



TO NEWS EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS

FROM THE MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

06 APRIL 2025

MEC DLAMINI TO VISIT CYRIL CLARK SECONDARY SCHOOL ON MONDAY

As schools prepare for the reopening for the second quarter, which will run from Tuesday, April 8th to Friday, June 27th, 2025, the MEC for Education, Ms. Cathy Dlamini, will undertake a school support visit to Cyril Clark Secondary School in the City of Mbombela Local Municipality on Monday, 07 April 2025.

This school support visit intends to assess the school's readiness to commence with the second quarter.

During her visit, the MEC will also present school desks which have been rehabilitated by the Department of Correctional Services, symbolizing a collaborative effort to improve the conditions for learning and teaching throughout the Province.

The MEC will further take the opportunity to extend a warm welcome to all teachers, learners, and non-teaching staff as they return from their well-deserved winter break.

She will emphasize the importance of making the most of the 52 actual school days in this quarter, urging all members of the school community to seize every opportunity to promote learning and teaching.

Recognizing the limited time, the MEC will call upon parents and communities to unite in safeguarding instructional time and to provide steadfast support to schools throughout the second term.

The media is invited to join the MEC in this important visit and to cover this visit.

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TO THE NEWS EDITORS

FROM THE MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

09 APRIL 2025

NKANGALA DISTRICT TO DELIBERATE ON LEARNER PERFORMANCE IMPROVEMENT

It is the turn for Nkangala District to host the MEC for Education, Ms Cathy Dlamini, as she continues her efforts to enhance the province's pass rate across all grades.

MEC Dlamini will convene a meeting with the District Management Team and School Principals of Nkangala District tomorrow, Thursday, April 10, 2025, at Greendale Combined School in the Emalahleni Local Municipality, commencing at 09:00.

The primary objective of this meeting is to analyse the 2024 Grade 12 results, identify areas for improvement, and provide the district with direct intervention strategies to address these areas.

The meeting will be conducted in two sessions. The first session will commence at 09:00, during which Ms Dlamini will meet with the District Management Team. She will then meet with the school principals at 12:00.

Nkangala District has demonstrated exceptional performance, achieving an 85.2% pass rate in the 2024 National Senior Certificate Examination results.

In addition to the aforementioned matters, the meeting will address Human Resources Management and Infrastructure Development-related issues.

The media is cordially invited to attend and cover both sessions. Media interviews will be held at 11:30.

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TO NEWS EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS

FROM THE MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT

11 APRIL 2025

MEC DLAMINI URGES PARENTS TO REPORT SEXUAL MISCONDUCT IN SCHOOLS

The MEC for the Mpumalanga Department of Education , Ms. Cathy Dlamini, urges parents, teachers and communities to report incidents of sexual harassment or inappropriate relationships between teachers and learners to law enforcement authorities and to the Department of Education.

“Remaining silent or concealing such incidents undermines our collective efforts to address these serious violations. It allows perpetrators to escape accountability and inflicts further harm on the victims. Together, we must create a safe, respectful, and supportive learning environment for all our children.” she emphasized

This call comes in response to South Africa’s intensified fight against the abuse of women and children, and reports of such incidents beginning to surface.

MEC Dlamini further reminded educators of their professional responsibility to uphold the highest ethical standards and to strictly adhere to the educators’ Code of Conduct.

She warned that any form of harassment or misconduct towards learners will not be tolerated by the Department.

During the 2024 academic year, the Department recorded three cases of inappropriate sexual relationships and four cases of sexual assault involving learners.

Even a single case of harassment is one too many.

The Department is also concerned that there may be cases which have not been reported, particularly in instances where perpetrators attempt to silence families through financial settlements.

MEC Dlamini urged parents to prioritise the safety, dignity, and well-being of their children above any personal or financial interests.

Sexual relationships between educators and learners are strictly prohibited, regardless of an educator’s role—whether school-based or office-based.

In accordance with Section 17(1) of the Employment of Educators Act (EEA), educators can be charged with misconduct for any disgraceful, improper, or unbecoming behaviour, including acts of sexual harassment or abuse.

To address these, the Department of Basic Education developed a comprehensive protocol for the management and reporting of sexual offences in educational institutions.

This protocol outlines standard operating procedures for reporting, investigating, and managing such cases, and provides clear guidance to schools on how to ensure a safe, nurturing, and responsive environment for learners.

Schools are strongly encouraged to provide regular training to learners on these protocols to ensure that they are aware of their rights and know how to respond and report misconduct effectively.

In partnership with the South African Police Service (SAPS), the Department is rolling out an Integrated School Safety Programme.

This initiative aims to equip learners with knowledge and skills to combat gender-based violence and sexual harassment.

The Department calls on parents, guardians, school principals, and staff to act swiftly and report any suspicions or allegations of sexual misconduct. Timely reporting is essential to ensure that proper action is taken, and justice is served.

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TO NEWS EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS

FROM THE MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT

14 APRIL 2025

MEC CATHY DLAMINI TO VISIT PILGRIM'S REST PRIMARY SCHOOL

The MEC for Education, Ms. Cathy Dlamini will conduct a support visit to Pilgrim's Rest Primary School in the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality on Tuesday, 15 April 2025 at 09H00.

This visit marks a renewed chapter for the school, which recently faced significant challenges that led to its temporary closure.

Now, with the resilience of the school community and the dedicated intervention of the Department of Education working in close collaboration with Ehlanzeni District Municipality Health Services those challenges have been turned into opportunities for the school growth and renewal.

The MEC will use the visit to assess progress made in restoring quality learning and teaching, ensuring that every child at Pilgrim's Rest Primary is given the chance to thrive in a safe, supportive environment.

In a spirit of care and empowerment, MEC Dlamini will also hand over soccer kits, school shoes, and dignity packs, affirming the Department's commitment to the holistic development of learners nurturing both body and mind.

Further strengthening the school's sustainability, the Department of Correctional Services will establish a vegetable garden fostering food security and life skills for learners.

This visit is more than an inspection by the MEC, it is a message of hope, restoration, and shared responsibility.

Together, we are building a future where no learner is left behind.

A nation at work for all.

Inquiries :

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TO NEWS EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS

FROM THE MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

19 APRIL 2025

FOR THE RECORD

The Mpumalanga Department of Education acknowledges the concerns raised regarding the procurement of high-specifications and high cost laptops.

It is important to clarify that these laptops were acquired for the Department's Education Management Information Systems (EMIS) and Information and Communication Technology (ICT) teams and other related officials whose operational responsibilities require high-performance computing equipment.

It is true that these devices came at a high cost. However, this procurement was driven by technical requirements rather than preference or extravagance.

It must be emphasized that the MEC was not involved in the procurement process at any stage, nor did she receive any of the laptops in question.

The fact is by law the MEC is not involved in any procurement processes.

To implicate her or her office in this matter is both misleading and unjust and undermines the principles of fair and transparent administration.

The high-performance laptops were specifically purchased for the EMIS and ICT teams due to the nature of their work, which involves managing complex and resource-intensive systems essential to the Department's functioning.

Their key responsibilities include but not limited to :

Managing Office 365 accounts and supporting schools, districts, and circuits,

Troubleshooting network issues and providing real-time technical support,

Running SQL systems for data analysis and uploading large datasets to platforms such as the Provincial Data Warehouse, eCares, the Post Provisioning System, and LURITS,

Temporarily storing and managing SA-SAMS databases and

Supporting the ongoing modernisation of SA-SAMS to enable real-time, online access.

The EMIS team is also responsible for handling data related to Early Childhood Development (ECD) and will be using the new eCares system, which requires advanced data collection, analysis, and reporting capabilities.

They manage Post Provisioning data to ensure accurate staff allocations across schools in the province and assist in the implementation of the enhanced DDD system.

The ICT team supports MDoE officials and schools through various Office 365-related services, particularly during the migration to cloud-based email systems.

Their duties include but not limited to :

Resetting user passwords via Active Directory Manager,

Assisting users with email connectivity issues,

Rebuilding user accounts and configuring Multi-Factor Authentication and

Repairing mailboxes via Exchange Server or the Office 365 portal.

Given the nature of these tasks, the teams are often required to operate multiple advanced applications simultaneously, manage large datasets, and provide real-time support to users.

This makes high-performance laptops, with powerful processors, ample RAM, and fast storage, not only justified, but essential for effective service delivery.

The procurement of these laptops was therefore based on operational necessity, not luxury.

To this end, the Department welcomes the ongoing investigation into this matter, as it offers an opportunity to present the facts and clarify any misconceptions.

The Department remains committed to cooperate fully with the investigating authorities to ensure transparency and accountability.

The Department will henceforth not make any public comment regarding this matter until the investigation is concluded.

Issued by the Mpumalanga Department of Education.

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TO NEWS EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS

FROM THE MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION AND PUBLIC WORKS, ROADS AND
TRANSPORT

20 APRIL 2025

MEC DLAMINI AND THOMO TO OFFICIALLY HANDEDOVER NDINDINDI PRIMARY SCHOOL

The MEC for Education, Ms. Cathy Dlamini together with MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport Mr Thulasizwe Thomo will on Tuesday, 22 April 2025 officially handover the new state of the art Ndindindi Primary School in Embuzini Village in the Nkomazi Local Municipality at 10H00.

The MEC's will be in the company of the Executive Mayor of Nkomazi Local Municipality, Cllr Phindile Magagula and Ehlanzeni District Executive Mayor, Cllr Terrence Shabangu and the representative of the the House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders.

Ndindindi Primary School is more than just a building, it is a symbol of hope, progress, and the abundance of opportunities and possibilities.

It represents a profound commitment by government to “open the doors of learning and culture for all,” as envisioned in the historic Freedom Charter, adopted 70 years ago.

This milestone reaffirms the constitutional imperative of the right to quality education for every child, in every corner of our nation.

Ndindindi Primary School stands proudly near the iconic Samora Machel Monument, a symbol of how the struggle for freedom paved the way for progress, empowerment, and a brighter future for all.

Its construction started in December 2023 with an allocation of R32 million a true reflection of the Provincial Government’s commitment to improve the conditions of learning and teaching throughout the Place of the Rising Sun.

It serves as a reminder of what can be achieved when we unite in action and act in unity informed by a common vision of a better life for all.

In this regard, the Department extends its deepest appreciation to the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport and the community of Nkomazi Local Municipality for leading from the front towards the successful construction of this school.

The 22nd of April will not only mark the unveiling of new school infrastructure, but also the restoration of a sense of belonging, pride, patriotism, empowerment, dignity, and possibilities.

Let us gather, celebrate, and continue to build a future where every South African child has the opportunity to rise.

A nation at work for all!

The media is invited to cover the event at Ndindindi Primary School in Nkomazi Local Municipality at 10H00.

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TO NEWS EDITORS AND JOURNALISTS

FROM THE MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT

DATE : 22 APRIL 2025

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE TO HOST THE PROVINCIAL G20 EDUCATION INDABA

Under the #G20 South Africa Presidency, the Department of Basic Education, in collaboration with the Department of Higher Education and Training, is proud to host the inaugural Provincial G20 Education Indaba on Thursday, 24 April 2025, at the Anew Hotel, White River(Former Ingwenyama Lodge) starting at 09H00.

This landmark summit marks the beginning of a series of provincial engagements aimed at fostering dialogue, collaboration, and innovation within the education sector.

The Indaba will convene key education stakeholders from across Mpumalanga and beyond to engage in meaningful discussions around the G20 agenda as it relates to education.

As part of the G20 Education Working Group (EDWG), the Indaba will explore critical themes including:

The pivotal role of Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) in strengthening foundational learning;

The development and implementation of innovative, sustainable parenting support programmes;

Cutting-edge insights and best practices for integrating 21st-century skills into teacher education; and

Empowering educators through continuous professional development and upskilling initiatives.

This gathering will be officiated by esteemed leaders including the Honourable Premier Mr Mandla Ndlovu, Deputy Minister of Basic Education Dr Reginah Mhaule, and Mpumalanga MEC for Education Ms Cathy Dlamini.

The summit has equally line- up

exceptional presenters who bring deep expertise and global perspective to the conversation and they includes:

Ms Hana Yoshimoto, Chief of Education, UNICEF;

Ms Sesi Nombulelo Nxesi, CEO, ETDP-SETA;

Ms Charlotte Mokoena, Executive Vice President: Human Resources and Corporate Affairs, SASOL;

Prof Veronica McKay, Distinguished Professor in Teacher Education and Renowned Researcher and

Prof Victor Pitsoe, Expert in Educational Leadership and Management.

This Provincial G20 Education Indaba represents a bold step forward in shaping a transformative, inclusive, and future-ready education system.

Together, we are building bridges of knowledge and opportunity that will empower generations to come.

Members of the media are invited to the EDWG Mpumalanga Provincial Meeting as follows:

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24 APRIL 2025

MEC CATHY DLAMINI MEETING WITH THE PROVINCIAL EARLY CHILDHOOD FORUM

The MEC for Education Ms Cathy Dlamini will tomorrow, 25 April 2025, convene a consultative meeting with the Early Childhood Development Provincial Forum at the Anew Resort in White River, (Former Ingwenyama Lodge) in the City of Mbombela Local Municipality from 09H00.

The purpose of the meeting is engage Early Childhood Development related matters, specifically plans to improve Early Childhood Care and Education (ECCE) and the mass registration (Bana Pele) program.

The meeting will also discuss challenges faced by various ECD Centres and develop comprehensive mitigating measures to address them.

As of now, there are more than 1 463 ECD centres in the province.

The media is cordially invited to attend and cover the meeting.

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