



education

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TO : NEWS EDITORS

FROM : THE MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DATE : 26 JULY 2011

SUBJECT : MEC MHAULE REFLECTS ON THE ANNUAL NATIONAL ASSESSMENT RESULTS

The Annual Assessment Results released by the Minister of Basic Education, Mrs. Angie Motshekga on 28 June 2011 should form the basis for improving education delivery and learner performance in all grades.

These results are a true reflection of the current situation in our schools and require a concerted effort from all of us to improve them for the better.

A defensive and finger pointing approach will not help but exacerbate the problem. All that is urgently required is a collective approach to address this anomaly.

Mpumalanga Province's performance was as it was with the Grade 12 Results.

The intervention programmes to improve the Grade 12 results showed signs of improved learner performance at that level, as such there could be a sustainable improvement of performance in the lower grades only if there is a collective effort to do so.

Mpumalanga Province has an acceptable teacher-pupil ratio of 1:29. The qualifications, age and state of health of our teachers is favorably good and the majority of our learners attend school every day. Based on this, the teaching and learning environment remains conducive for achieving excellent scholastic results.

Basic resources such as LTSM, textbooks and improved school infrastructure are readily available and accessible in most schools. In addition, provisioning of teacher training, scholar transport, and school nutrition should be adding impetus on our quest to improve the results in all grades.



This suggests that there are basic fundamentals that we may have consciously or unconsciously neglected and we may need to urgently identify those and put practical remedies. These must include but not limited to the following:

- Intensify monitoring and evaluation activities in an integrated manner
- Strengthen teaching and learning in the classroom and ensure that every second, minute and hour is used for teaching and learning.
- Radically reduce the rate of absenteeism from both learners and teachers
- Set improvement targets across the board
- Mobilize all stakeholders to support teaching and promote Literacy and Numeracy
- Provide supplementary resources for teaching Literacy and Numeracy
- Continue to benchmark with other Provinces

These means that there will be henceforth special focus on the utilization of teaching time, quality and amount of assessment tasks given, workbooks and foundations for learning programmes. Principals will be required to moderate work done by learners on weekly basis and issue reports to the line function.

Learners will write common provincial assessments quarterly that must be analyzed and be reported on.

Educators will be trained on specific modes of delivery/support to ensure that areas that are constantly giving us problems are dealt with decisively.

An **Imvuselelo campaign** to resuscitate teacher morale and improve levels of motivation will be embarked on.

The Department will ensure that workbooks; learner books; teachers guides, numeracy and literacy kits as well as readers are provided on time to all schools.

I want to take this opportunity to request all role players to view these results seriously and make an effort to ensure that there is improvement going forward.

Our target is that our learners must be performing above 60% in numeracy and literacy by 2014. It is possible only if each one of us can play his or her part.

"I am going to meet primary school principals, curriculum Implementers, educators and all relevant role players in an effort to remedy this situation and to find lasting solutions. This is a task we dare not fail"

End

Issued by the Communication Directorate
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Together Educating the Nation