



education  
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

# Sibukosetfu

NTA Special Edition



THANK YOU  
TEACHER



**MPUMALANGA**  
THE PLACE OF THE RISING SUN

# MEC Majuba Salutes Teachers

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**I** wish to add my voice to the billions in the whole world to appreciate the significant role played by teachers towards the development of learners and society as a whole. This day, the 5th of October is declared World Teachers' Day for the international community to pay homage and to appreciate the selfless contributions made by teachers.

Teachers often go an extra mile in the quest to empower learners collectively and as individuals to free society from ignorance and hopelessness as well as encouraging self-worth.

Their selfless, diligent and patriotic efforts were largely displayed during the difficult period of the COVID-19 pandemic. They soldiered on during very challenging circumstances and for that and many other acts of goodwill, we salute and appreciate all our teachers.

The 2021 World Teacher's Day is held under the theme; "Teachers: Leading in crisis, re-imagining the future".

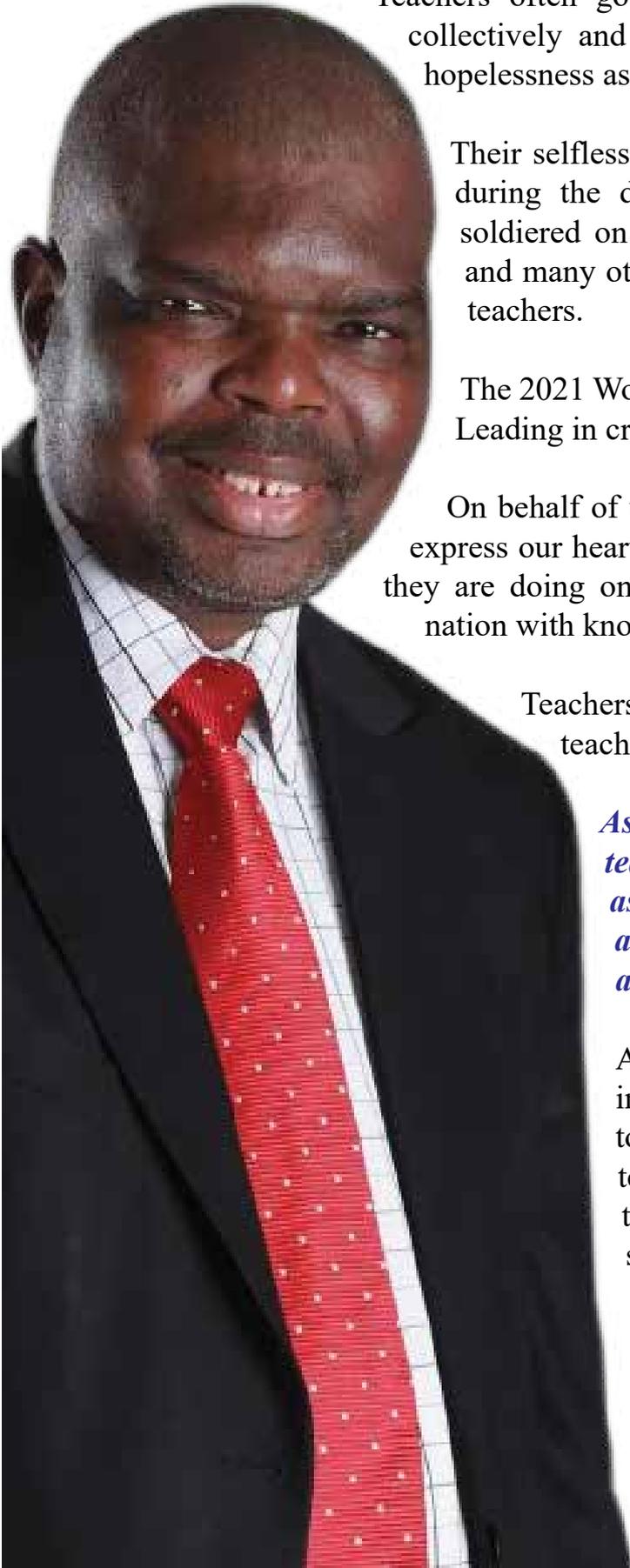
On behalf of the Mpumalanga Department of Education, I wish to express our heartfelt gratitude to all our teachers for the sterling work they are doing on a daily basis delivering lessons that empower our nation with knowledge, skills, attitude and values.

Teachers form the integral part of nation building as the teaching profession is the mother of all professions.

*As society we owe a great deal of gratitude to our teachers who have taught us to read and write as well as instill in us values of responsibility, love and care above the core teachings in the different learning areas of the school curriculum.*

As a Department, we continue to work towards the improvement of the working conditions of our teachers to enable them to focus on their core responsibility of teaching. In this financial year, the Department will translate about 3100 temporary educators to permanent status.

The Department is also at work with the translation of Grade R practitioners to Educators as and when they receive their educator qualifications. We will continue to work hand in glove with teacher unions and other stakeholders to create conditions that are



more favourable for teachers within the Province.

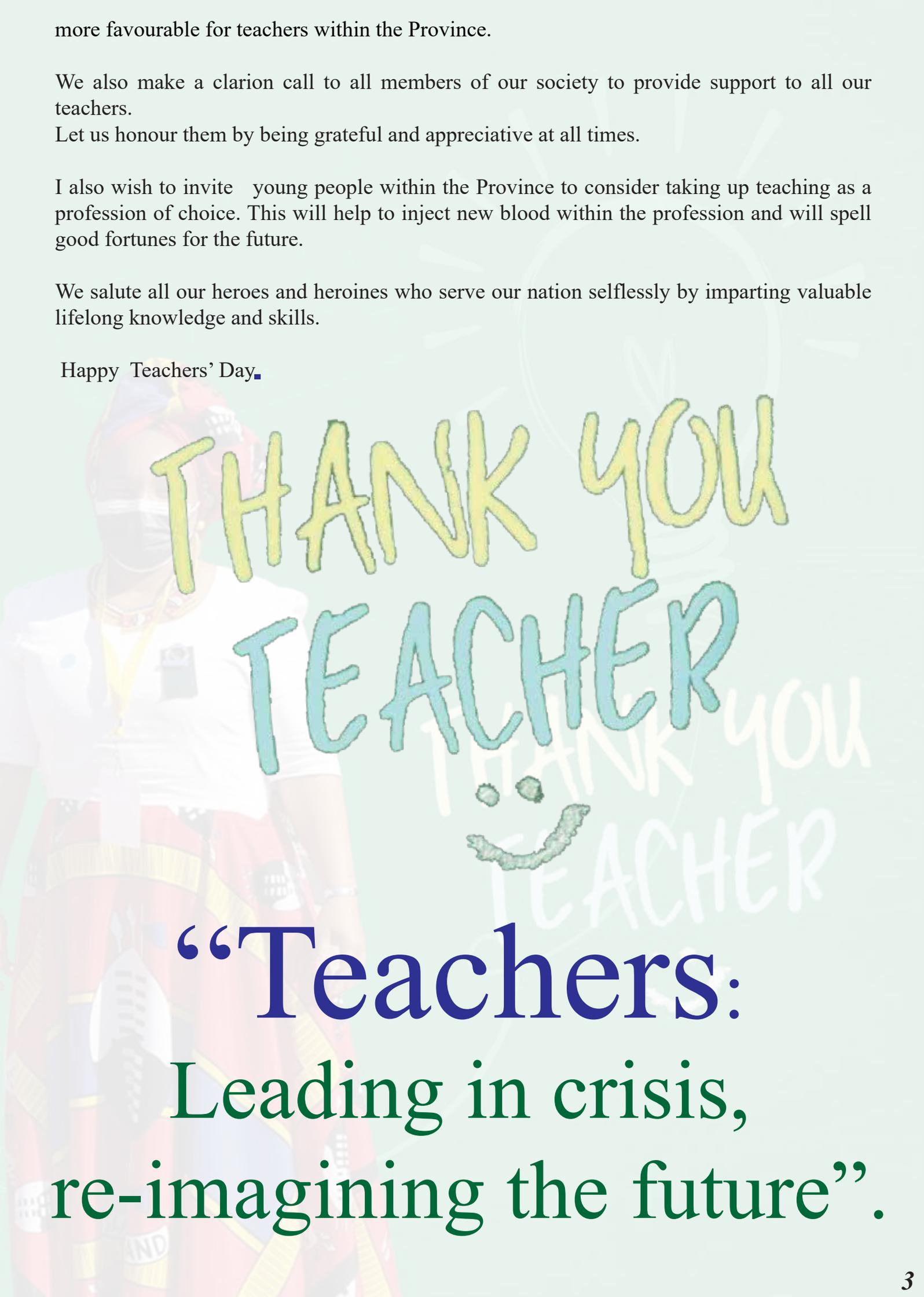
We also make a clarion call to all members of our society to provide support to all our teachers.

Let us honour them by being grateful and appreciative at all times.

I also wish to invite young people within the Province to consider taking up teaching as a profession of choice. This will help to inject new blood within the profession and will spell good fortunes for the future.

We salute all our heroes and heroines who serve our nation selflessly by imparting valuable lifelong knowledge and skills.

Happy Teachers' Day.



THANK YOU

TEACHER



“Teachers:  
Leading in crisis,  
re-imagining the future”.

# Awards For Outstanding Teachers A Great Success



In the picture: Ms Nicolin Otto, Bohlabela; Ms Lindy Maritz, Nkangala; Mr Martin Nkuna, Bohlabela; Ms Thembi Vilakazi, Nkangala; Mr Mark Mathee, Bohlabela; Mr Thulani Sbiya, Ehlanzeni; Ms Millicant Sekome, Bohlabela; Ms Nonhlanhla Mkhonto, Bohlabela; Ms Vukosi Nyathi, Bohlabela; Mr Lesetja Moshupya, Ehlanzeni; Ms Nichola Macpherson, Ehlanzeni; Ms Megan Izeboud, Ehlanzeni; Ms Martha Machika, Nkangala

**T**he Mpumalanga Department of Education hosted the Provincial Instalment of the National Teaching Awards on 2nd September 2021 at the University of Mpumalanga in the City of Mbombela Local Municipality.

The Head of Department, **Mrs Lucy Moyane** was overjoyed by the commitment of teachers within the Province.

"The National Teaching Awards remains paramount in the Departmental Calendar as it provides with an opportunity to appreciate all our teachers. We also congratulate all schools and teachers who have entered the National Teaching Awards since its conception in 2000.

We further like to acknowledge their extraordinary efforts, which have been achieved often under very difficult condition and in service to our children, most of whom come from poor backgrounds.

There's saying that goes, not all heroes wear capes, and every time I hear this saying, we are reminded of teachers who give their all inside and outside the classroom.

We are reminded of teachers who go as far as sacrificing their time, even on weekends so that learners can be empowered with knowledge and skills for survival. Teachers are truly nation builders and pillars of growth and development of our societies. We are therefore here celebrating and honouring all those dedicated teachers who have chosen to take positive action towards building our society. To all the Finalists, we wish you all the best ,you are all winners" She said. Sombre as the moment might present itself currently, the recognition and honouring of teachers' excellent performance and dedication cannot go unnoticed or allowed to evaporate into thin air.

Speaking at this occasion, **MEC Majuba** paid homage to teachers.

"We know for the fact and certain that a teacher occupies and serve multiple roles in society 4

henceforth there is a need to show appreciation to them continually.

They are the mirror of our community. Henceforward, they looked upon to express the positive societal values of humility, care, respect and good behaviour inter alia. It is therefore incumbent upon us to pledge our utmost and unwavering support to the immense sacrifice they presented.

They are practically in a social service paradigm – an inflection on how as advantaged strata of society, we should strive to ensure that those in the lower rung and disadvantaged are served with humility.

As we celebrate this occasion, our hearts and sympathy go to all those members of this fraternity in the conduit of life fell as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic and could not see the fruits of their sweat in learner progression and achievement they inspired.

We shall forever remain indebted for their contribution, dedication and sacrificed. They will always remain in our souls and memories for the hallmark of the impact they have done in education has in developing society in order to make better lives for all.

We are encouraged to indicate that all teachers who were in access have been duly placed.

*We will push on to look at the plight of all temporary teachers with the intention to secure their permanent status within the system.*

*It pains us to learn that there are teachers who for the past five years have been serving the Department on a temporary basis. We will address this as a matter of utmost urgency.*

While we celebrate the outstanding work from most of our teachers, we need to use this platform to condemn those who render a de- service to our people.

These are those who bunk classes, do not attend class as expected, who always cause disputes in schools, use corporal punishment and those who sexually abused learners.

We need to be bold in condemning such behaviour and work with all structures of our society to rot those out of the system.

We will continue to work with the South African Council for Educators to address impediments resulting from misconduct from some of our teachers.

I therefore would like to take this opportunity to urge all teachers to strive for excellence in their esteemed calling.

We congratulate all teachers who participated in the programme at all levels and those who made it up to this far.

Equally, we congratulate those who will represent our Province at a National level hopefully some of you will make a mark at the global stage.

We are grateful of your achievements.” he said

The event was supported by Liberty, MTN, Old Mutual and Vodacom.





# Mec Majuba Speech National Teacher's Awards

## The Mpumalanga Chapter

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**I**saac Newton once said:

"If you see me seeing further than others is because I have climbed on the shoulders of the giants".

At the same time again this year we are holding and celebrating the 21st National Teachers' Awards for teachers, the professionals who are second to none. The personnel who are in the mother of all professions, people who render the service to the nation from the cradle to the grave.

Indeed, we are exhilarated by the support of the programmes under extraordinary circumstances and paralysis imposed on us by the Covid 19 pandemic. Sombre as the moment might present itself currently, the recognition and honouring of teachers' excellent performance and dedication cannot go unnoticed or allowed to evaporate into thin air. It has been a norm since the year 2000 that the Department will stop everything on a day like this one to and pay homage to its battalion of teachers.

We are using the word battalion deliberately and selectively in exhibition for the dedication, sacrifice and patriotism in which our teachers have personified. Teacher's performance is an uppermost essential role in society in guiding and preparing the young generation for leadership for social change in order not to have lost nation. We know for the fact and certain that a teacher occupies and serve multiple roles in society henceforth there is a need to show appreciation to them continually.

They are the mirror of our community. Henceforward, they looked upon to express the positive societal values of humility, care, respect and good behaviour inter alia. It is therefore incumbent upon us to pledge our utmost and unwavering support to the immense sacrifice they presented. They are practically in a social service paradigm – an inflection on how as advantaged strata of society, we should strive to ensure that those in the lower rung and disadvantaged are served with humility.

As we celebrate this occasion, our hearts and sympathy go to all those members of this fraternity in the conduit of life fell as a result of the Covid 19 pandemic and could not see the fruits of their sweat in learner progression and achievement they inspired. We shall forever remain indebted for their contribution, dedication and sacrificed. They will always remain in our souls and memories for the hallmark of the impact they have done in education has in developing society in order to make better lives for all. May their Departed Souls Rest in Eternal Peace.

May we salute this level of selflessness from our teachers to improve their lot for the sake of the nation. We are correct as we all join hands in celebrating a teacher's life as a torch bearer of enlightenment in society. The Department is moving with speed working side by side with teacher unions to improve conditions of service for our teachers. We are encouraged to indicate that all teachers who were in access have been duly placed.

This is a milestone as it paves a way to ensure that all teachers who are on contract (.....) may be considered for permanent appointments within the Province.

There is also notable progress in placing teachers who are bursary holders in schools on permanent basis. This year the Department has been able to at least place 506 of these teachers to schools within the Province. We noticed with appreciation that there are teachers who are within the ..... age bracket in the system already. We are very much excited about this since it provides us with an opportunity to introduce young blood within the system who will propel new energy and innovations.

We will push on to look at the plight of all temporary teachers with the intention to secure their permanent status within the system. It pains us to learn that there are teachers who for the past five years have been serving the Department on a temporary basis. We will address this as a matter of utmost urgency. While we celebrate the outstanding work from most of our teachers, we need to use this platform to condemn those who render a de- service to our people. These are those who bunk classes, do not attend class as expected, who always course disputes in schools, use corporal punishment and those who sexually abused learners. We need to be bold in condemning such behaviour and work with all structures of our society to rot those out of the system. We will continue to work with the South African Council for Educators to address impediments resulting from misconduct from some of our teachers.

I therefore would like to take this opportunity to urge all teachers to strive for excellence in their esteemed calling. To continue to do us proud as a sector and keep doing the best they can under all circumstance to advance our nation to prosperity. We take this opportunity to congratulate all teachers who participated in the programme at all levels and those who made it up to this far.

Equally, we congratulate those who will represent our Province at a National level hopefully some of you will make a mark at the global stage. We are grateful of your achievements .

We further extend our appreciation to the leadership of Liberty, MTN, Old Mutual and Vodacom for supporting this programme. You have always been our key partners and we remain grateful indeed. keep on shinning our light.

We request our communities to support teachers all the time and to make schools true centres for community growth and development.

**Siyabonga Siyathokoza Inkomu.**



## Message by the President

**I**t is a day on which we acknowledge and appreciate the vital contribution teachers make in educating and nurturing the minds of the young.

We salute teachers as the people whose dedication and commitment drives social development and fosters inclusive economic growth.

That is because a nation's future starts in the classroom.

Working at times under difficult circumstances, our teachers are examples of resilience, excellence and professionalism.

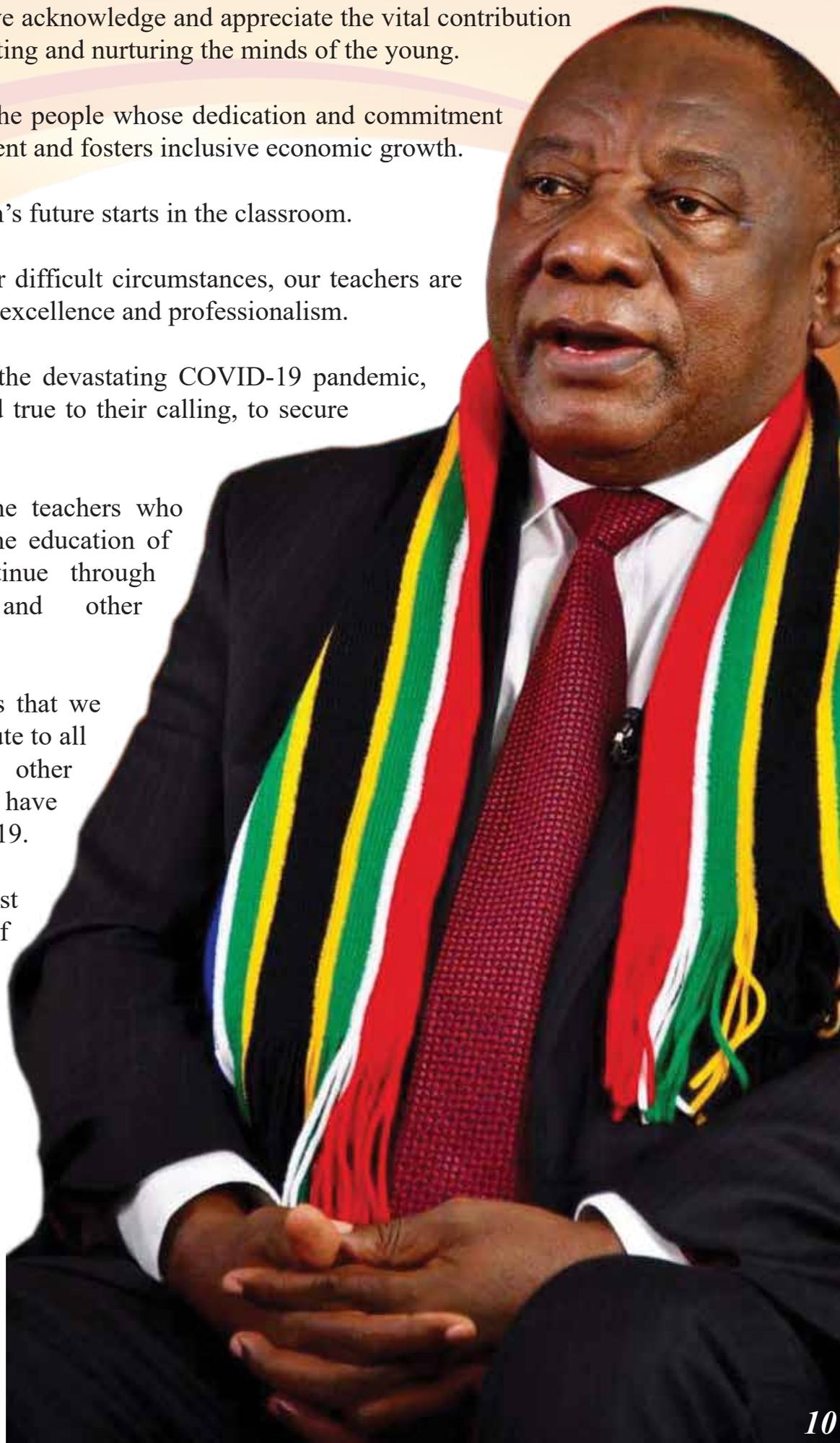
Even at the height of the devastating COVID-19 pandemic, teachers have remained true to their calling, to secure our collective future.

We are indebted to the teachers who made it possible for the education of our children to continue through blended learning and other strategies.

It is with deep sadness that we remember and pay tribute to all the teachers and other education officials who have succumbed to COVID-19.

In their honour, we must safeguard the safety of teachers and learners, and ensure that the teaching and learning environment remains conducive at all times.

We need to continue to take the necessary precautions and observe all the health protocols to prevent the spread of COVID-19 in school settings.



I wish to encourage more teachers and education officials to heed the best scientific advice available and vaccinate against this deadly pandemic.

Vaccination is not only about protecting one's own health and life; it is also about protecting others and ensuring we can soon resume many of the activities that have been restricted for these last 18 months.

Today we are celebrating the 21st edition of the National Teaching Awards, which were conceptualised during the late Professor Kader Asmal's tenure as a Minister of Education.

As we do so, we recall the passion, tenacity and intellect that Prof Asmal brought to this responsibility.

For him, education was a revolutionary undertaking, the most potent force in our struggle to end poverty and misery, and the foundation upon which all human endeavour is built.

His memory compels us to celebrate the excellence and dedication of those teachers who spare absolutely nothing of themselves in the project to build a new society in pursuit of a better life for all.

Teachers carry a great responsibility in a changing world.

The Fourth Industrial Revolution is dramatically changing the way we relate to one another, live, work and educate our children.

Technologies such as artificial intelligence, big data, augmented reality, blockchain and automation are disrupting every industry across the world.

For our children to operate in a world alongside smart machines, they will need to be educated differently than in the past.

We believe that our teachers are committed to manage this transition, and we all have a responsibility to ensure that they have the capabilities and the resources to prepare learners for an exciting new future.

We look to teachers to pursue Education for Sustainable Development so that learners are empowered with the knowledge, skills, values and attitudes to take informed decisions in advancing environmental integrity, economic viability and a just society.

As a nation, our most pressing challenge right now is youth unemployment.

Some of the young work-seekers are not well educated and do not possess sufficient skills and previous work experience demanded by employers in the labour market.

That places a great responsibility on teachers and education officials – and indeed on all of us

– to ensure that our schools, colleges, universities and other training institutions are producing the skills and capabilities that our country needs.

It requires that every young child has access to early childhood development; that every child can read for meaning at the appropriate age; that we prioritise achievement in science, technology, engineering and mathematics; and that we substantially reduce the drop-out rate in our schools.

We must ensure that every school-leaver has the confidence, the capabilities and the opportunities to study further, find employment or gain work experience.

This work should align with initiatives like the SA Youth pathway management network, the Presidential Employment Stimulus and the YES initiative, which support young people in their efforts to find pathways into the economy.

Together, we have a responsibility to develop a new generation of patriotic citizens, young people who are conscious of their responsibility to build a better society.

This is a new generation that refuses to engage in crime, corruption or gender-based violence; that is dedicated to the values of democracy, non-racialism, non-sexism, freedom, equality and human dignity.

Let me conclude by congratulating all the teachers who were nominated and finalists in the prestigious National Teaching Awards.

You are following in the footsteps of many great freedom fighters who took up the teaching profession in the firm belief that education was the surest path to liberation.

These include Charlotte Maxeke, a qualified teacher and liberation stalwart, to whom we have dedicated 2021 as the 150th anniversary of her birth.

We remember other teachers who became liberation icons, like ZK Matthews, Chief Albert Luthuli, Govan Mbeki, Nokutela Mdimma Dube, Oliver Tambo, Robert Sobukwe and many more.

I wish to acknowledge and thank all the stakeholders in the education sector, including the teacher unions and school governing bodies, who are working with us to build a resilient education system for equitable and sustainable development.

Our greatest achievements are won by working together.

Through solidarity, mutual respect and partnership, we have been able to overcome the most difficult challenges.

And together we will provide the young people of this country with the skills, knowledge and outlook that will enable them to grow and thrive in a new world of opportunity. ■





Mathemba Fiso

VIP

VIP



THANK YOU  
TEACHER



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