



# education

DEPARTMENT: EDUCATION  
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

**TO : NEWS EDITORS**

**FROM : THE MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**DATE : 10 SEPTEMBER 2013**

**SUBJECT : MEC MHAULE PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE BEST ADULT LEARNER IN THE COUNTRY**

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The MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule congratulates Mrs Anna Msimang (60) who was declared the overall best Adult Learner in the country at an National Awards Ceremony that took place on Friday, 06 September 2013 in Boksburg, in Gauteng Province.

Anna Msimang is a physically challenged learner, a widow and a grandmother of four, who did not let her condition become a barrier to education.

She was totally illiterate until the age of fifty-nine (59). It is at this age that she took a decision to turn her life around by registering at Kwaguqa learning centre in the year 2011 for Basic Reading, Writing and Numeric skills and from there, she never looked back. She is presently doing ABET level 2.

When she was interviewed about how she was motivated to join the centre, this is what she said: "I used to watch the TV channel that was left by my grandchildren because I was unable to use the remote control keys, but now I can watch all my favourite channels whenever I feel like.

When I went for shopping, they used to rob me by not giving me the correct change, I am excited that now I can do simple calculations, read whatever material I need and even assist my grandchildren".

Anna has her own child and four grandchildren, who were all relying on her disability grant but she adopted an orphan who was 10 years old who recently turned 18 years.

Anna is also involved in a communal gardening project situated in the local clinic where they sell half of their production to locals and give the rest to the disadvantaged families;

At church, she is not a bench warmer but actively participates in most of the activities. She is has now made her responsibility to teach Sunday school children. She also organises food parcels for the needy children.

She also plays an instrumental role in recruiting potential learners from the community for the centre where she is a learner. She also helps those who are still in lower levels with their homework and other activities.

She has completed the following courses in dressmaking, cooking and baking.

**Sisonke Sifundzisa Sive**

The MEC did not stop sing praises on this outstanding achievement on Saturday at the occasion of the Celebration of the Adult Learners' Week Celebration at Steve Tshwete Municipality.

"I am delighted with the example that Anna is setting and her achievement meaning that out of all adult learners in the country she is number one. This has to be celebrated in a big way. She did not allow her age, state of health to defeat her but soldiered on to be an epitome of motivation for the country.

This confirms what government has been saying that literacy is a human right, a tool of personal empowerment and a means for social and human development, and that educational opportunities depend on literacy.

Literacy is at the heart of basic education for all, and essential for eradicating poverty, reducing child mortality, curbing population growth, achieving gender equality and ensuring sustainable development, peace and democracy.

A good quality basic education equips communities with literacy skills for life and further learning; literate parents are more likely to send their children to school" she said

Of the four categories which were awarded Nationally Mpumalanga Province featured as follows:

Category	Nominees	Position
Best Learner	Anna Msimang	01
Best Educator	Siphiwe Gladys Sambo is resident at Mangweni trust within the Nkomazi Municipality,	03
Best Center	Relebogile Center situated at Pankop in Dr J.S. Moroka Municipality.	03
Best Group	Educators of Thulamashe Adult Education Centre in Bushbuckridge Municipality	01

The Department congratulates participants for their achievement. They flew the Provincial Flag high. "We are proud of them".

End

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