated.

On 8 January 1985, Tambo delivered his most dramatic speech calling on people to 'Render South Africa Ungovernable'. Following the July 1985 State of Emergency, he appealed to all South Africans, Black and White, to make apartheid unworkable and the country ungovernable. With social unrest increasing and the Apartheid Government under

pressure, Tambo stated that this alone was insufficient and that alternative people's structures had to be built.

In 1988 Tambo appointed a President's Team on Negotiations to draw up the ANC's position and approach to the negotiations drawing from viewpoints from the exiles and the Mass Democratic Movement in the country. In the meantime, the South African establishment was secretly making moves to approach the ANC for negotiations through exploratory meetings. On 31 May 1989, Thabo Mbeki, after receiving the go ahead from Tambo called Professor Willie Esterhuyse, who had been part of these meetings, to set up a meeting between the ANC and the South African National Intelligence Service. Mbeki was in many ways a protégé of Tambo as the pair worked very closely together.



OR Tambo, the family man

Pressure and exhaustion took its toll on Tambo and in 1989 he suffered a severe health set back when he had a stroke that resulted in him losing his speech. Following his stroke, he was rushed from Lusaka to London on Tony Rowland's executive plane organised by President Kenneth Kaunda of Zambia, to Harley Street in London. Rowland also paid for the medical treatment. Against the advice of his physician and the National Executive Committee (NEC), Tambo continued his punishing work schedule and travelling on ANC business. He suffered another stroke in 1991 whilst undergoing medical treatment in Sweden. Again Rowland flew him back to London where he was treated.

With the unbanning of the ANC in 1990 and the process of transition already underway, the entire Tambo family flew back to South Africa in December 1990. However, Tambo was unable to address the welcoming crowd at the airport due to his loss of speech. A welcome rally was organised at Orlando Stadium, attended by a crowd of 70 000 people. At

the ANC Conference, in Durban in 1991, Tambo declined to stand for any position. Nelson Mandela was elected President of the organisation. A new position was created in his honour: National Chairman.

Despite his illness, Tambo came to the ANC, in Johannesburg, office every day and still addressed public meetings of organisations.

During the early hours of the morning of 23 April 1993, Oliver Reginald Tambo passed away after a heart attack. He was honoured with a state funeral where scores of friends, supporters, colleagues and heads of state bade him farewell.

His epitaph, reads, in his own words:

"It is our responsibility to break down barriers of division and create a country where there will be neither Whites nor Blacks, just South Africans, free and united in diversity."



OR immortalised

School Infrastructure Development

The Mpumalanga Department of Education has officially handed over eight projects in the Marapyane circuit, Dr. JS Moroka Municipality, Nkangala District. These projects comprise three fully fledged new schools and five additional structures ranging from administrative blocks to additional classrooms, namely:

Kabete Primary School (Two new classrooms)

Lefiso Primary School (New school structure)

Lefiswana Primary School (Three new classrooms)

Ramabale Primary School (Four new classrooms)

Lehlabile Senior Secondary School (Additional Administrative Block)

Ditlhokwe Primary School (New Admin block)



Lefiso primary school in Marapyane

dignity. The school consists of four classrooms and one kitchen. Pelonolo Special School has a total of 83 learners enrolled in the following phases: stimulation, junior, middle, senior and vocational phase.

The other fully fledged school handed over is Inqubeko secondary school in Piet Retief, KaMadabukela Village in Mkhondo Local Municipality.

Inqubeko Secondary School was built to accommodate learners who were housed in mobile classrooms as a satellite school for Amadlelo Aluhlaza Secondary School.

It is a complete and fully-fledged Secondary School with 28 classrooms, an admin block, science laboratory, computer centre and a library. It also boasts a huge multi purpose hall, soccer field and two netball courts.

25 laptop computers were also donated by Samsung through the initiative of the Honourable Premier; Mr. DD Mabuza.

The learner enrolment stands at 1187, with 33 post level 1 educators, 3 HOD's, 2 Deputy Principals and a Principal.

- There are two completed school projects still to be handed over to communities, namely Ezakheni Boarding School in Mkhondo Municipality and Vezimfundo primary school in Delmas, Victor Khanye Municipality.



Vezimfundo Primary School in Delmas

Lekholane Primary School is another newly constructed school project within the Marapyane Circuit. The project entails 15 classrooms, an Admin block, a computer lab, a kitchen, ten learner's toilets, two 10 000 litres water tanks and palisade fencing.

Pelonolo Special School is a new school structure that was built to cater for learners with special educational needs. The school is located in the Marapyane Circuit; Dr. JS Moroka local municipality in the Nkangala District.

It acknowledges learners with disabilities and social behaviours and treats them with love, respect and

Kabete Primary School



Lefiso Primary School



Ramabale Primary School



Lekholane Primary School



Pelonolo Special School



Ditlhokwe Primary School



Guidelines for Independent Schools

The Mpumalanga Department of Education has called for comments on the regulations relating to the registration, withdrawal of registration and subsidies to independent schools as published in the Provincial Gazette, 17 August 2012.

The objectives of the publication adheres to the stipulations of the South African Schools Act, Section 46 (2) which stipulates that, "The Member of the Executive Council must, by notice in the Provincial Gazette, determine the grounds on which the registration of an independent school may be granted or withdrawn by the Head of Department."

The MEC for Education is responsible for the provisioning of education both public as well as independent schools in this Mpumalanga. The Mpumalanga Department of Education in line with the stipulations of the South African Schools Act can register a private provider of education or an independent school thus giving this provider a 'license' to provide education according to certain standards and regulations that will guide and regulate private providers of education to deliver quality learning opportunities to learners in Mpumalanga.

The implementation of these regulations should benefit the learners of this province by ensuring that a registered independent school adheres to set requirements for quality education. Learners and parents should know that they do get value for the money spent on school fees. As policy imperatives, requirements and conditions for registration cover buildings, grounds and its proximity as well as equipment and must comply with the minimum guidelines as determined by the National Department.

The applicant must provide proof of tenure of the proposed school buildings and grounds for a minimum period of one academic year – never must a learner or parent receive a short notice that the school will not continue to operate.

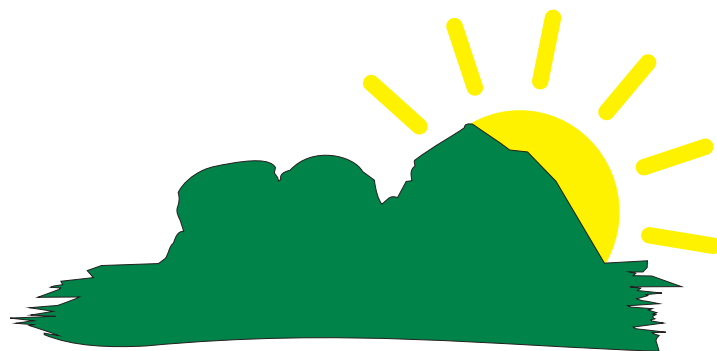
The necessary safety measures as defined by the "Regulations for safety measures at public schools" as prescribed in the South African Schools Act must be maintained at the independent school. With regards to the curriculum, learners in the various

school phases (including the curriculum for learners with special education needs) at such an independent school shall meet the required outcomes of the National Curriculum Statements declared as policy by the national Minister of Education, and that it must lead to a qualification, which is on the NQF, or is recognised by the SAQA as a South African qualification.

Comments are also expected covering a range of issues like the admission of learners relating to age requirements for admission and compulsory school attendance as stipulated in the Act, requirements for enrolment of foreign learners such as a study permit and the registration of educators with SACE. The full transcript of the gazette can be obtained the Departmental Website.



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A Pioneering Spirit

Magcekeni gets a Technological Lift

One would not be off the mark to say that God is smiling on Magcekeni primary school through the effectual partnership they have forged with Air Products (PTY) LTD.

Magcekeni is a rural primary school located in Mzinti in the Nkomazi Local Municipality, Ehlanzeni District. The school with an enrolment of 1115 learners has received a developmental mileage over the years thanks to the benevolence of Mr. Josua le Roux and his Kempton Park based company Air Products (PTY) LTD.

Spanning from 2006, Air Products (PTY) LTD has injected physical infrastructural development into Magcekeni primary school ranging from classrooms, a toilet block, a borehole and have recently donated 30 computer like gadgets that are ground-breaking in the search for educational knowledge.

These Streetwise Computer Gadgets valued at R290 000 are programmed by a Cape Town based company called Content and are a real bridge to the digital divide for the community of Mzinti as other schools also get assisted through learning area topical research. The programme caters for all the



Bridging the Digital Divide

learning areas from grade 4 to grade twelve.

These gadgets are a gateway to the world of computers as they familiarise learners with computer usage and at the same time provide much needed educational information.

Mr. Le Roux assured educators and parents that the information available in these gadgets is only for

educational purposes and no illicit information can be accessed through them.

"The use of these computer gadgets greatly supplements if not surpass the information that learners get from their textbooks as the gadgets assist in broadening the learners' scope of information access and thus brings up their understanding of concepts.

The use of a range of examples is great and thus help learners to comprehend with ease," said Ms. Nonhlonipho Shabangu, a grade 5 Technology educator at the school.

The school principal, Ms. Elizabeth Mbuli is very grateful of all the donations from Air Products (PTY) LTD. "Air Products (PTY) LTD is a Godsend for us. Taking us along the path to success and taking such challenges as classroom overcrowding, lack of toilets and lack of running water away from us.

This in a big way has taken the stress levels away and created a positive environment for quality education delivery in the school.

The donation of the computer gadgets has provided us with a quantum leap that advantages the school in accessing information for both learners and educators and that is what every school could wish for. I must also thank Air Products (PTY) LTD for paying the salary of the facilitator of the programme, Ms Samkeliso Nkalanga who has been helpful throughout."

In appreciation of the donation, the MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule said, "The Mpumalanga Department of Education highly appreciates the corporate social investment made by Air Products (PTY) LTD in the province and in Magcekeni primary in particular.

We believe that this partnership will endure for many more years and that it will yield the best possible results as a return of investment to Air Products.

Our hope is that other business companies can also follow suit by emulating Air Products (PTY) LTD to uplift the state of education in our schools."

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Report On The Annual National Assessments 2012

The improvement of the quality of basic education has been identified as the top priority of the South African Government on which the Department of Basic Education (DBE) has to deliver. Within this context, the Annual National Assessment (ANA) is a critical measure for monitoring progress in learner achievement. The Education Sector Plan, *Action Plan to 2014: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2025*, specifies that ANA is a testing programme that requires all schools in the country to conduct the same grade-specific Language and Mathematics tests for Grades 1 to 6 and Grade 9.

The choice of subjects to prioritise for monitoring has been informed by the recognition worldwide of Literacy and Numeracy as the key foundational skills that predispose learners to effective learning in all fields of knowledge. Several measures, such as the provision of workbooks and the repackaging of the National Curriculum Statement in the form of the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement were put in place this year to improve education. In addition, the DBE also provided exemplar questions and exemplar tests to schools in the course of the year in order to ensure that teachers and learners were exposed to the kind of questions they could expect in the Annual National Assessment.

This report communicates key findings from the second large-scale national assessment, ANA 2012, which was conducted in September 2012. Chapter 1 of the report locates ANA within the Education Sector Plan. In Chapter 2 the report foregrounds some of the initiatives and interventions that the DBE and the Provincial Departments of Education (PEDs) put in place to give effect to the intents of the *Action Plan*. Chapter 3 outlines the design and methodology of the ANA 2012 study. The results are reported in Chapter 4. Chapter 5 is a summary of the key findings and a proposed plan of action on how the system should respond to the results in the short, medium and long term.

All learners in public schools in Grades 1 to 6 and Grade 9 took curriculum-appropriate tests developed by the DBE in Language and Mathematics in September 2012. Marking guides/Memorandums were made available to all schools and tests were marked by the relevant teachers. Departmental procedures and control measures were in place to ensure that marking was done correctly. Learner scores were captured on a central database to provide system-wide information on learner achievement at all levels of governance as one of the measures to inform constructive engagement in order to improve education. While marking the scripts of learners, teachers received immediate feedback on the strengths and weaknesses of their learners. Schools reported learner achievement in ANA to each parent.

The overall results for ANA in Grades 1 to 6 point towards a general improvement in the performance of learners in the ANA tests. In the summary tables below, the average percentage that learners achieved in Language and Mathematics is indicated.

Summary tables of average percentage marks for Languages in 2011 and 2012

GRADE	HOME LANGUAGE 2012	LANGUAGE 2011
1	58	59
2	55	52
3	52	35

GRADE	HOME LANGUAGE 2012	FIRST ADDITIONAL LANGUAGE 2012	LANGUAGE 2011
4	43	34	34
5	40	30	28
6	43	36	28
9	43	35	*

* Grade 9 tests were not written in 2011.

Summary tables for average percentage marks for Mathematics in 2011 and 2012

GRADE	MATHEMATICS 2012	MATHEMATICS 2011
1	68	63
2	57	55
3	41	28
4	37	28
5	30	28
6	27	30
9	13	*

* Grade 9 tests were not written in 2011.

An encouraging observation from the results is the noticeable increase in the performance of learners in Grade 3 in both Language and Mathematics. The acute focus of Government in strengthening basic skills at the foundation phase is starting to have a positive impact and is encouraging for the system going forward. It should, however, be noted that the Grade 9 performance of learners in Mathematics is below expectation and will therefore receive the immediate attention of the DBE through additional and more intensive structured intervention programmes.

The positive achievement of the 2012 learner cohort is also indicated in the number of learners achieving the required competencies of content knowledge for the respective grades. In 2012, noticeable increases were obtained in both Grades 3 and 6. For example, in Grade 3 Mathematics, the number of learners achieving at least 50% increased from 17% in 2011 to 37% in 2012. In Grade 6 Mathematics, the number of learners achieving at least 50% decreased from 12% in 2011 to 11% in 2012.

The purpose of the Report is to enable various tiers of education to utilise the findings in order to devise ways to improve education. Hence, the Report provides an analysis of achievement of learners at national, provincial and district levels. An essential feature is the district performance provided for each province.

In addition, the analysis is contextualised for broader intersectoral interventions within and across Government departments and social partners by providing achievement results according to gender, poverty index quintiles and the language of teaching and learning. The immediate target, however, is the various tiers of education with the intention of supplying credible information to assist teachers, principals and department officials to strengthen their existing and planned efforts of improving the quality of teaching and learning.



The MEC celebrates her birthday

The MEC for Mpumalanga Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule, celebrated her birthday with 106 local orphans within her constituency office on Saturday, 01 December 2012.



Joyous Mood: MEC Mhaule on her Birthday

The jubilant celebration was held at MRRT (Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust). The purpose of the event was to allow the MEC to celebrate her birthday with those who are less fortunate and be able to give heart warming messages and gifts to the orphans as the year ends.

In her address, the MEC gave parental advice to the young ones. She encouraged the children to study hard, as education would play a vital role in their lives in the future.

In her motherly voice she emphasised that 'a kgona kgomo ya boroko,' which means laziness does not

amount to any great results. She told the children that they should not accept poverty, as it should not be a permanent circumstance, with hard work and the drive to achieve more it can be easily defeated.

The children's faces lit up with excitement after receiving gifts from the MEC. They also could not wait to experience all the games prepared for them outside.

Behluli Mahlalela, 15 years of age from Matsulu, on behalf of the children expressed gratitude towards the MEC's initiative. He wished the MEC a blessed birthday and thanked her for making them smile; he stated that he hoped that the MEC would continue to put a smile on other children's faces.



Its game time for these young ones



MEC Mhaule with Miss Mpumalanga, , and Mr Davies Moropane



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