



Content

- 3 Editorial Comment
- 4 Mpumalanga Education is Caring4Girls
- 6 MEC Mhaule Delivers the 2014/14 Budget and Policy Speech
- 7 South African Choral Eisteddfodd
- 8 Learner Performance in the Spotlight
- 9 Advancing the Teaching of Maths, Science and Technology
- 10 King Makhosoke II Promoting Education
- 12 IEC and DBE Take Electoral Democracy into the Classroom
- 14 Developing Educators Through CAPS Workshops
- 15 A New Leaf for Bohlabela District
- 16 School Governing Bodies Indaba
- 17 Mpumalanga Provincial FET Arts Competition

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As a compassionate and caring department, the Mpumalanga Department of Education has undertaken to launch, the Caring4Girls programme at an event held at Elukwatini on the 03 September 2013. The Caring4Girls programme was initiated by the Imbumba Foundation in collaboration with The Banking Association of South Africa in an effort to uplift the dignity and well being of girl children in schools. The initiative intends to provide girl learners with sanitary towels as there are reports to the effect that many girl learners lose many days of school because of menstrual challenges. Acknowledging the importance of the programme, the Minister for Basic Education graced the event and delivered the keynote address.

Tabling the R14.896 billion budget in her Policy and Budget Speech on 21 May 2013, MEC Mhaule unveiled 2013/14 programmes which the department will undertake. These include amongst others the construction of eleven new schools including two boarding schools in Emakhazeni and Mkhondo local municipalities. At the same time, the Department continues to fight learner absenteeism in schools due to the basis of learners not being able to afford a nourishing meal, in the quest to fight this sad reality, R497 million has been allocated for this endeavour.

We also look at the choral music eisteddfod where our learners put on display their god given talents of music and dance. The spectacle continues and we wish all provincial representatives well in the national leg of the competition.

Learner performance came into the spotlight as the MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule embarked on a road show to engage circuit managers per district (i.e. Bohlabela, Ehlanzeni, Gert Sibande and Nkangala) on learner attainment improvement. The department has defined schools which are performing below 60% as poor performing and those below 50% as dysfunctional.

The teaching and learning delivery of Mathematics, Science and Technology is necessitated by the need of the availability of a pool of young citizenry with sound mathematical

and scientific knowledge at secondary school level which is considered to be a prerequisite for further skills development in providing an efficient workforce to increase productivity and pioneer entrepreneurship leading to economic development and alleviation of poverty. This need has necessitated the establishment of the MST Academy in the province.

Read more about these and the contributions made by King Makhosoke II with regards to the professional teacher development programme that the King initiated. This holistic integrated programme has seen 170 educators successfully completing the course over a period of twelve months.

In this edition, we introduce the newly appointed District Director of Bohlabela, Ms Lorraine Nokuthula Goba, take a peek at the partnership between the Department of Basic Education and the Independent Electoral Commission in the drive to have eligible voters registered for the 2014 elections and also take a glimpse at the CAPS workshops held through out the province.

Please do not hesitate to talk to us on educational issues. Have a wonderful time as your read through.



The Editor: Mr. Jeffrey Makhumba

There is no better resource we have as a country than our children; we assess our victories and our failures through them.” These were some of the wise words from the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga in her keynote address for the launch of the Caring4Girls programme. This launch took place at the backdrop of August, the month for women at Elukwatini Community Hall in the Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality.



Mec Mhaule and Minister for Education, Angie Motshekga at the launch

The Caring4Girls programme was initiated by the Imbumba Foundation in collaboration with The Banking Association of South Africa in an effort to uplift the dignity and well being of girl children in schools. The initiative intends to provide girl learners with sanitary towels as there reports to the effect that many girl learners lose many days of school because of menstrual challenges.

The 03rd of September was a big day for the people of Elukwatini as the community hall was packed to capacity with young school girls from Elukwatini Circuit. The excitement was written all over the faces of the young girls who were accompanied by their educators and a crescendo of ululation reached fever levels as the programme director requested each school to indicate their presence by raising their voices in shouts.

The launch marked a build up towards the celebration of World Aids Day and most importantly to conscientize the people of Gert Sibande about the fight against HIV and AIDS which has a high prevalence of the scourge as well as a high rate of teenage pregnancy in the country. The social partners of the Department,

Love Life, Lil-lets SA and Soul City presented messages of support. These social partners did not come to the launch empty handed as Lil-lets SA donated 1500 packages of sanitary towels to the girl learners of the schools which attended.

Cllr Busi Shiba, the executive mayor of Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality hailed the launch as the birth of a giant that will go down in the history books. In her message to the girl children, she quoted the Chinese Chairman Mao Tse Tung as he said, “The world is yours as well as ours, but in the late analysis, it is yours. You young people full of vigour and vitality are in the bloom of life, like eight or nine o’ clock in the morning sun. The hope is placed on you.”

In her message of support, Miss Mpumalanga 2013, Ntandoyenkosi Kunene who is studying Education at Wits, requested all the girl learners to stand up to recite, “I am strong, I am special and I am destined for great things. She encouraged the girl learners to ask for help and to utilise government institutions in their communities to better their lives.”

“My children, I hope you appreciate that government and its stakeholders have your interest at heart. We wish to do everything and I mean everything to make it a point that we free you from any threat or danger that may make you vulnerable,” said the MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule.

The launch marked the beginning of a distribution of 20000 Caring4Girls booklets throughout the Mpumalanga Province. The booklet seeks to educate girl learners about menstruation and personal hygiene of the female body. The booklet is endorsed by the Mpumalanga Department of Education and will be utilised to supplement the life orientation course.

Lerato Motsa for Tjakastad who is doing grade 11 Maqhakazane high school said, “





Hi, I am Ceffie

Join me on a mission to create
Safe and Caring Child Friendly
Schools

Sisonke Sifundzisa Sive



education

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The Honourable MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule announced that the Department will utilise R14.896 billion towards programmes that are aimed at improving the delivery of education in the Mpumalanga Province.

The Policy and Budget speech for the year 2013/14 was held at the Provincial Legislature Chamber on Tuesday, 21 May 2013.

Addressing the house, Mrs Mhaule reminded everyone that the Department is tirelessly working towards reaching educational needs of the Mpumalanga people as most individuals view education as their only route to escape poverty and reach a destination of a better life.

Through the task to make certain that each learner is equipped with Learning and Teaching Support Material (LTSM) on time, the Department has set aside R 451 million, to procure textbooks for the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS) in grade 7, 8, 9 and 12, this will also include stationery.

The Department always take priority in making sure that children with special needs are always well catered for with regard to their needs. "We have set aside R212 million to implement focused programmes for Special Schools and to compensate and capacitate educators on matters of curriculum adaptation and differentiation in the 140 full service schools"

In her speech the MEC also highlighted that; the Department has also upgraded three special schools, Thanduxolo, Welvonkop and Osizweni.

The honourable MEC was also excited to share with the house that R586 million has been set aside to construct 11 new schools and complete eight schools that are currently under construction, amongst this schools include two boarding schools one in Amsterdam at Mkhondo Municipality and the other at Emakhazeni Municipality.

The Department continues to fight absenteeism in schools due to the basis of learners not being able to afford a nourishing meal, in the quest to fight this sad reality, R497 million has been allocated for this endeavour. The amount will be used to

provide the National School Nutrition Programme targeting 873 957 primary and secondary learners in quintile 1 to 3 schools.

It is through teachers that our learners are equipped with tools to improve their lives; the MEC describes them as backbones of any curriculum delivery mechanism. It is therefore important that they too continue to be upgraded and furnish themselves with better ammunition to offer the best support to their learners.

R 4.8 million has been allocated to upgrade teachers who are required to meet the REQV 14 requirements, R15 million to capacitate all Senior and FET phase teachers as well as school management teams on CAPS management, and R3 million to recapitalise 15 Education Development Centres to provide refresher courses to educators.

It is through the MEC's words "a bright future is certain under the leadership of the ruling party in government" that show that her Department is ready to tackle challenges of the new 2013/14 financial year, while working together to ensure that the needs of the people of Mpumalanga are met.



Mec Mhaule, Mediator Mathebula and Miss Mpumalanga 2013, Thandokayisa Kunene

The MEC for the Mpumalanga Department of Education, Ms. Reginah Mhaule takes this opportunity to congratulate all choirs who represented their respective Districts at the South African Schools Choral Eisteddfod Provincial Championships on 31 May to 02 June 2013.



Ready to let their Angelic voices out for the audience

When conveying her congratulatory message this is what she had to say; "Over the centuries music has proven to be the best tool available to humanity to interface the physical and the spiritual. This has been the best way of opening up the window to the soul and thus as Africans, we use music to take us through our emotional expressions and phases of life.

Let me take this time to wish all the choirs proceeding to the National competitions well as they fly the Mpumalanga flag high", said the MEC. The MEC further indicated that the learners were driven by the same passion which compels the educators to dedicate their afternoons and spare time to help them perfect their skills in singing. She thanked all the educators for their selfless efforts and love for their country and fellow-humans.

"The 2013 Mpumalanga Schools Choral Eisteddfod will not only be taken to a higher level but will also have a positive effect on our annual learner performance outcomes. As Mpumalanga Education, we have over the three years improved our Grade 12 results from 47.9% in 2009 to 70% in 2012, after the supplementary examination results the overall pass rate for Mpumalanga came 71.9% marking an overall improvement of 24%", said the MEC.

The MEC encouraged other schools to make an extra effort to participate in the 2014 music competitions. The South African Schools Choral Eisteddfod is one of the schools' curriculum enrichment programmes that the Department supports as it aims to promote unity, social transformation and cohesion amongst young South Africans.

The involvement of learners in extramural activities is an important task as it teaches the discipline, working together and time management skills, and also play an important role in building the learners' self esteem.

Only choirs that obtained position one will proceed to represent the province in the National Championships which will be held at Rhema Bible Church Johannesburg from 02-05 July 2013.



The splendour and colour of the Eisteddfod

Following her pronouncement in the 2013/14 Policy and Budget Speech that there will be no tolerance for schools which are performing below 50% in the 2013 academic year, MEC Reginah Mhaule embarked on a road show to engage circuit managers per district (i.e. Bohlabela, Ehlanzeni, Gert Sibande and Nkangala) and on learner attainment improvement. The department has defined schools which are performing below 60% as poor performing and those below 50% as dysfunctional.



Some of the circuit managers in attendance

The road show was held during the month of July at the four districts of the province to ensure that each district is accorded proper attention and time. Circuit Managers were expected to oversee the performance bar at all schools and all grades by reflecting on the targets set and good practices. Amongst matters under discussion were the improvements on learner attainment, the management of LTSM, learner admission, teacher deployment, promotional posts, human resource, teacher development, good management and governance practices.

The MEC encouraged circuit managers to be hands on in the ordering of LTSM in their circuits and to also take schools along. Special emphasis was put on planning and ensuring that learner admission takes place prior to the re-opening of schools to allow teaching and learning to take place on the first day. To this effect she said, "We have a noble responsibility to teach this learners and to bring them to a level that will bring them to compete with the rest of the country in terms of performance as well as allow them to participate

in the economy of the country."

In the main the insights and inputs of circuit managers reflected on "Everything rises and falls because of leadership." The issue of moving non performing principals came under the spotlight so as to ensure that learner performance is lifted. The Carrot and Stick method was mooted as a main factor that could assist. Acting allowance should also be addressed as a motivational factor to acting principals."

Other issues raised were that poor foundation at primary level could be detrimental to high school learner performance as primaries feed secondary schools with undercooked learners. Performances on the Annual National Assessment also need to be the focus for all circuits with a lot of pro action to arrest failure before it actually takes place. Bad attitude and content knowledge management were also put under scrutiny. Circuit managers committed themselves to improve learner results in their circuits by setting themselves achievable outcomes.

With regards to learner motivation and inspiration, some circuit managers have resorted to engage and challenge learners with admission requirements criteria from some of the universities to encourage learners to work towards such a goal. The formation of QLTC has also been brought to the fore with circuit managers managing stakeholders' involvement by engaging community structures to ensure that community issues are ameliorated to the advantage of learner performance.

There were also positive developments highlighted with learners taking the initiative to hold evening classes and some circuits graduating from mere assessment to qualitative and common assessment with SMT monitoring and learning area educators' accountability. Though there are challenges and a lot of work to be done with putting the performance systems in place and meeting the 10% provincial target, the situation is promising towards that goal.

Sisonke Sifundzisa Sive.

The challenge of the 21st century economy, research objectives in the medical, science and technology fields call upon excellence in the Mathematics, Science and Technology delivery at schools. This Mathematics, Science and Technology teaching and learning delivery is necessitated by the need of the availability of a pool of young citizenry with sound mathematical and scientific knowledge at secondary school level which is considered to be a prerequisite for further skills development in providing an efficient workforce to increase productivity and pioneer entrepreneurship leading to economic development and alleviation of poverty.



Mrs Reginah Mhaule, MEC for Education delivering her keynote address at the consultative meeting

Acknowledging the challenge and acting on the means and ways to come tops of this challenge, the Mpumalanga Department of Education envisages the establishment of a Mathematics, Science and Technology Academy. This Academy will be placed in Emalahleni in the Nkangala District as a central hub and four satellite hubs, one in each of the four education districts. The four satellite hubs are schools and each is linked to 24 other schools in each district making the number of the MST academy schools to total 100. All learners in the 100 MSTA schools will offer mathematics and physical sciences.

The hub's role amongst others will be to offer in-service training to mathematics, science and technology teachers to upgrade their pedagogical content knowledge, track, monitor and report implementation of acquired skills in classroom practice, upgrade academic and professional qualifications of teachers in partnership with higher education institutions and develop and

publish mathematics, science and technology LTSM for schools and directly support the teaching of MST in the district satellite schools and Dinaledi schools (a district satellite centre is one school in a district that will offer physical science and mathematics to a minimum of 50% of the total number of learners in grades 10 to 12.)

The MST Academy, as envisaged, will assist in the mass production of learners passing mathematics and physical sciences at 50% since the entire school will offer maths and physical sciences and not only selected classes as currently is the case with Dinaledi schools. The department has already started the consultation process of integrating schools into the MST Academy. This process is led by the MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule.

"Challenges facing MST are that a small number of young people exit schooling with at least 50% pass in Mathematics and in Physical Sciences in order to access skills training in the Mathematics, Science and Technology fields.

The Dinaledi schools alone, even at optimal performance, may not respond quick enough to the challenge since a combination of physical sciences and mathematics is offered on average in one class in these schools hence the establishment of the MST Academy," said MEC Mhaule in her keynote address during a consultative meeting held on 26 July at Middelburg Laërskool .

The MST Academy will be launched in 2014.



Delegates at the consultative meeting

As part of the Continuing Professional Teacher Development programme, the first 170 educators have successfully completed the Holistic Integrated Programme (HIP) over a 12 month period.



Dr. Piet Bernard, Mr. Glen Abrahams, King Makhosoke II, MEC Mhaule, Mrs Lucy Moyane, Mr. JJ Mabenaand members of the SAINTS academia

The MEC for Education, Mrs Regina Mhaule, handed over professional development certificates to educators who successfully completed the HIP on 26 July 2013 at a graduation ceremony held at His Majesty King Makhosoke II 's royal palace in KwaMhlanga .

These certificates are endorsed by the South African Council of Educators (SACE).

The programme was initiated by King Makhosoke II in 2011 in partnership with the Mpumalanga Department of Education, SANTS and SADTU. This initiative originated in response to the 2010 Annual National Assessment (ANA) test results.



Family and friends came to offer their support to graduates of the programme

According to the 2010 ANA report released by the

Department of Basic Education Grade 3 learners scored an average of 35% in the literacy tests and 28% in the numeracy tests, while grade 6 learners scored 28% and 30% respectively for Languages and Mathematics nationally.

What concerned His Majesty King Makhosoke II and all other stakeholders were the fact that Mpumalanga Grade 3 learners performed the worst nationally.

Reality is that a learner's performance is directly linked to educators' knowledge and skills, as research indicated a positive correlation between



The entourage visiting the education stalls

educator knowledge and learner outcome performance.

SANTS, a Private Higher Education Institution, took up the challenge and developed the HIP, with a Back-to-Basics approach, which is in essence a literacy and numeracy program

The Programme focuses on the basics in teaching Reading and Writing and Mathematics correctly in the classroom.

The HIP is developed to approach the intervention in a holistic way. This approach makes provision for provincial officials, district officials, school management teams as well as school based educators to participate in the improvement of the educators' own knowledge, teaching skills and general classroom practices.

The HIP focuses on the following modules:

- Effective Classroom Practice,
- Teaching Language in the Foundation

- Phase (Grade 1-3);
- Teaching Language in the Intermediate Phase (Grade 4- 6);
- Teaching Mathematics in the Foundation Phase (Grade 1-3);
- Teaching Mathematics in the Intermediate Phase (Grade 4- 6), and
- Professional Support for Teachers.



Dr. Piet Bernard signing a pledge while King Makhosoke II and MEC Mhaule look on

As a result of the intervention it can be reported that the impact of the programme has yielded extremely positive outcomes.

- Language: Foundation Phase educators' evaluation results improved on average from 35% to 83%; Intermediate Phase educators' evaluation results improved on average from 38% to 80%.
- Mathematics: Foundation Phase educators' evaluation results improved on average from 66% to 92%; Intermediate Phase educators' evaluation results improved on average from 54% to 87%.



King Makhosoke II handing over a certificate to a beneficiary of the programme with MEC Mhaule congratulating her

In addition, three of the twelve schools participating in the HIP received trophies of outstanding performance in the ANA in 2012.

What is more encouraging is that these educators

are now more motivated and dedicated and the programme made a vast difference in the



King Makhosoke II handing over a certificate to a beneficiary of the programme

knowledge and skills base of these educators. Direct quotes from educators' feedback after the 12 month period.

"The HIP has assisted me most in how to build up an effective classroom for learning. How to apply different strategies to overcome barriers in the classroom. To have the knowledge of the content of a lesson plan." one graduate said.

Given the improvement in the educators' performances, which we anticipate will be replicated in the learners' performances in the coming ANA tests, the MEC for Education Mrs. Regina Mhaule has expanded the HIP to 16 additional schools in the Nkangala District.

The idea behind this move is to solidify the progress made and to ensure that more schools are brought into the initiative with the ultimate goal of extending the intervention to all schools in the province.

Mrs. Mhaule has further indicated that the Patron for the intervention will be His Majesty King Makhosoke II.

SACE as the guardian of the profession and the driver for Professional Development programmes, since this is the first ceremony of its kind in the country, have announced the roll-out plan for teacher development programmes nationally.

The broader public and educators in particular will be informed on both the process as well as the programme which will be embarked on during the coming months and years.

The Electoral Commission (IEC) and the Department of Basic Education (DBE) are proud to announce their collaborative hosting of South Africa's Schools Democracy Week programme between 1 and 7 October 2013.

"The Electoral Commission has identified a 'registration gap' among eligible voters aged 18 to 29, and its aim is therefore to increase the registration of the youth, hence its decision to partner with the Department of Basic Education, and indeed the Department of Home Affairs, in this drive," says Mosotho Moepya, Chief Electoral Officer of the IEC.

The first such programme of its kind, it is intended to initiate a robust and sustainable process of democracy education in the schooling system in the future.

"We encourage schools to participate in the programme because from next year we will incorporate newly developed and approved material into the curriculum. It is therefore ideal for schools to take part this year.

There will be various activities including debates and essay competitions," said Dr Shermaine Mannah, Acting Chief Director for Social Inclusion and Partnerships in Education from DBE.

Together with the IEC, the department developed learning and teaching material which would be used as part of the co-curricular activities. The material is available on the DBE and IEC websites but hard copies have also been delivered to some schools.

The programme is set to reach thousands of primary and high schools throughout South Africa. Dr Mannah said consultations had taken place with Provincial Education officials as well as school principals who are fully in support of the programme because of its significance to the country.

"We declared School Democracy Week in order to introduce the programme to our learners and educators. We hope that next year we will be able to roll it out to all schools in our system," said Dr Mannah.

In particular, the week's programme will seek to:

- Raise awareness of the forthcoming 2014 National and Provincial Elections
- Introduce the Electoral Commission to learners, teach them about democracy, their rights and responsibilities as voters, how to register to vote, how to vote, and how to think critically about democratic issues.
- Increase the registration of the youth aged 16 and above on the National Voters' Roll.

The Schools Democracy Week will span five days, beginning on Tuesday, 1 October 2013, and ending on Monday, 7 October 2013. The programme will include a maximum of five 40-minute in-class sessions (one per day) for learners in Grades R to Grade 9; and five 60-minute in-class sessions (one per day) for learners in Grades 10, 11 and 12.

A number of co-curricular activities are also scheduled to take place, either in the afternoons after school or on Saturday, 5 October 2013, depending on the arrangement with the school. These activities include registration drives, debates and town-hall-style interactive sessions.

As part of its on-going liaison with represented political parties on issues of electoral democracy, the Schools Democracy Week campaign has been discussed and agreed on by all parties through the national party liaison committee as well as provincial and local committees.

Political parties have also been invited to participate by observing the roll-out of the campaign to ensure that it is conducted in an even-handed manner without party political bias.

The Schools Democracy Week programme will not disrupt the ordinary business of the schools. In fact, the timing of the programme is such that it has accommodated learner exams.

Where possible, the Electoral Commission intends to register eligible learners, both those aged 16 and 17 who can register but cannot vote, and those aged 18 and above who can register and can vote.

Learners are encouraged to bring their South African, green, bar-coded identity (ID) books or smart-card IDs to school with them during the Schools Democracy Week so that they can register to vote.

Those learners who don't have an ID document are encouraged to apply for one at their nearest Home Affairs office as soon as possible.

For more details on the Schools Democracy Week programme and materials, please visit the IEC website at www.elections.org.za or the Department of Basic Education's website at <http://www.education.gov.za/>



The Mpumalanga Department of Education has embarked on a workshop course in all four districts of the province to empower teachers with regards to the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement (CAPS). These workshops were conducted during the winter school holidays so as not to disrupt teaching and learning.



Doing it for the love of our kids and future, teachers attending a CAPS workshop

The National Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statement is a single, comprehensive, and concise policy document, which will replace the current Subject and Learning Area Statements, Learning Programme Guidelines and Subject Assessment Guidelines for all the subjects listed in the National Curriculum Statement Grades R - 12.



MEC Mhaule encourages educators during one of her visits to the workshops

CAPS form part of the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12, which represents a policy statement for learning and teaching in South African schools and comprises the Curriculum and Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS) for all approved subject, national policy



Imparting and acquiring knowledge and skills for a better future

pertaining to the programme and promotion requirements of the National Curriculum Statement Grades R-12 and National Protocol for Assessment Grades R-12.

Educators were amongst others work shopped on getting to know the content of all subjects, planning and assessment, getting to know national policy pertaining to the programme and promotion requirements of the national curriculum statement grades R-12 as well as monitoring and support.



Teacher development in action at a CAPS workshop

The Head of Department, Mrs Mahlasedi Mhlabane in the company of the Honourable MEC and members of senior management visited Bohlabela District Offices on 02 July 2013 to introduce the newly appointed District Director; Ms Lorraine Nokuthula Goba.



Ms. Lorraine Nokuthula Goba, Bohlabela District Director

In her introduction HOD Mhlabane said: "I am here to formally present the Newly Appointed Bohlabela District Director. I think it is prudent that I express our deepest appreciation to Mr. Mfana Lushaba who spearheaded programmes of this district during trying times up to the level where it is today. As we usher in the new incumbent to the post, I hope you and all of us will be there to support and create a favourable space for her to operate. Thank you, thank you very much for your patriotic contribution"

Ms Lorraine Nokuthula Goba is here to strengthen the management and administration of Bohlabela District and to help us realise our objectives and long term goals. She is from Mkhuhlu in Calcutta. She attended her secondary schooling in Shake High School in Bushbuckridge and obtained her standard ten in 1988.

She then went to Elijah Mango College of Higher

Education to do her Secondary Teachers Diploma which she obtained in 1995. In 2001, she obtained a Bachelors Degree from the University of South Africa. In 2011 to 2012 she did an N4, N5 and N6 Certificates in Computer Practice at Mthashana FET College.

She also has a Certificate in Human Resource Management from the University of South Africa, an Honours Bachelors of Education Degree from the University of South Africa and is currently studying towards a Masters in Education degree in Leadership and Management and Policy.

She was an educator, a Head of Department, a Deputy Principal, a Circuit Manager, Chief Education Specialist and at the time of confirming her appointment, she was an Acting District Manager at the Zululand District.

Ms Lorraine Nokuthula Goba has a very rich education background and an activist who played a meaningful role within the labour movements.

Oozing with confidence, courage and ready to serve the people of Mpumalanga in particular of Bushbuckridge Municipality, Ms Lorraine Nokuthula Goba said, "I am deeply humbled and honoured for the trust and confidence you have on me. I accept this position with my integrity in tact and I am going to work with all of you to restore your integrity as well. Thank you very much for the opportunity to serve".

The MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule equally sang praises to Mr Lushaba as she was congratulating Ms Goba. To this effect she said:

"Mamu Goba, Congratulations on your appointment. Let us be counted on the good side of history as we cooperatively and in unison enhance the availability of educational opportunities to the learners and children of Bohlabela District.

I wish you the very best in everything you do in this district. You will always enjoy our support."

School Governing Bodies Indaba

No country can really develop unless its citizens are educated," these are profound words of the founding father of our democracy, former President Nelson Mandela. This statement should spur on every South African to action as we need development as a country, as communities, as families and as individuals.

Inspired by the words of Madiba, the Mpumalanga Department of Education hosted an SGB Indaba on 20 June 2013 at Pienaarsdam Middelburg in the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality.

The Indaba took its queue from the significant fact that only education is the viable vehicle to fight the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality.



Senior Management formed part of the delegation to the Indaba

"We have come here to put our heads together to conquer the challenges of social ills that disrupt teaching and learning and present a threat to the future of our learners and children. It is in that vein that we make a call to all citizens of our Province, especially SGB members to occupy their minds and hearts with the need to ensure access to learning and teaching space for all learners. They need to worry and do something if one learner drops out of school," said the MEC for Education Mrs. Reginah Mhaule in her keynote address at the Indaba.

Amongst other matters the Indaba explored working together with influential bodies and institutions to fight drug trafficking, bullying, violence, teenage pregnancy, truancy, vandalism, stealing of school property and disruption of school classes.

Topic under discussion at plenary covered; the



MEC Reginah Mhaule addressing the Indaba

role of governors in professional development of teachers and improving learner performance in schools, nurturing quality learning and teaching and the roles and function that characterise creating child friendly schools.

"A secure school environment is one in which the occupants have a very low risk of physical, emotional and psychological injury. It is critical that school governing bodies and school management take full responsibility for addressing the problems of security. A school is a place where children are without their parents for six to eight hours every day. If that school is not secure, the learners are vulnerable," said FEDSAS.

The underlying statement articulated in the Indaba is that School Governing Bodies need to develop a school code of conduct for learners and ensure its fair and transparent enforcement at all times. These actions should also take cognisance of the fact that the education of one learner is life long and that to overcome the socio-economic challenges facing us will require our working together.

The Mpumalanga Department of Education continues in its philosophy to partner and rally side by side with its stakeholders in advancing quality teaching and learning delivery. The School Governing Body is a very important structure in the education equation as espoused by the South African Schools Act and our trust is that this structure can pull together to lift the standard of education in the whole province. Sisonke Sifundzisa Sive.

Mpumalanga Provincial Fet Arts Competition Exhibition And Prize Giving Function

Showing and identifying young talent so that it could be developed was the main purpose of hosting the Ninth Provincial FET Arts Competition from 26 – 30 August 2013 at the Mbombela Gallery in Nelspruit.



Ms. Melanie Reeder, Ms. Troubelene Diedericks and Mr. Junaid Hoosen

The vision is to have at least one school per circuit that can offer one or both of these subjects; Visual Art and Design, Music, Dramatic Arts and Dance so that all talented learners in Mpumalanga could benefit from it. Hopefully in future, more schools will have the opportunity to implement these subjects to the benefit of our very talented learners.

The competition, which is meant for all FET schools and is compulsory to all the schools already offering Visual Art & Design was held under the theme: South Africa@work. The categories are Formal Visual Art Schooling, No Formal Visual Art Schooling, Formal Design Schooling and No Formal Design Schooling

After the district legs of competition, the winners of each district's works were adjudicated again by a new panel of adjudicators to establish the final Provincial winners. This panel of adjudicators consists out of Junaid Hoosen, SES for Nkangala, Hanlie Nicholson, SES for Ehlanzeni, and Vukani Mhlumba SES for Gert Sibande Districts.

A common rubric was used by each adjudicator, after which all the marks were calculated to a final mark to indicate the winners. This adjudication took place at the Mbombela Gallery in Nelspruit on 14 August 2013.

The prize-giving function took place on 27 August, and was well attended by more than 80 invited guests from all over the province. The guest speaker was Melanie Reeder, a media and communications expert who has worked in the magazine industry for 10, she gave a very informative talk on self-branding by making use of the social media.

She encouraged, and gave tips to the young artists and designers on how to start with self-branding very young. She also warned them about the possible pitfalls and dangers of using the social media wrongly.

Ms. Riana Lourens from Ukuphila Tours, the chief sponsor of the event made a presentation on her tours, with special reference to the tours to the Design Indaba in 2014 in Cape Town as well as the tour packages her company offer for school children and teachers which include arts and culture tours overseas and local as well as.



Mr. Siphon Mashele from the Mbombela Cultural desk

The ten best learners in each category received a merit certificates. The first, second and third place winners from the Formal Visual Arts and Design Schooling Categories as well as Non Visual Arts and Design Categories got gift packs of arts material courtesy of Riekie Visser of the 'Paper and Portfolio' art material company.

The best Visual Art learner won a floating trophy sponsored by Ms. Martie Buys and the best Design learner won a floating trophy sponsored by Ms. Hanlie Nicholson. They also each received a smaller trophy to keep. Both the best Visual Art learner and the best Design learner won a, local Arts tour to Cape Town to visit different aspects of

the Design Indaba in 2014, sponsored by Ukuphila Tours.

The learners with the best results in the Non Visual Arts Category all came from Lydenburg High, from Bohlabela District. Elmarie Vermeulen took first place, Jada Linstrom second place and Abbigale King third place in the Non Visual Arts schooling category.

The winner for the No Formal Design Schooling Category were: Simphiwe Ngomane from Mjokwane Secondary from Ehlanzeni District. Learners who qualified for the Design Schooling Category were: Carla Foss, Carli Barnard, Kayla-May Smit and Precious Nkunkulu from Middelburg High in Nkangala District. Marcha Naudé, Cathy Solomon and Carol Lynn Trask from Secunda High in Gert Sibande District.

Yolande Sharpley and Zandisiwe Shube from Barberton High and Felicia Theledi and Dominique van Niekerk from Rob Ferreira, and Fezeka Masina and Refilwe Mbhugane from Lowveld High School, all from Ehlanzeni District.

Marcha Naudé from Secunda High from Gert Sibande district took first place, Fezeka Masina, from Lowveld High School second place, Yolande Sharpley from Barberton High and Refilwe Mbhugane from Lowveld High School shared third place, for the Design Schooling Category

The learners with the best results in the Visual Art Schooling Category were: Sherise van Niekerk and Maggie Brummer from Generaal Hertzog High, Lorenza Lombard, Melinda Cloete, Madelein Roodt and Elmar van Wyk from Middelburg High. Marcha Naude, Koper Abby and Nadine Trichardt from Secunda high, Gert Sibande district and Chaney Mullin, Jade Wallace, Tyron van der Merwe and Shandri van Zweel,



Ms. Troubelene Diedericks (DCES - Visual Arts & Design), Refilwe Mbhugane from Lowveld High School and Junaid Hoosen (SES - Visual Arts & Design: Nkangala)

Mandela Month Activities Launch

T Mandela Month kicked off with the unveiling of Social Service Cluster Mandela Month activities on 01 July 2013 at the Lula Day Care in Masoyi, Ehlanzeni District. The Social Cluster is a group of government departments that have a social service mandate to deliver to communities. These are the Departments of Education, Health, Social Development, Human Settlements and Culture, Sport and Recreation.



MECs Manana, Mhaule and Mashego Dlamini with Lula Day Care Centre SGB Chairperson

Operating under the theme 'Take Action; Inspire Change, Make Everyday a Mandela Day,' each department had its own activities planned and set out for the whole month. The Mpumalanga Department of Education organized and convened a number of activities for the Mandela Month Celebrations which included the renovation of the school buildings, painting, fixing roof leakages, putting a palisade fence, repair broken ceilings, doors, windows panes, ablution facilities as well as rehabilitating broken desks. With regards to taking care of the environment and food security; trees, food and flower gardens were cultivated. These activities were undertaken in the Ehlanzeni District at Mshadza Secondary School, Sihlabela, Siphumelele and Sukumani Primary Schools from 01 June 2013 with the hand over ceremony which included the donation of school uniform and sanitary towels taking place on 13 July 2013.

The department's social partners also came into the fold by making monetary and or skills contributions towards the projects. These partners are The Banking Association of South Africa, TSB, Metropolitan Life, Patel & Solly Hardware, Rotary Club Nelspruit, Mpumalanga Regional Training



MEC Mhaule hard at Work, painting the day care centre

Trust, Department of Correctional Services, Clear Choice Construction, Ehlanzeni Further Education and Training College, Fairview and Lilly Mines, Plessey Plants and Botanical Gardens, Imbumba Foundation, ANC volunteers and local community structures.

On 18 July 2013, which marked the birthday of the founding father of our democracy, former President Nelson Mandela, the department in collaboration with The Banking Association of South Africa Celebrated Mandela Day by launching the Teach Children to Save Programme which was held at Lundanda Primary School. The leadership of the Banking Sector rendered lessons as part of their 67 minutes contributions.



Colour and splendour restored at the centre

"We are doing this to pay tribute and to sustain the legacy of Nelson Mandela by instilling in our children a sense of belonging, pride, Ubuntu and to show that we are a caring nation.

We intend to ensure that schools are embraced by

our communities to root out elements of vandalism, stealing of school property, trafficking of drugs in schools and mostly make schools true centres of community development," said the MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule in her keynote address at Lundanda.

The very 18 of July also witnessed the Mpumalanga Provincial Government's descend on Elukwatini where educational, health and social services structures of government were visited by the Premier, Mr. DD Mabuza and his entourage of MECs.

The Department of Education had five schools on its visit roster, namely D & C Comprehensive, Vuka and Diepgezielt primary schools as well as Takheni and Highveld secondary schools.

All these schools were visited by MEC and members of the legislature who observed the national directive of hoisting the flag and singing the Madiba special birthday song. The Premier visited Highveld High School where he encouraged learners to follow the path of Madiba and to remember where they come from. "I want to encourage you to focus on your studies and refrain from such bad habits as drinking alcohol and taking bad decisions that jeopardize your future. Focus on your studies because that is what your parents and government sent you to school to do," said Premier Mabuza before sharing the birthday cake with learners.



Our pride and Joy; our children



MEC Mhaule speaking at the launch





education

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MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

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