



TO : NEWS EDITORS

DATE : 22 JULY 2015

**SUBJECT : ALL SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN MPUMALANGA
OFFER MATHEMATICS**

The Mpumalanga Department of Education welcomes the correction made by the Department of Basic Education following reports which falsely suggested that only half of the Mpumalanga Schools offer mathematics.

In fact contrary to the said reports all secondary schools in Mpumalanga offer pure mathematics.

The Province established a Maths, Science and Technology Academy to increase the intake and performance of learners in Mathematics, to train Mathematics and sciences teachers on an ongoing basis and to resource participating schools. There are 100 schools that are participating in this programme meaning that all learners at these schools will from 2016 take mathematics and sciences as subjects.

In her 2015/16 Policy and Budget Speech the MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule said:
“The Department is taking a radical approach in increasing the enrolment and performance in Mathematics and Physical Sciences in Grades 10 to 12 in keeping with the National Strategy for Mathematics, Sciences and Technology Education.

The Provincial Maths and Science Academy is one of the vehicles to achieve this and no effort will be spared until this is achieved in our life time.

*The Department has allocated **R 20 million** to the Maths, Science and Technology Academy to ensure the attainment of this objective. The Department will work tirelessly to improve the content knowledge, pedagogic and didactic skills of Mathematics, Science and Technology subject teachers and offer direct support to learners in the MST Academy schools.*

Mpumalanga is one of the provinces that are successfully implementing the 1+4 programme to improve learner performance in Grade 8 and 9 Mathematics. I wish to take this opportunity to thank all teachers and schools which have embraced this progressive initiative. We also wish to work with school governing bodies to stimulate the interest of learners to increase enrolment in MST subjects from Grade 10.

The Department will procure and install new machinery and equipment consistent with technical subjects that are offered in technical schools, train and up-skill teachers at technical schools on identified areas in technical subjects to improve teaching and learning.

R39 million has been allocated towards the realisation of this goal.

*In total, the Department has set aside **R59 million** to promote Maths, Science and Technology in this financial year."*

The MEC's pronouncement is thus an indication of the commitment and dedication of the Department to make Mathematics and Sciences the subjects of choice in the province.

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