



education

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# 2017/18 Policy & Budget Speech

23 May 2017



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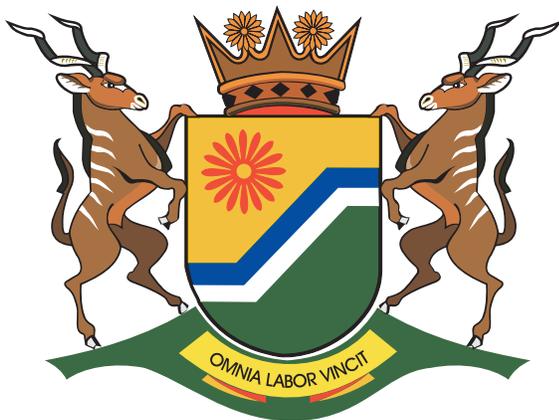
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Mrs Reginah Mhaule  
MEC for Education



Mrs MOC Mhlabane  
Head: Education



# education

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*2016/17 Policy and Budget Speech to be Delivered by the Honourable MEC Reginah Mhaule on the 28<sup>th</sup> of April 2016 at the Provincial Legislature in Mbombela*

**2017/18 Policy and Budget Speech to be delivered by the Hon. MEC  
for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule on the 23 May 2017 at the  
Provincial Legislature in Mbombela**

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Honourable Speaker, **Thandi Shongwe**

Honourable Premier, **DD Mabuza**

Honourable Members of the Legislature

Members of the Executive Council

Distinguished Guests

Representatives from the Media

Members of the Community in the gallery and special greetings to all our citizens who are listening from various radio stations

**Sanibonani,**

Madame Speaker, we are grateful for the opportunity granted to the Department of Education to present the 2017/18 Policy and Budget Speech with only a day before the people of Africa celebrate Africa Day.

Dr Kwame Nkrumah, one of the founding fathers of the organisation of African Unity and the first President of independent Ghana once said:

*“I am not an African because I was born in Africa but because Africa was born in me. The forces that unite us are intrinsic than the superimposed influences that keep us apart.”*

Indeed Africa Day and Africa Month presents an opportunity to reconnect and recommit ourselves in support of all government interventions to develop a better Africa and a better world.

Our priorities are influenced by that commitment as well as the national and provincial strategic trajectory.

The Mpumalanga Economic Growth and Development Plan (MEGDP) highlights niche areas which must be harnessed in order to grow the economy of the province thereby improving the quality of life of the people of Mpumalanga.

These are carefully crafted priorities to reinforce the commitment which take into account the fact that Education is critical particularly basic education in addressing the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

The 2020 plan of the Department is a response to the MEGDP and the Provincial Vision 2030 which intends to improve the provisioning of quality of education ensuring that children are able to read, write and count at appropriate age levels in early grades.

These also reinforce our determination to reduce the drop-out rate by ensuring that learners stay and benefit from the schooling system.

The No-Fee School Programme, National School Nutrition Programme, Scholar Transport and comprehensive Boarding Schools constitutes well thought-out endeavour to improve access and to ensure that the majority of learners pass grade 12 and graduate in Institutions of Higher learning.

**Madam Speaker**, It is encouraging to note that the performance of the province in the Grade 12 results has been above **77%** pass rate since 2013.

In 2016, the province recorded a **77.1%** pass rate which is a slight decline as compared to **78.6%** mark achieved in 2015.

Gert Sibande District is congratulated for being the district that realized the highest improvement of **3.18%** from 72.62% in 2015 to **75, 8 %** in 2016.

Although Ehlanzeni (**79.5%**) and Nkangala (**79.5%**) recorded the highest Grade 12 pass rate in 2016, both districts' performance shows a slight decline as compared to 2015.

This compels all role-players to put a foot on the pedestal more than before and an extra effort to encourage schools to implement school



based intervention programmes because these are sustainable and if carefully implemented could yield positive results.

The Province needs to work hard to get to the **80%** pass rate bracket which is the 2030 target in the National Development Plan.

We are mindful, Madam Speaker that to achieve this, the Department should on an ongoing basis provide support to schools to institute effective teaching and learning; ensure sound management at all educational institutions and offices, engender professional and ethical conduct by all educators, support staff and managers and progressively resource our schools with appropriate infrastructure.

While we do this, our major preoccupation will be to improve participation and performance in gateway subjects, such as **Mathematics, Sciences and Technology**.

To this effect, we undertake to increase the uptake of Maths and Science at grade 10 to 60 000 for Maths and 50 000 for Physical Science by 2020.

This will help to improve the percentage of grade 12 learners achieving 50% and more in Mathematics and Physical Science from **21.1% to 60%** and from **20.2% to 60%** .

The Department will equally train **5000 teachers** on pedagogical content knowledge and facilitation skills and ensure that 100% of learners have access to the required resource material in all grades and subjects by 2020.

In addition, the Department will initiate Mathematics teachers' monthly forums, extend the 1+4 teacher training programme to Grade 7 teachers and venture into partnership with private sector and education civil society specialists to improve Mathematics, Science and Technology performance.

The Department has allocated **R 10.575 million** to improve the intake and pass performance of Mathematics and Physical Science in all public ordinary schools within the province.

**Madam Speaker**, the year 2017 is declared the year of OR Tambo. The expectation of government is that every effort must be made to

acknowledge what OR Tambo stood for and to emulate his never dying spirit to ensure that this country is truly liberated at all fronts.

Oliver Tambo graduated with a B.Sc. degree in Physics and Maths. He enrolled for a diploma in higher education. St Peter's offered him a post as Maths teacher.

For more than ten years OR Tambo made an enduring impact on his students at St Peters.

Dozens of his students marvelled his distinctive, interactive and encouraging style of teaching, using methods, which were well ahead of their time. O.R. inspired many to take up teaching too.

OR Tambo's character, mannerism and splendour is one thing that all of us, South Africans, young and old should be mindful of, uphold and ensure that our communities embrace.

I will consult with the African National Congress and His family to name one of the centres of the Provincial Maths, Science and Technology Academy in his honour.

We have to do this because His ( OR Tambo) course resonates with our quest to promote the intake and pass rate of Mathematics and Physical Science. Indeed, this will be an inspiration to many who long to be professionals within the science field.

## **Transversal HRD Overview**

**Madam Speaker**, the Transversal Human Resource Development remains vital towards skills development for the attainment of key goals set in the Mpumalanga Economic Growth Path and the National Development Plan.

The Provincial Government reaffirms its commitment in increasing its current skills base by providing opportunities through the Provincial Bursary Scheme, Learnerships, Internship and Short skills programmes.

So far, there are **2 186** students in different universities within the country who are direct beneficiaries of the Mpumalanga Bursary Scheme. Included in this scheme are **1141** active employees.

We also have **100** students that are enrolled in different fields of study in Russia in keeping to the provincial memoranda of understanding signed with Russia, Italy and China.

It is a great pleasure to indicate that this year the province will send **102** deserving students to these countries to further their studies in medicine, civil engineering, veterinary sciences, ITC and Teaching in the field of mathematics and Science. This is a good a good story to tell.

The Department has allocated **R210 million** to support the provincial Human Resource Development Strategy.

**Madame Speaker**, I am so grateful and fascinated by the positive stories and the impact that students from Mpumalanga are making in institutions of higher learning. Our students are raising the flag of the province high through their outstanding performance.

Recently the whole country marveled at the news about an achievement of one of our sons, whom the media described as a “Young, Smart, Main Character in his Movie”, **Quintin Mkhondo**, a 20 year old who graduated in Actuarial Science from the University of Pretoria making him the youngest graduate in his class. He grew up in Bushbuckridge and is currently working towards his honours degree in Mathematical Statistics and hopes to pursue a Master’s Degree.

His mother has joined us and I request the house to appreciate her as we congratulate the achievement of her son.

As if that is not enough, last week the trending news was about an outstanding achievement of one of our daughters **Lettah Sikhosana** who graduated with a Bachelor of Education Degree Cum Laude with 27 distinctions.

Raised by her mother who is a domestic worker and her father who is a truck driver, she defied all odds and became the youngest student from UNISA to achieve such an accolade.

She has graced this occasion; I request that she stand up together with her parents so that the house can honour her.

These stories are a true confirmation that our interventions are yielding positive results. We must therefore continue to soldier on no matter how odd the circumstances so that we can put smiles on the faces of the majority of our people through the delivery of quality education.

I am also aware that the coordination of the programme needs to be improved on a continuous basis. It pains us when there are delays in processing funding be it by the Department or Institutions of learning that we work with because that has a detrimental effect on the performance of our students.

I have mandated the officials in the Transversal Human Resource Development Chief Directorate to fold their sleeves and to work towards perfecting their delivery machinery.

### **Provincial Integrated ECD Strategy**

**Madam Speaker**, it is worth noting that a **Provincial Early Childhood Development Implementation Plan** has since been developed mapping out plans to increase access to pre-grade R, ensure that all ECD centres meet the norms and standards set and are registered.

This also includes up scaling the training of ECD practitioners in preparation for the introduction of the two years of ECD Services prior to Grade1.

In the 2017/18 financial year, the Department working with its sister departments will create work opportunities for 52 child-minders and 4 data capturers through the EPWP programme (Funded through Incentive grants).

The Department will also strengthen development of training programmes to support the capacity of Early Childhood Development Institute to improve the provision of accredited training of practitioners in registered ECD centres and to conduct targeted parents' workshops in order to create awareness on the significance and impact of Early Childhood Development Programmes.

The Department has allocated **R2 million** to achieve the above goals.

# Steve Tshwete Boarding School



## INFRASTRUCTURE DEVELOPMENT

The Department strives to improve its infrastructure planning capacity at all levels working collaboratively with its implementing Department.

This is a key factor which we have started to address by appointing officials with the relevant skills. These appointments will help to limit the reliance on external consultants in executing of mandatory tasks.

We share a view that when the condition of school facilities is improved, learning outcomes are also improved.

The Department's plan for the 2018/19 infrastructure projects is the completion of the Thaba Chew Boarding School which will be the first for Bohlabela District, to eradicate infrastructure backlogs in line with the infrastructure norms and standards implementation plan and planning for the **replacement** of five circuit offices.

We continue to work around the clock to ensure that all schools have basic infrastructure service in compliance with the infrastructure minimum norms and standards implementation plan (sanitation, water, electricity and eradication of inappropriate structures).

An amount of **R 1166 billion** is set aside to achieve infrastructure development in 2017/18 financial year.

### National School Nutrition Programme

**Madam Speaker**, the National School Nutrition Programme provides relief to deserving learners so that an empty stomach must deprive them of their constitutional right to access education.

The Programme contributes by improving learning capacity and promoting healthy lifestyle amongst learners and school communities.

**905 884** learners are benefitting from the NSNP this year.

In keeping to the pronouncement made by the Honourable Premier, DD Mabuza in his 2017 State of the Province Address, government will create

a market for the local farmers by inviting them to supply fresh vegetables and fruits to schools participating in the National School Nutrition Programme.

The supply will start from 01 June 2017 in the selected municipalities and will expand in the near future depending on production capacity of the farmers.

All these efforts to empower the youth will be co-ordinated through MEGA.

In the short term only thirty seven (37) percent of the total learner population, located in the non-CRDP municipalities will be provided for through this model.

It is envisaged that the NSNP will eventually be wholly implemented through the Government Nutrition Programme.

The Department will continue to work with the Department of Health to improve the health condition of primary school learners by means of deworming in Grade R – Grade 7 so as to increase the intake of nutrients provided in the meals through the Integrated School Health Programme.

In addition, the Department will intensify its drive to ensure that all food handlers in all NSNP schools are properly capacitated on basic hygiene and food preparation.

The Department has allocated **R615 million** to promote the delivery of the National School Nutrition Programme.

### **Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust**

**Madam Speaker**, the Department takes advantage of the resourcefulness of the **Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust (MRTT)** to empower the youth from disadvantaged communities to participate in the broader economic sphere of the province.

MRTT is helping in increasing the intake of out-of-school youth into skills programmes, particularly in the hospitality and tourism, technical and entrepreneurial fields.



*“I am not an African because I was born in Africa  
but because Africa was born in me.*

*The forces that unite us are intrinsic than the superimposed  
influences that keep us apart.”*

*Dr Kwame Nkrumah*

It is further mandated to expand artisan development programmes and to coordinate the functioning of the Provincial Skills Hub.

The Department has allocated **R228 million** to MRTT to achieve the objectives mentioned above.

### **Life Skills, HIV and AIDS**

**Madam Speaker**, we remain steadfast in our quest to implement and support South Africa's HIV prevention strategy by intensifying our drive to increase Sexual and Reproductive Health knowledge, skills and appropriate decision making amongst learners and teachers.

Furthermore, the Department is working towards providing a caring, supporting, safe and enabling school environment that is free of discrimination, stigma and any form of sexual harassment.

To this effect, the Department will in this financial year, implement life skills and life orientation curricula (incl. sexuality, HIV and TB education) focusing on the training of **300** teachers on scripted lessons and comprehensive sexuality education.

Provide in-service training for **1 517** educators on care and support for teaching and learning, Intergrated School Health Programme and Implement functional peer education programme in schools by appointing and training **130** Learner Support Assistants.

The Department planned to further expand the provisioning of the care and support programme for teaching and learning model by training 533 teachers.

The Department has set aside **R20 million** to implement this programme.

I must indicate our concern about stories that are making rounds of teachers that engage in unwarranted romantic and sexual relationships with learners and those who use unlawful means to discipline learners.

I am making an appeal to our teachers and their unions to help us to get rid of these tendencies and further urge them to report these to the Department and to law enforcement institutions.

We remain grateful by the support that the Department is getting from different institutions including the Imbumba Foundation for their support to the empowerment of the girl child.

The Department has prioritized schools across the four districts in the Province for the intensive implementation of the learner retention programme, Care and Support of Orphaned and Vulnerable Children to mitigate the impact of HIV.

This is done through recruiting and placement of **130 Learner Support Agents** in **452** schools utilizing out of school youth to create job opportunities.

The Department is implementing a programme called Care and Support for Teaching and Learning in collaboration with media in Education Trust (MIET) focusing on MSTA Schools and their feeder primary schools.

The aim is to provide an integrated package of 10 priority action areas to mitigate barriers to learning and to create an enabling environment for teaching and learning where the learner becomes the beneficiary of quality services provided by various departments and Nongovernmental Organizations

## **School Governance, Management and Leadership**

**Madam Speaker**, the Department relies upon the School Governing Bodies to co-ordinate successful implementation of the Integrated School Safety Strategy, to roll out the sport, music and culture programmes in their respective schools.

It is also expected of school governing bodies to ensure that the resources (Financial, ICT, and Infrastructure) that are provided to their schools are used for the intended purpose.

I am making a clarion call to all members of the School Governing Bodies to be mindful of these mandates.

Equally, I am appealing to members of the School Governing Bodies to make it part of their core responsibility that schools within the province promote mother tongue teaching and protect the teaching of indigenous languages.

This needs to be done because it is in keeping to the dictates of the constitution of this country and the South African Schools Act moreover it will serve to honour the 18 learners and two adults who passed away in a taxi crash between Bronkhorspruit and Verena on 21 April 2017.

The Department has circulated a draft framework for the coordination of the “Matric Dance “by all schools within the province. It is expected that the School Governing Bodies will constitute meetings, workshop the draft and submit their suggestions to the Department before 31 May 2017. I must indicate that we are highly encouraged by the comments we have are receiving so far.

## **INCLUSIVE EDUCATION AND EDUCATION SUPPORT**

**Madam Speaker**, the Department is making strides to expand access to education for learners who require specialized education and to eliminate barriers through the intensified screening, identification, assessment and support strategy and introduction of Individual Support Programme.

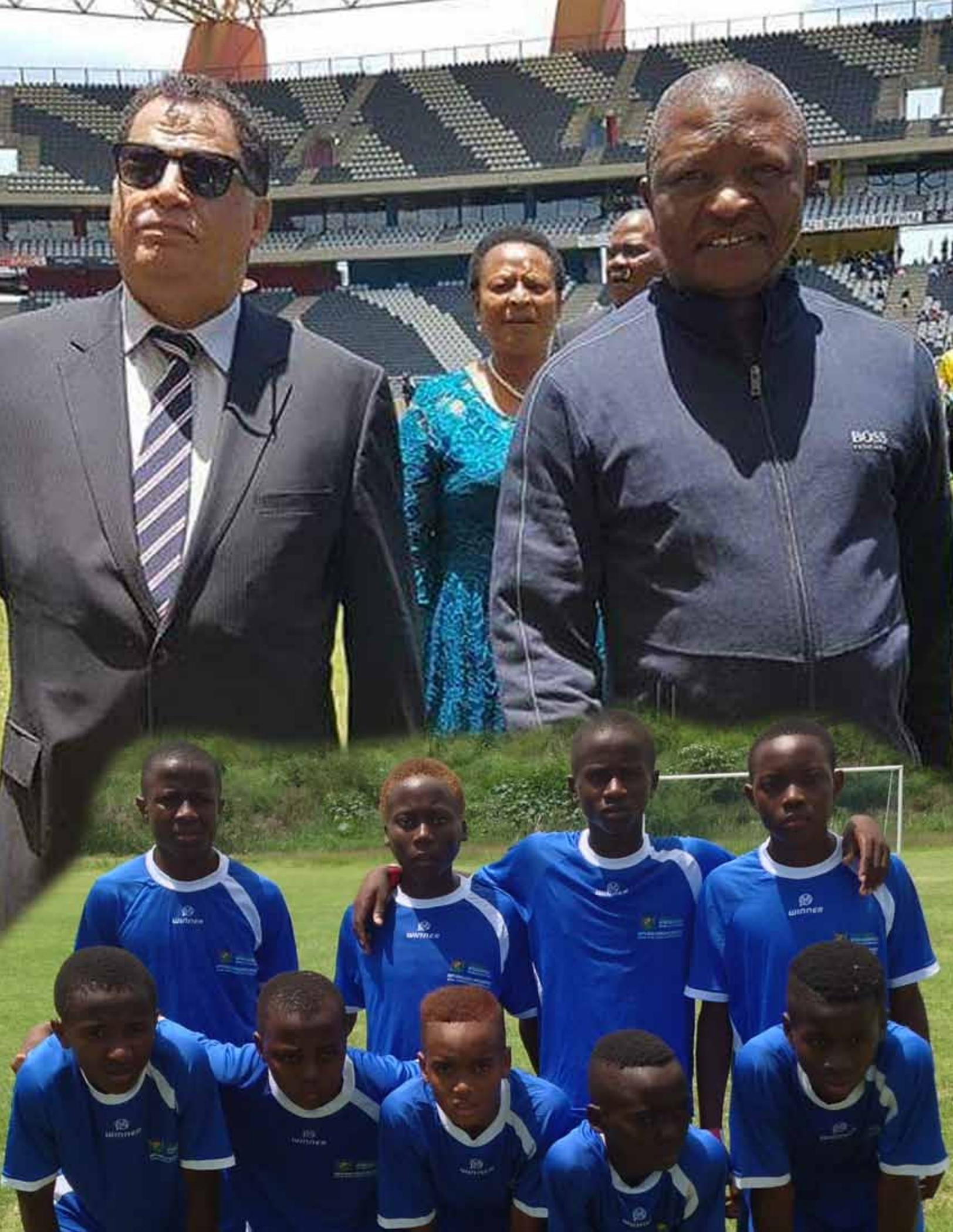
This will include capacity building of teachers which includes cooperative learning as teaching strategy, curriculum differentiation and adaptation; reading, writing and numeracy programmes at primary schools; alternative and augmentative communication; training on impairment (visual and hearing); Braille; South African Sign Language and deaf culture; advocacy campaigns on inclusive education; training of support structures on their roles and responsibilities.

The Department has prioritized Career Guidance focusing on Grade 7-12 career exploration and awareness (subject choice) and career exhibitions.

Environmental Education program being a vehicle to ensure integration of environmental concepts across all subjects is receiving serious attention from the Department going forward.

On this note, I wish to congratulate schools within the Xhimungwe Circuit who are making a mark on matters of Environmental Education. These schools collaborated with the European Space Agency and Singita to raise awareness on these matters and entered in a 2017 Space4 the Next Einstein Project.

Babati Primary School was declared the overall winner of the project and amongst other prizes the two grade five learners of this school Jasmene Mkhabela and Adriot Mkansi together with their teacher Mrs. DN Ngobeni



won a fully paid trip to Canada to be undertaken in September this year. I have been advised that the MEC for Education in Mpumalanga must accompany them.

I take this time to congratulate all the participating schools in particular Babati Primary School.

Jasmene, Adriot, Mrs. Ngobeni and the principal of Babati have graced this occasion, I request that they standup so that the house could appreciate them.

## **Conclusion**

The legendary French Psychologist, Franz Fanon said, *“I ascribe a basic importance to the phenomenon of language. To speak means to be in a position to use certain syntax, to grasp the morphology of this or that language, but it means above all to assume a culture, to support the weight of a civilization.”*

It is for all of us to note and work on the establishment of a system of education that benefits all of our learners.

This is the vision that we have; this is the leveler for the poor to be at par with the rich. This is the kind of civilization we envisage.

The road towards the realisation of this vision won't be an easy one; hence we call upon all the people of our province to play their part in elevating education to a societal business.

I want to thank the **Honourable Premier, DD Mabuza** and the African National Congress for the opportunity that they have given me to lead the Education Department in the Province and all the guidance and insight I have received in my responsibility as MEC for Education.

I also wish to appreciate the leadership of the Minister of basic Education, **Mrs. Angie Motshekga** and my colleagues in the Council of Education Ministers for their support.

Let me also appreciate the support that I have received from the Head of Education, **Mrs. Mahlasedi Mhlabane** together with her management team, teachers and the whole staff of the Education Department. Their efforts and selflessness has taken this Department forward.

We are grateful for the support that we are receiving from the media both electronic and print. They keep us on the alert and they have since turned to be a formidable stakeholder of the Department. **Siyabonga Kakhulu.**

We are forever indebted to pastors and the leadership of the moral regeneration movement and labour formation for their support.

I wish to profoundly extend words of appreciation to the honorable members of the Portfolio Committee under the stewardship of the **Chairperson Hon Wenvold**

Lastly let me appreciate the support from my husband and family for always being there for me, for their love and care which I draw strength from is valuable to me.

Madam Speaker, I hereby table the ----- for adoption and the 2017/18 budget for the Department of Education.

**Ngiyabonga**



Congratulations to Babati Primary School





# AFRICA DAY

