



education

DEPARTMENT: EDUCATION  
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

# Sibukosetfu

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# RHANDZA XIKOLO XA WENA

## CAMPAIGN 2022



"Let's Grow South Africa Together"



# MEC MAJUBA FOLD HIS SLEEVES

We are gathered here in our numbers to fold our sleeves to mark one of the greatest milestone in the education calendar as we launch the Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena Campaign today.

We do this to mobilize our communities to work side by side with government and other stakeholders in the education sector to create a favorable environment for teaching and learning to thrive in all schools in every corner of the Province.

We intend to position all schools within the Province as true centers of excellence and fundamental pillars for community growth and development.

To achieve these goals, we therefore need to invite and welcome every member of society to play a pivotal role in ensuring that schools are protected, supported and are free from any form of vandalism, crime, drug trafficking, bullying, corporal punishment and any other forms of social ills.

We must at all times encourage communities not stand by or fold their arms when schools are confronted with destruction and disruptions as it has been the case in some areas of the Province.

It is really sad and unfortunate that over 200 schools in the province have been vandalized and broken into in the past three years with an intent to steal and it is worrying that a majority of these took place in Bohlabela.

It is in that respect that we are here to make a clarion call for togetherness to fight and put to an end the scourge on the assault of schooling and school property which is a threat to the delivery of quality education in the District and Province.

As the month of May is Workers' month, it is important that we all roll our sleeves and place all hands on deck as we work towards the development of our communities.

We are thus here to commit to a partnership with the people of Bohlabela to put back the respect and dignity of our schools and the importance that education plays in the eradication of the triple challenges facing our province.

It is worrying that when one travels through the province, one discovers that some schools are not clean and have



failing physical infrastructure with some of the school properties either damaged or stolen by the very same members of the community.

Some schools have broken window panes, with falling ceilings, landscaping that is worrisome, leaking roofs and broken pipes with dysfunctional toilets yet they receive an allocation for basic maintenance every year from the Department.

We also have schools with branding that leaves much to be desired with no sense of a well thought corporate image.

In certain schools, gangsters and drug trafficking are an everyday reality something which our communities must frown at and should get involved in solving such problems in partnership with the relevant authorities.

It is thus a no brainer that such social ills and acts of theft and vandalism render the education environment unwelcoming to effective teaching and learning and thus rob our beloved children of the right to an education which they rightfully deserve.

We have also noted that some schools have been named after struggle icons, great heroes and heroines of our land and continent yet those schools are not in a physical and learner performance state on par with the stature and dignity of those they are named after.

Such situations cannot be tolerated as they equate to dragging such dignified names and legacies of our beloved heroes and heroines to shame.

We are thus here to launch the Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena Campaign which seeks to revive that spirit of ownership and pride for our institutions of learning, development and growth as we need to prevail from this situation.

Programme Director, we appeal to all the people of the province, the citizens of Bushbuckridge in particular to work with us to bring about change in our schools and the education space.

We urge them to partake in this programme by supporting the cleaning of schools' surroundings, the protection of schools from theft and vandalism, the returning of school property such as furniture and learning and teaching support material that is in their possession.

We also urge them to support teaching and learning practices as well as assist in the rehabilitation of school furniture.

In line with the spirit of the Public, Private Partnership, I am delighted to announce that the Mpumalanga Department of Education has forged partnerships with the

Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust, the Department of Correctional Services and hosting municipalities.

Please allow me to also express my gratitude to our social partners who have shown their interest in ploughing back to our communities through their corporate social programmes.

The Mpumalanga Provincial Government is grateful for the partnership we enjoy with Standard Bank South Africa, Fundi, Old Mutual, SASOL, Department of Correctional Services, MRTT and the Department of Environmental Affairs.

We are also indebted to the South African Police Services for partnering with us in ensuring school safety programmes through the adopt a cop initiative.

We also urge communities to report any theft, burglary, burning and vandalism of school properties to the South African Police so that such perpetrators could be brought to book.

Today's launch marks the start of a cleaning campaign in Bohlabela with all the schools within the District participating in the campaign by improving their school environment.

Parents, teachers, learners and all stakeholders have been requested to bring their cleaning tools to schools to work on this campaign throughout the District.

Today's launch will be followed by activations of the campaign in Samora Machel Secondary School, Mbuzini in Ehlanzeni District on 28 June 2022.

In the Gert Sibande District the campaign activation will be on 28 July 2022 in Engabezweni Secondary School in Badplaas/eManzana.

The Nkangala District, Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena Campaign activation will take place on 25 August 2022 at Rathlahana Secondary school in Pankop.

Please allow me to state that all the schools in the province will be allowed to participate in the cleaning and reclaiming of the school surroundings and ambience.

The Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena Campaign is deemed as a build up to the awarding of the prestigious prize of the Cleanest School in the Province which will take place on the International Cleanup Day; 18 September 2022.

We request Circuit Managers to work with communities to ensure that schools are kept clean in the Province and we urge them to cultivate vegetable gardens, flower gardens and the planting of trees.

This will help us to mitigate challenges that are necessitated by climate change.

Our view is that if schools led from the front in this regard, it will replicate to all our communities.

We thus expect schools to inculcate a culture of love and respect for schools to learners as well as for teaching and learning practices in anticipation for the inaugural winner of this award.

I wish to make a plea to all our provincial communities to partner with us as we build our nation through education. As a provincial government, we are fully convinced that community development is centred around community involvement.

We are therefore making a call that communities must inculcate a sense of pride and ownership of their schools and that they may take a lead in the renewal of their schools.

This form of renewal can take place only through community involvement and thus schools should partner with their communities so that they could be used as community development centres and communities could in turn help secure and protect them from vandals and thieves.

We are grateful to the Department of Correctional Services for their support and willingness to work with the Department of Education to refurbish broken furniture, construct assembly shelters and to ensure basic cleanliness in schools within the Province.

Nkosi Phathekile Holomisa, we are grateful that you graced this occasion with your team and we remain humble that you honoured us with your presence and resourcefulness.

It is our believe and conviction as a provincial government that such partnership could lead to improved school surroundings, ambience and an increase in learner attainment. All the values and intent of the Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena can only be realized if we hold our hands together and work towards the reclaiming of our educational space and programmes to lift all those disadvantaged learners whose future is threatened by dysfunctional schools and unwelcoming school surroundings.

We want discipline, dedication and respect for people, time and work back in our schools.

We don't just want to survive in this quest but to thrive as we conquer with passion, compassion, humour and style.

I thank you.





**ADDRESS BY THE DEPUTY MINISTER OF JUSTICE  
AND CORRECTIONAL SERVICES, NKOSI PHATHEKILE HOLOMISA  
(AH! DILIZINTABA), MP,  
ON THE LAUNCH OF RHANDZA XI KOLO XA WENA CAMPAIGN  
IN NGWARITSANE SECONDARY SCHOOL,**



The Rhandza XiKolo Xa Wena Campaign is all about holding each other's hand, as we navigate towards creating a better future for our children and communities.

The National Development Plan states that if we are to overcome the legacy of apartheid it is essential that everyone has access to education at a high standard, regardless of who they are and where they live. The NDP further advocates for a system where all children have the benefit of high-quality education.

As Correctional Services, we have a number of correctional facilities who have adopted community projects and they offer support through different programmes in terms of poverty alleviation, infrastructure development and maintenance work.

This does relate to the refurbishment and renovating of school buildings and furniture; starting vegetable gardens and many other projects.

These are practical initiatives rendering real changes that we make to the daily



conditions in which people live and such is essential to their dignity.

As a Department, we continue to tap more into offender labour in addressing some of the developmental challenges within communities.

And in doing so, we cannot neglect our schools. Education is one of the key priorities for this government.

Basically, this says that it is not just a responsibility for the Department of Basic Education and Provinces, but we are all required to make a contribution in ensuring that our children receive the best education in an environment that is conducive for learning.

Correctional Services can rightly be defined as an institution obsessed with positive change and safer communities.

We constantly look for opportunities that can better assist the department to make a meaningful contribution to the people of South Africa.

As a result, thousands of offenders, parolees and ex-offenders are involved in community infrastructure and food production projects that seek to plough back to communities, provide some form of reparation for their crime, and strengthen the interface with victims, families, communities and various stakeholders.

We continuously encourage inmates to take responsibility to change attitudes, and to pave a way for reconciliation with those that they offended for peaceful co-existence in communities upon release.

Hence, we call on offenders to embrace the opportunity to be rehabilitated through skills development which will not only ensure successful reintegration but also provide a means for self-sustenance upon their release while minimising re-offending patterns.

Inmates in this country have been renovating schools, building and refurbishing houses and the quality of workmanship is of top quality, far beyond everyone's imagination.

It is for this reason that we will continue to promote offender labour as a symbol of our commitment in creating a just society.

There are many reasons why corrections in South Africa must continue to champion the useful engagement of offender labour as part of rehabilitation and reintegration.

For us as a Department, offender labour is an essential part of corrections and must form an integral part of the rehabilitation process, and that is exactly what we have done in this Circuit.

Offender labour must be utilised to play a positive role in the development of our

communities, particularly by taking care of our public institutions.

We have a number of correctional facilities across the country that have adopted community projects, and they offer support through different programmes in terms of poverty alleviation and infrastructure development and maintenance. Key to rehabilitation is empowering offenders with skills to function effectively in society upon their release.

Through such initiatives, Correctional Services aims to provide offenders a second chance to correct their wrongdoing by giving back to communities.

It is essential to indicate that, public confidence and trust in the country's correctional system is critical for the creation of enduring partnership with civil society.

Correctional Services has successfully partnered with state agencies, academic institutions, and other departments, hence we have raised our hand even today to say we will definitely join and be part of this campaign.

The positive role of corrections in uplifting communities has to be felt by every member of society, especially those who have been the victims of crime.

Maintaining public infrastructure and rebuilding our schools belongs to all of us.

We must love these facilities as they belong to us as communities.

I can tell you now, there are many more hills to climb. Let it be our obligation to provide learners with a safe and engaging environment and ample opportunities to learn, such as – each learner must have access to quality learning material, safe and appropriate learning spaces, portable water, and appropriate and hygienic sanitation. As a matter of fact, we should be personally distressed if some of our children are not getting the quality education they deserve.

Partnerships in the advancement of our society are important. It is in this context that this campaign finds resonance in our commitment as the Department of Correctional Services. Let us give hope to all our communities and demonstrate that we are a caring nation.

The campaign being launched today, Rhandza xi kolo xa wena has already been nourished in our system of correctional services.

Let us walk this path together, ukhona umvuzo.

Amilcar Cabral, an important leader in the struggle against Portuguese colonial rule in Africa, wrote this in 1969:

We must always remember that people do not fight for ideals or for the things on other people's minds.

People fight for practical things: for peace, for living better in peace, and for their children's future.

Liberty, fraternity, and equality continue to be empty words for people if they do not mean a real improvement in the conditions of their lives.



**correctional services**

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