

# Lilanga Letfu

LET'S GROW MPUMALANGA TOGETHER

2024/25

SPECIAL EDITION



# HAALLA

## CLASS OF 2024

[www.mpumalanga.gov.za](http://www.mpumalanga.gov.za)  Mpumalanga Provincial Government  @MpumalangaGov

*Editorial Comment. . . .*

Welcome to a Special Edition of Lilanga Letfu publication that focuses on the education fraternity. Well renowned American Activist, Malcolm X describes education - "As the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today". This is exactly what the 7th administration - with its clear programmes and resources - seeks to achieve. Sequel to the release of the National Senior Certificate results (matric 2024), the education landscape in Mpumalanga Province finds itself at a critical juncture. The results are a litmus test for the educational system, government policy, and the broader aspirations of the future.

For a Province rich in natural resources, abound in cultural diversity and huge economic potential, the challenges faced in education, especially regarding matric results and systemic equity, cannot be overlooked. The year 2025 holds not only the promise of both challenges and opportunities, which is a period for transformative change, but also the challenge of confronting long-standing issues in a way that prioritises equity, quality, and future-ready learning. Mpumalanga is home to a population of over five million people, a significant portion of whom are young learners. Despite these demographics, education still struggles with disparities in equity, quality and access.

While the 2024 matric results showed incremental improvement in the pass rate, the underlying disparities, particularly between urban and rural areas, remain persistent. The Province's matric pass rate has generally been above the national average, yet this statistic hides deeper issues, such as the high dropout rates, particularly in rural and economically disadvantaged areas, and the struggles many students face in accessing quality-learning resources. The gap between township schools and more affluent, well-resourced schools continues to widen.

The Provincial government's efforts to address these inequalities through the introduction of various educational support programs, teacher development initiatives, and infrastructural upgrades have made strides, albeit slow and systemic issues such as overcrowded classrooms, insufficient teaching materials, and under-resourced schools continue to undermine the efficacy of these interventions.

Government policy plays a pivotal role in shaping the education system. Policies aimed at improving access to education and increasing the matric pass rate are commendable, yet they often fail to address the deeper, structural issues that affect the quality of education delivered in disadvantaged schools. The Mpumalanga Province is no different as in other provinces as there is a growing need for policies that are both equitable and focused on long-term systemic change. That said, a well-deserved congratulations to the Class of 2024 for recording 84.99 % matric pass rate – a feat that showed a significant growth from the previous year.

That is it for now.....

Enjoy your happy reading.

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**DISCLAIMER**

Opinions expressed in this newsletter do not necessarily reflect those of the Provincial Government, Executive Council or Management of the Province. The Editorial Team strives to ensure the publication is accurate and factual. Comments regarding this publication can be forwarded to the Chief Editor.

**CODE OF CONDUCT**

Our aim is to provide accurate, truthful and balanced reporting. As a publication that subscribes to The Press Code of Ethics and Conduct for South African Print and Online Media, we are serious and remain committed to accurate and fair reporting.

## MP RECORDS A MAJOR IMPROVEMENT OF 84.99% MATRIC PASS RATE

The Mpumalanga Province has made strides in the improvement of the matric results. The 84.99% obtained by the class of 2024 signifies a major achievement, when compared with the previous year, in which Mpumalanga recorded a 76.95 pass rate.

Ms Gugu Pioneer Libambo of Mphanama Secondary School in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality was named as the overall best performing learner in the 2024 Matric results, during the announcement of the

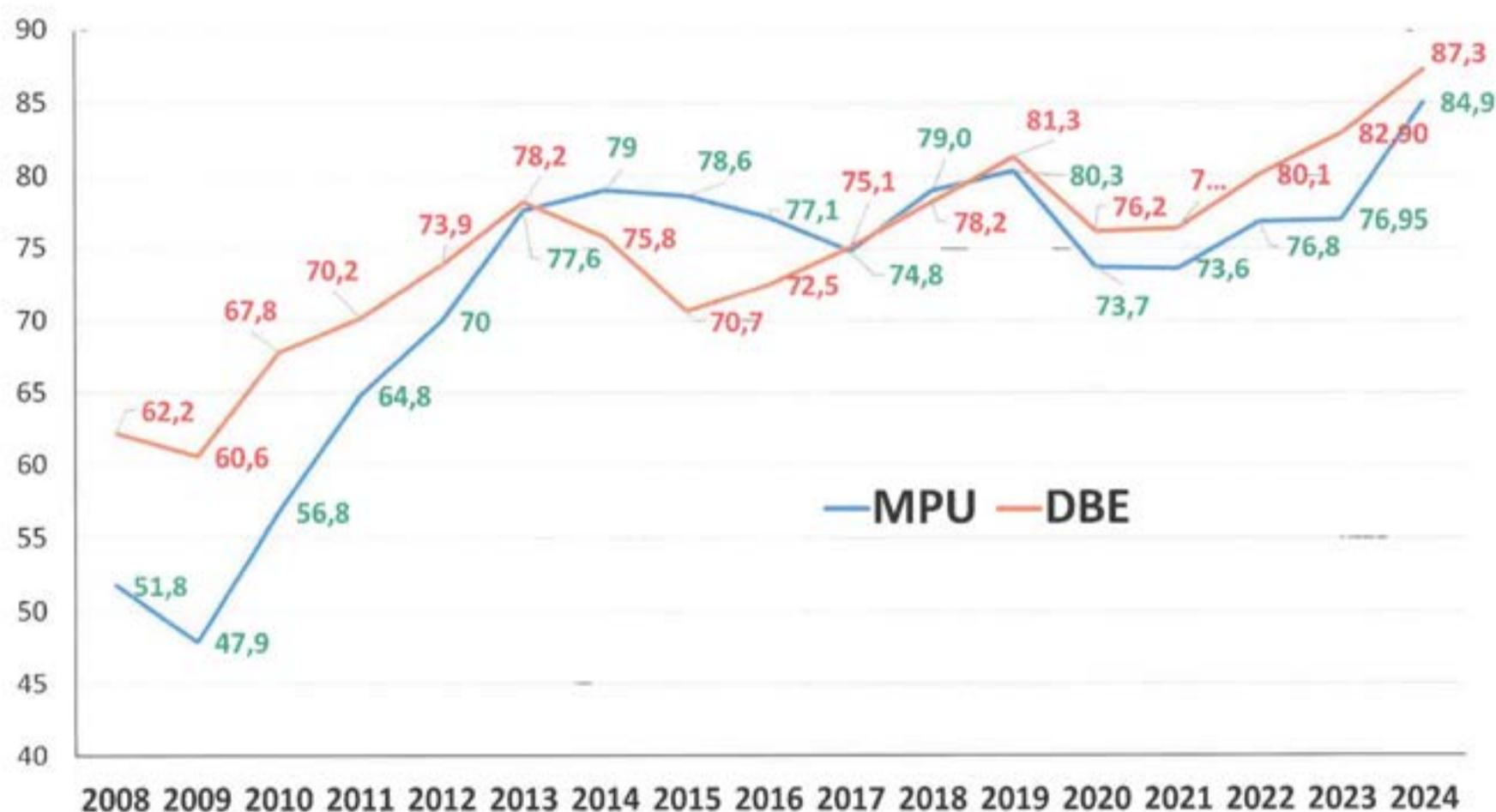
results at the Sydney Choma Banquet Hall in Middelburg, thus earning her a brand new car and an array of gifts.

The improved results are based on the 67 000 learners who wrote the 2024 examinations, and the 27 885 learners who obtained Bachelors' marks, as well as the improved pass rate in both Mathematics and Physical Science. MEC for Education, Ms. Cathy Dlamini attributed the achievement to a range of factors, among them, the role of her predecessors. She

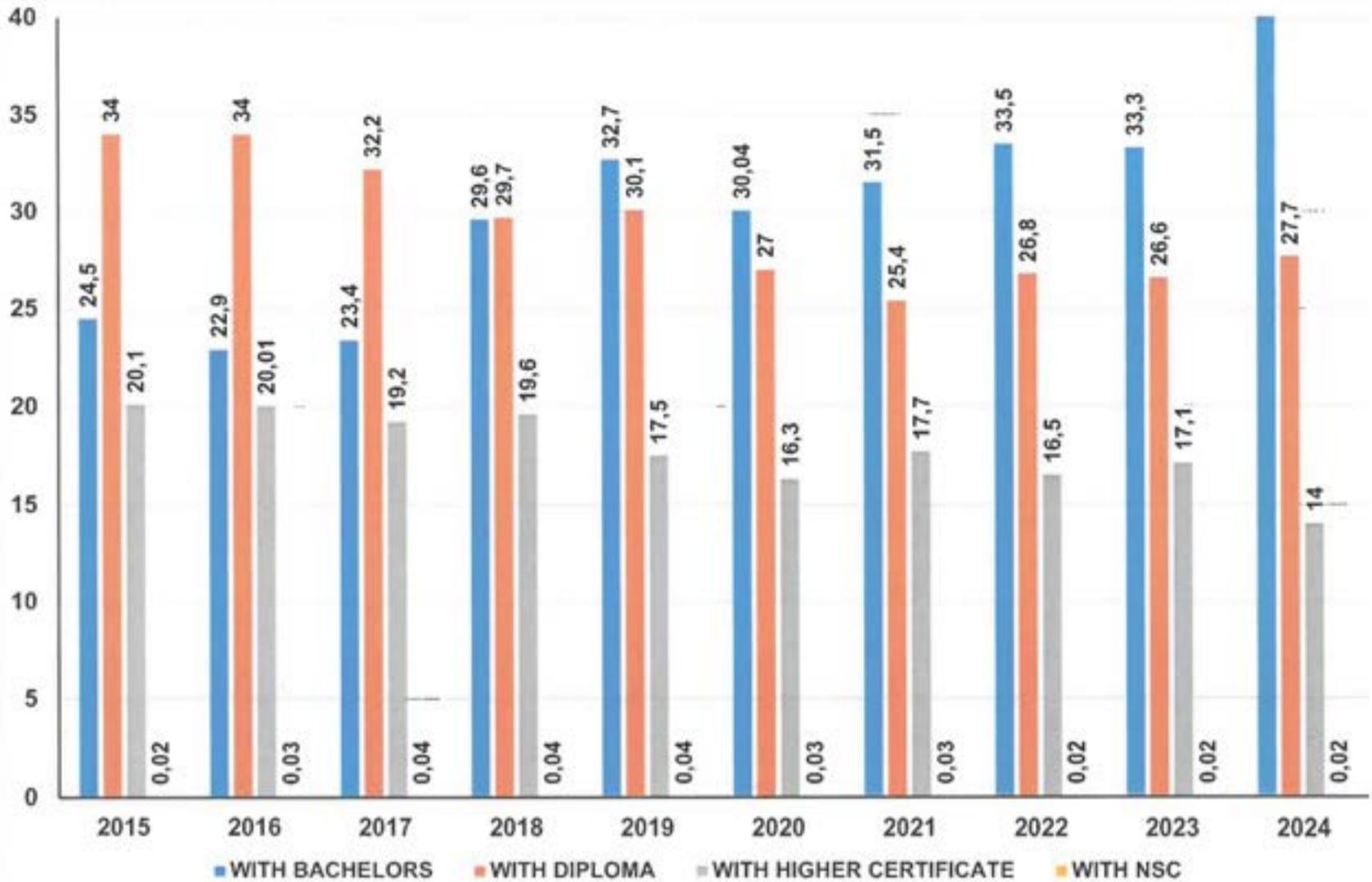
says the results are an affirmation of the strides that Mpumalanga has made to improve, especially in Maths and Science.

The Province exceeded set targets in both Maths and Science, achieving a pass rate of 66,37 and 73.69 respectively. The Gert Sibande Circuit is the best performing Circuit with 1055 learners (95.9%). Through the 84.99% pass rate, the province becomes the 7th on the hierarchy.

### Mpumalanga V/S National (NSC From 2008 – 2024)



### PERFORMANCE: PROVINCIAL PASS CATEGORIES 2015 - 2024



### DISTRICT PERFORMANCE 2020 - 2024

YEAR	2020			2021			2022			2023			2024			
	Wrote	Passed	Pass %	Entered	Wrote	Passed	Pass %									
<b>Bohlabela</b>	12 537	9 355	74,6	16 030	11 889	74,2	14 893	11 817	79,3	15 451	10 683	69,1	16 964	16 118	12 668	78,6
<b>Ehlanzeni</b>	14 526	10 824	74,5	18 545	14 011	75,6	18 786	14 320	76,2	17 421	14 254	81,8	17 612	16 772	14 832	88,4
<b>Gert Sibande</b>	12 421	8 807	70,9	15 121	10 914	72,2	15 822	12 300	77,7	15 747	12 571	79,8	16 008	15 512	13 600	87,7
<b>Nkangala</b>	13 907	10 381	74,6	17 060	12 319	72,2	17 866	13 314	74,5	16 915	12 921	76,4	16 352	15 799	13 467	85,2
<b>Province</b>	53 391	39 367	73,7	66 756	49 133	73,6	67 367	51 751	76,8	65 534	50 429	76,95	66 936	64 201	54 567	84,99

## MPU PERFORMANCE COMPARED: 2012 – 2024

Provinces	2012	2013	2014	2015	2016	2017	2018	2019	2020	2021	2022	2023	2024
Free State	81,1	87,4	82,8	81,6	88,2	86,1	87,5	88,4	85,1	85,7	88,5	89,03	90,9
KZN	73,1	77,4	69,7	60,7	66,4	72,9	76,2	81,3	77,6	76,8	83,0	86,36	89,5
Gauteng	83,9	87	84,7	84,2	85,1	85,1	87,9	87,2	83,8	82,8	84,4	85,38	88,4
N. West	79,5	87,2	84,6	81,5	82,5	79,4	81,1	86,8	76,2	81,2	79,8	81,63	87,5
W. Cape	82,8	85,1	82,2	84,7	85,9	82,8	81,5	82,3	79,9	78,2	81,4	81,54	86,6
Limpopo	66,9	71,8	72,9	65,9	62,5	65,6	69,4	73,2	68,2	66	72,1	79,54	85,0
<b>MPU</b>	<b>70</b>	<b>77,6</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>78,6</b>	<b>77,1</b>	<b>74,8</b>	<b>79</b>	<b>80,3</b>	<b>73,7</b>	<b>73,6</b>	<b>76,8</b>	<b>76,95</b>	<b>84,9</b>
E. Cape	61,6	64,9	65,4	56,8	59,3	65	70,6	76,5	68,1	73,0	77,3	81,42	84,9
N. Cape	74,6	74,5	76,4	69,4	78,7	75,6	73,3	76,5	66	71,4	74,2	75,84	84,1
<b>National</b>	<b>73,9</b>	<b>78,2</b>	<b>75,8</b>	<b>70,7</b>	<b>72,5</b>	<b>75,1</b>	<b>78,2</b>	<b>81,3</b>	<b>76,2</b>	<b>76,4</b>	<b>80,1</b>	<b>82,90</b>	<b>87,3</b>

### PASS CATEGORIES 2017 - 2024

PASS CATEGORIES 2017 - 2024												
	YEAR	Total Wrote	PERCENTAGE THAT PASSED PER CATEGORY									
			WITH BACHELORS		WITH DIPLOMA		WITH HIGHER CERTIFICATE		WITH NSC		TOTAL ACHIEVED	
			No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%	No.	%
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE	2017	48 483	11 335	23,4	15 628	32,2	9 291	19,2	19	0,04	36 273	74,8
	2018	44 612	13 199	29,6	13 262	29,7	8737	19,6	19	0,04	35 225	79,0
	2019	43 559	14 228	32,7	13 124	30,1	7 627	17,5	16	0,04	34 995	80,3
	2020	53 391	16 251	30,4	14 421	27,0	8 677	16,3	18	0,03	39 367	73,7
	2021	66 758	21 044	31,5	16 949	25,4	11 121	16,7	21	0,03	49 135	73,6
	2022	67 367	22 576	33,5	18 068	26,8	11 096	16,47	11	0,02	51 751	76,8
	2023	65 534	21 819	33,3	17 412	26,6	11 196	17,1	2	0,00	50 429	76,95
	<b>2024</b>	<b>64201</b>	<b>27885</b>	<b>43,4</b>	<b>17775</b>	<b>27,7</b>	<b>8897</b>	<b>14</b>	<b>10</b>	<b>0,02</b>	<b>54567</b>	<b>84,99</b>
DBE	2017	534 484	153 610	28,7	161 333	30,2	86 265	16,1	99	0,0	401 307	75,1
	2018	512 735	172 043	33,6	141 700	27,6	86 790	16,9	99	0,0	400 632	78,2
	2019	504 303	186 058	36,9	144 672	28,7	78 984	15,7	105	0,02	409 819	81,3
	2020	578 468	210 828	36,4	150 600	26,0	79 117	13,7	61	0,01	440 598	76,2
	2021	704 021	256 031	36,4	177 572	25,2	103 859	14,9	103	0,01	537 565	76,4
	2022	725 146	278 814	38,4	193 357	26,7	108 159	14,9	117	0,02	580 447	80,1
	2023	691 160	282 894	40,9	187876	27,2	101973	14,8	96	0,0	572 983	82,90
	<b>2024</b>	<b>705 291</b>	<b>337 158</b>	<b>47,8</b>	<b>188 748</b>	<b>26,8</b>	<b>89 244</b>	<b>12,7</b>	<b>121</b>	<b>0,017</b>	<b>615 429</b>	<b>87,3</b>

# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2024

education  
MPUMALANGA REGION  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Ms Cathy Dlamini  
MPC FOR EDUCATION

**Congratulations to the Class of 2024!**

With an outstanding  
**84.99%**  
pass rate

You have not only met but surpassed all expectations and targets.

Well done!

LEAVENO ONE

THABA CHWEU  
LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Clr. M.F Nkadimeng  
EXECUTIVE MAYOR

**CONGRATULATIONS,  
CLASS OF '24!**

WE ARE PROUD OF YOUR ACHIEVEMENTS!  
**May the years ahead be filled  
with adventure and success.**

A special acknowledgement to Hoerskool Lydenburg for achieving a 100% pass rate and all others schools in the jurisdiction for improved outcomes.

Hoerskool Lydenburg

Ms Cathy Dlamini  
MPC FOR EDUCATION

**CONGRATULATIONS  
To the class of 2024!**

WITH AN OUTSTANDING  
**84.99%**  
PASS RATE

YOU HAVE NOT ONLY MET BUT SURPASSED ALL EXPECTATIONS AND TARGETS.  
WILL DONE.

education  
MPUMALANGA REGION  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MPUMALANGA  
THE PLACE OF THE BOUNDLESS

LEAVENO ONE

MPUMALANGA REGIONAL  
TRAINING TRUST

www.rtttrust.co.za

**CONGRATULATIONS!!  
CLASS OF  
2024**

"Take a step towards a brighter future, and consider MRTT Artisan Skills Training Programmes"

LEAVENO ONE

Nkomazi  
Local Municipality

**Congratulations  
Class of  
2024**

Nkomazi Local Municipality extends its warmest congratulations to the Class of 2024 on achieving outstanding results.

Your exceptional results are a testament of your determination and resilience.

Indeed, Nkomazi is the home of excellence.

Executive Mayor Clr PP Magagula

LEAVENO ONE

**Congratulations  
MATRIC  
CLASS OF 2024**

**84.99%  
pass rate  
MPUMALANGA**

Ms Khethiwe Mooketsi  
MEC: Social Development

We are delighted to welcome the announcement of making the Gender Based Violence Command Centre (GBVCC) available to pupils and their families who may be anxious about the outcomes of the results.

We send good wishes to all beneficiaries of social development services, including social grants beneficiaries for their National Senior Certificate (NSC) results.

Matriculants can contact the GBVCC on 8000 428 428. The service will be available from Sunday 12 January 2025 until Saturday 18 January 2025.

education  
MPUMALANGA REGIONAL TRAINING TRUST  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MPUMALANGA  
THE PLACE OF THE BOUNDLESS

LEAVENO ONE

**CONGRATULATIONS  
TO THE #CLASSOF2024**

THE NATIONAL YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AGENCY CONGRATULATES THE CLASS OF 2024 ON THE OUTSTANDING ACHIEVEMENT OF A **87,3% PASS RATE**

nyda  
National Youth Development Agency  
South African Government  
www.nyda.gov.za

Toll Free No: 0800 58 58 58 064 758 9058

30 YEARS

**Congratulations!**

**MATRIC CLASS OF 2024**

Thembeile Hami Local Municipality (THLM) congratulates the matric class of 2024 on their significant achievements. Your hard work has paid off and here's to an exciting future.

REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA  
Subject Statement  
Senior Certificate

# CONGRATULATIONS CLASS OF 2024

**Media statement**  
14 January 2025

**Message of Congratulations to the Matric Class of 2024**

FROM THE EXECUTIVE MAYOR, CLLR. NOELOSI C. NCHOLUJI

It is with great pleasure that I convey heartfelt congratulations to the 2024 Matric Class for attaining an outstanding pass rate of 84.99% on behalf of Mkhondo Local Municipality. This represents an increase from +7.9% in 2022.

The Department of Basic Education reports that nearly 705,291 learners participated in the 2024 Matric exams. In light of the numerous challenges faced within the sector, these learners have demonstrated remarkable resilience. We commend their persistent dedication and unwavering resolve in this matter.

Every province attained a pass rate exceeding the 84% threshold. These results exemplify the dedication and drive of a group of young individuals who are actively shaping their own destinies. I trust that the same level of dedication and commitment will be sustained and applied as you advance and develop in your areas of study and professional pursuits. We eagerly anticipate witnessing further remarkable achievements from you.

I would like to express my sincere gratitude to the educators, school administration, and parents for their unwavering dedication and support in promoting the advancement of education for our students.

To the matriculants who may not have achieved the most favorable results, this is merely a beginning - indeed, it is just the opposite! There exist alternative pathways to enhance your outcomes and realize your aspirations. Kindly conduct a thorough exploration of the available alternatives. Each individual navigates a unique journey toward achievement.

Thank you

**Umkhondo LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**  
CLLR. NOELOSI C. NCHOLUJI  
Umkhondo Municipal Executive Mayor



**CONGRATULATIONS TO THE CLASS OF 2024**

**Nkangala district**

**85.2%**

*Executive Mayor*  
Cllr. V.J. Nhlapho



**CONGRATULATIONS Class of 2024**

Your dedication and commitment has finally paid off. We are extremely proud of Balfour Circuit for achieving an average of 91.4%. Go out there and start shaping your futures.

It is not the end of the world for those who did not make it. There are many options available for you, just try again!

**YOU MADE IT!** 30

CLLR. NB KHANYE  
EXECUTIVE MAYOR

011 954 0027  
Dipaleasing Local Municipality  
www.dipaleasing.gov.za




**GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT MUNICIPALITY**

**Congratulations Class of 2024**

"The Gert Sibande District Grade 12 Class of 2024 has done us proud. Indeed we are growing the Gert Sibande District together. We send our best wishes to all of you including those that did not make it and encourage them to make use of the many options available to them." Mngomezulu.

Cllr. Walter Mngomezulu  
District Executive Mayor



**LEKWA LOCAL MUNICIPALITY**

**CLASS OF 2024**

Congratulations learners and teachers on your remarkable achievement!

Your dedication and hard work have paved the way for the bright future.

I also wish all those who did not pass, strength and further urge parents to support and encourage them to sign up for the Matric Second Chance Programme.

Cllr. Siliso Mngomezulu  
Executive Mayor

017 702 9800  
Lekwa Local Municipality  
@lekwa.local  
www.lekwa.org.za



Back to School!  
**Congratulations to the Matric Class of 2024**

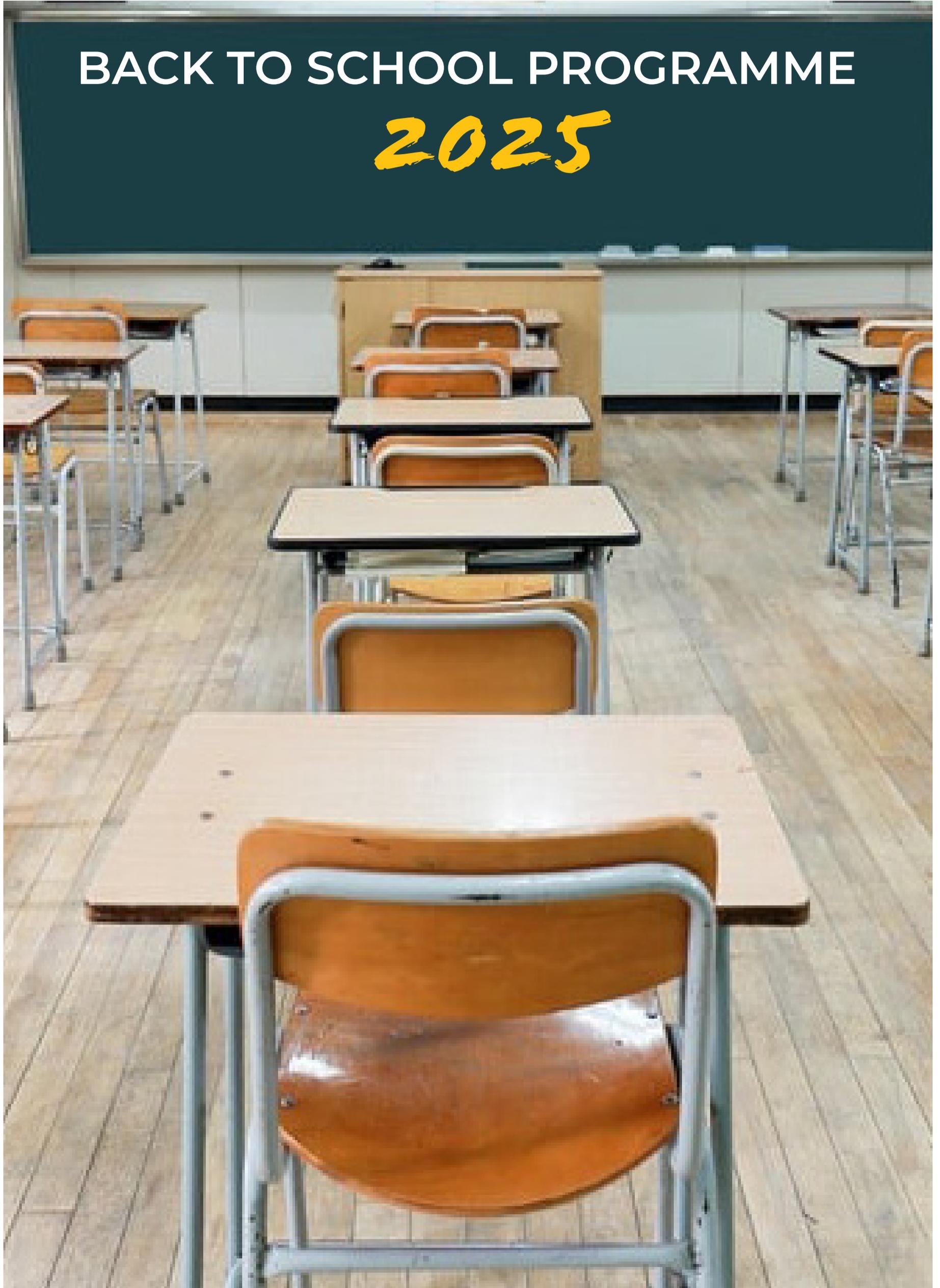
SALGA would like to congratulate learners from the matric class of 2024. Your hard work and dedication has yielded the best results. We are proud of your overall performance of 87,3% in rebuilding, reimagining and recommitting to the ideals of a free, democratic and prosperous country where every learner has an equal opportunity to education.

**8 SALGA**  
Inspiring Service Delivery

#InspiringServiceDelivery  
#asisho



# BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAMME 2025



# BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAMME 2025

**BACK TO SCHOOL**

15<sup>th</sup> JAN 2025

07:30

Mkolishi High School  
Tjakastad, Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality

Let's grow Mpumalanga together!

**SCHOOL REOPENING PROGRAMME**

DATE: 15 January 2025  
VENUE: Osizweni Secondary School, Gert Sibande District, Mpumalanga  
TIME: 07:00

Ms Lindwe Ntokalishali, MP  
Deputy Minister of Correctional Services

correctional services  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**Class of 2024**

**MATRIC RESULTS**

CONGRATULATIONS TO THE 2024 MATRIC CLASS FOR MAKING US PROUD. WE ARE ENCOURAGING EVEN THOSE WHO DIDN'T MAKE IT. LET'S GIVE IT ANOTHER TRY. PUTTING MORE EFFORT WILL TAKE YOU THROUGH.

Good Luck!

**BACK TO SCHOOL**

As part of the 2025 Provincial School Re-Opening Programme, the MEC for Economic Development and Tourism, Ms. Mphahlele will on Wednesday, 15 January 2025, visit Mphahlele Secondary School in Thulamohloli in the Butha Buthe Local Municipality to inaugurate the school's readiness for the year ahead.

The MEC will also use the school Re-Opening programme to donate School Shirts and Sundry Items to identified learners of the school.

15 January 2025 | Time: 07h00  
Mphahlele Secondary School  
(Butha Buthe Local Municipality)

**BACK TO SCHOOL**

As part of the Back to School Programme of the the Mpumalanga Provincial Government, Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC, Mr Jackie Maseko will visit Phumole Secondary School in Mkomoti Local Municipality

15 January 2025 | 7:30  
Phumole Secondary School  
Mkomoti Local Municipality

Let's grow Mpumalanga together!

**Back to School**

EXECUTIVE MAYOR SCHOOL RE-OPENING VISIT

15 JANUARY 2025 (WEDNESDAY)

REGIE MABUKU SECONDARY  
07:30

LINDLE SECONDARY  
09:00

**BACK TO SCHOOL**

The MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA), Mr Speed Mashilo will visit Sibongamandla Secondary School as part of the Back To School Campaign.

15 January 2025  
07:30AM

SIBONGAMANDLA SECONDARY SCHOOL  
Thubelile Township (Ga-Nala)  
EMALAHLENI LOCAL MUNICIPALITY

Let's grow Mpumalanga together!

# BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAMME 2025

**Mayoral ACADEMIC AWARDS**

**Cllr. TD Ngyeviya Executive Mayor**

**23.01.2025** | **Makause Secondary School**

Starting At 11:00 | **Phola Emaaheni LM**

**Back to School**

**Fenna Mthembu Mabele, Executive Mayor**, will be visiting **Ekwazini Secondary School** in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality for school readiness as part of the **Back to School Campaign**.

**TIME: 07:00**  
**DATE: 15 January 2025**  
**VENUE: Ekwazini Secondary School**

**2025 BACK TO SCHOOL**

The Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality wishes all learners, educators and staff well as they start the 2025 school year.

As part of the 2025 back to school activities, the **Executive Mayor of the DRJSMLM Cllr NS Mtsweni** will visit the **Nokaneng Circuit** to monitor the readiness for the 2025 school year.

**The visit is planned as follows:**  
Date: 15 January 2025  
Venue: Seabe High School  
Time: 08:00

**Cllr NS Mtsweni, Executive Mayor**

**Back to school campaign 2025**

The MEC for Health in Mpumalanga will this year 2025, Visit **Magabotse secondary school** as part of the Mpumalanga Government back to school Campaign aimed to encourage learners to work hard in the academic year and be better equipped for the future.

**Date:** 20 January 2025  
**Time:** 08:00  
**Venue:** Magabotse Secondary School, Mavilijan Bushbuckridge

**MEC for Health: Ms S.J. Manzini**

**BACK TO School**

The MEC for Finance, **Mr BA Mabele (MPL)** will visit **Seabe Secondary School** as part of the Provincial Schools Reopening Programme.

**On:** 11 January 2025, 07:00  
**At:** Nokaneng, Dr. JS Moroka Local Municipality

**2025 Schools RE-OPENING VISIT: TAKHENI SECONDARY SCHOOL**

**CHIEF ALBERT LUTSHULI MUNICIPALITY GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT**

**DATE: WEDNESDAY, 15 JANUARY 2025**  
**TIME: 07:00**

**BACK TO SCHOOL**

The MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, **Mr Thulasizwe Thomo** will take part on the **2025 SCHOOL RE-OPENING PROGRAMME**

**Wednesday, 15 January 2025 | 07h00**  
**Reggie Masuku Secondary School, Msukaligwa Local Municipality**

*"Let's Grow Mpumalanga Together"*

**BACK TO SCHOOL PROGRAM**

**Empucukweni Secondary School**

**07h30**

**15 JAN**

**EXECUTIVE MAYOR Cllr. V.J. NHLAPHO**

*Dlala Indimayakho*

**Nongumelelo Hlophe, MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs** will be visiting **Ekwazini Secondary School** in Steve Tshwete Local Municipality for school readiness as part of the **Back to School campaign**.

**TIME: 07:00**  
**DATE: 15 January 2025**  
**VENUE: Ekwazini Secondary School**

**#SPHUSH'ISERVICEDELIVERY**

# EDUCATION IS KEY FOR DEVELOPMENT

The Mpumalanga Provincial Government under Premier, Mr Mandla Ndlovu has emphasised educational development as part of its broader strategy for economic transformation. In line with the National Development Plan (NDP), the province has pursued several initiatives designed to improve education outcomes, such as the Accelerated Schools Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (ASIDI) and increased investments in school infrastructure. However, these programs have not yet fully addressed the quality challenges faced by many students, especially in rural and underserved areas. Furthermore, there is often a disconnect between policy and practice, with local implementation sometimes falling short due to limited resources or logistical challenges.

## The Minister of Basic Education, Siviwe Gwarube, outlined Five Sector Priorities:

- 1.Intensifying efforts to improve access and quality of Early Childhood Development
- 2.Improving Literacy and Numeracy skills across all phases of schooling
- 3.Improving access and quality of inclusive education for all learners, specifically special needs learners
- 4.Improving access and quality of training and professional development available to school management teams
- 5.Improving the safety and quality of schooling environments

As a Province, 2025 is crucial for government policy to prioritise educational equity, ensuring that all students, irrespective of their geographical location or socioeconomic status, have equal access to quality education. This means not only increasing funding for schools but also shifting focus to improving teacher quality, curriculum relevance, and support systems for learners at risk of failure.

While the matric pass rate remains a key indicator of success in the South African education system, it should not be the sole focus. In Mpumalanga Province, the pressure on learners to succeed is immense, but success must be defined in broader terms. A high pass rate does not necessarily equate to students being adequately prepared for higher education, the workplace, or the broader challenges of life.



Mpumalanga Province's future economic growth depends on an educated workforce, but there are significant gaps in how well the provincial education system prepares students for the demands of the 21st century economy. The world is rapidly changing, and students need more than just the basics. They need critical thinking, digital literacy, and soft skills like creativity and collaboration, which are essential in today's globalised economy. Beyond the pass rate, focus should be to pay attention to the preparation of learners to be ready for the world, post school era.

During this year (2025), the Mpumalanga Provincial Government must ensure that the curriculum is aligned with modern job market demands, placing greater emphasis on vocational education, entrepreneurship, and digital skills. Mpumalanga must cultivate a workforce that is prepared for new industries, particularly in technology, renewable energy, and sustainable agriculture, all of which align with the Province's long-term economic ambitions.

Looking towards 2025, the Mpumalanga Provincial Government's educational priorities ought to be anchored in a holistic strategy. This strategy should emphasise:

- 1.Early Childhood Development;
- 2.Improved Access to Early Childhood Development;
- 3.Increased percentages of practitioners on NQF Level 4;

- 4.Improved functional literacy rate;
- 5.Increased percentages of Grade 3 &4 learners reading with understanding;
- 6.Increased access to higher education and training through development of skills need in workplace; and
- 7.Increased number of technical schools.

The year 2025 presents a unique opportunity for the Mpumalanga Provincial Government to redefine the future of education. A strong, vibrant education system is the cornerstone of social mobility, economic development, and ultimately, the well-being of the Province. While improvements in matric results are important, the real success will be measured by how well the Province can ensure that all its learners are equipped with the skills, knowledge, and opportunities they need to succeed in an increasingly complex world.

If Mpumalanga can rise to this challenge, it will not only improve matric results but will lay the foundation for a generation of learners who are prepared to meet the challenges of the future, one that is sustainable, technologically advanced, and socially equitable. It is time for the education fraternity and communities to work together to ensure that Mpumalanga's future is not just bright but transformative.

“Education is the passport to the future, for tomorrow belongs to those who prepare for it today.”

—Malcolm X

# MKOLISHI HIGH SCHOOL IS MPUMALANGA'S QUINTILE 1 TOP ACHIEVER



A 100% Matric pass rate for a rurally based school is no mean feat. Such schools are disadvantaged due to lack of adequate resources, poor infrastructure, and poor communities who cannot afford school fees. The Mkolishi Secondary School, in Tjakastad, Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality, is regarded as one of the schools in the country, and is in the category of Quintile 1 schools.

In Mpumalanga, 575 schools are categorised as Quintile 1 schools, and are designed to serve the poorest communities as part of the measures to make education accessible to all citizens, irrespective of their backgrounds. The school recorded a 100% pass of all Grade 12 learners two years in a row, to become

a leading Quintile 1 school in this category, in Mpumalanga.

Efforts are underway to improve the conditions of teaching and learning at the school, through an array of commitments. The Premier, Mr. Mandla Ndlovu, accompanied by the MEC for Education, Ms Cathy Dlamini and the Executive Mayor of Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality, Cllr. Mbuso Magubane, pledged to support the school through the provision of various resources during a recent visit.

These include a supply of school uniforms, furniture and renovations. A maintenance team will be assigned to the school to improve the infrastructure.

It is envisaged that the support will boost the school's prospects of increasing the

number of learners with distinctions. "The fact that the school outperformed schools that are adequately resourced in urban areas, is an indication that more can be achieved. We hope to see learners ranked among the top, nationally next year," Dlamini emphasized.

According to the Premier, Mkolishi Secondary school is a model of resilience and determination in the province. "We congratulate the school on its performance and acknowledge the teaching staff for their efforts of supporting the learners. We are also encouraged that the learners are committed to maintain the school's strong academic record, through their good performance," Mr. Ndlovu explained.

## CONFRONTING OVERCROWDING AT SIBONGAMANDLA

The Thubelihle integrated human settlements project at Ga-Nala in eMalahleni Local Municipality is poised to bring relief to overcrowding at a local school and deliver much-needed housing and socio-economic facilities needs in the area. Upon completion, the multi-year project with over 8000 stands is set to alleviate overcrowding at Sibongamandla Secondary School. As the 2025 academic year begins in earnest, millions of learners across the country showed up in their numbers during their first day of school's re-opening. Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) MEC, Mr Speed Mashilo together with Nkangala District Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr. Thomas Ngwenya visited the school to assess the state of readiness for teaching and learning for the new academic year.

The schools' outreach programme is government's intervention to diagnose challenges affecting schools and developing intervention measures. School Principal, Ms Zanele Mohlala presented the visit is a blessing and it gives the school more enthusiasm to work harder in the 2025 academic year. "As a school we are honoured and consider ourselves fortunate to have been the chosen school to be visited for the back to school programme," she expressed herself.

Speaking with the learners and teachers, Cllr Ngwenya made a special appeal to parents to ensure that their children are at school every day, on time, ready and willing to learn.

"We encourage parents to play an active role in the life of their child's school and support the work of teachers", stressed Ngwenya. He further said that the visit has helped to identify challenges faced by the school in delivering quality-learning outcomes.

A meeting with the School Governing Body (SGB), councillors, traditional leaders and other stakeholders the visit learnt of overcrowding at the school. MEC Mashilo acknowledged the highlighted problems and promised to heighten efforts for a swift intervention. "I have noted that there's inadequate infrastructure in the school and that a proper assembly point is necessary

for the learners as they would require gathering under a shelter in the morning," said Mashilo reaffirming his willpower to get the facility in order.

Over 270 Grade 12 learners obtained a remarkable 70% pass rate. MEC Mashilo concluded the visit by handing over sanitary towels donated by one of the local stakeholders to the school. The school has a current enrolment of just over 1400 for the 2025 academic year. The Back to School Programme will produce reports that are to be considered by government for interventions on diagnosed challenges.



## LEARNERS CALLED TO WORK HARD

The recorded improvement of the number of Grade 12 learners who pass with Bachelor's results, signals Mpumalanga's commitment to increase achievements at this level. According to Stats SA report, 7.4% of the total matric enrolment achieved the feat in 2022. The figure increased significantly in the 2024, as 27 885 out of 67 500 learners, obtained the Bachelor's results.

As the country marked the start of the academic year, a call was made for the new cohort of Grade 12 learners to work even harder to crack the achievement. MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Mr. Jackie Macie and the Executive Mayor of Nkomazi Local Municipality, Cllr.

Phindile Magagula reiterated the call when they visited Phumula Secondary School at Mananga Village within the locality.

While MEC Macie encouraged all learners to focus fully on their studies to obtain bursaries when they proceed to institutions of higher learning and to work harder this year in order to achieve 100 percent in 2025, Cllr. Magagula urged them to immediately start with schoolwork and study, so that they are not overwhelmed. Mr. Macie applauded the school for achieving 95, 1 percent pass in 2024 Grade 12 examinations, and further cemented his commitment to support the school, through a donation of a printer and a laptop.



## GOVERNMENT'S STEADFAST PLEDGE TO EDUCATION



Access to education is a Constitutional right that the Mpumalanga Provincial Government upholds. The provision of scholar transport to thousands of learners travelling to schools across the province, located 3 km radius from their place of residence, is among the relief measures that support the Constitutional imperative. The Reggie Masuku Secondary School in Ermelo, opened its doors for learning to dozens of learners, on the first day of the academic year. MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Mr. Thulasizwe Thomo visited the school, to assess the state of readiness.

The school obtained a 93.7% pass rate for the 2024-matric results. During the visit, Mr. Thomo

highlighted the government's unwavering commitment to providing quality education and enhancing infrastructure.

Hopes are high that the pass rate will increase significantly in the next cycle of matric results. This assertion is boosted by Mr. Thomo's commitment and other support measures that the school has developed.

Mr Thomo, accompanied by the Executive Mayor of Msukaligwa Local Municipality, Cllr. Precious Nkosi and senior government officials, engaged with the educators, learners, and school management, as part of the assessment of the infrastructure improvement, resource availability, and the overall learning environment at the school.

## WARNING ON THE IMPACT OF TEENAGE PREGNANCY

Teenage pregnancy remains a serious health and social problem in the country. Various researchers attribute many complications that lead to death among the young mothers, to teenage pregnancy. These include low birth weight and severe neonatal conditions. Mpumalanga is amongst the two provinces in the country with the highest rate of teenage pregnancies, with teenage pregnancies, between 10-19 ages.

In her visit to the Takheni Secondary School, MEC for Culture, Sport and Recreation, Ms Leah Mabuza warned learners against the scourge. "Teenage pregnancy and drug abuse has become a serious problem in our schools. We need to root out this scourge, as learners, as parents and as a society," she warned.

Takheleni Secondary school achieved a 90.1% pass rate in the 2024 Matric results. Ms. Mabuza congratulated the class of



2024 and further encouraged the class of 2025 to exceed expectations and surpass the achievement of their predecessors. She told the gathering at the assembly that the targets are possible, provided learners uphold respect and courtesy.

Ms Mabuza noted the enrolment of 1200 learners, which exceeds the design capacity of the school, and expressed commitment to facilitate intervention measures which include additional toilets and sports facilities.

“ Teenage pregnancy is not just about individual choices; it reflects broader societal issues—lack of access to comprehensive sex education, inadequate healthcare services, and deep-rooted gender inequalities. ”

-Dr. Tlaleng Mofokeng

## A DONATED COMPUTER TO AID ADMINISTRATION

Over 1,3 million learners are registered in the more than 1,785 provincial schools for the 2025 academic year. Despite few challenges, such as delays in the placement of learners, which are inherent at the beginning of the year, the overall impression is that the academic year got off to a good start in Mpumalanga.

Stationery, scholar transport and nutritional programme were arranged in advance to ensure a smooth start. The observation of the MEC for Finance, Mr. Bonakele Majuba is that the first day of school at the Seabe Secondary school, at Nokaneng, Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality bears testimony of how ready are the schools in Mpumalanga for the academic year. His optimism was admired by the positive attitude of Grade 11 learner, Khumo Mallela during his visit. "The challenges of the previous year helped me to prepare and foresee challenges that I might face. I don't know what to expect for the year but I am preparing myself to work hard," Mallela commented.

The Seabi Secondary obtained 97.8 per cent in Matric results of 2024, and was listed among the best-performing schools in the Nkangala circuit. Mr Majuba says the school has the potential to produce a 100 pass rate in the next cycle of Matric results. "We visited the school today to encourage learners to work together, share knowledge and resources, and support one another in their learning

experience for the totality of the outcomes that we want to see, come the end of the year", said MEC Majuba.

MEC Majuba's entourage included the Speaker of the Nkangala District, Cllr. Kabelo Boshomane and Local Executive Mayor, Cllr. Nomsa Mtsweni. He concluded his visit by handing over a desktop computer for the school's administrative purposes.



## PROMOTING RHANDZA XIKOLO XA WENA CAMPAIGN



Ekwazini Secondary School at Mhluzi, in the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality is characterised by a clean environment. This was the observation of MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development and Environmental Affairs, Ms. Mpumi Hlophe, when she embarked on a visit to assess the start of learning and teaching.

She urged learners to maintain the school's clean conditions and further donated a consignment of garden tools and smart boxes for agriculture. School shoes, and sanitary towels, were also distributed to needy learners. Hlophe's sentiments for a clean environment, are in line with the Rhandza Xikolo xa wena campaign, established by the Provincial Government to mobilize the society to support and protect schools in their vicinity, and to ensure that they are free from any form of vandalism, crime, drug trafficking, bullying, and any forms of social ills.

During her address, Ms. Hlophe encouraged the learners to establish food gardens as part of the Phezukomkhono food security programme. The school recorded a remarkable 93.5% pass rate for the class of 2024 and is home to Musa Dube, one of the provincial top Grade 12 top achievers who scored 300 in Business Studies. MEC Hlophe was accompanied by Local Executive Mayor, Cllr. Mhlonishwa Masilela and other stakeholders.

## SCHOOL ESSENTIALS FOR MAGIGWANA

**A**s Mpumalanga marks the celebration of the improved Matric results, from 76.95 in 2023 to 84,99% in 2024, the challenge of school dropout is also a topical issue. According to research, 40.7% of learners dropped out in 2011, citing various factors, among them, pregnancy, illness, poverty and migration.

Education paves the way towards the prospects of employable opportunities and a prosperous adulthood, and as such, the state is striving to motivate every learner to take education serious. This was emphasised by the MEC for Economic Development and Tourism, Ms. Makhosazane Masilela when addressing learners at Magigwana Secondary School in Athol, in the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality.

She visited the school accompanied by the Head of Department, Ms. Immy Serakalala and officials from the Department of Education, as part of a campaign to check the state of readiness for the 2025 academic year. The campaign is a countrywide programme in which Members of the Executive Council visit schools on the first day to check their readiness and to encourage learners to perform better. In Mpumalanga, the Premier, Mr. Mandla Ndlovu led the



campaign and was joined by MECs and other public representatives, assigned to various schools across the Province.

Ms. Masilela donated a consignment of essentials, which include 20 school shoes to disadvantaged learners, as well as 400 packs of sanitary dignity pads to the learners at the school. "We decided to also donate sanitary dignity pads to uphold the dignity of girl learners at this school. We know that some of them come from impoverished families which cannot afford to buy them these essential towels.

If they don't have these essentials, they often opt to skip school when it's time for their menstruation. And this lead to them being left behind in terms of the syllabus. We want to change that situation through these sanitary dignity pads", added the MEC.

Magigwana Secondary School scooped the second position in the Thulamahashe Circuit in the 2024 Matric results. Only 36 out of 460 learners who wrote matric examinations failed. 253 learners received Bachelor pass, 119 received diploma pass whilst 54 received higher certificate pass.

## MAGABOTSE PREPARES FOR A 100% PASS RATE

**T**he improvement of access to quality and inclusive education for all learners is the government's strategy. It is a significant step to address the disparities that exist between well-resourced urban schools and rural schools with scarce resources. Since the dawn of democracy, the government continues to invest massively, through major interventions, such as the construction of new state of the art schools, provision of nutritional food, introduction of no-fee schools and scholar transport, to cater for learners from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Although these have improved the efficacy of the education system, however, socio-economic challenges continue to hamper some learners from enjoying the benefits of the education system. In an effort to address the unfavourable condition faced by scores of learners, the MEC for Health, Ms. Sasekani Manzini donated a consignment of school shoes at the Magabotse Secondary School at Mavilijan, Bushbuckridge Local Municipality during her visit. The support seeks to encourage the class of 2025 to focus on their studies than the psycho effects of foot-wear, and was delivered as part of the Back-to-School programme.

The school is among the few in Mpumalanga, which recorded a drop in the Matric pass rate, from 76.8% to 76.1%.

Despite this, MEC Manzini encouraged the class of 2025 to work hard by focusing on their studies, emphasizing that education is crucial in shaping their future. She says collaborative efforts are a cornerstone towards the improvement of the matric results, until a 100% pass rate is achieved.



# PREMIER NDLOVU COMMITTED TO TURN MOKEBE SECONDARY AROUND

**M**pumalanga has a backlog of 546 schools to build in order to meet the high demand of access to education. With a population of above five million, the demand for services such as education is high, and the Provincial Government is pulling out all stops to put in place the required resources in order to meet the demand.

While plans are afoot to address these challenges, however, dilapidated infrastructure and storm-damaged schools, expand the scope of the challenges to be focused on. The Mokebe Secondary School in Senotlelo village near Siyabuswa, Dr JS Moroka Municipality, is among the learning institutions that are dilapidated. The school is old and an exorbitant amount will be required to refurbish it. Temporary classes have been installed to accommodate some of the learners.

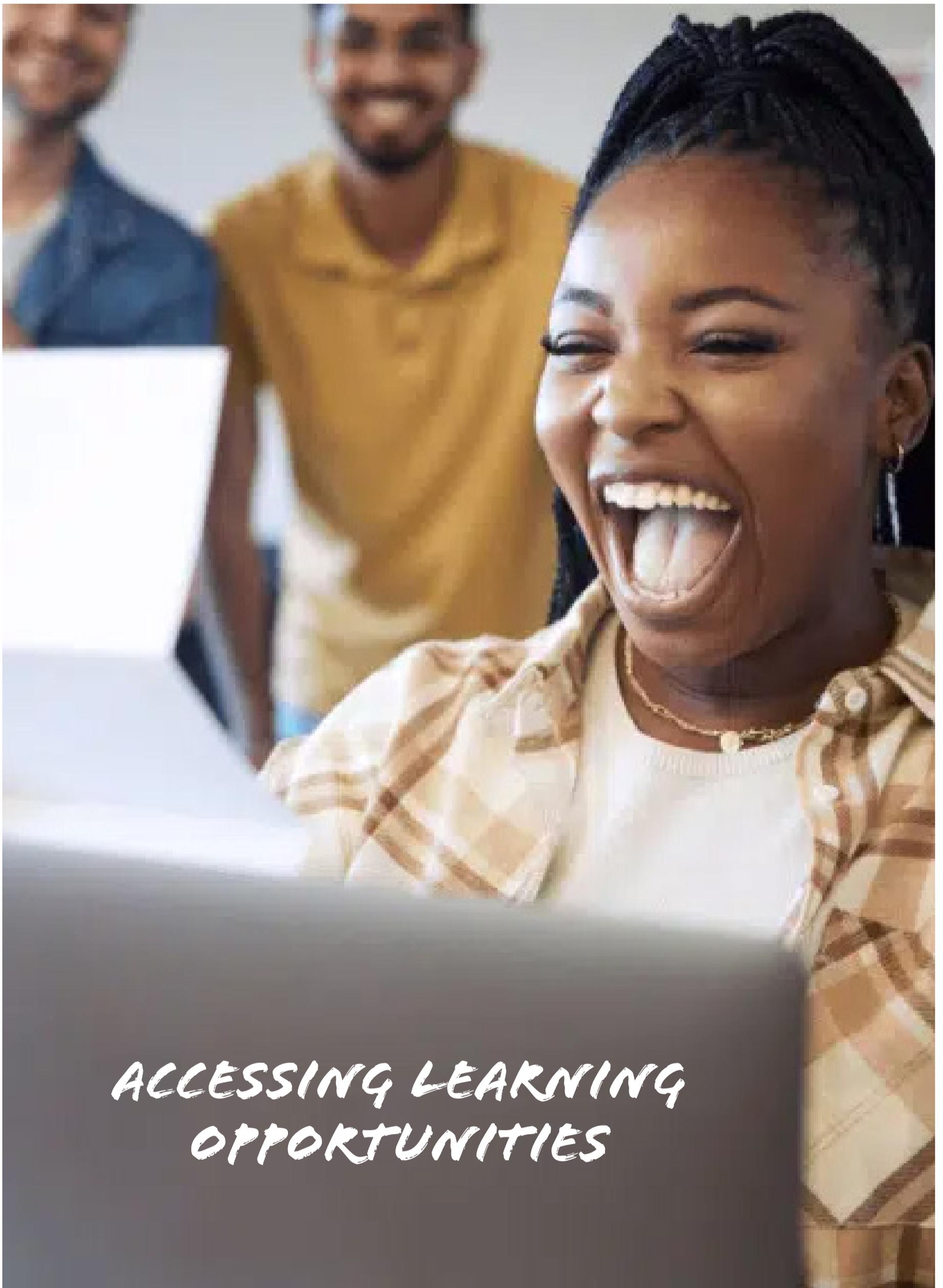
Despite this, the school is reputable for producing the best Grade 12 results, under the management of the Principal, Mr. Daniel Mashele. Mashele says the next challenge is to produce Grade 12 learners with Bachelor pass, which will culminate into distinctions in 2027. "Our motto is 100% attendance both educators and learners' and we are determined to maintain the high standard', he explained.

The Premier, Mr. Mandla Ndlovu visited the school recently to congratulate Mr. Mashele, the teaching staff and the School Governing Body (SGB) for the pass rate. He was accompanied by the MEC for Culture, Sports and Recreation, Ms Leah Mabuza, the Nkangala Executive Mayor, Cllr. Thomas Ngwenya, the Dr JS Moroka Executive Mayor, Cllr. Nomsa Mtsweni and senior management of the Office of the Premier. "We are committed to rebuild the school in phases, to be completed in 2028," the Premier emphasised.

The Premier's announcement that learners will be provided with educational tablets, was received with ululations. "The current Grade 12 learners will be required to return the tablets, after completing their studies. So, the current Grade 11 learners should know that their tablets are ready when they go to the next level in 2026," Mr. Ndlovu announced.

The tablets are part of the government's support for learners, to enhance teaching and learning. They are distributed to all schools in the province. Research studies have concluded that this support prepares the youth towards the digital economy, and is essential for South Africa as a developmental country, trading in a globalised economy.





*ACCESSING LEARNING  
OPPORTUNITIES*

# PURSUING A NEW VOYAGE POST MATRIC

The Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust (MRTT) Congratulates Matric Class 2024: Your bright future starts here—explore the endless possibilities with MRTT today!" As you embark on the next chapter of your young adult journey, why not make it count skilfully and consider MRTT's Artisan Skills Training Programme to enhance your career prospects. With our practical focused, hands-on skills training programmes, you stand a chance of gaining valuable skills that will help you thrive in the artisanal professionalism of your choice. With our variety of training programmes, you will gain knowledge, practical skills and work experience to unlock your full potential and build a successful career.

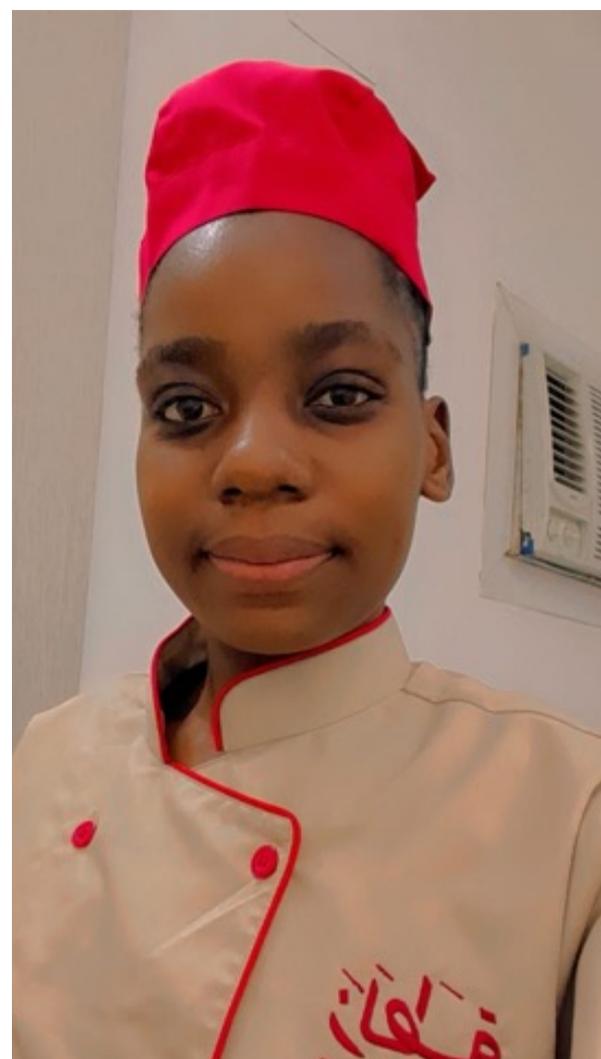
Empowered with technical skills for life, you are provided with a career future option of earning a salary in a very short space of time upon completion of your studies or paying salaries, as a self-employed entrepreneur following on the steps of our former learners.

Be motivated by one of our own, in her own words, Ms Portia Mokoena former 2023/24 MRTT-HTA Professional Cookery now working in Dubai. "As I reflect on my culinary journey, I am reminded of the passion that ignited my interest in cooking. Growing up, I was fascinated by the art of combining ingredients to

create something truly special. This curiosity eventually led me to pursue formal training in Professional Cookery at MRTT-HTA. I started my training in 2023 and completed early 2024 and managed to secure employment internationally in Dubai in November 2024, the same year of completing my studies. The MRTT Hospitality Academy program provided me with a solid foundation in cooking techniques, kitchen management, and food safety. I was able to hone my skills through hands-on training and gain valuable experience working in a commercial kitchen environment".

Mr Thembinkosi Vincent Ngwenya is one of our living testimonies that skills training can change your life journey from zero to owning your own business franchise from acquired practical skills. A former MRTT Hospitality Academy Professional Cookery learner, a qualified Chef, and today a founder of a very successful Nkomazi Pizza, a growing business with first branch in KwaMhlushwa, Nkomazi and recently expanded his business to Mataffin in Mbombela. His vision is to open six more branches within Nkomazi and employ more young people.

At MRTT our slogan is Empowerment Through Training and our learners bears testimonies to our promises. Why not, join MRTT and be counted as well as one of



our future ambassadors on our selected training programmes listed below:

With our variety of training programmes, you will gain knowledge, practical skills and work experience to unlock your full potential and build a successful career.

## HOSPITALITY & TOURISM PROGRAMMES

COURSE NAME	SAQA ID	NQF LEVEL	NO OF CREDITS	DURATION (FULL TIME)	TUITION ONLY (INCL. REG FEE)
Skills Programme: Bar Attendance	HSP/BarAtt/2/0027	2	42	6 months	R 7,238.00
Skills Programme: Assistant Chef	HSP/AssChf/2/0022	2	52	6 months	R 8,738.00
National Certificate: Professional Cookery	14111	4	145	12 months	R 11,388.00
National Certificate: Food and Beverage	14113	4	144	12 months	R9, 700.00

# BUILDING & CIVIL CONSTRUCTION PROGRAMMES

SKILLS PROGRAM NAME	CREDITS	ACCREDITATION BODY	DURATION	FEEES
Building and Civil Construction Painting NQF Level 3	78	CETA	03 Months	R5 537.00
Building and Civil Construction Carpentry NQF Level 3	69	CETA	03 Months	R 7 605.00
Building and Civil Construction Plastering & Tilling NQF Level 3	83	CETA	03 Months	R 5 537.00
Building and Civil Construction Bricklaying NQF Level 3	88	CETA	03 Months	R 5 537.00
Further Education Training Plumbing NQF Level 4	94	CETA	03 Months	R 7 696.00

## ENROLLMENT REQUIREMENTS:

- Skills programmes (NQF Level 2 -3) Grade 10 final school report
- National Certificate (NQF Level 4) Grade 11 final school report
- Must be able to read and write in English

## FOR ENQUIRIES, CONTACT OUR OFFICES DURING WORKING HOURS:

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Class of 2025, make 2025 your masterpiece."*

