

Media Statement

Catch up programmes

Monday, 23 August 2010

Colleagues from the media you are heartily welcome.

The ongoing strike is impacting negatively on our programmes to improve learner performance in the province.

Today we remain with **38** school days before the start of the Grade 12 Examinations.

This development demands that we think creatively and outside our confines.

As we speak learners are unable to access classes given the nature and conduct of the strike.

It is for this reason that I take this opportunity to make a clarion call to all the churches and formations such as the Council of Churches, Moral Regeneration Movement to open their doors at this time. To be specific, we request the church and other organizations and concerned formations to encourage parents to:

- Have regular discussions with children about school matters.
- Cultivate a healthy, open and cooperative relationship with their children.
- Create a home environment conducive to study.
- Motivate their children to study and supervise them regularly.
- Advise children to form study groups.
- Open the churches for learners to study in groups.

I have written to the leadership of these organizations including the National Association of School Governing Bodies (NASGB) and the Federation of Governing Bodies of South Africa (FEDSAS) in this regard.

It is also important for parents to be aware of the Catch Up Programmes that the Department has developed to help learners with their studies.

The Catch Up Programme includes:

- Radio Support Programme
- Dial a Tutor Programme
- Spring Classes for Grade 12 Learners
- Newspaper Supplements

Radio Support Programme

SABC (Ikwekwezi FM and Ligwalagwala FM) in collaboration with the Department of Education is broadcasting daily lessons from **14H30 to 15H00** and from **21H30 to 22H00**.

These slots are utilized to explain difficult concepts and to enrich content knowledge. Subject Specialists are deployed to talk about various subject content material of addressing recurring problems that learners face.

This programme is extended to the following community Radio Stations as of today from 14H30 to 15H30 three times a week and will run until the end of November:

- Moutse Community Radio
- Kangala Community Radio
- Bushbuckridge Community Radio
- Middelburg Community Radio and
- Barberton Community Radio

Dial a Tutor Programme

This programme assists learners who may experience challenges while studying at home. Learners can dial the Departmental Toll Free line **0800 203 116** from **18H00 to 20H00** from **Monday to Thursday** to be linked with an expert Curriculum Specialist who will provide guidance on the spot.

The Department is working hard to ensure that we improve the access rate and to ensure that learners who call using cell phones can get the service free of charge.

Newspaper Supplements

The Department has developed Learner Supplements which will be inserted in the following publications starting this week:

- The Lowvelder
- Mpumalanga News
- Witbank News
- Middelburg Observer
- Highvelder
- Corridor Gazette
- Barbeton Times
- Steelburger
- Daller
- Standerton Advertiser
- Highveld Ridge and
- Ziwaphi

Additional supplements will this week be posted to strategic institutions such as:

- The Churches

- The Constituency Offices
- Thusong Centers
- Community Libraries and
- Direct to learners in deep rural areas

This is to ensure that more learners are able to benefit from this information.

Spring Classes

After the strike the Department will conduct Saturday and Spring Classes for Grade 12 learners from 27 September to 01 October 2010.

This will add impetus in our quest to cover the lost time and to improve learner performance.

Previous question papers

Parents and learners are also urged to download the 2008/09 Grade 12 previous question papers and memoranda from the Departmental website; www.mpumalanga.gov.za/education

The Grade 12 Examinations will start on the 25 October to the 03 December 2010.

Thank You.

**MRS REGIONAH MHAULE
MEC FOR EDUCATION**