

MEDIA STATEMENT TO BE DELIVERED BY THE MEC FOR EDUCATION; MRS REGINAH MHAULE ON 18 JUNE 2012

**Members of Senior Management
Representatives from the both Print and Electronic Media**

Sanibonani.

I want to thank you for attending this media conference.

At the occasion of the tabling of the 2012/13 Policy and Budget Speech on 15 May 2012, I pronounced that we intend to work around the clock to improve learner performance in all grades with special attention on Grades 3, 6, 9 and 12.

In relation to the improvement of Grade 12 results, I said:

*".. Our quest to maintain the increasing trends at Grade 12 level, a target of **74.8%** has been set for the Grade 12 class of 2012"*

In relation to Grades 3,6 and 9 I said:

"The 2012 Annual National Assessment will be written in Grades 3, 6 and 9 for mathematics and languages in September 2012 and we have already put systems in place to ensure a smooth management of the process.

*Our targets for this year are: **49%** for mathematics and literacy in Grade 3, **49%** for Mathematics and Languages in Grade 6 and **49% and 51%** for languages and mathematics in Grade 9 respectively.*

We urge all schools, teachers, parents and learners to work hard to achieve these targets.

*The Department has allocated **R70 million** to ensure that learners in Grades 3, 6 and 9 perform at the required level in literacy and numeracy," **Close Quote***

Plans to improve Grade 12 Results

The Department of Education will conduct Winter School Classes from the 02 to 13 July 2012 (10 days).

21 of these centres will be in Bohlabela District in the Bushbuckridge Municipality which is currently performing below the rest of the Districts in the Province, **15** will be at Ehlanzeni District and **11** in Gert Sibande and 06 Nkangala Districts respectively.

In total, there will be 53 centres targeting all secondary schools which performed below 50% in the 2011 Grade 12 results.

Subjects were identified from the internal moderators' report and item analysis. A total of 11 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 Language.

Each learner will be expected to attend a maximum of three subjects per day. Nutrition will be provided to all centres and learners who depend on scholar transport will be catered for accordingly.

Via Afrika Publishers sponsored Bohlabela District with Facilitators' Guides in Accounting, Economic, Mathematics and Physical Science. I want to take this time and appreciate their benevolence and patriotic gesture.

Only teachers with proven record of outstanding performance have already 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 4. 204 million** to achieve this endeavour.

Public Representatives and Officials will be deployed to monitor and to support teachers and learners during this period.

I take this time to encourage schools and learners to take advantage of these classes to improve their scholastic results and at the same time, I call on all parents to make it their business that their children attend and benefit from these classes.

It will be prudent that all the learners as well take advantage of the opportunity that government presents for them to improve their results so that it could be easy for them to access institutions of Higher Learning.

Radio Lessons

The Department further encourages learners to also take advantage of the Radio lessons that are ongoing during weekdays between **14H00 and 15H30**.

These radio lessons are professionally conducted in simplified languages for the benefit of all our learners.

The SABC Education Desks is providing these at no cost to the Department and all we do is to avail our curriculum implementers as well as the content.

The Department has extended these to Radio Pulpit, **8** Community Radio Stations namely Barberton, Bushbuckridge, Kanyamazane, Mashishing, Greater Middelburg, Moutse, Nkangala and Emalahleni Community Radio Station.

Teachers and parents are also requested to tune in and listen to these radio programmes because they provide valuable information on different subject content.

Caps Training

I have stated before that teacher development remains central to the achievement of these targets and to this effect, the Department will conduct CAPS training to **18 000** intermediate phase and Grade 11 teachers from the 25 June to 13 July 2012.

These will be **four days sessions** which will be conducted by our curriculum implementers in the four districts.

This training will further be extended to **1808** School Management Teams between August and September 2012.

This is an ongoing effort to ensure that teachers and school managers have the requisite knowledge base to enable them to present lessons with ease.

We have consulted teacher unions in this regard and our view is that they will support this process wholeheartedly.

Annual National Assessment

All learners from grades **1- 6 and 9** will sit for the 2012 Annual National Assessment from 18 to 21 September 2012.

The purpose of the assessments is to establish an objective national benchmark by which to measure literacy and numeracy achievement levels. This is done so that improvement can be accurately assessed and appropriate intervention designed and implemented where it is needed.

The ANA will not be used for promotion to the next grade, but as a guide for teachers to identify challenges in curriculum coverage and to inform their lessons focus and intervention in the classroom.

Teachers will mark these assessments according to instructions provided by the Department.

The School Governing Body (SGB) will receive, at the beginning of each year, a report from the District Office.

This report will enable schools to compare its ANA results to those of other schools in the district and to develop school base intervention programmes.

The Department has already put systems to ensure that this process unfold seamlessly.

I take this time to urge teachers to make it their responsibility to prepare our learners for this assessment.

Equally, parents are requested to support schools and ensure that their children not only attend classes but read and study everyday.

Conclusion

We are optimistic that working together with all our stakeholders we will be in a position to manage these programmes so that in turn they can yield the expected results.

Thank you very much for gracing this media conference and we are looking forward to positive scholastic results at the end of the year.

Ngiyabonga.