

S buko setfu Education Newsletter Volume 2



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Disclaimer: Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of the Mpumalanga **Department of Basic Education**

Editorial Comment

his is a second edition of Sibukosetfu since the name was changed. This edition is packed with very exciting and informative articles that can also serve as reference material for our readers.

The objective of this publication is to work towards the betterment of education in the Province resulting in a better life for all. The Department has come up with a new vision and mission statement. It is our intention to make this vision and mission statement a reality for all our stakeholders and members of the general public. It is in this spirit that we seek to lobby all citizens of Mpumalanga to come and join us in actioning the vision of the Department.

Amongst other things this volume features the profile of our MEC, Mrs Reginah Mhaule, the Department and its partners's contributions to Silindokuhle Special School on Mandela Day, the new Vision and Mission of the Department, mitigating drug abuse at schools as well as providing helpful information for learners with barriers to learning just to mention a few.

Education is an imperative that is an interest to all of us. The future of our children and country depends on it, thus it cannot be left to the Department alone.

In an effort to work together to do more, we appeal to all our readers to make this read an interesting one by participating in the discussions towards making education a success in Mpumalanga and beyond. We therefore request all our readers to interact with us by writing to the Editor.

If we say that there are no serious challenges affecting us in education, we will be deceiving ourselves. The important thing is to move beyond these challenges, tackle them head on and secure a bright future for our children.

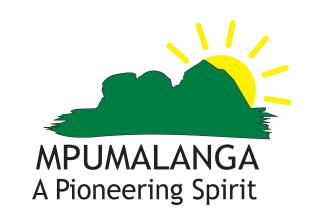
A bright future for our children is our interest and that is what we strive for. We cannot do enough on our own as our understanding is that education is a societal phenomenon. This needs a cooperative effort from all stake holders to ensure that we move forward as a province and nation.

Sibukosetfu takes this opportunity to remind all parents of children of school going age to register their children for the 2010 school calender year.

The registration process has begun and parents need to visit the respective schools and register their children before the end of October 2009.

Parents are informed that no learner should be turned away from registration on account that his/her parents are unable to pay school fees.

Parents need to understand that all children must be at school getting an education. This is a legislative requirement and those who fail to comply with it are in fact breaking the law. In such cases the full might of the law will take its course ■



The Split of the Department into two

resident Jacob Zuma announced on May 10 that in the new administration, the Department of Education will be split into two separate ministries, namely, Basic Education and Higher Education and Training. Education stakeholders have welcomed the creation of two education ministries.

President Zuma, announced several changes to the government structure and his executives after his inauguration, "the splitting is aimed at improving the Department, this is necessary to speed up service delivery and efficiency", he said.

The former Gauteng Education MEC, Angie Motshekga, has been appointed as the Minister of Basic Education, while Dr Blade Nzimande will head the ministry of Higher Education and Training.

Dr Nzimande has chaired the education portfolio and has experience in education policy matters.

The National split will not be seen at Provincial level. A Ministry of Higher Learning is not required at Provincial level as it is a National matter. Schools will have a Provincial MEC, as they do now.

The Provincial Secretary General of SADTU, Mr. Walter Hlayise, commenting on the split of the Department into two Ministries said, "SADTU has welcomed this development because the separate ministries will address the challenges faced in the education sector, more especially in the Basic Education Ministry. The schooling process is now going to be energized", he said. "The education system is currently too large, complex and unstable for one minister", he concluded.

Lastly the Provincial Secretary of NEHAWU, Ms Condi Maseko also commented on the splitting of the Department, she elaborated that the provincial office is happy about the decision taken to appoint two Ministers of Education, one for Higher Education and Training and Basic Education.

"The Minister for Higher Education and Training has got limited powers since in the Higher Education sector most of the powers are still with the councils. The Minister will focus on the implementation and transformation of tertiary education and review the councils. In tertiary education, we are faced with challenges of strikes and conditions of employment which affect the employees and nothing serious is done by the councils. If the Minister could be given powers to review the councils things could change for the better.

For the lower level of education the Minister will be able to focus on the education, everybody will be able to accountt" ■



Minister of Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga



Director General
Mr Duncan Hindle



Minister of Higher Education and Training Dr Blade Nzimande



Director general of Higher Education Mrs Mary Metcalfe



MEC for Education Mrs Reginah Mhaule



MEC for Education Mrs Reginah Mhaule

An Abridged Profile of the MEC

rs Makgabo Reginah Mhaule was born in Hazyview and grew up to be an active member of the African National Congress since her early youth years. She holds an impeccable record in political activism and has immensely contributed in the development of South Africa especially at local government level. Her activism has seen her getting involved in various progressive structures.

In 1990, she became the first SADTU chairperson for the Hazyview Branch.

From 1995 to 2000, her interests in the affairs and well being of her community led her to become a PR Councilor for Hazyview TLC and Chairperson of the Committee.

From 1996 to 2006, she has been involved in various structures of SALGA as an executive office bearer. From 1996-1997, she served as an executive committee member of LOGESTRA (SALGA Mpumalanga). From 1997-2000 General Secretary LOGAM (SALGA Mpumalanga). From 1997-2000 she became a member of LOGAM Labour Relations and Human Resources.

She holds a number of tertiary qualifications from reputable universities and colleges in the country. In 1990 she studied at the former Mgwenya College of Education and was certified as fit to be a professional teacher when she obtained her Secondary Teachers Diploma.

She completed her Bachelor of Arts Degree with the University of South Africa in 1996. She furthered her studies in the field of education by completing a Diploma programme in further Education with the University of Pretoria the following year.

In an effort to further broaden her horizons in the field of Education she enrolled and completed her B ED Honours with the University of Potchefstroom in 2002.

In 2008 she obtained a Project and Programme Management qualification from the University of Johannesburg. She is currently studying towards a Masters degree in Public Administration.

WORK EXPERIENCE

She is the former executive mayor of the Mbombela Local Municipality. She served in this position from 2003 to 2006. She had been with the Municipality before as the Speaker of Council from December 2000 to July 2003.



MEC for Education: Mrs Reginah Mhaule

She had been with Mpumalanga Provincial Government at the Department of Roads and Transport as a Senior Manager: Transport Administration and Licensing before she joined Mbombela Municipality.

She was promoted to the post of Deputy and Acting principal of Sibukosetfu Secondary School from 1998 to 2001, where she had been an educator since 1991.

Prior to her move to Sibukosetfu in 1998, she was an educator at Magashule Primary School in the Limpopo Province from 1980 to 1982. She then moved to Nkambeni Primary School as an educator for four (4) years, from 1985 to 1988.

It was for the first time that Mrs Mhaule served in the South African Local Government Association leadership collective. But she is not a stranger to SALGA, since she had served the organization in various capacities including as a member of the labour relations committee and a facilitator for the councilor development program.

Mrs Mhaule is also an active member of the Woman to Woman Foundation in Mpumalanga. She is currently serving as a SALGA core Councilor Trainer. She has been delegated to the Mpumalanga Provincial Executive Committee as the MEC for Education, since the new term of government began in May 2009 flowing from the 2009 national elections outcomes ■

Nelson Mandela Honoured



elson Mandela is the icon who committedly and voluntarily spent 67 years of political life without losing focus and personal touch.

During those trying times of the African National Congress, he founded the Youth League together with Oliver Reginald Tambo and Walter Sisulu in 1944. This was in support of a radical Program of Action which was later adopted by the ANC as the basis of the Defiance Campaign of the 1950's.

Nelson Mandela's ideas were based on African Nationalism and together with his colleagues, utilized this idea to involve the masses into military struggles hence the formation of Umkhonto Wesizwe in 1961

During his life in prison, he continued to fight for all of us even when it meant death to him. At some point he even endured severe pain. An extract from his book, Long Walk to Freedom reads thus "June and July were the bleakest months on Robben Island. Winter was in the air, and rains were just beginning. It never seemed to go above forty Fahrenheit ever in the sun, I shivered in my light khaki shirt. It was then that I first understood the cliché of feeling the cold in one's bones". Even pain never forced him to lose his determination of liberating all of us. This unifier and father figure stood unconditionally for everyone's rights regardless of the environment he found himself in.

According to his book, Long Walk to Freedom, "from the first day I had protested about being forced to wear short trousers. I demanded to see the head of prison and made a list of complaints. The warders ignored my protests, but by the end of the second week, I found a pair of old khaki trousers unceremoniously dumped on the floor of my cell. Before putting them on, I checked to see if my comrades had been issued trousers as well.

Mandela Day at Silindokuhle Special School

They had not, and I told the warder to take them back. I insisted that all African Prisoners must have long trousers"Besides having been exposed to this kind of treatment he never demonstrated hatred and anger. During his release in 1990, he demonstrated determination when he said, "our march to freedom is irreversible. We must not allow fear to stand in our way. Universal suffrage on a common voter's role in a united, democratic and non-racial South Africa is the only way to peace and racial harmony", least did he talk of revenge after all the hardships he personally endured.

During times of political volatility and instability following the death of Chris Hani in 1993, Madiba showed his leadership credibility by standing against a tide of anger and risked alienation in his quest for peace. He succeeded in calming and pacifying the masses who were calling for a bloody revolution. He led the broad mass movement into the negotiations that led to the Democratic South Africa.

Nelson Mandela's selfless life was also evident at a time when his family mourned the death of his only son, Makgatho. This happened in the era where the discussion of HIV/AIDS was taboo but Madiba stood up and proclaimed that his son had died of AIDS. This act of bravery liberated communities tfrom the stigma of HIV/AIDS and started to talk about it. He was not afraid of being vilified.

To honour this great son of the soil, President Jacob Zuma in his State of the Nation Address said. "Mandela Day will be celebrated on the 18th of July each year. It will give people in South Africa and all over the world the opportunity to do something good to help others"

Following this presidential injunction, the Department of Education led by MEC Reginah Mhaule spent 18 July 2009 with the community of Nkomazi at Silindokuhle Special School. The intention was to renovate the school by painting, replacing light bulbs, planting trees, ploughing vegetable gardens and revamping the sports fields.

Silindokuhle Special School is the only school in the Province that caters for three categories of disabilities, namely; visually, deaf and intellectually impaired learners. The school accommodates learners who are unable to cope in the mainstream education.

Currently, Silindokuhle has 19 educators, 169 learners, 90% of which stay in the school's hostel facility.

The school accommodates learners from all corners of the Province. In her address to the gathering, the MEC for Education Mrs Reginah Mhaule said. "Nelson Mandela has been making an imprint in the world for 67 long years, his life has been an inspiration to the whole world and this is our way of honouring him for all he has done for every single person in the country and the whole world."

This revamp exercise was done in partnership with the Nkomazi Municipality, First National Bank, Sappi, TSB Sugar, Ehlanzeni FET (Mlumati Campus) and MRTT. School bags, mattresses, window panes, paint and brushes and blankets were donated by some of these partners.

The Department of Education expresses words of gratitude to all partners and every one who contributed to make Mandela Day a memorable day for the Silindokuhle school community



Mr Sipho Sukati, MEC Mhaule, Mr Sipho Thwala and the Mayor of Nkomazi



Silindokuhle learners who stand to benefit from the good deed.













JV Mdhluli's Benevolence

n 25 July 2009 the MEC for Education, Ms Reginah Mhaule officially opened (4) four classrooms at Sandzile Primary School, donated by Mr JV Mdhluli of Mdhluli Construction. Mr James V Mdhluli heeded the call by President Jacob Zuma to honour Nelson Mandela's 67 years of political activism by spending 67 minutes doing good for our communities. The business mogul from Kabokweni, near White River donated four classrooms to Sandzile Primary School.

Sandzile Primary School is located in the township of Kabokweni, near White River in the Ehlanzeni Region. This school began operating in September 1979 with 10 classrooms and 10 educators under the supervision of Mrs MM Nkambule, the school's first principal.

Sandzile Primary School is known to be one of the best performing schools in the Province. The school had 15 classrooms that catered for 855 learners before the building of the four classrooms. The classrooms could no longer accommodate all the learners in the school hence Grades six and seven classrooms became overcrowded.

Mr JV Mdhluli donated the four classrooms in order to create a favourable environment for effective teaching and learning. Parents, SGB members and educators also contributed whole-heartedly towards the building of the four classrooms.

The MEC for Education, Mrs Regina Mhaule expressed gratitude on behalf of the Department, thanking Mr Mdhluli for his benevolence. To this effect the MEC said, "We have always said that education is everybody's business and the Mpumalanga Department of Education applauds Mr Mdhluli's gesture which will go a long way."

According to the principal a problem of overcrowding has been solved.

"We are happy that a problem of overcrowding has been solved and now learners will be exposed to an environment of effective teaching and learning. This will count to our favour and we are very grateful to our benefactor Mr Mdhluli".

Tertia Mbebe, a Grade 3 learner said, "We are going to learn in conditions that are good and pass very well at the end of the year"

Mr Michael Zackeus Magagula, chairperson of the SGB said, "We are also grateful that Mr Mdhluli was with us all the way and he had been of great help to us as a school."

On the 15 August 2009, twenty learners from twenty schools in the Bushbuckridge Region received a donation of school uniforms from a good 'Samaritan' in the figure of Mr JV Mdhluli, the owner of the JV Mdhluli Construction company, which is based at Kabokweni in Ehlanzeni region.

The event was graced by the presence of the MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule, the Executive Mayor of Bushbuckridge Cllr Milton Moremi, parents as well as principal and teachers. This function was held at Mzimba Secondary School in Lipong, one of those areas deeply afflicted by poverty." I want to improve the lives of the poor, therefore I encourage everyone to make sure that we do not allow a person we know, to sleeps on an empty stomach,"he said.

Mr Mdhluli spoke from the heart that, "Social responsibility is but one way of assisting the government to meet its obligation of making the lives of people better." Such a positive deed cannot go unnoticed, we hope that it will rub off to other business people to plough back to those communities hard hit by poverty.

Parents beamed with excitement seeing their children adorned with the beauty of uniformity. They ululated when donations were made by the honourable Mr Mdhluli. The Department of Education hopes that this act of benevolence will go a long way in motivating the learners to give their best in the learning process.

The following secondary schools benefited from Mr Mdhluli's benevolence; Mzimba, Magigwane, Dumphries, Mahuvo, Mawewe, Machaye, Ximoyi Mzila and Makhosana.

The primary schools that benefited are as follows; Ndwandwe, Humulani, Mzilikazi, Sabeka, Welani, Mahlahluvana, Mayakatana, Khayelihle, Qetshwayo, Hokhwe, and Matsavane.

The MEC for Education thanked Mr Mdhluli for this noble act, and encouraged everyone to emulate this divine deed of improving the lives of destitute people.

She enthused that, It would take government and business short time to improve the lives of South Africans, especially the poor of the poorest if we work together"



Package of Support for Grade 12 learners.

he Department of Education has collaborated with Liberty Life and Independent Newspapers to produce a new edition of Maths 911 for Grade 11 and 12 Learners. 125 000 of these books will be sponsored by Liberty Life and distributed free to 125 000 learners nationally. Parents can purchase these books directly from Independent Newspapers. Once again, private companies who wish to sponsor these books to deserving schools are encouraged to contact the Department of Education.

Further support for the Maths 911 books will be available in the weekly Matric Matters which appears in the Independent Newspapers and on the Mindset Channel on DSTV.

The Department of Education, together with AVUSA media, will publish a 48-page tabloid book comprising exemplar examination papers for Grade 12 learners. This will be available in October 2009 in the Sunday Times.

All these and other support material will be available on www.education.gov.za or www.thutong.doe.gov.za as they become available. The popular Study Mate is once again available to all learners. The first edition, which is free, was distributed to schools via the provincial and district offices at the beginning of the second term. This edition is a survival kit for Grade 12 learners and consists of tips by expert subject specialists on how to approach the examination. It also consists of the examination timetable and other hints and tips.

The Department of Education and Independent Newspapers will produce the second edition of Study Mate which will consist of examinations of November 2008 and the supplementary National Senior Certificate examination papers with memoranda. The tabloid books will be available in June 2009 directly from Independent Newspapers. Private companies who wish to sponsor these books to deserving schools are encouraged to contact the Department of Education.

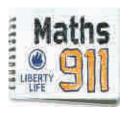
DVDs with expert teacher and Department of Education curriculum specialists will assist learners with examination papers, explain common mistakes and give useful tips. These will be available as a package with Study Mate (Past papers).

The Department of Education together with SABC will launch Matrix Uploaded, a programme for Grade 11 and 12 learners in Mathematics, Mathematics Literacy, Physical Science, English (First Additional Language), Accounting, Life Orientation and Life Sciences on SABC 1, Monday to Friday, from 14h00 to 15h00 starting 1st June 2009.

The Department of Education would like to take this opportunity to thank its partners and sponsors for their support and would like to encourage private companies to support this programme.

Enquiries:

Further Education and Training Directorate Tel: 012 312 5313 ■









INDEPENDENT NEWSPAPERS













The Godsend Educator



Make Thelma Siboza

onhlupho Thelma Mtsetsephi Siboza is a godsend. She has a way of finding herself doing something worthy for the betterment of society. In her normal working schedule, she works with the youth, married couples and the elderly. She goes out of her way to make people see their value and take advantage of the opportunities at hand.

Make Siboza, as she is affectionately called, started working as an educator at Thanda Farm School and over years moved on to work for the Department of Education in the Ehlanzeni Region as a Remedial Advisor. This mother of four takes inspiration from prayer and praising. She has a special place in her heart for children, especially her eight grandchildren as well as community development. Her involvement with community development amongst others includes raising funds for the needy and vulnerable, donation of clothes as well as taking in the interests of grade 12 graduates searching for bursaries.

As a resident guest for Ligwalagwala FM's Lihlelo laboMake which was hosted by Ntfonjana Dhlamini and Lungile Mango, she adviced listeners on a range of issues varying from marital and family to child rearing issues. She is also a motivator who is keen on youth development in and outside of church. She has also worked with a number of schools, motivating and giving advice on career guidance, personal mastery and peer pressure management.

Multi-talented Make Siboza has been an actress in the Ligwalagwala Radio Drama "Ingwiji khwebu", playing the character of gogo laSikhondze.

"The youth of today should really focus on creating a brighter future for themselves and stay away from alcohol, drugs and sex. It is also proper that they should not succumb to negative peer pressures that may derail their plans for a brighter future," she said.

"Gogo is a very understanding person who is easy to relate with. She is a good listener and goes all out to ensure that she attends to our needs. She goes an extra mile and beyond the call of duty" summed up Sherifa Winile Chirwa a beneficiary of Make Siboza's benevolence.

Known as far as KwaZulu-Natal and the Free State, Make Siboza likes to be known as a person who loves people and not money ■

News in Brief

ational School Nutrition Programme

The Department continues to make strides in the implementation of the National School Nutrition Programme in all Quintile 1 to 3 Primary schools.

This programme will for the first time be extended to secondary schools that fall within quintile 1.

573 725 learners in 1400 schools will receive feeding for 193 school days.

3 227 Food handlers paid a stipend of R400 per month for the preparation and serving of meals.

185 Vegetable gardens will be established, and 751 gardens maintained.

Of significance is that this programme must be managed so that it can deliver on its intentions which are to ensure that lack of nutritious meal does not become a hindrance for the attainment of education.

Early Childhood Development (ECD)

The importance of ECD as mechanism to ensure that learning foundation is provided to impact positively on future learning performance and educational attainment by young children should not be over emphasised.

Significant progress has been recorded in our quest to expand access to ECD. The number of learners accessing ECD grew from 18, 301 in 2004 to 50,196 in 2008.

The number of ECD practitioners doubled from 750 in 2004 to 1,785 in 2008.

62 679 learners are benefiting from ECD services. Subsidies transferred to 1029 ECD Sites with 1779 practitioners.

QIDS-UP

During the 2008/09 financial year the programme (QIDS-UP) succeeded in procuring and delivering the following resources:

- 250 computers for 100 identified poor and disadvantaged primary schools
- Library books for three QIDS-UP models schools in Nkangala Region
- Literacy material to 503 poor primary schools
- Multilingual and bilingual dictionaries for 503 poor primary schools (50 dictionaries per school)
- 906 Numeracy kits for 203 poor primary schools
- 200 Learning support assistants recruited for 100 identified poorest primary schools, to support learning in the Foundation Phase
- 3 Schools in Delmas were upgraded and renovated and
- A library, laboratories, kitchens for nutrition

Maths, Science & Technology Strategy

Dinaledi schools increased from 44 to 46 in the province.131 educators were successfully enrolled at Fort Hare and Free State Universities for Maths, Science & Technology (MST).177 teachers enrolled for ACE MST with NIHE.200 grade 12 learners participated in a week MST-Thuthuka camp held in Sabie in I 2008. 315 learners participated in Mittal Science Olympiad in 2008

The Department targeted and registered 120 educators for upgrading in MST: 85 met the registration requirement; 65 out of 85 teachers completed the ACE programme with Wits University.

Mass Literacy Campaign "KHA RI GUDE"

Trained 543 learners on construction and 379 on basic electricity. Educators are paid a stipend of R1 200 for teaching 40 hours per month.29 914 learners recruited for Kha Ri Gude literacy classes (5 691 males and 24 223 females).23 667 where enrolled in ABET levels 1 - 4

Kha Ri Gude learners are supported by 2 404 volunteers (13 co-ordinators, 223 supervisors and 2 168 volunteer educators) ■

Choral Music Champs



The Gem School Choir at rendering their choral rendition

ix Mpumalanga Schools have been crowned national champions at the South African Schools Choral Eisteddfod held from the 2nd to the 5th of July 2009 at the Coca Cola Dome in Johannesburg. This is quite a feat; the Mpumalanga Department of Education would like to congratulates all these national champions and all the other schools who participated from the onset.

The following schools were crowned national champions:

- Sibambisene Secondary School conducted by Mr PM Mathebula (Mixed Double Quartets: Since I first saw your face Thomas Ford.)
- Sofunda Secondary School conducted by Mr VJ Lubisi (Female Voice Choirs: "The Garner [Opus 17, No3] J Brahms.)
- Mabande Secondary School conducted by Mr TV Khubeka (Soli Tenor: Del piu subline [La Clemenza]
 WA Mozart.
- Mzinoni Secondary School conducted by Mr NB Masilela (Soli Bass: "You will never walk alone" Rogers and Hammerstein Carousel and;
- Thomas Nhlabathi Secondary School conducted by Ms KJ Nkosi (Tenor Concert Solo: "Ev'ry Valley Shall be exalted"-Handel Messiah OR "Money O!"-Michael Head and Baritone/Bass Opera Solo: "Der, Vieni Alla Finestra – Don Giovanni by WA Mozart)

The Provincial Team also won a floating trophy for best conduct presented by the project manager. The trophy was awarded based on the following criteria.

- Exemplary All Round Conduct
- Excellent Pre-Planning and Administration
 [Including Accommodation Transport And Logistics]
- High General Learner Discipline, Low Noise Levels, Excellent Time Keeping And Outstanding Educator Involvement
- Excellent Official Involvement And Dedication And Execution Of Tasks
- NO Disciplinary Issues For The Duration Of The Event

The Department of Education wants to extend a challenge to all schools within the province to emulate the national champions. Bravo!

Taking Pride in Education



Moutse Primary School before the paving

e ikgantšha ka thuto is the motto of Moutse Primary School which means "We pride ourselves in education". Indeed Moutse Primary School is a wonderful school which stands out in a great community where parents, learners and teachers work together to create and foster a self motivated learning environment in which all children love to learn.

The shool is named after a river Moutse (Elands River) that passes nearby a village called Makometsane in Libangeni where the school is located. It is an old school, established in 1947 with 33 learners and the school continues to grow in size and popularity. Mr K.J Mokhari is the 9th Principal of the school since 1998 and together with his staff they all know where the school is and where it needs to go.

Moutse Primary School prides itself not only on academic excellence but also for having a community of incredible and enthusiastic teachers who actually love their jobs. Many studies conducted reveal that the most important factor determining the quality of the education a child receives, is the quality of his or her teachers. Teachers at the school are making everyday a new and thrilling day for every learner by creating comfortable learning environment. This is evident by the surroundings of the school which include safe and dirt-free classrooms.

The sandy and muddy surface in the assembly area that bothered them for a long time has now been paved through a donation of paving bricks sourced by the school. Looking after the school grounds including food garden has became a hobby for every staff member, it is everybody's chore at the school. Through proper management of school funds, the School Governing Body allocated funds for the building of two sets of decent girls' toilets.



After the paving

Moutse has recently managed to establish a media roomwith 10 flat screen computers donated by Dell Foundation Company in Centurion also sourced by the school.

Its website (<u>www.moutse.org.za</u>)'s construction and maintenance is donated by the former learner of the school Dr. Plaatie Mahlobogoane.

The school has received awards for the Best Primary School in the Region from Libangeni Circuit in 2008 and 2009. The annual participation of the school in the National Teaching Awards Scheme since 2005 has earned educators of this school Regional and Provincial recognition and further gave them a reason to believe in themselves.

Out of 22 permanent educators, eight educators were awarded in the NTA as Regional Finalists in different categories. The school was also nominated for the 2007 Premier Service Excellence Awards. "When you're that recognizable you don't want to mess up" said the Principal of Moutse Primary School, Mr. K.J Mokhari ■



The Moutse Primary teaching staff showing their achievements

Drug Abuse at School

n mitigating the increasing incidents of drug abuse and violence in our schools, Section 8A (2) of the South African School's Act provides that the principal or his or her delegate may, at random, search any group of learners, or the property of a group of learners, for any dangerous object or illegal drug, if a fair and reasonable suspicion has been established that a dangerous object or an illegal drug may be found on school premises or during a school activity.

Section 8A (11) of the South African School's Act, 1996 provides that the Minister must:

- a. Identify the devices with which the test contemplated in subsection (8) is to be done and the procedure to be followed; and
- b. Publish the name of this device and any other relevant information about it, in the gazette.

The Minister has now identified 10 devices in the gazette on 19 September 2008 and schools may use any one of these devices.

The I devices identified are as the follows:

- 1. DRUG DETECTIVE WIPE DETECTION SYSTEM FOR SURFACES
- 2. ONE STEP HOME COCAINE TEST STRIP
- 3. MULTI-DRUG TEST
- 4. QUICKTOX DRUG SCREEN DIPCARD TEST
- 5. MONITEST DRUG SCREEN CASETTE TEST
- 6. TOXUP DRUG SCREEN CUP TEST
- 7. MULTI PANEL DRUG TESTING DEVICE
- 8. SMART CHECK DRUG SCREEN TEST
- 9. DRUG SMART TEST
- 10. AVITAL ORAL SCREEN 4 OR DRUGOMETER

THE GUIDELINES AND THE PROCEDURE TO BE USED:

The search must be conducted in a private area, in the presence of an adult witness of the same gender as the learner and must not be extended to a search of any body cavity of the learner and the learner's private parts may not be touched. Any dangerous object or illegal drug that has been seized must be clearly and correctly labeled with full particulars, including the name of the learner in whose possession they were found, time and date of the search and seizure, the name of the person who searched the learner and the name of the witness.

In the case of drug testing, the principal or his/her delegate must remove the drug testing device from its sealed packaging in the presence of the learner and the adult witness, order the learner to provide a sample of urine and he/she must apply the method prescribed on the testing device to test the urine sample of illegal drugs.

The same procedure followed when conducting the search and seizure must be followed in cases of illegal drug or urine sample that has been tested on a learner.

NOTICE TO PARENTS AND DISCIPLINARY PROCEEDINGS

The principal or his/her delegate must within one working day after testing and searching the learner, inform the parents about the test that was conducted and the results of the test and search. If the learner has tested positive for illegal drugs, a discussion must be held with the parents so that he or she may understand the consequences of the use of illegal drugs. The principal may, if the parent requests refer the learner to a rehabilitation institution for drug counseling.

The principal may initiate disciplinary proceedings against the learner in whose possession a dangerous object has been found or who has tested positive for illegal drugs, but no criminal proceedings may be instituted against this category of learners.

In an instance where a learner refuses to cooperate, the principal must inform the police, who would take the relevant steps in terms of the Criminal Procedure Act, 1997.A copy of the Gazette is available on request at the office of the Directorate: Legal Services - Head Office at 013 766 5433/5540. We hope that these new measures will assist in decreasing the levels of violence and drug usage in our schools. Let's continue to work in partnership with the greater society to strive for safer schools





Educating Through The Environment

he Department of Education has established an annual camp for Grade 8 boys and girls to create environmental awareness and educate learners about environmental issues as this is part and parcel of the school curriculum. This initiative is driven by the Environmental Education Division within the Inclusive Education and Education Support directorate. The camp is commonly known as the "Kids in the Environment", simply because it affords the learners (kids) to learn 'about the environment in the environment'.

The 2009 environmental camp took place from the 8th - 11th July 2009. The learners were accommodated at the School Journey Services, in Sabie. Each region namely Ehlanzeni, Bushbuckridge, Nkangala and Gert Sibande selected 25 learners such that a total of 100 Grade 8 learners took part in this year's camp.

The purpose of the camp is:

- To inculcate the love of nature and the environment among learners
- ☐ To expose learners in different environmental scenarios and places
- ☐ To introduce environmental concepts among learners
 - For Learners to participate in taking informed decisions regarding environmental issues
- ☐ To develop a group of learners who will be "ambassadors" of the environment

Learners were exposed in various environmental issues which are found in the following places:

Lowveld Botanical Gardens Sudwala Caves Kadishi Natural Trail Three Rondavels Bourke's Luck Potholes and Kruger National Park

At the end of the camp learners were requested to provide feedback and this is what some of them had to say: "The three most important things I learned in the camp are: to take care of nature, to save water and electricity and to avoid cutting trees unnecessarily" Nobengazi Lukhele from Takheni High School. "When I get back to my school I will do the following: Report back to the learners and convince them to take part in environmental activities and help fight global warming," said Lindokuhle Maseko from Suikerland Secondary School.

As ambassadors the learners are expected to give a feedback to other learners in their schools.

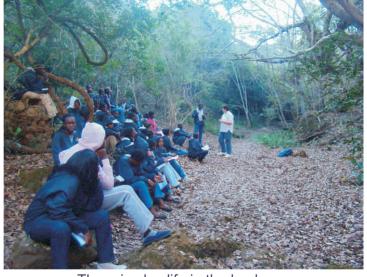
The learners will be assisted to establish school environmental clubs and participate in a variety of environmental programmes, projects and competitions ■



Laying some ground rules for the kids



Kids in the environment investigating life in water



There is also life in the bush

Kanyisile Crowned

Young Communicator For 2009

he Mpumalanga Department of Education takes this opportunity to congratulate and applaud Kanyisile Vilakazi, a 17 year old from Lowveld High School in Nelspruit. Kanyisile has triumphed at this year's Young Communicators Awards which took place on 20 June 2009 at the Birchwood Hotel in Boksburg.

Beginning her speech with the famous line: 'Are you free or are you dom', Khanyisile from Mpumalanga tackled the pot-hole-riddled topic of freedom and responsibility. In an interview with this brilliant young lady, she said that the reason why she began her speech with this line is because it is something recent and every young South African can relate to.

"As young people we often feel that the only way to express our freedom is to go with the crowd, which leads us to failure in studies and in life in general".

She envisions the heroes of the apartheid struggle coming to life and expressing their thoughts and feelings of the behaviour of the new generations.

She feels that they would not be proud of the current situation the youth is operating under. "As the youth we need to know that with every Constitutional right, comes a responsibility. With the Bill of rights, there should be an equavelent Bill of responsibility", said Kanyisile.

It is unlikely for a 17 year old to develop her own ideologies and three mottos in life. She says she created these to give her life direction and to stand up against peer influence. Her mottos are "UNTO WHOM MUCH IS GIVEN, MUCH IS EXPECTED", WHY NOT" AND "LIVE AND UNCUT". All of these represent an element in her life that means infinite possibilities and responsibilities.

Kanyisile's speech entitled 'Emancipation' modelled her calm confidence and rich emotions that won the judges over to walk away with the top prize, a bursary valued at R30 000, a R10 000 cheque for her school as well as a trophy.

These prizes will definitely go a long way as she is staying with her aunt and was raised by a single mother. She grew up in Pienaar and later in her life moved to Kamagugu where she stays with fiev other siblings. According to Kanyisile, her aunt and mother have played a major role in her upbringing since her father passed on when she was very young.



Champion: Kanyisile Vilakazi

On the future, she drools into a nearby pond and explains that she has not applied to any institution of higher learning, but she wants to study at the University of Cape Town and would pursue a career as a Forensic Accountant. She laughs when she says that post her studies, she would like to own a Property Group and possibly retire at the age of 40.

Apart from owning the group she would also like to form an empowerment group for single mothers, preferably black women. This is not meant to discriminate in any way, but I feel black women face more challenges than their white counterparts. I have observed this during my early years as a child and how my mother had to play a flexible role, as a mother and a father at the same time.

The competition, which is part of the Aggrey Klaaste Nation Building portfolio, is a public speaking competition, leadership development and personal growth initiative. The competition takes grade 11 and 12 learners on workshops and provincial public speaking contests culminating in the national competition ■



The South African Music Technology Project (SAMTP)

he South African Music Technology Project (SAMTP), hosted by Ligbron Academy of Technology in Ermelo from the 3rd to 10th of July 2009 to accelerate Music Education in Mpumalanga Province was a run-away success.

The aim of the workshop was to offer music educators in the Province an opportunity to learn how to utilize music technology. Music resource material to the value of more than R 700 000 were donated for this project. A total of 38t music educators from Bushbuckridge, Ehlanzeni, Gert Sibande and Nkangala Regions attended the workshop.

Mr Timothy Black and his wife, Amy, from the United States of America partnered with the University of Pretoria and Mr Phillip Mogola to make the dream of the SAMTP come true. Mr and Mrs Black are also the founders and directors of the Musical Artists Society of America. Dr Zenda Nel, Music education lecturer from the University of Pretoria and Dr Antoinette Hoek Music lecturer and National Examiner of Grade 12 Music were part of the training team for this workshop.

Yamaha South Africa donated 100 music recorders for the project through the Arts Development Foundation (ADF). Each of the 50 participants received a recorder from Yamaha South Africa, as well as a recorder book and CD, called *Recorder Karate Kit* from Plank Road Publishers in America. The music teachers at Cebisa Secondary School from Gert Sibande and Lomahasha Secondary School from Ehlanzeni Region scored the highest marks for their individual recorder exams and were rewarded with 25 recorders each for their classrooms. Twenty Yamaha piano keyboards were also donated to schools offering Music as a subject. Each Region received five of these keyboards.



Educators brandishing the donated laptops and music instruments



Mr Phillip Mogola, Mrs Amy Black and Mr Timothy Black, Dr Zenda Nel and Dr Antoinette Hoek

Sibelius/Avid donated several music software packages to each school offering Music as a subject from Grade 10 to 12. These items included Sibelius 3 Starclass Educational Suites, Compass, Instruments, Groovy City, Goovy Jungle and Groove Shapes. HP donated a Dell 610 Latitude Laptop for each of the 50 workshop attendees. A furher donation of 30 recorders for Mdzili Secondary School in Ehlanzeni Region was received from the Centurion Chamber Choir via Dr Zenda Nel (Music Lecturer) from the University of Pretoria

Each teacher received a well-deserved certificate from the Arts Development Foundation (ADF) in South Africa for attending the South African Music Technology Project. Certificates from the Department of Education were also awarded to the facilitators in recognition of their good work ■

Running The Ultimate Human Race

ow many times have we sat on sofas lazily watching a marathon taking place and discounted ourselves as potential athletes, yet berating the struggle to cope with the race It is an undisputable fact that athletes practice healthy living style therefore minimizing all the health risks associated with lack of exercise.

Let me take you through the living example of a professional who shed all the stereotypes that engulf us, freed himself from the handed touch of highness and immersed himself in a constructive and healthy way of life.

Mr Magwaza Stephen Maisela is a Chief Education Specialist in EMGD based at Ekangala Region. He has contributed to the Department of Education for many years as a Teacher, Principal and Circuit Manager. He did not allow the stereotypes of professionals to steer him off the mark of running the Comrades Marathon, dubbed the "Ultimate Human Race."

It has not been a bed of roses for Mr Maisela to ultimately become the top runner he is today. He says that he has been a casual runner through the encouragement of friends and fellow runners, with special reference to Messrs Mnguni from KwaMhlanga High and Boshomane from Ekangala Comprehensive School.

Mr Maisela participated in many competitive short races such as the 10 and 21 kilometres marathons, as well as ultra marathons such the Loskop Marathon, Soweto Marathon and City to City Marathon. This year, 2009, he then poised his focus on conquering the "Ultimate Human Race."

He never stops explaining how supportive the Comrades Marathon Association has been to him in assisting him with training programmes for first time runners. The association has a programme for those runners who want to finish within the following timelines; 9 hours, 11 hours, and 12 hours. Mr Maisela chose to rigorously follow the 11 hours programme.

'It is indeed a gruelling and challenging 89 kilometres race," he echoed when asked about his experience

in the Comrades Marathon as a first time runner. He says, he was anxious and nervous, but the presence of veteran runners served as inspiration to newcomers him included. "Indeed such a helping hand eases the pressure of facing such a huge task ahead, even when one suffers from calf cramps or



Mr Magwaza Stephen Maisela after the race

Mr Maisela was able to finish the race within the timeline he set for the marathon, at 10 hours and 50 minutes still feeling strong. Thanks to sticking to the training programme. Incredible for a first time runner in such a big race!

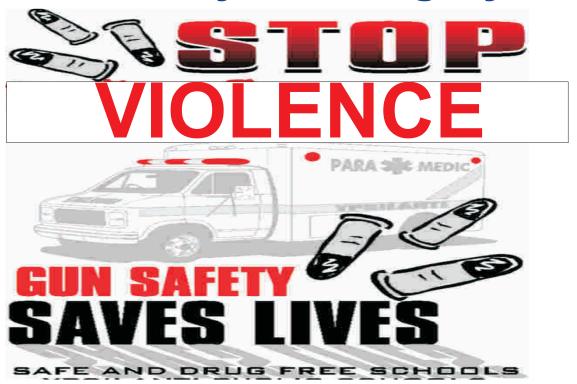
The clarion call from Mr Maisela to all of us in the offices and classrooms is very acute and clear.

"I call on colleagues and friends to join me and other thousands of runners as we go into 2010 to run in the 85th celebration of the Comrades Marathon."

This will be a down run again and this super marathon expects to have 20 000 athletes taking part. Would you be there to run this, "Ultimate Human Race" at least once in your lifetime □

The MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule congratulated Mr Maisela for his sterling performance and being exemplary in encouraging and promotion of a positive and healthy lifestyle. She further emphasized the importance and benefits of a positive hobby, such as taking part in marathon races, "A healthy mind in a healthy body" she remarked. To all school based and office based officials, let us prepare ourselves for the big one in 2010, and take part in the Comrades Marathon, the 'Ultimate Human Race.' ■

Hlayiseka Early Warning System



aking its cue from the Implementation Plan, Tirisano 2000, the Department of Education's vision of School Safety seeks to create a safe and tolerant learning environment that celebrates innocence and values human dignity.

The goals of a safe school are to develop and maintain a safe, welcoming, violence-free learning environment. Such environment should enable learners to develop knowledge, skills and attitudes necessary to prevent and deal with violence appropriately. This is in line with ensuring that educators develop knowledge and skills to recognise and handle violence or the potential of its development.

The School Safety also seeks to ensure that victims, witnesses and perpetrators know that the school will act to stop or prevent violence. All hazards that may potentially manifest in a school environment are discouraged. These include developing interventions to minimize and reduce sexual and gender-based violence; help learners to understand acceptable behavior in the school and society, and be aware of consequences of inappropriate behaviour.

The whole objective of this programme is to educate and encourage learners to actively participate in their school and community; and encourage communities, non governmental organizations, faith based organizations and business to support school safety initiatives and promote a safe learning environment.

There are four main building blocks towards creating a safe and tolerant learning environment, these are:

Be Prepared: To prevent and manage problems
Be Aware: Of what is happening in your school

Take Action: When something happens Take Care: To build a caring school.

School Safety Diagnostic

Schools need to meet basic requirements (minimum standards) to be able to implement the Hlayiseka Warning System. The School Safety Diagnostic is a tool that enables a school to evaluate its preparedness and readiness with regards to the Hlayiseka School Safety basic requirements.

For more information, please call Mr Nhlanhla Dlamini @ 013 766 5377

Mitigating Barriers to Learning



Owethu Sharelock Nkosi from Silidokuhle Special School

he rights and wishes of learners with special educational needs are as much important as those in the mainstream. These rights must be taken into account when these learners are admitted to ordinary schools. The SA Schools Act of 1996 requires ordinary schools to admit learners with special needs, where this is reasonably practical. Schools are also encouraged to make the necessary arrangements, as far as possible, to make their facilities accessible to such learners.

Where the necessary support which would facilitate the integration of a learner in a particular educational context cannot be provided, the principal of the school must refer the application for admission to the Head of Department to have the learner admitted to a suitable school in the Province or to a similar school in another province.

Learners with barriers to learning/ special needs need to be identified as soon as possible so that they can be placed on the referral and placement system. The referral programme also requires the involvement of all relevant departmental officials as well as the promotion of the involvement of the community.

The following methods are used to assess learners with learning barriers:

Learners who are no longer coping in the main stream of education or learners with mild intellectual disabilities are referred to special schools where they will receive vocational education. School principals, educators and parents are advised to identify learners who experience barriers to learning as early as possible. The criteria for placement in special education involve the following:

- Learning disabilities that occur in reading, writing, spelling, mathematics, handwriting skills.
- An inability to show scholastic progress according to the peer group
- An inability to benefit sufficiently from teaching provided in the ordinary course of education.
- Requirement for specialized assistance to facilitate their adaptation in the community.
- Repetition of a grade at least once and is (in the majority of the cases) in danger of repeating for the second time.
- Below average cognitive functioning of the learner.

For more information please call:

Dr M Pieterse @ 013 766 5322 ■

The National Science Week

he Mpumalanga Department of Education held its leg of the launch for the National Science Week on 31 July 2009 at the Sasol Club in Secunda, Gert Sibande Region. National Science Week is a collaborative initiative that the Department of Education has with the Department of Science and Technology, aimed at celebrating science.

These celebrations are held throughout the country during the second week of May. However, this year, the second week of May coincided with festivities of ushering the new administration, after the country's National Elections.

This year the National Science Week was celebrated from 01 to 08 August but will be referred back to the first week of May in the subsequent years. This year's festivities were held under the theme, 'Tomorrow's Science and Technology is in our Youth's Hands.' To that effect the MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule in her keynote address said, "This theme is apt and relevant given the presence of these young minds in our midst today.

This reaffirms our commitment to creating a better future for these children, for we are here to encourage them to take careers in science, engineering and technology. These learners are our future scientists, if they listen and embrace science orientated learning areas; I assure this house that their future is secured. "



Some of the learners did not leave empty handed



Dr Rufus Wesi bringing science to life at the launch

The following activities were common as the Science Week was celebrated; Industrial Visits, Fun Experiments, Mathematics games such as umrabaraba, Career Pathing Exhibitions, painting, seminars for educators and fun runs.

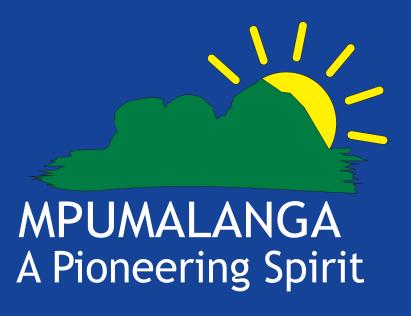
The National Science Week Celebration from 1-8 August 2009 was highlighted by the following;

- The raising of awareness to the public about the importance of Maths, Science and Technology in South Africa.
- Explanation of daily activities such as cooking in scientific terms.
- Demonstration on how science can be made simple and easy.
- Display of technological advancements and innovations.
- Creation of an atmosphere that encourages lifelong learning.
- Collaborative interaction between different stakeholders.



VISION

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ACCELERATED CAPACITY BUILDING FLAGSHIP PROJECT

he accelerated Capacity Building Flagship Project was amongst the five approved flagships for the Province in October 2006 and they were announced in the 2007 State of the Province Address. The accelerated Capacity Building Flagship Project was launched in February 2008.

The objective of the establishment of this flagship was to achieve an excellent service delivery mandate following the most critical success factors:

- A common value system (e.g. Batho Pele);
- A service delivery management culture;
- Effective human resource policies and procedures;
- Human capital development of core service delivery skills

Effective and efficient systems and processes (e.g. supply chain management, integrity management); and

 An effective and efficient management monitoring and evaluation system (i.e. performance management).

The focus on the means and ways of achieving the success factors for this flagship centres on the establishment of a well trained and equipped cadre of officials. Such officials should be capable of meeting the challenges of their roles and responsibilities in the workplace. This highlights the skills, motivation and resources elements as a package that ensures that the job is efficiently and effectively done. It is accepted that human capital development requires acceleration for the "Machinery of Government" to become more effective and thus the focus is to develop a pool of highly skilled officials.



Ms Lucky Moeketsi: CEO ACBFP

The Accelerated Capacity Building Flagship Project seeks to enhance service delivery in the Province, including Local Government level, through:

- Capacity building programmes targeting the leadership and management of the Province and Local government; and
 - Improving organisational capacity by reviewing and redesigning indicated processes, procedures and systems.

The scope of the project includes Human Resources, Change Management, Review and Improvement of Systems and Management Development. Thus far the project has successfully completed the training and development of 256 EDP-1, 69 EDP-2, 111EDP, 39 Middle Managers, 39 Junior Managers and others are still in progress.



Write to Us



Please send us your comments, suggestions, criticism and any information that may help to improve the delivery of quality education in this province.

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www.mpumalanga.gov.za/education

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Young Gymnasts Star in France

t all started at the tender age of 7 at Kanyamazane Gymnastic Club. From that early age, Nqobile Mathebula and Lucy Malope (both 15), from Sitintile High School never looked back in shaping their talent in gymnastics. Their ambition in becoming gymnasts was strongly supported by their parents and their coach Mr Percy Mbokane.

A lot of hard work over the years has gone into horning their talents. Their hard work and dedication paid off this year when they were granted a chance to participate in the Regional Intermediate Club Competition which took place at Hoërskool Bergvlam. Nqobile and Lucy excelled in this competition. They then proceeded to the provincial competition which was followed by the International Youth Games in Pretoria.

These two girl learners attained position five in the International Youth Games where their talent was spotted. They were therefore invited to participate in the International Sports Festival which took place in France from the 16 to 21 June 2009. This competition is the highlight of their achievement in gymnastics.

Speaking of their challenges in the competition, Nqobile said, "The competition was tough because it was our first time participating in a different country and against experienced countries."

The duo obtained position four and expressed excitement on their achievement, to them participation means a lot. They are also proud of themselves because they were exposed to different cultures, experience and they were able to learn new techniques. In a way they have grown to be better gymnasts and better persons. Even though the language was a barrier in communication, they had a fantastic time in France.

One thing that should be highlighted is that gymnastics are not common in the township and the knowhow is very rare and scarce. Yet these two learners found themselves a niche in this sport code. The lack of facilities did not hold them back as the support they got at home from parents and the coach was good enough to propel them to stardom.

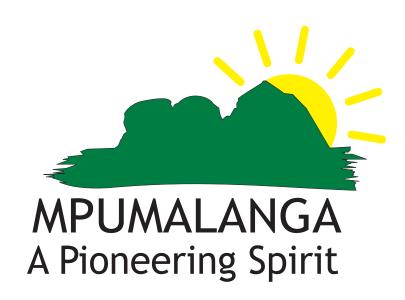
This is a lesson to all of us who share some wishes to excel at something we love. Our will and determination is good enough to see us through, only if we believe in ourselves. Nqobile and Lucy are model learners who can push themselves beyond their limits.



Mr Percy Mbokane and Nqobile Mathebula

The Department of Education congratulates these learners and their coach and extends a challenge to other learners to do their best and excel in the arts and sports.

When asked if their participation in gymnastics consumes a lot of their time, Nqobile said, "Participating in gymnastics does not consume our study time for because we practice in the afternoon from 14H00 to 17H00 on Mondays to Thursdays. We therefore would like to encourage other kids to take part in this kind of sport especially the black communities because gymnastics is not well known."



Hard Work Remunerated at Khula

he Anglo American 2008 Mathematics Awards Ceremony was held at the North Cliff High School in Johannesburg, Gauteng. This happened on 06 August 2009 and Khula Secondary School was a recipient of this prestigious award. Carrying a prize tag of R150 000 the award was presented to Khula Secondary School after being identified as one of those schools which have shown remarkable sustainable improvement and progress in the past three years.

Khula Senior Secondary School is situated in KaMaqhekeza Trust, Nkomazi East in the Ehlanzeni Region.

The Mpumalanga Department of Education takes this opportunity to congratulate Khula for this remarkable achievement. Our gratitude also goes to Anglo American for the sterling job that they do towards excellence in the field of Science and Mathematics.

Mr NV Nkuna, the principal said, "We are very proud and excited that we have achieved this feat. We want to thank the Department of Education and Anglo American for giving us this opportunity. This really inspires us to work even harder and smarter. We are working on improving the results towards a 100% pass rate." His advice to other schools was that educators should always strive for greater learner attainment and be dedicated and committed to developing learners. "Educators should teach with love and passion," he concluded.

On account of how they achieved the remarkable improvement from 51.6 to 70.6% in 2008, Mr Nkuna said they followed the Camp Programme which was successful at DD Mabuza Secondary School. In the programme learners spent week ends and holidays learning Mathematics and Science as well as the other learning areas at school. Learners are also requested to contribute R300 per year for boarding and lodging for these camps. Learners who cannot afford this amount are partially or fully exempted.

Mr MJ Maziya, the Mathematics educator said he was inspired by the support offered by the School Management Team, the high levels of motivation shown by learners and the commitment of members of staff with regards to teaching and learning at the school ■



Mr MA Mangane (Maths Educator), Mr AC Nyoni (HOD Maths and Science), Mr Desmond Mdluli (Second best Maths learner 2008), Mr J Maziya (Maths Educator) and Mr VM Nkuna (Principal)



Mr VM Nkuna holding the Merit Award Certificate

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