




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Mpumalanga salutes excellence

By Bongani Mazibuko: GCIS, Mpumalanga



The Best Performing District in the province receiving its award.



Principals of schools that obtained 100% pass rate, with 30 and above number of learners.



Sipheshile Mavuso received an award for Best Performing Learner in Physical Science.

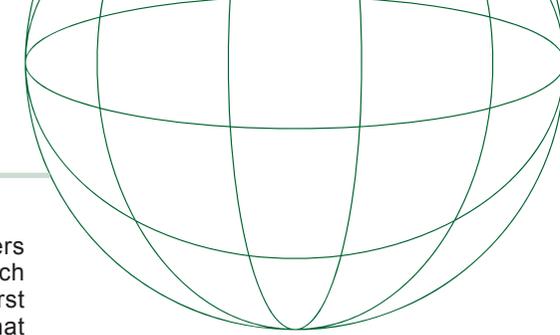
The Mpumalanga Provincial Government held its congratulatory event for the Grade 12 class of 2015 at the Izimbali Boarding School in Amsterdam, at the Gert Sibande District on 6 January 2016.

The event was the official announcement of the provincial Grade 12 results. The Mpumalanga MEC for Education, Reginah Mhaule, announced the matric results in an event attended by, among others, top learners in the province, stakeholders such as Vodacom, MTN, Old Mutual, Standard Bank, Sasol, Mustek and Imperial Toyota. Political leaders, government officials, parents and other structures also attended the event.



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In her speech, MEC Mhaule said: “Programme Director, the total number of full time learners who wrote the 2015 Grade 12 examination is 54 980, and of this number 43 229 passed, which translates to 7 614 more learners passing compared to 2014. Looking at the trends, it is the first time that Mpumalanga achieves such a milestone, something that we need to commend. On that score, it gives me pleasure to announce that the Grade 12 class of 2015 has achieved a 78,6% pass rate.”

Ululations and clapping of hands were heard throughout the hall as the attendees applauded the overall pass rate announced by the MEC. The MEC went on to announce how each of the districts had performed. The best performing district was Ehlanzeni and the best performing school was Hoërskool Nelspruit. The school retained its last year’s first position with a 100% pass rate. The school also obtained the most distinctions in the province.

The Overall Best Performing Learner in the Province, Jeewa Sumaya, who hails from Hoerskool Middelburg in the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, took away several awards. She also drove away in a brand new Toyota Aygo, proudly sponsored by Imperial Toyota Nelspruit.

Apart from announcing the Grade 12 results, the MEC presented Special Awards to five Mpumalanga citizens who did exceptionally well in their various fields. They are Rolene Strauss, Norah Fakude-Nkuna, Sibusiso Vilane, Pretty Yende and JZM Sambo.



Jeewa Sumaya received an award for being one of the Top 10 Best Performing Learners in the province.



Thapelo Ngoveni from Simtfolile High School in Mpuluzi received an award for Best Performing Learner in Agricultural Science.



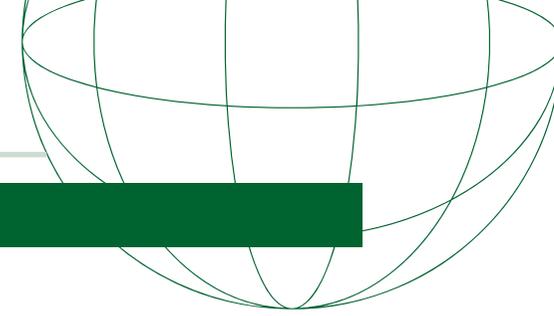
The Best Performing Local Municipality in the province receiving its award: Emakhazeni Local Municipality.



DoGood Kapere from Highveld Comprehensive Secondary School at Elukwatini, received an award for being one of the Top 10 Best Performing Learners in the province.



Siphesihle Mavuso said:
“I will be furthering my studies in Computer Science at Wits University this year. I cannot wait to get there.”



OUTCOME I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Government and partners reach out to community

By Ndyabo Kopo: GCIS, Eastern Cape

“Be the best Mandela you can be in this lifetime with the resources and opportunities you are exposed to,” said the Deputy Minister of Communications, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams.

The Deputy Minister was addressing learners at St George’s Senior Secondary School during the back-to-school outreach programme organised by the SABC Foundation and Tru FM in partnership with stakeholders such as the Department of Communications, Umzimvubu Local Municipality, Alfred Nzo Development Agency and KwaBhaca Traditional Authority.

The event was also aimed at celebrating the school’s pass rate of 75,4% in 2015 and this was the first group to sit for Grade 12 exams since the school was put under the rationalisation and realignment programme.

The rationalisation and realignment process started in 2014 in this school and about six schools were realigned and renamed St George’s Senior Secondary School. The realignment was called for by the community of Lubhacweni.

The school obtained the first position against the three other schools that were presenting for the first time.

The well-attended event was organised and funded by the SABC Foundation and Tru FM. This social responsibility programmes donated school uniform and shoes to 100 learners. The CEO of SABC Foundation, Iris Cupido, said the donation was aimed at nation-building and ensuring that the foundation changes the lives of the less fortunate.

Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams pledged five bursaries to academically deserving learners to study within the communications and broadcasting fields. She also facilitated a sponsorship of a cyber lab for the school by Vodacom. The cyber lab has 26 tablets, a master laptop, a white board, a printer, a data projector and a server.

“I am challenging you to achieve 100% pass rate this year. Young people are about skills and development and in our endeavour to fight crime, poverty and unemployment, you need to partner with government in its initiative to improve the lives of the poor. We need to produce sound engineers, broadcasters and content developers from these learners,” said the Deputy Minister.

MEC for Education in the Eastern Cape, Mandla Makupula, who also attended the event, said some of the challenges facing the education system in the province included lack of parents’ involvement. He encouraged parents to take charge of their children’s future by ensuring that they are directly involved in their children’s education.



Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams interacting with the learners at the cyber lab.



Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams addressing community members.



Department of Agriculture's Head of Department, Maisela (centre) with Kgoshi Manoke (left) and MMC Kgoloko (right) during the Disability Summit at Thaba Moshate Casino.



Seun Mathale said:

"This is a good day and victory for people with disabilities. We really appreciate what government has done by creating the Braille PAIA to accommodate people with disabilities."

OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP

Government empowers people with disabilities

By Nkopodi Mokgoma: GCIS, Limpopo

The Limpopo Department of Agriculture has launched the first-ever Braille manual on the promotion of access to information. The department convened a provincial summit on 2 December 2015, where a copy of the Promotion of Access to Information Act (PAIA), written in Braille, was handed over to the provincial chairperson of the people with disabilities forum, Seun Mathale, by the head of the department, Ramatsimele Maisela. The event took place in Thaba Moshate Casino & Conference Centre.

In her address, Maisela thanked all the people with disabilities for their dedication to the field of agriculture. She further indicated that people with disabilities are also contributing towards the food security of both at provincial and national level. The event was the first of its kind in the whole country. "Our department has employed 85 people with disabilities so far," added Maisela.

She indicated that there was a need to talk about the challenges facing people with disabilities and also work together to find solutions. Maisela also said that her department was assisting farmers who are facing drought challenges.

Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) in the office of Sekhukhune District Executive Mayor, Mohlabane Kgoloko, pointed out that government is ensuring that people with disabilities have access to government buildings.

Kgoloko urged people with disabilities not to be ashamed of themselves. He gave example of people with disabilities who are able to lead their communities like Kgoshikgolo Sekhukhune and Kgosi Maila, who are both blind. In his closing remarks, Kgoloko warned those who abuse people with disabilities that they will face the full might of the law.