



**WHEN THE SUN RISES  
WE WORK HARD TO DELIVER**



# S'bukosetfu

**VOLUME 04/2015**

**HAMBA KAHLE  
MADIBA**

**TAKE ACTION.  
INSPIRE CHANGE,  
MAKE EVERY DAY  
A MANDELA DAY.**

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**THE LEGACY  
LIVES ON**

**TREK4MANDELA**  
KILIMANJARO CHALLENGE 2015

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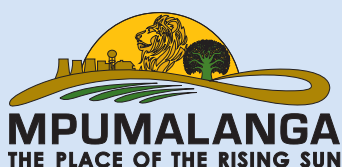
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On the cover: "Road Safety First", MEC Reginah Mhaule

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Reading and writing forms part of the fundamental rights to human development leading to a better life, this has been acknowledged by UNESCO and all UN member states by declaring a conscious effort to advocate for the recognition of the importance of literacy.

To that effect in 17 November 1965, the United Nations resolved that September 08 should be proclaimed International Literacy Day.

The Mpumalanga Department of Education through the Leadership of MEC Mhaule was united with the whole world in advocating for literacy in the province and all the four corners of the globe.



The Editor: Mr. Jeffrey Makhumba

On September 08, MEC Mhaule went even further by encouraging all and sundry to be part of this movement promoting literacy by launching her book club at KaMhlushwa Primary in Nkomazi.

Members of the public are thus encouraged to join the MEC's book club. Read more about this in this edition of S'bukosetfu and let us know your thoughts about it as well as other education matters.

The delivery of quality teaching and learning goes on. This quarter we cover the official handing over of Phelwane Primary school in Tweefontein, Thembisile Hani Local Municipality as the Department rolls out decent school buildings that suit the teaching and learning needs of our time.

The Department is on course in this infrastructure delivery programme. Those who have had experiences with regards to the new schools, please let your views be known.

We also cover developments on Mandela Day to honour the founding father of our democracy and former President Nelson Mandela. Mandela Day is used all over South Africa and the world to use a minimum of 67 minutes to help others who are less fortunate.

The Mpumalanga Department of Education appreciates the contributions of the MRTT and sister departments in making this day a success.

The Provincial Mandela Day projects for the Department of Education were based in four schools, namely; Vaal Rivier Special School, Platorand Special School, Sibukosetfu Secondary School and Lambalati Primary school.

School communities are encouraged to participate in projects like this as they seek to improve the school environment and create a positive ambiance for teaching and learning.

Read more on our quest to deliver quality education and don't hesitate to let know your thoughts on educational matters.



The Mpumalanga Department of Education celebrated International Literacy Day 2015 on the 08th September 2015 at Kamhlushwa primary school in the Nkomazi local municipality. The theme for the 2015 celebration was; Literacy and Sustainable



Communities.

September 8 was proclaimed International Literacy Day by UNESCO on November 17, 1965. It was first celebrated in 1966. Its aim is to highlight the importance of literacy to individuals, communities and societies. On International Literacy Day each year, UNESCO and all UN member states reminds the international community of the status of literacy and adult learning globally. Celebrations take place around the world.

According to UNESCO, South Africa has 94.3% literacy rate for all citizens with 95.5% males and 93.1% females leading to a gender difference of 2.4%. This might be greatly influenced by government's launch of the Kha Ri Gude Mass Literacy Campaign in February 2008, with the intention of enabling 4,7 million adults above the age of 15 years to become literate and numerate in one of the eleven official languages. Achieving this goal will enable South Africa to reach its UN: Education For All commitment made at Dakar in 2000 - that of halving the country's illiteracy rates by 2015.

The South African Government regards literacy, both reading and writing as a basic human

right leading to the empowerment of an individual towards self actualisation contributing to the betterment of society. Fortunate as we are, Government has noted that our people are not reading as they should.

Government then mandated the Department of Basic Education, through the provincial education departments to do something to address this, hence the Drop All and Read Campaign which is driven in pursuit of realising our long term goal. This programme focuses on Grades R and 1 calling on teachers to read and tell stories for half an hour each day.

The MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule appealed to teachers and parents to heed the call to drop all and read. To that effect, she said, " The formal teaching of reading skills by schools is crucial, but learners learn to read well and with understanding by reading. The more they read with enjoyment, the better their reading becomes. Children need support and encouragement to discover the pleasure of reading and to become lifelong readers and learners.

Reading for pleasure develops vocabulary, complex language structures, general knowledge and a wider frame of reference. Krashen in his influential book, The power of reading summarises the extensive research which has confirmed the positive results of free voluntary reading for learners' reading performance and other measures of literacy in first and additional languages."

As part of the campaign to promote literacy, members of the public and organisations are encouraged to donate books and suitable magazines to schools.

A person does not have to be a teacher or a librarian to help ensure that the library is open outside of school hours, cover books, paste in date sheets and book pockets, keep the library tidy or even issue and return books.

Members of the community can also volunteer to read or tell stories to learners in schools. It is very important that adults in the community serve as reading role models.

We are looking forward to working together for a successful nation







In pursuit of rekindling the culture of reading by encouraging reading amongst citizens in Mpumalanga, the MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule launched her Book Club on 21st July 2015 at Cyril Clarke during the welcoming ceremony of the Trek4Mandela team.

The Book Club is intent on demystifying the myth that; *"if you want to hide information from a person, put it in writing,"* by encouraging the reading of books, especially books written in indigenous languages.

The objectives of the Book Club are to rekindle the culture of reading for leisure, make reading an everyday experience, to inculcate the love for reading amongst citizens of Mpumalanga as well as encourage communities to visit community libraries and learners to value school libraries.





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# Celebration of International Literacy Day

The MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule, and the MEC for Culture, Sport and Recreation, Ms Norah Mahlangu-Mabena, cordially invite you to the celebration of International Literacy Day scheduled as follows:

Date : 08 September 2015 (Tuesday)  
Time : 07H30 - 10H00  
Venue : Kamhlushwa Primary School, Nkomazi Local Municipality

*I Love Reading*

*"Rekindling the Culture of Reading"*



Media Coverage



13 Community  
Radio Stations







The 03 September 2015 has long been awaited by the community of Tweefontein for the official opening of Phelwane primary school.

This is a fully fledged school that has been recently constructed in Tweefontein South Circuit in the Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, Nkangala District.

The school caters for grade R to Grade 6 and has 12 classrooms, 02 flushing toilets, 08 enviroloos, an admin block, a library and a kitchen. The overall enrollment is 357 learners.

The community of ward 15 in Tweefontein E alongside R573 road, in 1982 made a proposal to the government to establish the school as the school was



under the chieftaincy it was with their initiative that the school came to be.

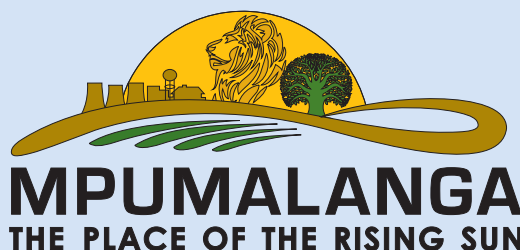
Phelwane is a very accessible school to the local children of T/F "E", "F" & RDP. The event

was organised to cater for a total of 2000 delegates comprised of parents from the surrounding villages.

Delivering her keynote address, the MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule said, *"The Province will appreciate that the learners who are in our schools understand and appreciate that the only reason for them to be at school is for them to learn and empower themselves academically, socially and otherwise."*

*"Our learners should be taught to respect their teachers and to adhere to the rules of their respective schools. Our parents should participate and get involved in school matters all the time and encourage their children to study and do their homework everyday."*

The delivery of school infrastructure carries on and a lot of ground has been covered provide enabling environment for effective quality teaching and learning and that's a good story to tell.





Sasol, in partnership with the Mpumalanga government, brought the Sasol Techno X 2015 from 03-07 August 2015 to the people of the province especially learners in the FET band.

The Techno X is in its 15th year and is the largest career guidance exhibition of its kind in the country, attracting thousands of learners from Mpumalanga and other provinces.

this year's Sasol Techno X was to encourage more learners to choose Mathematics and Science in high school and also pursue related careers in these fields. SASOL also created a buzz to make greater publicity and awareness about the exhibition by providing three competitions for learners to participate.

The competitions were; Art competition which sought to encourage learners to create artwork that reflects the theme



The theme for the 2015 episode of the exhibition was: 'Today's minds, tomorrow's future'. As a tradition the exhibition offered learners with career guidance, bursary opportunities from businesses, as well as advice from academic institutions on which subjects to select so that they are able to pursue careers of their choice.

"For us, this is a very important event. It is one of the many ways that we as Sasol are demonstrating our commitment to developing South Africa's next future leaders in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics," said Maureen Mboshane, Vice President, Secunda Public Affairs.

The uppermost intention of

"Today's minds, tomorrow's future", the Science competition which provided an opportunity for learners to contribute to an innovation campaign, do research and broaden their school projects beyond the curriculum specifications and the Fashion show where learners were encouraged to create fashion garments using recyclable waste materials.

Delivering the message from Premier DD Mabuza, the MEC for Education, Mrs Reginah Mhaule, said "The 2015 theme; 'Today's minds, tomorrow's future,' talks to the importance of Science and Technology shaping and developing our future generations.

Technological advances that



our citizens, young and old are pursuing today will have a massive impact on what lies ahead for all humanity and the environment. Our own existence as human species and other species that co-exist with us on this earth very much depend on what we are able to discover and implement through science and technology."

This partnership, in the form of the exhibition, between the Mpumalanga Department of Education and SASOL seeks to promote Maths, Science and Technology at school level.

The exhibition also accentuate and strengthen government's programmes like Dinaledi schools and many other projects which form part of the National Strategy for Science, Mathematics and Technology.

At the apex of government's programmes which are driven through the Mathematics, Science and Technology Academy stands the intention to increase the number of learners studying mathematics and physical science in Grades 10 to 12; to increase the number of higher grade learners in these subjects-especially girls and formerly disadvantaged learners; to increase the pass rate and achievement in mathematics and science in these grades and to develop the capacity of the mathematics and physical science teachers.

The SASOL exhibition is a good example of the private-public partnership needed in the country to better the lives of our people.



# Mandela Month Celebrations

On 17 June 2014, President Jacob Gedleyihlekisa Zuma in his 2014 State of the Nation Address emphasized the need for active participation on Communities on 18 July 2014 and in this regard he said:

"Next month the country and the world will mark International Mandela day. All South Africans should dedicate at least 67 minutes on the 18th of July, to clean South Africa, which is our theme for this year.

Let us begin planning for a major clean-up of our cities, towns, townships, villages, schools and beautify every part of our country".

Following the President's clarion call, the Mpumalanga Department of Education identified four (04) schools to benefit through physical infrastructure restoration as the 2015 Mandela Month was celebrated.

The 2015 Mandela month was thus celebrated by executing renovations, refurbishing schools infrastructure and repairing broken school furniture to the four schools, namely, Vaal Rivier Special School, Platorand Special School, Sibukosetfu Secondary School and Lambalati Primary School. The implementation of the projects commenced on the 01 June 2015 and the projects were launched on 18 July 2015 at the main Provincial Event that took place at Vaal Rivier Special School, Lekwa East Circuit, Gert Sibande District

The schools were renovated and refurbished through the Provincial initiatives and these projects were implemented by community volunteers giving in kind and in collaboration with other stakeholders including sister Departments.

The aim of this Campaign is to inculcate a caring culture of embracing schools as well as creating a school ambiance that is conducive to teaching and learning. The scope of work done involved Fixing falling ceiling Painting of ceiling in all classes, passages, admin block, kitchen, toilets & school Hall, Replacing broken doors, replacing broken window panes and repairing electrical faulty wires amongst other renovations done.

Delivering her keynote address at Sibukosetfu secondary school on 18 July 2015, the MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule, said; "As we are fast approaching the end of July, the Mandela Month, we are encouraged not to stop doing great deeds but to carry on making every day a Mandela Day. The act of giving is indeed one of the greatest gifts to humankind.

Madiba, the greatest liberator of the 20th century, has immensely taught us a lot, but one of the utmost lessons he has taught us, is the impor-

tance of Education. Madiba knew no bounds as he comprehended education to be the foundation to the success of a country and its people."

The Mpumalanga Department of Education extends its profound appreciation to all stakeholders who made the Mandela Month a success. Skilled labour for the various tasks was provided by MRTT, the FET Colleges, the Department of Correctional Services and local municipalities.

As Nelson Mandela once said, "There can be no keener revelation of a society's soul than the way in which it treats its children." There can be no better way of giving than giving an opportunity to education. Once more I plead to all of us present here to carry on with the good deed of giving and improving the conditions of teaching and learning for the betterment of our society.

The benevolence of ABSA, Imbumba Foundation, Shuter and Shooter is appreciated. These institutions have shown their love for the improvement of the lives of our people and are largely responsible for the success of the event.



**Warm Reception at Sibukosetfu Secondary School**





**MEC Mhaule hard at work in honour of Madiba**





The month of July is widely referred to as the Mandela Month and on 19 July 2015 at Cyril Clarke secondary School in Mbombela, the Mpumalanga Department of Education welcomed home Messrs. Richard Mabaso, Sibusiso Vilane and the entire South African entourage who had undertaken the trek.

Sibusiso Vilane and Richard Mabaso established the Trek4Mandela project to raise funds for the Caring4Girls initiative which supports needy girls with sanitary towels whilst at the same time teaching girls about puberty and adolescence stages in an effort to mitigate the adverse effects which research has shown that a girl could miss up to 50 days of school per year due to menstrual challenges.

This year's third annual Trek4Mandela, themed; Take Action Inspire Change; took place in July leading to a drive-and-climb from South Africa through SADC countries that played a big role in the liberation of South Africa i.e. Botswana, Zambia and Tanzania and the summiting of Mount Kilimanjaro on Mandela Day in 18 July, Mandela's birthday.

To date, the Caring4Girls an initiative of Imbumba Foundation, endorsed by the MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule has reached and touched the lives of over 10,000 girls, distributed over 130,000 packets of much needed sanitary pads since 2012. The initiative, supported by the national Minister of Basic Education, Mrs. Angie Motshekga, has also integrated with Teach Children to Save South Africa of The Banking Association South Africa, partnered with Lil-lets We are Women as well as integrated with the Umkhosi wo Mhlanga (Zulu Royal Reed dance) to support over 30,000 girls.

Addressing the gathering, the MEC for Education, Mrs. Reginah Mhaule said, " As we welcome you today, we are not alone but stand hand in glove with the sons and daughters of the Place of the rising sun equally saluting and paying homage to you for your courage and accomplishments.

I am confident that the first Accounting Officer of this Country, Dr. Cassius Lubisi, the Queen of Gospel Music, Rebecca Malope, Ms. World Rolene Strauss, World renowned and house hold musicians Ray Chikapa Phiri, Hugh Masekela, Nothembi Mkhwebane, Pretty Mhlono, Donny, Afro-traction, the 2013 Idols finalists, Musa and Brendan, the National Coach of Amabhokobhoko Heyneke Meyer, the 2015 World Ruby Sevens Player of the Year, Mr. Wernek Kok , the World acclaimed Soloists, Ms Pretty Yende, the 2015 SAMA Awards Winner who won the best Rap Album of the year and the best collaboration affectionately known as KO, all put their best feet forward in acclaim and fascination that you are now back on home soil having successfully conquered Mount Kilimanjaro in the quest to salvage the dignity, education and future of an African girl child."

Bravo to Imbumba Foundation, Trek4Mandela, Caring4Girls and all men, women and institutions who have added their names to the call to improve the lives of our girl children.



**Proudly South Africans keeping the girl child at school**



The Mpumalanga Department of Education is making strides to increase the number of learners who take and pass Mathematics and Physical Science in the province and to improve the capacity of teachers who are teaching these subjects.

The Department has established the Maths, Science and Technology Academy to spearhead this drive and to date there are 101 secondary schools that are offering these subjects compulsory to grade 10 to 12 learners.

These 101 secondary schools are resourced with state of the art equipment to instill interest amongst the learners and to ensure that an enabling environment is created for the attainment of the departmental above mentioned goal.

Of significant is that the province has already established a Mathematics, Science and Technology Academy (MSTA) that will help to facilitate the teaching and learning of these subjects, conduct research and capacitate teachers on an ongoing basis.

This Academy is located at Emalahleni Local Municipality and is linked to four sub hubs, one in each district to facilitate the live broadcast of these subjects.

Bohlabala District sub hub is Acorn to Oaks Secondary school, Ehlanzeni District sub hub is Khumbula Secondary school, Gert Sibande District sub hub is Izimbali Boarding school while for Nkangala District the sub hub is Kwandebele Science school.

Each sub hub will have laboratories, a Media Centre and a Broadcast Centre. The 101 MSTA Schools will be connected as hop/relay sites with computer laboratories.

At the occasion of the announcement of the 2015 grade 12 results the MEC for education Mrs. Reginah Mhaule said:

"It gives me pleasure to announce that all systems are now in place to ensure that the 101 designated schools in the province will from 2016 onwards offer Mathematics and Physical Science from Grades 10 to 12 as compulsory subjects to all learners.

These schools will be supported through the already established Maths, Science and Technology Academy that is located at Emalahleni Local Municipality.

Teachers have been trained and the required infrastructure has been installed in these schools and to their primary feeder schools. We will

continue resourcing them so that they attain the highest levels of technology enhanced teaching."

Furthermore the MEC said in relation to the performance of learners in Mathematics and Physical Science in 2015:

"We are encouraged that in 2015, there were more learners who wrote and passed Mathematics and Physical Science. 11 441 learners representing 55,5% and 10 981 learners representing 62.6% passed Mathematics and Physical Science respectively. This means 1 391 more learners for Mathematics and 2 060 more learners passing Physical Science than in 2014. This is commendable.

Again, ten schools were able to pass 50 and more learners at 50% and above in Mathematics and Seven Schools were able to pass 50 and more learners at 50% and above."

This is clear evidence that if we were to work hard the numbers of learners taking and passing these subjects can be tripled before 2019.

Given the kind of support that the learners in the 101 MSTA schools will enjoy this time around, it is expected that Mpumalanga Province will be amongst the leading provinces when the 2016 Grade 12 results are announced.

The Department is fully aware that parents and communities in general have an important role to play to demystify the perception that these are difficult subjects.

Communities are required to embrace the idea and to appreciate that these subjects are the key towards their growth and development.

They need to support their children and to refrain from sending confusing messages.

There must be a common community narrative that propels children to do well in Mathematics and Physical science. Communities must showcase those who excelled in these subjects so that they serve as true role models. In this way counting can be made easy.





S'bukosetfu

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**WE WORK HARD TO DELIVER**



**MPUMALANGA**  
**THE PLACE OF THE RISING SUN**