



**education**

DEPARTMENT: EDUCATION  
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE

# News Brief

## 10 February 2011



**MPUMALANGA**  
A Pioneering Spirit



Dimakatso Tsoko wants to go back to school.

Photo by Jane Mkgosi

## SHE WANTS MATRIC!

By JANE MONGOSI

**DIMAKATSO Tsoko has been running up and down, trying to get her future sorted out.**

Dimakatso (22), from Cosmo City Extension 2 in Joburg, is so frustrated that she's even turned to drinking!

When she completed Grade 11 in 2007, she couldn't wait for the new school year to start... all she wanted to do was to get her Grade 12 certificate.

But after she'd settled down in her new classroom, the principal took her outside and asked for her report.

"Why?" asked Dimakatso.

The principal didn't believe her when she told him she'd been promoted to Grade 12.

"Go away and never come back," said the principal. So the depressed young woman didn't go to school for the whole year.

Later, when she found out the principal was no longer at the school, she explained her situation

to the new principal, Ms Matsibatelelo.

But the new principal wasn't much of a help either! Dimakatso then went to the education department in Braamfontein, which gave her a letter saying she should be allowed back to the school to finish her matric.

She handed the letter to the principal, who said she'd phone the girl.

"You will be back in school soon," said the principal. Dimakatso told *Daily Sun*: "I waited patiently for the call but she didn't get back to me."

Dimakatso went to see Matsibatelelo last month, but she told her she had forgotten to call her.

When *Daily Sun* spoke to the principal, this is what she said: "Dimakatso knows that I've been trying to help her."

Charles Pahlane, spokesman for the education department, told *Daily Sun*: "Dimakatso must come to our offices and we will see how we can help her."

## Scholarships give poor kids a chance

By NTEBATSE MASIPA

THEY say there is nothing for mahala and that's certainly true of higher education.

And that's why so many students are sitting at home and can't further their studies - their parents don't have the money.

But there's hope!

The CIDA City Campus is offering 50 scholarships to bright young school leavers from poor families to study towards Bachelor of Business Administration, Finance, Human Resources, Information Technology and Marketing qualifications.

■ Students must qualify to register for degree studies and must have passed English and Mathematics (not Maths Literacy) with at least 50% in grade 12.

■ The last date for registration is Friday (11 February) and the application fee is R70.

■ For more info go to [www.cida.co.za](http://www.cida.co.za), email [snkabinde@cida.ac.za](mailto:snkabinde@cida.ac.za) or call 011 887 4495.

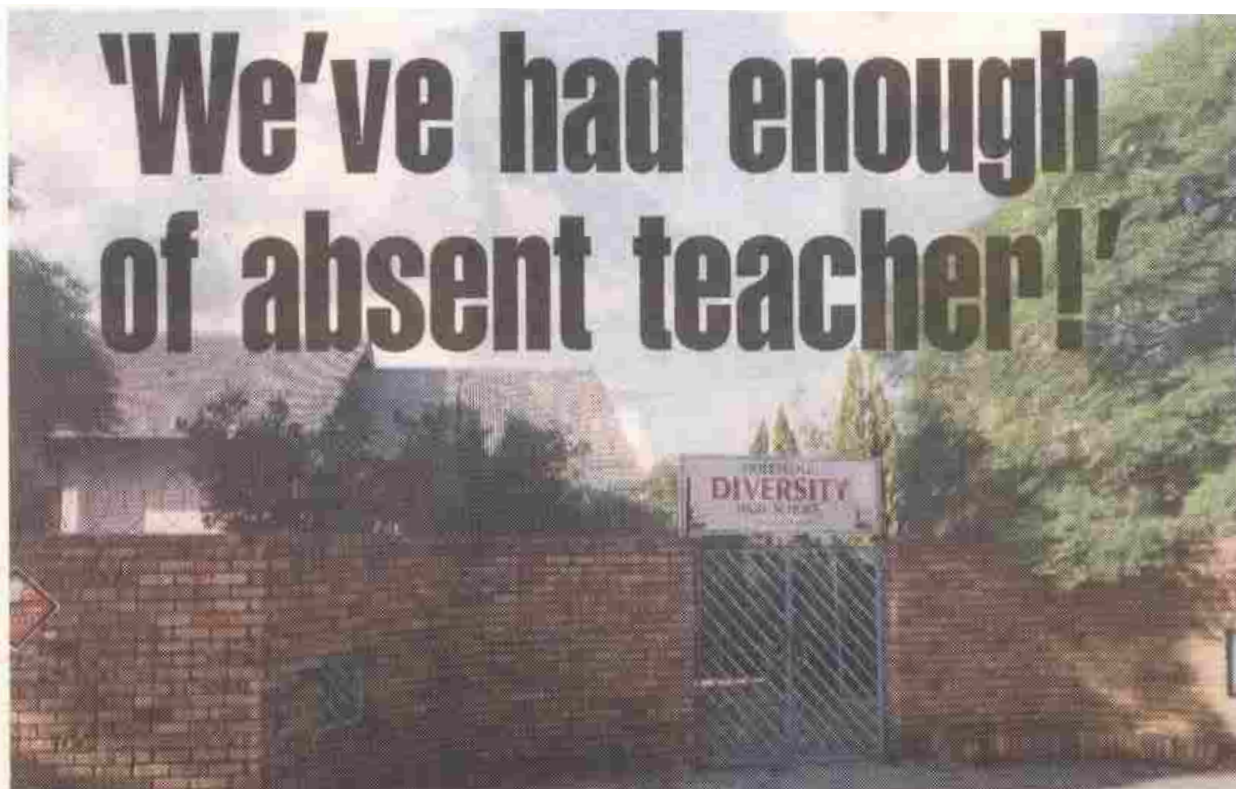
■ The scholarships are worth R40 000 each and include tuition, course materials, accommodation and three meals a day.

■ Students only pay a R400 registration fee and just R164 a month towards the total cost.

CIDA, which was established in 2000, has already produced 1 250 graduates, who after completing their courses are helped to find jobs.

Professor Philip Hirschsohn, executive director of CIDA City Campus told *Daily Sun*: "Every CIDA student completes an internship before graduation as this is normally the way people find permanent employment."

"In the past two years more than 90% of our students had jobs before they graduated," he said.



Diversity High School in South Hills.

*Photo by Lucky Morajane*

**By NTEBATSE MASIPA**

SHE'S a full time teacher at a high school . . .

But she comes to school for less than two months a year!

The school governing body of Diversity High School in South Hills, Joburg, claim the teacher is hardly ever at school, and that this is affecting pupils.

Portia Kings, chairwoman of the body, said they reported the teacher to the Gauteng Department of Education but nothing has happened.

"We reported the matter in 2008 and the department has only now responded," said Kings.

"They told us there were no grounds to dismiss her!"

Kings said the 2009 matric class had done badly in English Home Language because the teacher was absent so often.

The teacher, who can't be

named, was moved to the lower grades last year.

Now parents want her to go altogether.

"We've had enough," said Kings.

"We fear our kids will suffer when they get to the higher grades if she carries on the way she did before."

The 39-year-old teacher is said to be suffering from depression.

"She gives us doctor's certificates and we have sympathy for her, but we are worried about our children.

"The department is dragging its feet and we can't afford to hire another teacher because we'll be forced to pay her from our own money," said Kings.

Charles Phahlane, spokesman for Gauteng education, said the department was aware of the case but were still investigating it.

# School honours Winnie



By **BUSISIWE MOKWENA**  
"WINNIE

Madikizela-Mandela doesn't get the recognition she deserves!"

Theophilus Phanyaphanya from the Gauteng department of basic education said: "Naming a few squatter camps after her is not enough."

Phanyaphanya was one of the people asked to find the perfect name for Phumelela Training Centre, a school for physically and intellectually challenged children in Senaoane, Soweto.

Yesterday the school was re-named after Madikizela-Mandela, who lives in Soweto and is a member of the ANC national executive committee.

Phanyaphanya said there were several possible names, but Madikizela-Mandela's name came out tops.

**Winnie Madikizela-Mandela unveils the plaque at the school.**

*Photo by Jabu Kumalo*

Reverend Motlalepula Chabaku, a community activist in Soweto, was also there to see Madikizela-Mandela honoured.

Phanyaphanya said: "Since Madikizela-Mandela will be celebrating her 75th birthday this year, this is a perfect gift for her."

Madikizela-Mandela said: "I am humbled for my name to have been chosen. I have never been honoured like this before." She said she was also humbled by the pupils' skills.

She made a commitment to adopt the school and hopes to go into a "twin" arrangement with a similar school in London.

The school has brick laying, pottery, baking and motor mechanics programmes for its pupils.

## SUN SPOTS

### No classes at KZN university

CLASSES at the Durban University of Technology were suspended yesterday. This was due to vandalism on the campus, said vice-chancellor Ahmed Bawa. Since the beginning of the semester, students have demanded financial aid towards the BTech degree, which is not allowed by the department of higher education and training. - SAPA

# TESTING LEARNING

## Assessments will see how good or bad it is

**By NTEBATSE MASIPA and SAPA**  
NATIONAL assessment tests of school pupils have started.

And six million kids who were in Grades 1-9 last year are writing them.

Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga was at Ebony Primary School near Midrand yesterday to monitor progress.

Motshekga said: "I expect the worst, but we need to know the worst so that we can address the weaknesses in the education system."

The assessments will test pupils' knowledge from their previous grades.

They will run until Friday.

All pupils in selected grades will write the same test.

Motshekga said the results of the test will help determine if pupils have any problems with literacy and numeracy.

The department said parents will be informed of the results of the tests next month.



The Phatfwa school choir entertaining guests.

## Phatfwa rewards best

Porfia Maluleka

**KABOKWENI** - Phatfwa Senior Secondary school situated on the outskirts of White River in Embonisweni, held its annual prize-giving event and teacher incentive awards for 2010 last Friday.

Phatfwa is one of the AutoTec Foundation's adopted schools and has been part of its programme since 2008.

The foundation secured an adoption relationship with MPowerFM for the school for a two-year term. The term has now expired and its new adoption company, Old Mutual was announced to the pupils, teachers and parents by Ms Jeannine Ferreira of the foundation. Old Mutual personnel will take on the task of parenting the school through the AutoTec Foundation programmes. In his address, Mr Jimmy Banda, chairperson of the Old Mutual Provincial Management Board for Mpumalanga, expressed his and Old Mutual's enthusiasm for the project.

Old Mutual donated a generous amount towards critical projects to enhance the pupils' learning environment and abilities.

Mr Billy Dewar, foundation chairman, expressed his joy in welcoming Old Mutual to the team of companies that have joined it and its goal, to provide a more skilled workforce.

Old Mutual also handed out stationery packs to qualifying learners. Inspirational guest speaker, Dr Nelson Makukule, sponsored by AutoTec, addressed the pupils and inspired them to achieve better academic results and not to use excuses for their failure or lack of performance. Already 90% of the AutoTec Foundation schools show a marked

improvement in overall results and morale, which results in 10 000 children having hope for a better future.

### Best achievers per grade:

Grade 12: Shiba Jacoleine and Theu Filia

Grade 11: Mazibuko Nkosinathi and Mkhathswa Sebenzile

Grade 10: Malatjie Sincedile and Maseko Tinah

Grade 9: Mbokane Success and Ngwenyama Mandisa

Grade 8: Maile Dimpho and Chabane Glad.

### Best achievers per subject in grade 12:

Jacoleine Schieba: siSwati/Swazi, geography, physics, English and mathematics

Filia Theu: Life science

Samantha Sambo: Life orientation

Gabisile Mthombothi: Economics, business studies, accounting, maths literacy

Sydney Nkuna: Consumer studies

Agrineth Mndawe: History

Stephen Nkosi: Agricultural science

Given Maunnye: Agricultural science.

### Best athletes:

Thandolwakhe Matsane

Windile Maphosa

Mbuso Mokoena

### Best netball players:

Precious Malepe

Nontsikelelo Mkhonto

Nondumiso Mkhabela

### Best soccer players:

Xolani Olven

Nhlakanipho Sibiya

Surprise Mathebula.

## Principals air their views

Goodenough Mashego

**BUSHBUCKRIDGE** - The political climate and the influence of teacher unions on the provision of education, have a bearing on the poor academic performance in the region.

This was the confession by education minister Ms Angie Motshega after two days of stakeholder meetings which culminated in consultative meetings with school principals at the Mapulaneng Community Multipurpose Centre.

Following her consultations and a one-on-one with heads of schools who equally vented their frustration at the department's changing curriculum, redeployment and staff vacancies, the minister was frank in responding to media enquiries. She said her employees had told her that politics determined deployment in various positions in the region.

She was alluding to the chaos of the past two years during which a decision allegedly taken at an African National Congress Regional Executive Committee meeting, was mandated to the South African Democratic Teachers' Union to implement namely to hound Mr Shamba Mtembu from the region and replace him with acting incumbent Mr Mfana Lushaba.

The battle between the union and officials of the region saw many months of inactivity and refusal to cooperate with curriculum advisors. That conflict produced a 28% matric pass rate. "I say to unions - I request one thing from you, do your job and improve results," she said.

An issue was raised about teachers and principals who also moonlighted as municipal councillors. An angry school principal demanded that the minister should put a stop to the practice. "They must choose if they want to be educators or politicians because they often neglect learners and their schools." The minister responded that her party, the ANC, had decided to nip that practice in the bud. Given that many teachers



Ms Angie Motshega.

in Bushbuckridge were also councillors, she said the ANC had given them a choice on which they wanted to be. Motshega encouraged learners and the public who had information about teachers who slept with learners to report it. "We have a clear policy on relationships. Any teacher found involved with a learner faces immediate dismissal," she said. "We need to work out how we are going to improve the situation," she said.

Motshega has a tall order as during the meeting there was already dissatisfaction about the appointment of Mr Jimmy Petje as circuit coordinator, a chief education specialist position that others say should have been given to one of the circuit managers instead of a Sadu strongman who was responsible for the reconfiguration of the regional administration and the unceremonious redeployment of Mr Shamba Mtembu. Some see his elevation as a reward for having achieved what was rumoured to be an ANC REC mandate to remove Mtembu from Bushbuckridge.

# Bursaries sponsored

Portia Maluleka

NELSPRUIT - Twenty matriculants from disadvantaged family backgrounds were given a lifeline and will now be able to further their studies at the country's top universities thanks to business guru Mr Robert Gumede.

Gumede, through the Robert Gumede Keni Family Foundation Scholarship, showered 20 students with bursaries to the tune of R40 million.

One of the bursary recipients, Mr Richmond Sambo (19) of Nkomazi said he was surprised when informed about the bursary since he did not even apply for one.

"I am still surprised but very happy that I will now be able to further my studies at the University of Johannesburg.

On completion, I am going to start my own civil engineering company and help others achieve their dreams," said Sambo who is going to study civil engineering at the

University of Johannesburg.

Sambo's grandfather, Mr Jacob Sambo was also left speechless by Gumede's gesture.

"I don't even know these people but they helped unload the burden I was carrying because my grandson had always wanted to go to university, which was hard on us because of financial constraints. I just hope and wish that he does good with his studies and make those people proud," said Sambo Sr.

Gumede officially handed over the bursaries last week at the Mbombela Local Municipality, during a special occasion attended by the minister of higher education, Dr Blade Nzimande, MEC for education Ms Reginah Mhaule, Mbombela mayor Cllr Lassy Chiwayo and many other dignitaries.

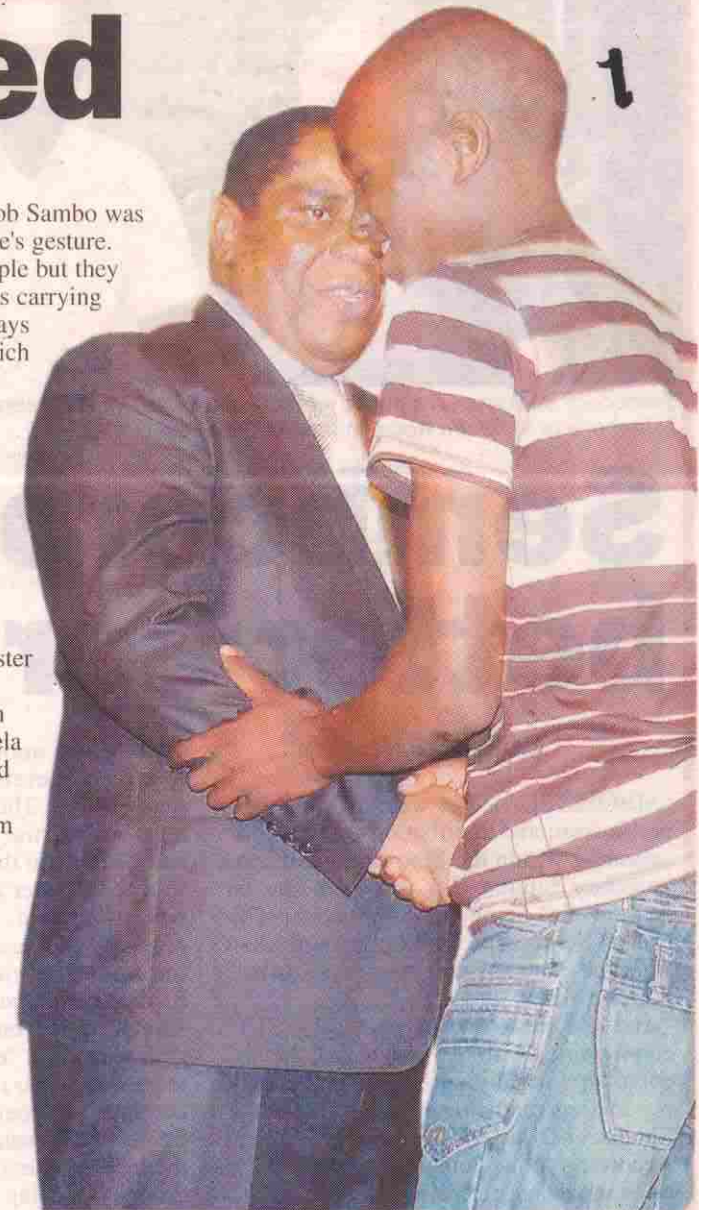
Gumede, who also come from a poor background said he got where he is today because he was helped by other people.

"...and therefore it is fitting that I also contribute to the lives of others who are less fortunate," he said.

The Robert Gumede Scholarship will annually adopt 20 best-performing students and award them with bursaries.



Mr Robert and Ms Tee Gumede.



Mr Robert Gumede congratulates Mr Richard Sambo.

# School receives donation

**Duenna Mathebula**

MANYEVENI - This community houses a lot of child-headed homes due to the number of children losing their parents to HIV/Aids. These were the words of Ngazi Ndlovu Secondary School's principal when he received a stationery donation from Lithotech, a

printing division of Bidvest.

According to the area sales manager Ms Suezette Ludick, "the donation is part of our social responsibility as an organisation," she said, saying that "having known the challenges that some of these kids have gone through pushes us to want to make a difference in their lives".

The headmaster, Mr Moses Mabuza told *Mpumalanga News* that the donation would make a great difference to the lives of the learners since most of them could hardly afford to buy stationery.

"We have learners from very poor backgrounds, most of them orphaned without decent incomes. This is why we feel that the Lithotech contribution fits perfectly with the needs we have as a school," he said.

The school, which started offering grade 12 only last year, obtained a 40,16% pass rate, according to one of the school's governing body members. "This is good considering that it was the first time we did this. It shows that

we are on the road to greater heights," he expressed.

Asked how he saw the future of the school, Mabuza told the newspaper that since this was a poverty-stricken community, "This year we are set to receive a nutrition programme that I believe will contribute towards improving our results."

During her address to the learners, Ludick urged the matriculants to strive not only to beat their predecessors, but to achieve top results.

"I can never explain the feeling when I look at the children's faces when they open the stationery, it is fulfilling. That is why we keep on assisting schools," she concluded.



Nkosinathi Mathebula, Mr Moses Mabuza (principal), Lithotec's Ms Suezette Ludick and Mbuso Mndawe.