




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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Special edition: Back to school

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OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Student registrations run smoothly

By Lerato Setilo and Lehlohonolo Manoto: GCIS, Free State



Students receiving assistance at the UFS's Bloemfontein Campus during the registration process.

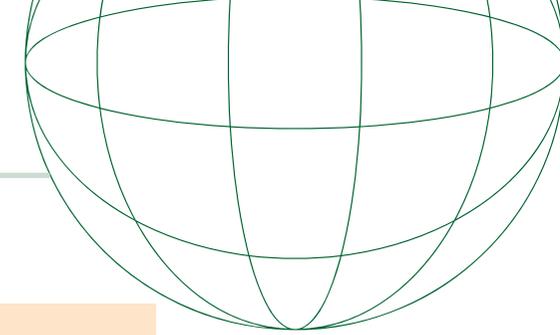
The University of the Free State's (UFS) Bloemfontein, South and QwaQwa campuses started their 2016 registration for first-year students on 18 January. The first week of the registration was concluded without difficulties and incidents of disruptions. The registration will continue until 5 February.

Early this year, the #FeesMustFall campaign disrupted registration at three Gauteng institutions. This prompted the Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Blade Nzimande, to hold a meeting with students leaders to try to resolve the matter. The disruption had very little impact on the registration process at UFS as the management had put extra security measures to ensure that everything goes according to plan.



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Cinga Macingwe said:

“The registration process went smoothly. I did not encounter any problem. I noticed that there were students who did not have registration money and struggled to register as a result.”



Keke Matsoso said:

“I could not register because I do not have enough money so I applied for provisional registration where I can pay a portion of the registration money and pay the rest by April, or else I will be deregistered.”



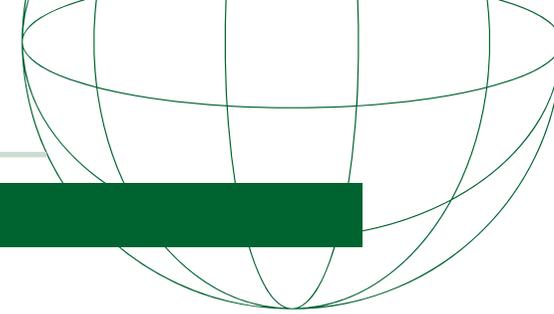
Sam Ramakatsa said:

“My biggest challenge is that I cannot register because I still owe the university and my account has been handed over to UFS lawyers. The SRC has helped me with a certain amount but I still have to pay the outstanding balance.”



Mofokeng Mashatho said:

“The registration process went well, the only challenge was that I did not know where to go to register. I asked around and the senior students helped me with directions to the venue.”



OUTCOME I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Gert Sibande District rewards excellence

By Bongani Mazibuko: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Sihle motivating the learners.



Jadwaad Hafsa from Ligbron Akademie in Ermelo received an award for Best Learner in Engineering and Graphic Designs.



Three of the Top 10 learners in the Gert Sibande District.



Van Zyl from Ligbron Akademie in Ermelo received an award for Best Teacher in Mathematics.



Mbuli received an award on behalf of Madonsela from Simtfolile High School in Mpuluzi for Best Teacher in Agricultural Sciences.



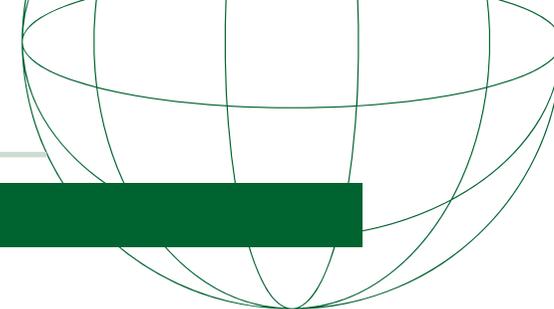
Thapelo Ngovheni from Simtfolile High School in Mpuluzi received an award for Best Learner in Agricultural Sciences.

The Department of Education in the Gert Sibande District held its congratulatory event for the Grade 12 class of 2015 at the Nederland Park Secondary School in Ermelo, Msukaligwa Municipality on 14 January 2016.

The event also served as the official announcement of the Grade 12 results on how circuits, schools, educators and learners performed within the Gert Sibande District. The ceremony was attended by political principals within the Gert Sibande District. Representatives from teachers' unions and other social partners within the education sector presented congratulatory speeches.

Old Mutual and Sasol, as sponsors, also presented congratulatory messages and later presented awards to the educators and learners who performed exceptionally well in the exams.

A former learner of Ligbron Hoerskool in Ermelo and now an actress in the popular SABC 1 drama Uzalo, Sihle Ndaba, (who plays the character of Smangele) presented a motivational speech to learners who received the awards. She indicated that, it is in the learners' hands to have a brighter future in life. Sihle was presented with a Special Award for representing the district beyond the borders of Mpumalanga.



OUTCOME I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Sekhukhune District honours top achievers

By Nkopodi Mokgoma: GCIS, Limpopo



Top student Mahlogonolo is congratulated by Sekhukhune District Mayor and the Mayor of Makhuduthamaga.

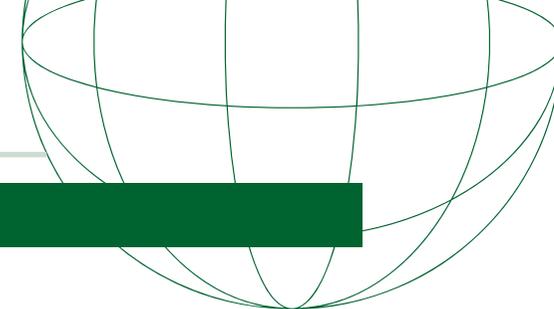
Sekhukhune District Municipality in partnership with the Department of Basic Education organised an award-giving ceremony to honour top-performing Grade 12 learners.

Government leaders presented individual gifts to the top 10 learners.

“We are all keen to improve education of the African child because we know that it is only education that provides tools to people to solve their problems,” said the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality, Mogobe Magabe. The ceremony was also attended by all the circuit managers in the district.

Mahlogonolo Lentsoane from St Marks High School in Jane Furse emerged as the overall top learner in the whole Sekhukhune District.

“I was confident that I am going to pass but I did not expect to achieve what I have achieved,” said Mahlogonolo with a smile. He received an average of 91,56% with 100% in mathematics.



OUTCOME I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Gauteng embarks on a Back to School campaign

By Tshidi Mokoka: GCIS, Gauteng



School Principal Senosi outlining the school's plans for the year at the meeting.



Gauteng Legislature Speaker Mkgwe at the Back to School campaign at Thuto Pele Secondary School.

As part of the new academic year, the Gauteng Office of the Premier partnered with different stakeholders in the West Rand District to conduct a Back to School campaign at Thuto Pele Secondary School in Kagiso on 13 January 2016. The purpose of the campaign was to check and evaluate school readiness and ensure that logistics are available to start the process of teaching and learning. The event was conducted as an education stakeholder meeting attended by the Speaker of the Gauteng Legislature, Ntombi Mkgwe. She was accompanied by the Executive Mayor of Mogale City, Councillor Koketso Seerane and some of the executives from the Provincial Department of Education.

Thuto Pele is a no-fee school that has achieved 100% matric pass rate in the West Rand. The school principal, Moses Senosi, emphasised at the meeting that they worked with different stakeholders to ensure that learners are in class on time and teaching takes place. "Discipline plays an essential role in this school and we ensure that we put God first in everything we do," said the principal. "We also ensure that we have fun, enjoy what we do and give individual attention to learners. We have achieved this through the involvement of parents and guardians," he continued. He also emphasised that teachers are always committed to provide quality education.

Thuto Pele is one of the schools in the Westrand that will be fitted with e-learning boards and tablets for Grade 12 learners. "Stakeholders need to work together not to only achieve 100% pass rate; but to also make sure that the results are of quality and enable learners to continue to go and study for scarce skills such as engineering and medicine that are needed in our country," said Mkgwe. She also encouraged school governing bodies, teachers and parents to work together for the benefit of the learners.