

WHEN THE SUN RISES  
WE WORK HARD TO DELIVER

S'bukosetfu

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education  
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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# Editorial Comment

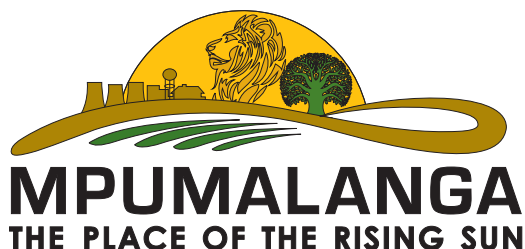
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On the cover: "Road Safety First", MEC Reginah Mhaule

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**A**s we begin a new year, we start the year with an attitude that will allow us to ensure that the lives of the people of Mpumalanga continuously change for the better.

With every day that passes, we ensure that the future of a learner in the classroom is made easier, as they have received the best education, regardless of where they are based.

Taking encouragement from the statement that states that 'when the sun rises, we work hard to deliver', we certainly cannot be weary, but be inspired by those that are on the receiving end.



The Editor: Mr. Jeffrey Makhumba

A new year however motivates us to travel back and reflect to the journey that we have already embarked on, it is therefore through hard that we can experience our learners achieving a sterling 79% pass rate, this is proof that the our educators are working hard in the classroom, these educators play an immense role as nation builders, it through their dedication and hard work that Mpumalanga Province produces disciplined young man and woman whose lives through education change for the better.

In the quest to rekindle the relationship of community members and the schools in their surroundings, the MEC took it upon her to launch the 2015 Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena campaign at Bonukukhanya Primary School, this is an experience that brings communities together with a goal to ensure that when learners return to school on their first day, they return to a clean environment.

We have witnessed the Department achieve great strides, and through the spirit of working together and in unison with other stakeholders and Basic Education we have achieved tremendous developments such the handover of state of the art schools, such as the Acorn to Oaks, Emakhazeni Boarding School, and experiencing Toyota once again, sponsoring the 2014 overall best learner, Madri Wiid with a Toyota Etios.

The partnership that we have forged with private stakeholders over the years should be renewed and cherished at all times, as we are all in the interest of building an educated Mpumalanga.

Let us work harder in 2015!

## SPECIAL ANNOUNCEMENT

The MEC for Education; Mrs Reginah Mhaule and the MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs; Mr MA Gamede will table their respective Policy & Budget Speeches scheduled as follows:

**Date : 21 May 2015 (Thursday)**

**Venue : Provincial Legislature**

**Time : 14H00 (Guests to be seated by 13H30)**

# Acorns to Oaks Launch

The year has opened with a proud moment for the Buffelshoek Trust and all our partners. Much excitement and joy was felt by two thousand attendees including pupils, parents, teachers, donors and partners when the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga, officially handed over Acorns to Oaks Comprehensive High School to the Acornhoek community in Bohlabela District on Friday the 20th of February 2015.

Throughout the day, esteemed speakers shared important messages of hope, hard work and commitment to delivering quality education in the school and the district.

On the day, Dr Reuel Khoza, our Chairman and visionary for the school, spoke about the school background, highlighting that “we could see a room full of inspiration about what is possible when Government, the Private Sector, Traditional Authorities and the Community come together”.

Mrs Motshekga supported this view through recognising the importance of public-private partnerships in closing the gap in our education system.

The Trust, Ned bank, Vodacom and the Mpumalanga Department of Basic Education have been on long road together - beginning consultations in 2009 and persevering through bureaucratic hurdles and developments along the way.

The journey has also been shared with other private sector partners such as Corobrik, Barloworld, Murray and Roberts, Old Mutual and others, who have all donated significant resources towards its completion.

Acorns to Oaks Comprehensive High School aims to



MEC Mhaule flanked by Ms Angie Motshekga, Minister of Education and the Ehlanzeni District Director, Ms Lorraine Goba



In a good state: Acorns to Oaks

prepare students adequately for both tertiary studies as well as to embark on specialised careers directly after Grade 12.

The school curriculum focuses on providing excellence in English, Mathematics, Science and Technology – supported by a choice of complimentary subjects. In addition, an NGO hub has been built on the premises to house the host of volunteers and supportive NGO's who are dedicated to assisting the school.

At the moment, we are fortunate enough to have the former Rector of St Stithians College in Johannesburg – Mr David Wylde – providing direct mentorship and support to the school. We also have Dr Alice Barlow Zambodla – a specialist in using information and communication technology in rural schools, providing support to nine school-based computer centres in the region.

As a committed partner of

Acorns to Oaks Comprehensive High School, the Trust will continue to stand side by side with the school as it leads the way in quality education. We support the Minister's view that “hard work, commitment and the right attitude will bring quality education to South Africa”.

We look with interest and anticipation at the leaders of the school; the parents of the school; the learners of the school and the Department of Basic Education to see what the future will hold.

“we could see a room full of inspiration about what is possible when Government, the Private Sector, Traditional Authorities and the Community come together”



# Cleanliness is next to Godliness

It has been imbedded in the nature of the Mpumalanga Department of Education that just before our provincial schools re-open on every January, the Department encourages all communities in taking ownership of the schools by cleaning them and ensuring they are ready when all learners report for school on their first day.



The campaign deemed the “Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena Campaign” which was launched by the Honorable MEC, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule aims at encouraging communities in renovating and refurbishing school infrastructure has discouraged high levels of vandalism as everyone takes pride in their schools.

A clean environment always encourages an improved atmosphere. If

our learners are welcomed by a clean classrooms and well-organized surroundings, exposed by a positive ambience, their spirits are easily lifted, which therefore leads to motivated learners who are eager achieve even greater results.

The 2015 Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena Campaign was held at Bonukukhanya Primary School, Balfour Circuit in Gert Sibande District on 09 January 2015. The community worked together with the Department towards a successful goal.

***“It is always encouraging seeing different communities working together in cleaning their schools, this gives us hope that our request for communities to be more involved in school matters, surely does not fall unto deaf ears.***

***We are encouraged that communities are now taking ownership of their schools”*** said the Honorable MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule.



MEC Mhaule practicing her artisan skills.

# Emakhazeni Boarding School a Ray of Hope



Premier DD Mabuza handing over the school to the community

In the quest to lessen the burden experienced by more than 700 learners who walk long distances to get to school on five small and multigrades schools a daily basis, the Mpumalanga Department of Education in collaboration with the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport has officially handed over Emakhazeni Boarding School to the community so that the learners may receive quality education at a closer, safer and well equipped boarding school.

The state of the art Boarding School came into fruition in January 2015; the community of Emakhazeni has welcomed this development with both hands, as parents and guardians can now take a sigh of relief as their children are now accommodated in a learner friendly environment, where they will also be able to receive three meals a day.

The Boarding school comprises of 24 Classrooms, integrated walkways, Administration Block, 35 Toilets, Computer Centre, Library Block, Science Laboratory, Guard House and Refuse Area, Kitchen, Dining Hall, Water, Sewer, Electrical Bulk-infrastructure, Fencing, Paving, Parking Facilities, Sports Facilities x 3 including Toilets and Change Rooms Facilities, Land Scarping, Ramps and Rails, Grade R, Boys and Girls Sleeping Units Boarding House x 8.

Introducing the Honorable Premier, the MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule also requested parents to appreciate this patriotic gesture and to support the education of their children, as all learners needed their parents and guardian to support them throughout their schooling careers.

The Boarding school aims to ensure that learners from rural areas and those that are from poverty stricken areas equally receive quality education which they deserve.

The Honorable Premier, Mr. DD Mabuza was enthusiastic as he handed over the school to the community. He stressed that the aim of having such educational facilities in the Province is to restore the culture of education and the dignity that should be embraced by all children since education is the key to success.

# The pride of the Province

**T**he Honourable MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule scheduled a special visit to Hoërskool Nelspruit so that she may express her gratitude towards the principal of the school, Dr. Louis Swanepoel for his outstanding leadership role that he has played in ensuring that Hoërskool Nelspruit continues to produce the best results over the past years.



Also present at the occasion to celebrate the school as it has made the province very hard was Ehlanzeni District Executive Mayor: Cllr Lettah Shongwe, Mbombela Local Municipality Executive Mayor; Cllr. S Mathonsi.

The school has set a record of being the best performing school in the province with a 100% pass rate in two consecutive years, producing Grade 12 learners with more bachelors and 348 distinctions against the provincial total of 8 222 distinctions, but the year 2014 saw the school also producing the overall best learner in the province, Ms. Madri Wiid.

The 18 year old young lady passed with six distinctions in the subjects, English, Afrikaans, Life Science, Physical Science, Accounting and Mathematics.

Madri is part of the two other learners from Hoërskool Nelspruit, Danille Van Zyl and



Madri Wiid and the car she received as a token

Andrea Cotzee who are also in the top 10. The school has further made the province proud by producing top learners in both Mathematics and Geography.

"The performance of Hoërskool Nelspruit is living proof that the school has a great leadership and a great team that aims to generate learners who will contribute immensely in developing the economy of the province.

You are a shining example of excellence to the rest of our schools and we



MEC Mhaule with Madri's mother, Mari Wiid

encourage you to continue to do so." said the MEC.

The MEC for Education also used this visit to handover a brand new Toyota Etios to Ms. Madri Wiid donated by Imperial Toyota Nelspruit to the overall best learner.

The Department congratulates Hoërskool Nelspruit on the astonishing role they have played in the development of our learners.

Well Done!

**IMPERIAL TOYOTA**  
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Nelspruit



MEC Mhaule with Dr Swanepoel, Nelspruit Hoërskool Principal



# The memory of Frank Maghinyana



Premier Mabuza keeping the memory of Frank Maghinyana alive

**To honour the memory of Frank Maghinyana was graced by the Honourable The sun rose brightly for the Ludlow Trust community near Thulamahashe in the Bushbuckridge District as the Mpumalanga Provincial Government lead by the Office of the Premier handed over the Frank Maghinyana Secondary School on 23 February 2015.**

This occasion Premier DD Mabuza with the MECs for Education Mrs Reginah Mhaule and the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport Ms. Dumisile Nhlengethwa in attendance.



The new laboratory

Frank Maghinyana secondary school is a state of the art school under the Manyeleti Circuit with 16 classrooms, administration block, laboratory, library, computer centre, school hall, 24 toilets, electricity, water, fencing, kitchen, rails and ramps, 3 sports grounds and car park.

The school was named after Mr Frank Maghinyana Mnisi was born in 1886 at Gegsey (Klaserie).

He was the first born of Mudjadji and Nwabenga Kahlela. He married Shalati Matsunisa Martha and they were blessed with 3 children, Egah, Nathaniel and Jairus.

In 1927, he became a pastor and built a one room house which was used as a school during the week and as a church on Sundays.

In 1940, he relocated from Gegsey to Ludlow Trust, where he also built another one room house / school named Ludlow school.

He passed on in 1969 September 25.

In 1982, the community constructed better infrastructure for Ludlow school which was then named after Mr Frank Maghinyana Mnisi, as a first person to show interest in the education of the community at Ludlow trust.

Speaking at the official handover event the Honourable Premier Mabuza said he was expecting no less than a 100% pass rate now



MEC Reginah Mhaule presenting her views

that the learners, teachers and the community have a state-of-the-art-school.

He also said that the handover event signals the continuation of the legacy and memory of Frank Maghinyana by ensuring that his dream of educating the nation lives on.

"Maybe you did not do well because you were using an informal school.

Now that you have your state-of-the-art school, all I want from you is nothing but a 100% pass. Your dignity is now resorted. You deserved better.

"We are still here in the middle of the bush, however we now have beautiful and air-conditioned buildings with flushing toilets and amenities that will expose our children to quality education.

Look after your school. Do not destroy what is yours," said Premier Mabuza.

Grade 12 learner, Naledi Chiloane, spoke on behalf of learners and expressed her appreciation to the Premier and government for the beautiful school building which will bring about professionals like doctors and scientists and even Presidents in the future.

# Mec meets with Interfaith Based Leaders

It has become part of the culture of the Mpumalanga Department of Education that as a new year commences the Honorable MEC; Mrs. Reginah Mhaule invites all interfaith based leaders so that they may pray and meditate towards a smooth running of all schools in the province.



Praying Together

Mrs. Reginah Mhaule also uses this gathering to brainstorm with religious leaders on how they can improve educational processes. She has always stressed on the notion that more stakeholders ought to be involved in the matters of education, and that the educators are always supported and appreciated.

“Pastors, accountants and other professionals must be coopted to the schools governing bodies so as to propel professionalism and inculcating of moral values in our schooling communities.

Teachers should be accorded the highest respect, support and care so that in turn they can mentor our children into responsible citizens. Teachers must be encouraged to value their profession and to stay in the system because teaching is not only a noble profession but a calling.”

The MEC also expressed her heartfelt gratitude towards all those who have taken stock in matters of education, particularly the Moral Regeneration Movement as they continue to fight against concerns of moral decay among the youth.

“In our hour of need the Moral Regeneration Movement stood tall, and took stock in matters of education. Your steadfast participation has indeed yielded positive results.

Through your movement, we are reminded that we can fight and win against social ills that affect our young ones. We are reminded that our responsibilities go beyond the office and have to reach the core of our communities.” said Mrs.

# A book is a gift, you can open again and again

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The Mpumalanga Department of Education in collaboration with Ilanga Mall has launched a campaign titled “Book Flood”, which aims to instil a culture of reading among learners of all ages in the province.

Boxes were put across the mall in strategic points, where shoppers could easily recognize them and be reminded to make a donation, by depositing in old or new books.

“It is important that our learners are assisted in improving their literacy skills, have an access to reading materials, improve their performance in reading, and improve their comprehensive of all subjects.

The Department is therefore very thankful towards everyone that has made a donation towards this initiative. The absence of boxes in Ilanga Mall does not necessarily mean that the battle has been worn.

The Department therefore will still accept your thoughtful donations as the initiative is aimed at increasing the availability of story books in public schools by encouraging the public and private sector to donate books. Said MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule.

Studies have proven that a child's reading skills are important to their success in school and work. In addition, reading can be a fun and imaginative activity for children, which opens doors to all kinds of new worlds for them.

Through books, children can learn about people and places from other parts of the world, which improves their understanding of concern for all humanity.

It is therefore very important that our children are always exposed to positive stories.

Quote by: Garrison Keillor





# School Governance the Democratic Way

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School Governing Body stands in the position for a functional school and plays a pivotal role in improving school governance.

This has been done through the participation of parents in the education matters of their children which helps to improve the delivery of quality education.

The Mpumalanga Department of Education has been encouraging parents of children of school going age to participate actively in the election of school governing bodies which started on 06 March 2015 until 28 March 2015.

The elections process was a success and the Department is happy with the way the whole process unfolded and concluded.

Prior to the elections, the MEC for Education Mrs. Reginah Mhaule said,

*"I request our communities to create an enabling environment for these elections to progress in a free, open, transparent and peaceful manner."*

*"I also wish to extend my gratitude to the outgoing members of the school governing bodies for the commitment they displayed throughout their term."*

*"The stability that the province enjoyed is attributed to their sacrifice and dedication."*

*"I urge them to ensure that the handover process becomes a seamless success."*

The Elections were not smooth sailing at all the schools as it came to the attention of the Department that in some quarters parents were not attending the meetings called by schools to discuss the processes relating to the Elections of School Governing Bodies (SGB).

This was of great concern taking into account the significant role played by the SGB in improving the conditions of Learning and Teaching in schools.

These democratically elected structures are critical to improving the Quality of Education in schools, ensuring that there is good governance, advancing the democratic transformation of our society, ensuring that schools serve the interest of the community and meet the expectations of parents, combating Racism, Sexism and all forms of unfair discrimination and intolerance in schools.

"The participation of parents in the education matters of their children helps to improve the delivery of quality education.

It is for this reason that we encourage parents to

participate actively in the election of school governing bodies.

Parents must take the elections of School Governing Bodies seriously as it provides them with an opportunity to elect capable people to positively contribute towards peaceful and progressive school governance," urged MEC, Reginah Mhaule.

The Mpumalanga Department of Education would like to take this opportunity and congratulate all newly elected members of the School Governing Bodies within the province and the Department looks forward to working with them for the next three years.

Their involvement in educational matters will ensure that the delivery of quality education is always prioritized in all our schools.



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## SGB ELECTIONS 2015

A School Governing Body stands in the position of trust towards a school and plays a pivotal role in improving school governance. The participation of parents in the education matters of their children helps to improve the delivery of quality education.

It is for this reason that we encourage parents of children of school going age to participate actively in the election of school governing bodies.

The election of school governing bodies started on 06 March 2015 and will proceed until 28 March 2015. I request our communities to create an enabling environment for these elections to progress in a free, open, transparent and peaceful manner.

I also wish to extend my gratitude to the outgoing members of the school governing bodies for the commitment they displayed throughout their term. The stability that the province enjoyed is attributed to their sacrifice and dedication. I urge them to ensure that the handover process becomes a seamless success. This will help to move the delivery of education forward.

"Together making a difference in our schools"

Mrs Reginah Mhaule  
MEC for Education



*"Together making a difference in our schools"*

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The excitement in the voices of the young learners of Ukhwezi Primary School and Belfast Academy cannot be described as they were taught how to sing the famous song 'Koze Kuse' by the Arrive Alive Team during the official handover of Scholar Patrol Kits in Belfast under the Emakhazeni Local Municipality.

This song describes how you look up, down, to the left, to the right and was made famous by the team in describing how learners should obey the rules of the road by looking left and right before crossing the road.

Old Mutual in Partnership with the Mpumalanga Department of Education and the Department of Transport donates scholar patrol kits worth more than R320 000 every year to underprivileged schools across the country to support Government's drive to deliver efficient, reliable and safe transport services.

In Mpumalanga the first roll out of this initiative commenced at Belfast Academy and Ukhwezi Primary School in Belfast.

The official handover of the scholar patrol kits was held on 09 February 2015 at Ukhwezi Primary School, where the two school's scholar patrol teams converged to receive their kits.

This initiative by Old Mutual is informed by the fact that South Africa has one of the highest per capita road death statistics in the world estimated at 13 800 per year. This is too much of a loss for South Africa as these deaths include children.

On average, three children under the age of 15 lose their lives on our roads every day, according to the Road Traffic



MEC Mhaule, .....  
Management Corporation.

There are a total of eight schools in Mpumalanga that benefited from his initiative in 2015, namely Belfast Academy, Ukhwezi Primary School, Cana Combined School, Qhubekani Combined School, Piet Retief Combined School, Yellowstone Primary School, Kwamashamhlophe Primary School and Ndawonye Primary School.



Making school crossing safer

The kits consist of reflective bibs, caps and raincoats and will be accompanied by an intensive road safety training program presented by the Department of Transport to the learners and teachers of the selected schools.

The scholar patrol campaign contributes to government's commitment to the United Nations' international Decade of Action for Road Safety campaign, which aims to save at least 5 million lives across the globe in the next 10 years. For this initiative, the selected schools are those situated on very busy roads and which have learners who walk to school daily often without any adult supervision.

Upon receipt of the donation the MEC for Education Mrs Reginah Mhaule expressed how much this donation will go a long way in ensuring that learners get to and from school safe.

'It is always devastating receiving news that a learner has lost their life to a motor accident while simply crossing the road on their way to or from school.

As a parent myself, I am suddenly saddened by such a situation as I reminisce on how a young life has been lost.

Road safety is a very significant subject that we seldom dwell on, as we are all dependent on the next person to take care of it, and because of this mentality we have experience detrimental consequences in the past.

Please allow me to thank Old Mutual and the Department of Transport for answering the call to offer a helping hand and ensuring that our children are safe on the road', she said.

It is through partnerships such as the one between Old Mutual, Mpumalanga Department of Education and Department of Transport that the plight to change and improve the lives of the people of the province can be realised.

"Road safety is a very significant subject that we seldom dwell on, as we are all dependent on the next person to take care of it, and because of this mentality we have experience detrimental consequences in the past."

The development of the youth is at the apex of government's agenda.

Vouching for such a statement of intent as well as the acknowledgement that nothing can be done for the youth without the youth, the Mpumalanga Department of Education facilitated a consultative meeting for the development of the National Youth Policy (2015-2019) on 09-10 February 2015 at the Pienaars Dam in the Steve Tshwete local municipality.

The session was a culmination of requests by the Office of the Premier and the Presidency providing a platform to the nation and young people in particular, to give their opinion, suggestions and to rewrite sections of the draft policy or even the entire draft policy whether individually or as organized groups.

The session held over two days was the Mpumalanga leg of the consultation process with special focus on three main topics which were discussed in details at commissions. These were the 2014 Youth Summit Report, the Youth Accord and Planning for

2015 Youth Summit.

The youth of the province from varied backgrounds converged to Pienaars Dam to provide insight to the policy. Innovation was welcome in the sessions, with practical suggestions which were not void of realistic goals within the context of shrinking budgets and the overarching mandate of the South African Constitution's vision of a prosperous, democratic, non-sexist, non-racist and equal society and the NDP's vision of an egalitarian and prosperous society by 2030.

A review of the implementation of the National Youth Policy 2009-2014 was done and the review and other research informed the priorities contained in this current draft policy 2014-2019.

As part of the discussions coming out of this youth policy process was the reflection that alongside the African Youth Charter, a South African Youth Charter should be drafted that will be a ageless pledge in the direction of youth development and youth participation



Tomorrow's Leaders



I want to ride my bicycle!

As part of the Shova Kalula programme, the National Department of Transport has weighed in to ensure that no stone is left unturned for learners to attend their teaching and learning classes in present day South Africa through donating 375 bicycles to needy learners at Maqhawuzela Secondary and Mkolishi Combined Schools in Tjakastad, Gert Sibande District.

Shova Kalula at provincial level is a collaboration between the Department of Education and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport to provide bicycles to deserving needy learners. The bicycles remain a property of the school and the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport provides service providers for their maintenance.

"The provision of scholar transport for learners who live beyond 5km away from school is complimented by the provision of bicycles, safety helmets and reflector gear for learners who live between 2-5 kilometres away from school. This initiative is known as Shova Kalula which can be translated as push with ease. The one hundred and eighty bicycles were equally shared between Maqhawuzela Secondary and Mkolishi Combined Schools with each school receiving ninety bicycles," said the Deputy Minister of Transport, Ms. Sindy Chikunga.



Proud Riders!





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## Vision

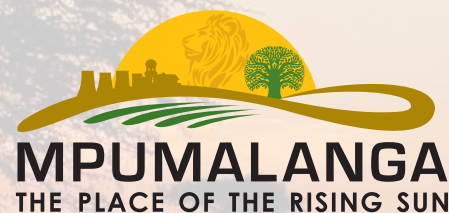
*Advancing Excellence in Education Provision*

## Mission

*The Mpumalanga Department of Education commits to work with its stakeholders to promote effective teaching and learning through good governance, effective management and leadership.*

## Corporate Values

- Accountability
- Consultation,
- Integrity,
- Innovation
- Transformation,





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