



education

DEPARTMENT: EDUCATION
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

TO : NEWS EDITORS

FROM : MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

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SUBJECT : MPUMALANGA EDUCATORS DO IT AGAIN

Five Mpumalanga educators made the Province proud once again in the 13th annual National Teaching Awards held at Gallagher Estate yesterday, 07 March 2013.

The National Teaching Awards were instituted by the former Minister for Education, Mr Kader Asmal in the year 2000. These awards were instituted to salute the noble contributions of educators in the country. These educators have dedicated their lives in ensuring that the education of an African child is not compromised.

The five (5) educators are amongst the eight who made it as finalists and were representing Mpumalanga at national level. As the Minister for Education Mrs Angie Motshekga puts it, "Education is our number one priority in the country".

In his keynote address, his Excellency, President Jacob Zuma, indicated that the educators are an instrument of liberation and empowerment. "Education has the power to liberate people from poverty; it is an investment and a prerequisite towards building a country that works. These educators continue to make sure that the profession regains its respect from the communities.

Educators carry an enormous responsibility on their shoulders. The nature in which they nurture our children will help us in our efforts towards creating a better South Africa". He further indicated that this is a noble call of building model citizens.

The National Teaching Awards are one of the ways in which the Department of Basic Education and the South African Government acknowledge and encourage dedicated educators in their efforts towards developing each learner as a citizen of a democratic, non-racial and non-sexist South Africa.

The five (5) educators received awards in the Excellence in Special Needs Teaching and Excellence in Technology-Enhanced Teaching and Learning.

Mrs Hanlie Swanepoel from Estralita Special School received the first price in Excellence in Special Needs Teaching. She was awarded for her efforts in ensuring that the rights for learners with special needs are protected in as far as education is concern. She is a dedicated educator who has a soft spot for learners with special needs and believes that learners with special needs have a right to basic education.

Mr France Kalp, Ms Susanna Reiners, Ms Johanna Van Zyl and Ms Magdeline Bosman received second price in Excellence in Technology-Enhanced Teaching and

Learning. They were awarded for the Ligbron e-learning Project. This project connects five schools within a 50 km radius to each other for the purpose of sharing lessons in Mathematics, Physical Science and English.

The facility is able to connect Ligbron Academy with rural schools during their lessons. This means that the schools are able to interchange ideas and develop each other. The e-learning project has also played a major role towards the improvement of grade 12 results more especially in the rural schools.

The MEC for Education Mrs Reginah Mhaule highlighted the fact that educators have a noble role to play in shaping the minds of the children they teach on daily basis.

She said, "It is only through education that we can address the shortage of skills in our country. Like our State President, I am very passionate about education and it is only through educators like these, who do not believe in mediocrity but always strive for excellence that we can enhance the quality of learning and teaching.

I would like to take this time and commend all educators who have dedicated their lives towards educating the nation".

The winners attributed their success not only to individual efforts but also to teamwork, respect and determination.

The Mpumalanga Department of Education congratulates the winners and all the nominees who made it to the finals. "Their nomination is also a sign that they too are committed in improving the lives of our learners" said the MEC, Mrs Reginah Mhaule.

Issued by the Communication Directorate.

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