




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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OUTCOME I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

School camps improve Mpumalanga matric results

By: Joy Themba: DoC, Mpumalanga



Marnie Wiid mother to the provincial top learner, Hoërskool Nelspruit Principal, Madri Wiid and MEC Mhaule congratulates.



Mpumalanga 2014 top learners from all three districts. With flowers is Madri Wiid from Hoërskool Nelspruit, who is the best-performing learner in the province.

The Mpumalanga class of 2014 did exceptionally well in their matric exams. The provincial aggregate reached 79% pass rate. Despite the increased pass rate, Mathematics remains a huge concern. Mpumalanga learners obtained only 392 Mathematics distinctions, much fewer than last year's 529.

The MEC for Education, Reginah Mhaule, said that this was the first time the province had performed above the national average of 75,8%. She further outlined that the results had been declared credible by Umalusi. For the second year in succession, Hoërskool Nelspruit managed to maintain 100% pass rate, with 348 distinctions. Despite the fact that Nkomazi Local Municipality is one of the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme municipalities, its schools kept a good-performance record, thus making it the best performing municipality. This achievement is a result of a study camp that schools within the municipality took part in.

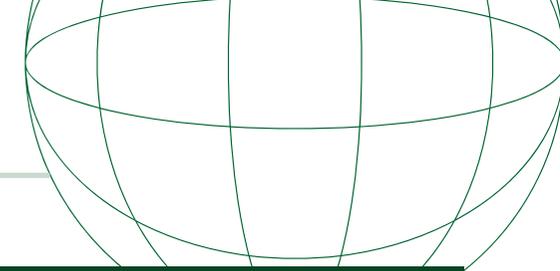
The Education department plans to improve last year's results. It plans to intensify its school-based intervention support in the 84 schools that did not achieve more than 60% and are declared dysfunctional. Furthermore, the department will conduct workshops on an on-going basis for Mathematics, Physical Science, Accounting and Economics advisors. Top learners received equipment like laptops, tablets, iPhones, microwave, kettle and bar fridge from sponsors. One learner received a Toyota Etios, sponsored by Imperial Toyota Nelspruit.



Madri Wiid with her mother Marnie in her new car from Toyota Imperial Nelspruit.



MEC Mhaule interviewed by the South African Broadcasting Corporation.



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OUTCOME I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Tandi Eleanor Sibeko Secondary wired for paperless classroom

By: Jacob Molete: DoC, Gauteng



School learners, with MEC Creecy, after receiving their tablets at the event.



School teacher, Dlamini demonstrates how the digital paperless classroom works.

As part of the back-to-school campaign, pupils received tablets at the Tandi Eleanor Sibeko Secondary School in Duduza on 14 January 2015. Through the digital paperless classroom, pupils will receive tablets, while teachers will use interactive boards. This means that chalks and dusters are things of the past.

Speaking of the launch of the digital paperless classroom, Finance MEC, Barbara Creecy, told learners that they will no longer carry heavy books and backpacks to school. "Today we are doing something very important, we are launching the digital paperless classroom, you are no longer going to carry heavy books as all your textbooks and classroom lessons are already uploaded on tablets that you are going to receive," she said.

The MEC said that the move to digital paperless classroom will also enhance communication between teachers and learners as well as their information and communication technology (ICT) skills. She urged learners to take education seriously, arrive at school on time and respect one another and their teachers. "Be at school on time, improve on your time management and make 2015 a year of success," said MEC Creecy.

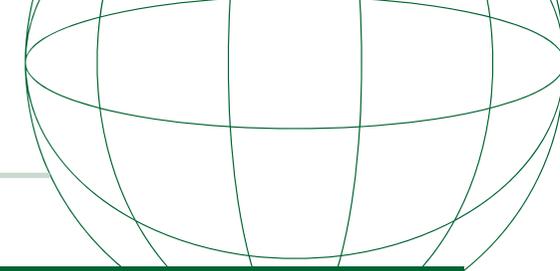
The Speaker of the Gauteng Legislature, Ntombi Mekgwe, encouraged pupils to secure and safeguard the tablets. "Do not take chances and sell these tablets because they have a tracking device. We will retrieve them, whether sold or stolen. We hope that you will

secure and safeguard them as they are allocated specifically to you," said Mekgwe. Maths Literacy teacher, Nhlanhla Dlamini, said the use of ICT in education will improve teacher and learner communication, thereby ensuring that classroom lessons reach all pupils even if they were unable to attend lessons. Grade 12 pupils, Thapelo Phadimo and Nthabiseng Nhlapo were both excited about the gadgets and the digital paperless classroom.

"The move to digital paperless classroom will improve our performance because no one will be left behind, and if you need more explanation on any subject you can easily communicate directly with the subject teacher," said Phadimo.

"I am very excited about the gadgets because they will improve our performance. These gadgets help us with lessons and we can communicate with our teachers and fellow learners if we have challenges or need more explanation or clarity," said Nhlapo.

The digital paperless project will be launched in seven public schools in Gauteng. The aim of the project is to modernise public education and build a system that can compete internationally by bringing public schools into the 21st century. Through the digital paperless classroom, Gauteng learners will be able to engage with their teachers and will never have to carry textbooks.



Keitumetse Tlale said:

"My first day of schooling was very enjoyable; I even managed to make new friends. We ate pap and fish at my new school."



Katleho Lebina said:

"I don't like it here. I want to go home with my mom."

OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

First-time learners ready to face the future

By: Mojalefa Senokoatsane: DoC, Free State



A teacher and her learners in their classroom.



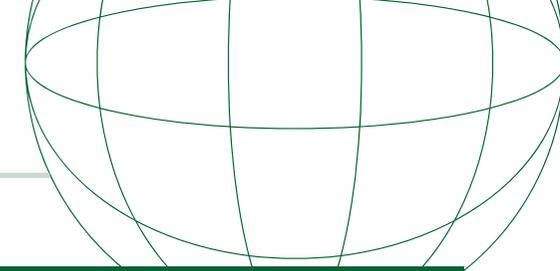
Sobi Makhongoana and Alicia Abdullah arrive at Likubu Primary School.

Education is one of the pillars that ensures that a country develops and also build the core fibre of society. On 14 January 2015, inland schools re-opened. Grade R learners from Likubu Primary School in Kroonstad, joined thousands of other inland learners to start their schooling. Some of these learners were in a happy mood, wearing their new school uniform and carrying their backpacks. One of those who were eager to start their first day of school was Alicia Abdullah, from Koekoe Village, who was happy to join her sister in school.

Also happy to be going to school was Sobi Makhongoana, who asked his mother to go back home as school was about to start. Even though most of the first timers were happy to be starting school, there were also those who did not want to go to school as they were not used to being separated from their parents.

The mixed reactions of these new entrants, made it evident that teaching is a calling and teachers need to be dedicated and loving, especially those in Grade R, to ensure that these learners feel at home and adapt with ease.

The Department of Basic Education has indicated that it was becoming worried that every year, thousands of the learners who had started their schooling had not completed their Grade 12. It is hoped in 2026 all those who started Grade 1 today will all be finishing their Grade 12 to be amongst those who will be carrying the baton to take this country to greater heights.



MEC Mhaule and Madri's mother sign bursary approval forms.

OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Mpumalanga learners back to school with a bang!

By Joy Themba: DoC, Mpumalanga

Everything went well on the first day of the 2015 school re-opening in Mpumalanga. MEC for Education, Reginah Mhaule, accompanied by the Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Madala Masuku, Ehlanzeni District Mayor Letta Shongwe and Mbombela Executive Mayor Sibusiso Mathonsi visited Hoërskool Nelspruit to monitor the back-to-school programme on 14 January. MEC Mhaule said Hoërskool Nelspruit is the pride of the province because the school always excels in matric exams. She encouraged the 2015 matric learners to do more in their studies to ensure that the province achieves 89% and above the national average. Three of the school's educators achieved 100% pass rate in Mathematics, English and Business Studies and are requested to assist other school educators to emulate their example.

MEC Mhaule also thanked Imperial Toyota Nelspruit that for the past 3 years, they have made education their priority by awarding the top learner in the province with a car. The MEC said this shows that they have passion for education and it also inspires learners to dream big when they sit down for their final Grade 12 exams to wish to own a car at the end of the day. Mayor Shongwe, in her message of support, said learners of today should be grateful and work hard because our country's education is much better than it was in the past. "All of you here today are encouraged to take education seriously so that you can be mentioned in the books of this country," said Mayor Shongwe.



Christi Kruger said:

"If we all stand together and study hard, we can do better than the class of 2014. We will continue to rise above them through hard work, dedication and prayer. Definitely, Toyota Imperial will again sponsor the top learner from Hoërskool Nelspruit."



MEC Reginah Mhaule said:

"As the department we are ready. We are saying that the first day of schooling should be for teaching not for registration. We have even dispatched officials to all school that are working closely with the administrators handling issues of registration as well as attending to queries. We still have to work hard to improve our foundation phase especially on Maths, Science and Technology."



School principal Louise Swanepoel, the SGB Chairperson, Mbombela Executive Mayor Mathonsi, MEC Reginah Mhaule, Desmond Bosh of Imperial Toyota Nelspruit, Madri Wiid, Deputy Minister Madala Masuku, Executive Mayor Shongwe, Marie Wiid and Acting Head of Department Lucy Moyane.



Hoërskool Nelspruit learners listening attentively and also waving the South African flag.