

EduUpdates

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Mpumalanga Department of Education

JULY Edition



Let us continue to live and lead with the spirit of Ubuntu — “I am because we are.”



Dear Colleagues,

As we embrace the heart of winter this July, we are reminded of the warmth that comes from acts of service, compassion, and purpose.

This month marks the celebration of Nelson Mandela Month, a time when we reflect deeply on the legacy of a man who lived for the betterment of others. In that spirit, our department continues to shine through the everyday acts of kindness by its people.

One shining example is Ms. Danisile Matebula, a dedicated colleague who has turned her love for hiking into a meaningful mission.

Through her hiking initiatives, Danisile raises funds to buy sanitary pads for girls in underprivileged schools and rural villages.

Her work is not just about conquering mountains — it's about lifting others as she climbs. In celebrating her story, we are reminded that giving back doesn't always require grand gestures, but rather a committed heart and consistent action.

This July is also recognized as Mental Health and Wellness Month, a much-needed reminder for us to take care of our own mental and emotional wellbeing. Let us continue to cultivate a culture of support, empathy, and rest within our teams.

Additionally, Savings Month invites us to revisit the basics of financial wellness. In times of economic strain, saving is not only wise but empowering. Even the smallest efforts toward budgeting and planning can offer security and peace of mind in the long run.

This month's publication also highlights key developments in our department, including the Policy and Budget Speech tabled at the Provincial Legislature.

It is an important document that sets the tone for our work ahead. The allocation of resources to where they are most needed, and a renewed commitment to improving the educational landscape.

We also take this opportunity to warmly welcome our new MEC, Ms. Lindi Masina. Her arrival comes with a spirit of optimism and renewal, and we look forward to walking this path of transformation together for our learners, our schools, and our communities.

As we close the month, may we each be inspired by the idea that each small act, each mindful decision, and each effort of service contributes to a greater purpose. Let us continue to live and lead with the spirit of Ubuntu “I am because we are.”

*Wishing you an insightful and
engaging read!*

**LET'S GET
INVOLVED**

MANDELADAY



A Warm Welcome to MEC Lindy Masina



This month marked a significant moment for our department as we welcomed our new MEC for Education, Ms. Lindi Masina, into her new role.

Though the introductory staff meeting was brief, it was deeply meaningful, filled with genuine warmth, unity, and excitement about what lies ahead.

It was a beautiful display of support and optimism from all officials, who showed up to welcome her with open hearts and high hopes.

Ms. Masina steps into this leadership role at a time when education faces both challenges and great opportunities.

Her presence and energy have already begun to inspire a renewed sense of commitment across the department. With her at the helm, there is a shared belief that great things are possible, not only for our department but for every learner and community we serve.

Leadership in education is not only about policy and planning; it's about people and passion. It's about

creating a system that nurtures both learners and those who serve them.

Ms. Masina is a teacher at heart and her arrival reminds us of the importance of collaborative effort, strategic vision, and the power of working together for a common purpose.

As a department, we stand ready to walk this journey with her. We look forward to aligning with her vision, contributing our skills, and doing the work that matters most and that is ensuring quality education for every child in our province. Her leadership brings with it fresh momentum, and we are hopeful for a season of growth, excellence, and transformation.

To MEC Lindy Masina, we say once again:

Welcome MEC! May your time with us be marked by meaningful progress, impactful leadership, and lasting change. Together, we move forward with confidence and purpose.



MEC Engages Education Stakeholders to Strengthen Collaboration and Drive Quality Learning

The MEC for Education, Ms. Lindi Masina, held a successful and constructive engagement with Education Sector Unions, Associations of School Governing Bodies, the South African Principals Association, and Learner Formations this afternoon.

The meeting marked a significant step towards fostering strong partnerships aimed at advancing quality education in the province.

MEC Masina was warmly received by the sector leadership, who pledged their commitment to working collaboratively with her office and the Department of Education. This spirit of unity sets a positive tone for the collective task of transforming the provincial education landscape.

In her address, MEC Masina outlined the bold and clear mandate received from the Premier, Honourable Mandla Ndlovu, following her

appointment. The Department's key priorities include:

Achieving a 90% matric pass rate for the Class of 2025.

Strengthening Maths and Science participation and performance.

Rolling out the eLearning Strategy with technological support, starting with Grade 10 learners in 2026.

Ensuring optimal use of teaching and learning time from the first day of the third term.

Delivering well-administered trial and final examinations for Grade 12 learners.

Securing the timely delivery of Learner Teacher Support Materials (LTSM) by Day 1 of the 2026 academic year.



Promoting community involvement under the banner “Education is everyone’s business.”

Strengthening collaborative relations with teacher unions and public sector unions to support labour stability and effective teaching and learning.

“We know these goals are ambitious, but they are achievable if we work together. I urge all partners in the education sector to put aside differences and focus on our shared mission — delivering quality education for every learner in Mpumalanga,” said MEC Masina.

She further emphasized her commitment to maintaining open lines of communication and

creating a climate of trust and transparency.

“I am fully committed to honest, robust engagement and creating a conducive environment for progress,” she added.

The Department has already presented the 2025/26 Policy and Budget Speech in the Provincial Legislature, outlining clear plans and priorities in alignment with this mandate.

The Department extends its appreciation to all stakeholders for their continued support and partnership. Together, we can build an education system that meets the needs and dreams of every child in the Place of the Rising Sun.



The MEC for Education, Ms. Lindi Masina, joined the Minister of Basic Education, Ms. Siviwe Gwarube, in commemorating International Nelson Mandela Day at Boschrand Primary School in the City of Mbombela.

The celebration was marked by impactful activities that carried forward the legacy of Madiba, including the official handover of three newly constructed classrooms, the planting of trees, and the donation of school shoes to deserving learners.

The additional classrooms were made possible through the generous support of Ride4Hope and the Nelson Mandela Foundation.

In her address, MEC Masina expressed her heartfelt appreciation for the generosity of the donors, noting that the investment reflects the values Nelson Mandela stood for particularly his unwavering belief

in education as a cornerstone of freedom and development.

She also extended her gratitude to the school leadership, community members, and all stakeholders for their commitment to strengthening education delivery.

MEC Masina paid special tribute to Minister Gwarube for her leadership in mobilizing resources and ensuring the success of the initiative. She emphasized that collaborative efforts of this nature are vital to improving learning conditions and providing opportunities for every child to thrive.

The event was a powerful reminder that Madiba's legacy continues to inspire action – building, planting, giving, and working together towards a better future for all.

Making Every Rand Count

The Power of Saving



July is recognised as National Savings Month, and it's a timely reminder of how important it is to take control of our financial wellbeing.

With daily costs rising and unforeseen expenses popping up, the idea of saving money can feel out of reach for many. But the truth is, saving doesn't require a big income — it starts with small steps and a clear mindset.

The first step to saving is knowing where your money goes. Track your spending habits and identify areas where you can cut back. Even saving R100 a month can make a difference over time. Set up a simple budget — whether you use a notebook, an app, or a spreadsheet — and commit to sticking to it.

Prioritise needs over wants, and where possible, build a small emergency fund to cover those unexpected moments life throws at us.

One of the most common mistakes people make, especially after receiving a salary increase or promotion, is upgrading their lifestyle too quickly.

Suddenly there's a new phone, a bigger car, or more takeaways. While it's okay to celebrate achievements, it's smarter to continue living within your previous means and save the extra income. That additional money can go a long way in helping you build financial security, pay off debt faster, or invest in your future.

For those who feel overwhelmed by debt or financial strain, help is available. Speak to your bank about affordable debt management options, or enquire about any financial wellness programmes your employer might offer.

You are not alone — many people are going through the same struggles, and asking for guidance is a brave and responsible first step.

Let's use Savings Month to reset our financial habits and inspire one another to make better money decisions. Saving is not about how much we have — it's about being intentional with what we do with it. The power to change your financial story lies in your hands, one rand at a time.



Mental Health Matters: Let's Look Out for One Another

Mental health plays a vital role in how we show up at work, how we relate to others, and how we manage our responsibilities. In the education sector, where we are constantly working to support learners, schools, and the broader community, it's easy to focus on deadlines and outputs while forgetting to check in on our own wellbeing. But the truth is, when our mental health suffers, everything else starts to unravel, from concentration and productivity, to relationships and decision-making.

We all face challenges — from personal stress to professional pressure — and while many of us put on a brave face, the signs of emotional exhaustion often show up in subtle ways.

A colleague might become withdrawn, start missing deadlines, appear unusually tired or irritable, or begin to lose interest in their work. These aren't always signs of laziness or poor performance; sometimes, they are silent cries for help.

That's why it's important that we support one another, not just as co-workers, but as human beings. A simple "How are you really doing?" can go a long way. Encouraging someone to speak to a wellness professional or to take a break when needed can make all the difference. We must also remind ourselves that seeking help is not weakness — it's wisdom.

As a department, we need to create spaces where wellbeing is prioritised, where mental health is spoken about openly, and where no one feels ashamed to ask for help. Let's also take care of ourselves: rest when needed, take our leave days, and unplug when possible. In doing so, we create a healthier, more balanced environment — not just for ourselves, but for those we serve.

Let's remember that mental wellness is not just a personal journey — it's a collective responsibility. When we look out for each other, we create a stronger, kinder, and more resilient workplace.

