

# EduUpdates

Issue 03 of 2025

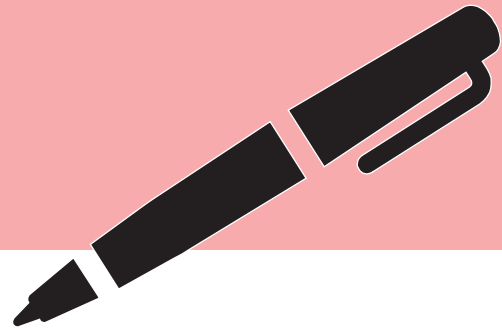
Mpumalanga Department of Education

MAY Edition

## A Star is Born at Chayaza: Meet *Opera's* Future **Progress Masiya**



# Dear Colleagues,



**A**s we mark the beautiful occasion of Mother's Day, we take a moment to celebrate the remarkable women in our department — mothers, grandmothers, caregivers, and nurturers in all forms — who give of themselves daily, both at home and in service to our province.

Your resilience, compassion, and unwavering dedication continue to inspire us all. We honour and thank you.

This time also calls for reflection. As a department, we've been navigating a challenging season, particularly with the issues around financial mismanagement that have recently come to light.

While this has tested our morale and public confidence, it also presents us with an opportunity: to recommit ourselves to the principles of integrity, accountability, and excellence.

Let us be reminded to follow all applicable policies, procedures, and the PFMA with the highest levels of care and diligence.

As the audit period begins, I encourage every colleague to support one another in getting our documentation in order, tying up loose ends, and preparing thoroughly for the process ahead.

Our collective effort can strengthen our position and move us closer to the goal we all share — a clean audit outcome that reflects the true spirit and capability of our department.

This month, as we commemorate Africa Month, may we also draw on the strength of our identity, culture, and heritage. Let's embody the spirit of Ubuntu — "I am because we are" — in all we do, in how we serve, collaborate, and uplift one another.

To every colleague: thank you for continuing to work diligently, often quietly, and sometimes without recognition.

Thank you for brightening the corner where you are, for making a difference where it counts, and for your contributions toward improving the quality of education across our province. Your hard work is seen, and it matters.

Let's continue to stand together — not only in times of celebration but also in times of challenge — and move forward with purpose, unity, and pride

*Wishing you an insightful and engaging read!*

## INSIDE

MEET PROGRESS MASIYA  
THE OPERA STAR

04

MOTHER'S DAY VOX POP

06

DEPARTMENT WELCOMES  
NEW APPOINTMENTS

08

You can send your articles [@infoedu@mpuedu.gov.za](mailto:infoedu@mpuedu.gov.za) or [gnondudule@mpuedu.gov.za](mailto:gnondudule@mpuedu.gov.za)

Follow us on Facebook and X :



Mpumalanga Department of Education



@MPEducation





# University of Mpumalanga

## Celebrates a Decade of Academic Excellence

### University of Mpumalanga Celebrates a Decade of Academic Excellence

The MEC for Education, Ms Cathy Dlamini, attended the 10th graduation ceremony of the University of Mpumalanga commending the institution for a decade of remarkable progress and academic achievement.

This year, the university conferred 2,035 qualifications—a significant increase from the 1,515 awarded in 2024—highlighting sustained growth in enrolment and graduate output.

Several notable milestones were celebrated:

Ms Khumbelo Mabadahanye became the first PhD graduate in the university's history.

61 Master's degrees were awarded.

170 graduates earned their qualifications cum laude, recognising outstanding academic performance.

Women comprised 66.2% of the graduating class, reflecting strong female participation in higher education.

45 students received the prestigious Vice-Chancellor's Scholarship, while 11 were honoured with the Academic Excellence Award.

The ceremony marked not only a celebration of individual success but also a powerful reflection of the University of Mpumalanga's commitment to academic excellence and societal transformation.

Well done to the graduates and the institution on reaching this important milestone.





# PROGRESS MASIYA

## a Star is Born from Chayaza

**M** Meet Progress Masiya, a vibrant and talented Grade 12 learner from Chayaza, whose love for music and connection with people makes him stand out. A naturally social butterfly.

### About Him

#### 1. Can you please tell us your name, grade, and the school you attend?

My name is Progress Masiya. I'm in Grade 12 and I attend Chayaza Secondary School.

#### 2. How would you describe yourself in a few words?

I'm a very social person. I enjoy meeting new people and engaging in positive, meaningful conversations. I believe in spreading kindness and building genuine connections with others.

### Musical Journey

#### 3. When and how did you discover your love for singing, especially opera?

It was in 2017 when I was asked to sing solo in front of my choir. I was nervous at first, but when they heard my voice, they loved it. They said I had a lyrical and powerful voice. That moment made me realise I had a gift, and it sparked my love for singing — especially opera.

#### 4. Who or what inspires your music?

I'm inspired by Norma Zwane and German Makamu, who both trained me at one stage. I also look up to one of the greatest tenors of all time, Luciano Pavarotti. Their passion and excellence continue to push me to improve.

#### 5. Do you have any formal training, or are you self-taught?

I used to receive training from German Makamu and Norma Zwane, but currently, I train myself. I watch performances, study technique, and practise every day to improve my skills.

#### 6. What was it like performing at the G20 provincial event, and how did you feel when people loved your performance?

It was amazing and deeply inspiring. Singing at the G20 made me feel special and proud. When people appreciated my performance, it gave me more motivation to keep going. It's moments like that that make me want to perform more often.



## Challenges and Triumphs

### 7. What challenges have you faced in pursuing your passion for music?

There was a time I trained too much without resting my voice. Just five days before an important competition, my voice was completely gone. It was stressful, but I did my best to recover with medication and rest. That experience taught me the importance of vocal care and balance.

### 8. What keeps you going when things get tough?

My father's advice always stays with me: "No matter the situation, face it and try to overcome it." That message gives me strength when things are difficult. I've learned that even weaknesses can help you grow if you face them the right way.

### 9. How do your teachers, classmates, and family support your musical journey?

They always encourage me. After performances, they tell me I have a beautiful voice and that I should keep singing. Their support makes me feel like I'm bringing joy to others — that's why I say I deliver "sweetness" through my voice.

## Dreams and Future

### 10. Where do you see yourself in the next five years?

I see myself singing on international stages, representing South Africa, and continuing to grow as a professional opera singer.

### 11. If you had the opportunity to study music professionally or work with a famous artist, who would it be and why?

I would love to sing with Pretty Yende. She's a big inspiration to me — she also comes from Mpumalanga and became a national champion. When I dream, I often see myself singing beside her. I compare my goals with hers because I want to achieve what she has.

### 12. What message would you like to share with other young learners who also have dreams but may feel like their background is a limitation?

Your background does not define your future. Just because you're going through tough times doesn't



mean it's the end. Focus on the positive, learn from your situation, and picture yourself beyond school — at a higher level. Your journey is just beginning.

## Fun Facts

### 13. What's your favourite song to sing, and why?

I love performing "La donna è mobile". It talks about how some people are not trustworthy, which reminds me of something my father always said: "Don't trust everyone — not all people who smile at you truly love you." The song is powerful, and I enjoy sharing its message through music.

# Happy Mother's Day

## Celebrating Mother's Day: Reflections from Our Team

**M**other's Day is a special occasion that gives us the opportunity to honour, celebrate, and reflect on the love, strength, and sacrifices of mothers and mother figures in our lives.

It's a day filled with gratitude, heartfelt moments, and meaningful gestures, big or small.

To mark this important day, we reached out to a few colleagues in our department to hear what Mother's Day means to them and how they chose to celebrate it this year.

Their reflections—both heartfelt and personal—offer a glimpse into the many ways this day is cherished.

From mothers sharing the joy of being celebrated by their children, to others reflecting on the memory of their own mothers, and even one of our male colleagues sharing how he honoured his wife on the day.

These diverse perspectives highlight just how meaningful and universally felt Mother's Day truly is.

### WHAT DOES MOTHER'S DAY MEAN TO YOU?

"Mother's day is a very special day, full of memories and feelings of love and gratitude. It's a time to reflect and show thankfulness for the mothering we have received through the ups and downs of life, whether that be the unconditional love and care of a parent, a relative, a mentor, or a friend who has shaped us into who we are.

Mother's day to me does not reflect specifically as feminine but someone who played a role in my life as a mother ,whether it's a man ,grandmother, grandfather but who played a role of a mother"

### HOW DO YOU CELEBRATE IT?

I usually celebrate mother's day but making sure that day she does not do anything in the house ,I will cook and take her to lunch with presents

**Mr M.H Vilakazi**  
**Z.B Kunene High School**  
**Departmental Head (Science and Maths Department)**





# THANKS MOM!



## WHAT DOES MOTHER'S DAY MEAN TO YOU?

"MOTHER'S DAY means to honor women, amazing women who are our guiding light and warmth in our hearts. Mothers who support us in everything we do as a sign of how much they love us."

## HOW DO YOU CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY?

"I celebrate the day by giving my mother breakfast in bed even when I do not have money the little things that will make her see how special she is in my life."

**Reginah Morale THRD: Intern**



## WHAT DOES MOTHER'S DAY MEAN TO YOU?

"Mother's Day is a special day to appreciate, celebrate and show gratitude to mothers, mother figures who have been mentors and caregivers. The time to acknowledge their sacrifices and hard work."

## HOW DO YOU CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY?

"By spending quality time together with my mother, sharing a meal and landing a helping hand"

**Nomzamo Pinga Infrastructure Finance: intern**



## WHAT DOES MOTHER'S DAY MEAN TO YOU?

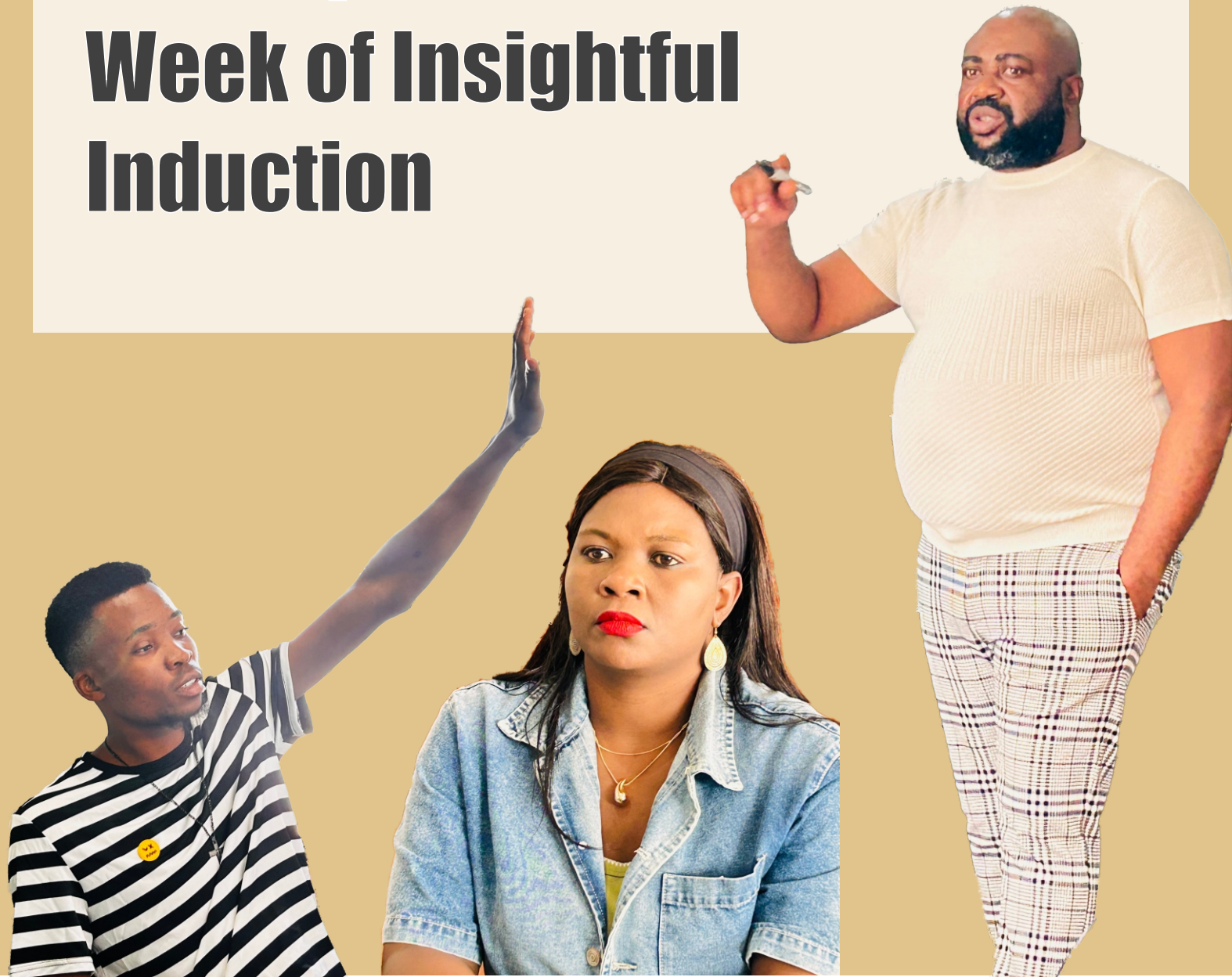
"It means that it is a time to reflect and show gratitude to all women who have been mentors and caregivers who helped shape us into who we are. To me being a mother means to be fearless, a positive role model, to be a continuous cheerleader for every millstone my children will experience, to demonstrate the abundance of unconditional love that has no end and to cherish the countless memories that is truly priceless."

## HOW DO YOU CELEBRATE MOTHER'S DAY?

"I celebrate Mother's Day by spending time with my kids and pampering them with a good meal and watch movies as a family."

**Fathima Lukhele**  
**Private and Appointment Secretary: Office of the MEC**

# The Department Conducted a Week of Insightful Induction



**T**he Department of Education proudly hosted a five-day induction programme for employees on level 4 - 5.

The induction served as a critical platform to orient colleagues, align them with the department's vision and values, and equip them with the knowledge required to carry out their duties with excellence and integrity.

The programme was fruitful, informative, and empowering, focusing not only on policy orientation but also on shaping a professional mindset rooted in service and ethical leadership.

New employees were taken through key departmental policies, frameworks, and procedures

to ensure full understanding and compliance.

This foundation is essential to foster consistency, accountability, and good governance within the department.

A significant part of the induction was dedicated to instilling the ethos of public service. Officials were reminded that as public servants, they carry the responsibility of serving communities with humility, respect, and fairness.

They were encouraged to lead by example, uphold the highest ethical standards, and be ambassadors of the department both inside and outside the workplace.





The Batho Pele (“People First”) principles were highlighted as central to everything the department does. New colleagues were urged to embrace these principles not only as a policy directive, but as a way of life in public service ensuring that learners, parents, educators, and stakeholders experience dignity, transparency, and responsiveness at every level.

The induction also served as a moment of warm welcome and unity, reinforcing a culture of collaboration and support. Senior officials, facilitators, and experienced colleagues took time to share insights, real-life experiences, and practical guidance.

Reminding the new appointees that they are now part of a larger family working tirelessly to improve the quality of education in the province.

As the week concluded, there was a shared sense of excitement and readiness. With the right tools, guidance, and spirit of service, the new employees are now well-prepared to contribute meaningfully to the mission of the department.

To all our new colleagues — welcome aboard! May your journey in the public service be marked by purpose, excellence, and impact.

Together, let us continue to put people first, and build a brighter future for every learner.

When you arrive at an institution and things aren’t running smoothly, you don’t stand back and judge. You step in, you help fix it. You bring ease, not criticism.”

— Dumisani Madlase, Induction Facilitators

# “I Know. I Act. I Stop Corruption”

## A Personal Commitment to Integrity in the Workplace

**W**hile the phrase “I Know. I Act. I Stop Corruption” may have originated from other department’s campaign, its message is universal — and deeply relevant to all public servants, regardless of where we serve.

As employees in the Department of Education, we are entrusted with the responsibility of shaping futures — not just through the work we do for schools and learners, but through the example we set every day in our conduct, decisions, and values.

“I Know” reminds us that awareness is the first step. Every employee should understand the policies, legislation, and financial procedures that govern the public sector.

This includes frameworks like the Public Finance Management Act (PFMA), supply chain protocols, HR policies, and codes of conduct.

“I Act” is a call to lead by example. Integrity isn’t just about avoiding wrongdoing — it’s about doing what is right, even when it’s difficult or goes unnoticed.

It’s about upholding professional ethics, treating others with respect, using public resources responsibly, and making choices that reflect our values.

“I Stop Corruption” is not only about whistleblowing or formal reporting. It also means refusing to participate in unethical practices, challenging corners being cut, and speaking up when we see processes being ignored or manipulated.

Small acts of accountability build a culture where corruption has no place to thrive.

Let us remember that public service is a privilege. We are here to serve — to deliver, support, and uplift our communities. By choosing daily to act with honesty, transparency, and fairness, we become part of something far greater than ourselves:

Because doing the right thing is not about being seen, it’s about making a difference.

Together, we can build a department we are proud to belong to, one grounded in service, led by integrity, and committed to excellence.

## DID YOU KNOW

that as a public servant doing business with any government institution can amount to Corruption

**Refer to Chapter 2 of the Public Service Regulation (PSR) OF 2016**

Here are steps to follow if you doing other remunerative work outside Public Service

**STEP 1:** Complete the RWOPS Form

**STEP 2:** Submission to Risk & Ethics Management Office

**STEP 3:** Ethics Committee Does its own analysis for submission to the MEC for approve / Not approved

**STEP 4:** Submission to the MEC for APPROVAL/ DISAPPROVAL within 30 days

**STEP 5:** Receive approval Certificate or response of disapproval

**Contact the Ethics Management Unit for more information on 013 766 5017**





education

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# Admission

## Open For Registrations

The Department of Education is pleased to announce that the admission process for the 2026 academic year is now officially open.

The admission window will run from 02 May to 31 August 2025.

This early enrolment period is critical to ensuring that teaching and learning begin smoothly and without delay on the first day of the 2026 school year. Timely admissions allow schools to effectively plan for essential resources, including Learning and Teaching Support Materials (LTSM), staff provisioning, and classroom infrastructure.

The Department calls upon all parents and guardians to take advantage of this period and visit their nearest schools to register their children without delay.

To complete the admission process, parents are encouraged to submit the following supporting documents:

## Supporting Documents

- ✓ Birth Certificate/Identity Document
- ✓ Immunization Card
- ✓ Proof of Residence
- ✓ Other relevant documents

2026!







WHEN THE SUN RISES WE WORK HARD TO DELIVER



# WORKING TOGETHER IN ENDING VIOLENCE AGAINST CHILDREN

Report child abuse, neglect and exploitation  
**GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE COMMAND CENTRE**

Toll free: 0800 428 428 | #ChildProtection2025  
Childline: 116 | #ChildProtection365







education

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# ABC MOTSEPE SASCE MPUMALANGA

Provincial Competition  
City of Mbombela Local Municipality

## 2025

11-14 June

09H00 Daily



Ms Cathy Dlamini  
MEC for Education

A NATION  
THAT WORKS FOR ALL

