

EduUpdates

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Mpumalanga Department of Education

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Special Publication



YEARS OF FREEDOM

R

ecognizing Freedom Month, Celebrating Growth, and Building Connection

Dear Colleagues,

This April, we are reminded of the significance of Freedom Month, a time to reflect on our country's journey towards democracy and the ongoing responsibility we carry as public servants to uphold the values of freedom, equality, and dignity.

Within the Department of Education in Mpumalanga, we are privileged to contribute to shaping a society where education remains a powerful tool for transformation and opportunity.

This month, we also take a moment to celebrate the personal and professional achievements of our colleagues—from academic milestones to project successes and leadership recognitions.

Your dedication, passion, and hard work are what continue to elevate the standard of our service delivery across the province.

A special word of appreciation goes out to all of you who continue to engage with our internal communications platforms—reading,

contributing, and sharing. Your participation helps us stay informed, inspired, and connected as one department, one team.

Let us continue to honour our freedom by working together, growing together, and building a brighter future for every learner in Mpumalanga.

Together, we move education forward.

Wishing you an insightful and engaging read!



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Mpumalanga Department of Education



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Freedom Month

and Its Significance for Mpumalanga Education

April is recognized as Freedom Month in South Africa, marking the country's transition to democracy and the first democratic elections held on April 27, 1994. This month is a time to reflect on the journey from apartheid to a free and democratic society, celebrating the values of freedom, equality, and human rights.

For the Mpumalanga Department of Education, Freedom Month holds special significance as it aligns with the commitment to inclusive and equitable education.

The province uses this period to promote educational programs that emphasize the importance of democracy, social cohesion, and equal opportunities for all learners. Schools and

educational institutions often engage in discussions, events, and activities that encourage learners to appreciate their rights and responsibilities as future leaders of South Africa.

In celebrating Freedom Month, Mpumalanga Education continues to focus on transforming education by improving access to quality learning, promoting diversity in schools, and ensuring that historical injustices in education are not repeated. It is a time to recommit to building a system that empowers young South Africans with knowledge, skills, and opportunities for a brighter future.

Through education, the spirit of freedom and democracy is strengthened, ensuring that the values fought for in 1994 remain alive in the minds and hearts of the next generation.



STRENGTHENING LEADERSHIP EMPOWERING MANAGERS THROUGH RISK MANAGEMENT

The Department's Risk Management team successfully hosted a two-day session aimed at equipping managers with essential knowledge on risk assessment and management.

This initiative brought together leaders from various divisions to engage in insightful discussions on identifying, analyzing, and mitigating risks within our sector.

The sessions proved to be both informative and interactive, fostering collaboration among colleagues as they shared experiences and best practices.

Through practical examples and engaging

discussions, participants gained valuable insights into effective risk management strategies that can be applied in their respective roles.

Mr Bhembe the Risk Manager in the department and one of the workshop coordinators shared how important it is for the department to convene such sessions as they help to enrich managers with knowledge and keeps the department on track.

Overall, the sessions were a productive platform for knowledge-sharing and strengthening the department's commitment to proactive risk management.



To gain a deeper understanding of what

FREEDOM MONTH

means on a personal level, we asked our colleagues to share their thoughts and reflections.

To me Freedom month is a month whereby we commemorate the freedom that was earned by black South Africans on the 27th of April 1994. We celebrate this month in honour of people who fought for our democracy and liberation. It means that South African citizens are now one and equal, unlike during the apartheid era whereby only white people's voices were heard. This means a lot to us as blacks because we got an opportunity to express ourselves for the first time. We got an opportunity to vote. Therefore, that means we are now binded to equal chances, opportunities and resources like other races.

Thandazile Skhosana
Educator: Mandlesive Secondary School



Freedom month to me means we have achieved what we wanted as a country but we need to do more, in 2025 we cannot exactly claim that we are free, hence we are struggling to get justice for those who were sexually, physically and mentally abused by the so-called perpetrators for example the recent case of Cwecwe a seven years old daughter who was sexually harassed at school by the unknown, I think the only freedom we have is a freedom of speech and freedom of education but the struggle of justice is still a challenge. We appreciate the little that our heroin did for us but we still need to work harder as the society to be truly free.

Fikile Maseko
General admin clerk: Communication (Head Office)

We mark 31 years as a country of Freedom and lot has been achieved. We still have a journey to tackle a total emancipation of vulnerable particularly as the Department to drive Education to help us excel in all areas that will allow our country to self-sustain itself in global economy. Issues of Gender Based Violence still need to be given a serious attention and as well as protection our children.

Setjhaba Nkoala
Deputy Director: Accounting Management (Budget)



Well done, Mr. Sifunda!

The Department congratulates Mr. Sfiso Sifunda for his remarkable achievement in completing the Assessment of Professional Competence (APC), the final and pivotal board examination of the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA).

This milestone is confirmation of his dedication, hard work, and relentless pursuit of excellence, earning him the prestigious qualification as a Chartered Accountant – CA(SA).

Beyond this incredible accomplishment, Mr. Sifunda also proudly holds the esteemed title of Professional Accountant (SA), awarded by the South African Institute of Professional Accountants (SAIPA), and the distinguished status of Registered Government Auditor (RGA(SA)), granted by the South African Institute of Government Auditors (SAIGA).

Currently serving as an internal auditor, Mr. Sifunda plays an integral role in ensuring the integrity, efficiency, and accountability within the Department.

His qualifications and professional insight not only enhance the Department's ability to uphold transparency and trust, but also contribute to fostering a culture of effectiveness, excellence, and ethical practice.

Mr. Sifunda's success is a powerful reminder of the transformative power of determination, professionalism, and lifelong learning.

His achievements inspire us all, reinforcing the vital importance of education, accountability, and ethical



conduct in every facet of governance.

The Department proudly salutes this son of the soil and eagerly anticipates his continued contributions to the growth and prosperity of our Department and the vibrant community of the Place of the Rising Sun.

Well done, Mr. Sifunda – you are truly our shining star!



The Department Applauds **Dr Mathaba** for His Remarkable **Achievement in Coaching Education**

The Department proudly congratulates one of its outstanding employees, Dr Mathaba, on the successful completion of the CAF B Diploma in Coaching.

This impressive milestone reflects not only his personal commitment to excellence but also his dedication to advancing the standard of coaching and sport development in our schools and communities.

Dr Mathaba's achievement forms part of the Coach Educator Mentorship Programme, a vital initiative aimed at building capacity and strengthening the pipeline of qualified coaches across the continent.

Through this programme, Dr Mathaba has gained the necessary accreditation and expertise to train and mentor aspiring coaches across all three

CAF certification levels—CAF D, CAF C, and CAF B.

His journey is an inspiration to fellow educators and professionals, proving that continuous learning and personal growth can lead to greater impact in both professional and community settings.

Well done, Dr Mathaba! Your achievement is not only a personal victory, but also a contribution to the development of future leaders in sport.

We are proud to have you as part of the Department, and we look forward to the powerful influence you will continue to have in shaping the future of coaching in our country.

A nation at work for all.



Communication Unit Attends E-Submission Training to Advance Digital Transformation

The Communication Unit recently attended an intensive e-submission training session, marking a significant step towards transitioning from paper-based submissions to a fully electronic system. This initiative aligns with the department's commitment to embracing the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) by integrating technology into everyday processes.

The Shift from Paper to Digital, traditionally, document submissions within the department have relied on manual, paper-based processes. While effective in the past, this method has posed several challenges.

Key benefits of E-Submission is improved efficiency and faster processing. The electronic system will reduce turnaround times by allowing instant submission, tracking, and approval of documents. Staff will no longer have to wait for physical documents to be delivered or manually processed.

Cost reduction, printing, paper, and physical storage require significant financial resources. By transitioning to e-submission, the department will cut costs associated with paper usage, ink, and document storage.

Enhanced security and accessibility, digital submissions will be more secure than paper-based documents, reducing the risk of loss or unauthorized

access. Additionally, documents will be easily retrievable from a centralized system, allowing authorized personnel to access information anytime, anywhere.

Eco-friendly approach that is moving to electronic submissions will support sustainable efforts by reducing paper waste and minimizing the department's carbon footprint.

Seamless Integration with 4IR Technologies, The adoption of e-submission is a crucial step towards aligning with Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) principles. It sets the foundation for further automation, artificial intelligence-driven workflows, and digital communication improvements within the department.

Training sessions will also be conducted to familiarize all teams in different units with the new system.

This innovation is not just about modernizing processes—it is about ensuring that the department remains innovative, efficient, and future-ready in an ever-evolving digital landscape.

The department is committed to driving this change and ensuring successful implementation for the benefit of all stakeholders.

MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION



REMINDER

**Submission of Annual Assessment reports
for PMDS cycle 2024-25**

Financial Disclosure for Senior Managers



Solidarity

Equality

Sustainability

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