

SPEECH TO BE DELIVERED BY THE MEC FOR EDUCATION, MS. LINDI MASINA AT THE RHANDZA XIKOLO XA WENA CAMPAIGN ACTIVATION HELD AT ISIFISOSETHU SECONDARY SCHOOL IN BALFOUR, DIPALESENG LOCAL MUNICIPALITY IN GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT ON 22 MAY 2026

Programme and Head: Education : **Mrs. LH Moyane**

MEC for DARDLEA, **Ms. Khethiwe Moeketsi** (In Absentia)

Executive Mayors of Gert Sibande District Municipality, **Cllr. Walter Mngomezulu**

Executive Mayor of Dipaleseng Local Municipality, **Cllr. Nomacala Khanye,**

Leadership of the Department of Correctional Services,

Members of Senior Management

Hosting District Director, **Mr PP Magagula**

Representatives from Old Mutual,

School Governing Body Chairperson, **Mr. Surprise Mazibuko**

Circuit Manager, **Mr. Tebogo Moloi**

School Principal, **Mr. Oupa Bodibe**

Distinguished Guests,

Educators

Learners

Ladies and Gentlemen,

Sanibonani

Programme Director, One of our founding Fathers of our Democracy , the great stalwart and liberation fighter and former president of the ANC Oliver Tambo who was an outstanding teacher of Mathematics and Physical Sciences , once said:

“A nation that does not value its youth does not deserve its future.”

As part of our programme and vision as a caring government, today, I stand before you grateful that we have been able to come together to embrace a movement that carries within it the heart of our shared responsibility toward the future of our children, **the Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena Campaign.**

In our beautiful language of Xitsonga, these words mean "**Love Your School Campaign,**" and I can think of no message more powerful or more necessary for our time.

Thank you to the management and governing body of **Isifisoethu Secondary School** for hosting us today in this progressive manner. Your hospitality is not taken for granted.

Together with the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environmental Affairs, Department of Correctional Services and business Sector we are intentional and deliberate in our quest to make schools attractive, clean and welcoming at all times.

We intend to ensure that schools remain centers of community development and spaces where dreams are nurtured, future is shaped, and resilient communities are built.

Through this campaign we seek to create a clean and safe learning and teaching surroundings, to promote a sense of community ownership of schools, and ultimately to improve learner outcomes in a sustainable manner.

We are cognisant of the fact that a clean school is not just about appearances, it embodies unity amongst the staff and parents, free from any form of abuse, hate, sabotage and free from the intake of drugs, bullying, corporal punishment and it is an institution where every learner is able to reach his/her full potential.

When learners enter a well-maintained and care for environment, they carry themselves differently, they feel valued and appreciate that their education matters.

The campaign also intend to strengthen the learning and teaching process by promoting sustainable practices that benefit both education and the environment and thus teaching our children to care for the world around them.

Programme Director, without any doubt, the greatest beneficiaries of this campaign are, without question, our children.

When a school is safe, disciplined and inspiring, learners can thrive without fear or disruption.

They can focus on their studies, explore their talents and grow into the leaders we need them to be.

A learner who sees their community investing time and effort into their school, learns a powerful lesson: **"I am worth it. My future matters."**

This sense of worth is the foundation upon which academic success and personal growth are built.

We are grateful to the District Director, **Mr. PP Magagula** because the majority of the schools in this District have embraced the campaign.

One day our schools and children will be counted amongst the best in the world because we taught them to care for themselves and for their environment.

Moreover, when learners participate in the campaign alongside their parents and community members, they learn values that no textbook can fully teach the virtues of responsibility, teamwork, pride, and civic duty.

They learn that change does not come from waiting for someone else to act, but from rolling up our sleeves and doing the work ourselves.

Benefits to Schools

I was encouraged to learn that all grade **12 learners** have received their tablets and are using them to advance their education.

The Hon Premier in His State of the Province Address promised that all **grade 10 learners** in quintile 1 to 3 schools will receive tablets which they will keep until they are in grade 12.

It is therefore with great pleasure and privilege that I use this opportunity to state that those tablets for **grade 10 learners** are now ready for distribution. ***You will receive them before the end of next week.***

We are truly intentional when we say that children in Mpumalanga must be in a position to compete with their peers throughout the globe.

Please take good care of those tablets and use them for the intended purpose.

Acknowledgement Partnerships

Let me begin by expressing my sincere appreciation to our sister Department, led by **MEC Ms. Khethiwe Moeketsi** of the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environment Affairs, for her outstanding leadership and contribution in making this campaign a success.

Your commitment to sustainable development and environmental stewardship continues to strengthen the education sector.

We also extend our gratitude to the leadership of the **Department of Correctional Services** for the invaluable support through the provision of officials and parolees who contribute meaningfully to the human resource needs of this programme.

Correctional Services contributes immensely to refurbishing our school furniture which alleviates the school furniture shortages in our schools.

I always encourage schools and circuits to take advantage of this. This partnership demonstrates the power of rehabilitation and community reintegration.

I also wish to acknowledge the leadership of the Mayor of Dipaleseng Local Municipality, **Cllr. Nomacala Betty Khanye**, for her resourcefulness and commitment to education.

We feel blessed to sit in your municipal area of jurisdiction pushing the education agenda forward. We know that you are an educator by profession and the love of children and education programmes are part of your make-up.

Thank you for supporting educational programmes and may you succeed in your endeavours in Dipaleseng.

Executive Mayor of Gert Sibande District, **Cllr. Walter Mngomezulu**, thank you for demonstrating strong interest and support in advancing educational outcomes. We want to appreciate your contributions towards the promotion of educational goals within the Gert Sibande District.

Gert Sibande district has obtained an impressive **87.1%** pass rate.

I am hopeful that our combined efforts to improve learner performance outputs for the District on the Rise.

Programme Director, we are encouraged by the educational progress made in this town and circuit in the 2025 National Senior Certificate examination results.

- Setsheng Secondary School obtained a pass rate of **97.5%**
- Gereformeerde Skool Balfour obtained a pass rate of **95.5%**
- Tshepeha Combined school obtained a pass rate of **83.1%**
- Isifisosethu Secondary School achieved a pass rate of **82.9 %** and that translates to a **circuit** achievement of **92%** pass rate and an improvement from the **91.6%** pass rate obtained in 2024.

While we commend these achievements, we must also challenge ourselves to do better.

Our ambition is to move higher in the performance echelons, improve quality passes, and ensure that every learner reaches their full potential.

We strongly believe that a clean, green, and well-maintained school environment contributes positively to learner performance and overall school success.

Our target for 2026 is **91% pass rate** across the board, ***Nomakanjani***

Programme Director, we are pleased to report that the campaign activation in **Nkangala District on Tuesday, 19 May 2026**, was a great success.

This momentum continues as we roll out activations across the province in Ehlanzeni District next week Tuesday on the 26th of May 2026 and Bohlabela District on 27 May 2026.

This demonstrates our commitment to reaching every corner of Mpumalanga with this impactful initiative.

Conclusion

Programme Director, as conclude allow me to borrow the words of the father of our democracy and first democratic President of the Republic, Dr. Nelson Mandela who famously said,

“What counts in life is not the mere fact that we have lived. It is what difference we have made to the lives of others.”

Following these words, please allow me to make a call for all of us to unite around a common purpose to build a better education system, to improve lives, and to ensure that **no learner is left behind**.

Together, we can build a future where education transforms lives and where every child in Mpumalanga has an opportunity to succeed.

The Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena campaign is here to accentuate that.

Let us love our schools. Let us protect them. Let us build them together.

#Babizebonke

#Rhanzaxikoloxawenacampaign

Ngiyabonga.