

KEYNOTE ADDRESS BY THE MEC FOR EDUCATION, MS LINDI MASINA
OFFICIAL HANDOVER OF THE LUCKY DUBE SECONDARY SCHOOL OF
PERFORMING ARTS 03 AUGUST 2026 | ERMELO | MSUKALIGWA LOCAL
MUNICIPALITY

Programme Director and Head: Education, **Mrs. Lucy Moyane**

Honourable Members of the Executive Council;

MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, **Mr Thulasizwe Thomo;**

Executive Mayors and Councillors;

Our beloved Dube Family, especially Mrs. Zanele Dube and the children of
the late Lucky Dube;

Provincial Chairperson of the House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders,

Kgoshi M.L. Mokoena;

Traditional and Religious Leaders;

Leaders from the Arts and Cultural Fraternity;

Representatives from Gallo Music;

The Lucky Dube Band;

Distinguished Artists and Entertainers;

Members of Senior Management

Gert Sibande Education District Director, **Mr. PP Magagula**

The Principal, School Governing Body, Educators and Learners;

Members of the Media;

Parents

Our beloved learners

Distinguished Guests;

Ladies and Gentlemen.

Sanibonani

Indeed, we gather on solid ground where history, heritage, education and culture embrace one another.

We gather in Ermelo, the birthplace of an international icon whose voice carried the hopes of ordinary people across continents and whose music became a powerful instrument for justice, unity, peace and human dignity.

Today, we are fulfilling a dream, we are making history and we are truly investing in the future of our children.

What is more gratifying is that we do so on the day a legend was born, a new generation of stars rises.

Programme Director, the Freedom Charter declared more than seventy years ago that **"The doors of learning and culture shall be opened for all."**

Today, here in the Place of the Rising [Sun](#), we are giving practical expression to that historic declaration.

This magnificent institution stands as tangible evidence that democracy continues to transform lives through education.

It demonstrates the commitment of the Mpumalanga Provincial Government to building a society in which every child, regardless of background or circumstance, is afforded an equal opportunity to realize their God-given potential.

Programme Director, the National Development Plan 2030 calls upon us to build an inclusive, skilled and capable nation. It reminds us that education is the single greatest investment any country can make in its people.

Today, we add another important truth, that when education meets creativity, nations flourish.

When culture is preserved, communities prosper and when music inspires learning, generations are transformed.

As our country continues to work to accelerate inclusive economic growth, create jobs and empower young people, this institution becomes one of Mpumalanga's practical contributions towards that national vision.

This school is therefore an economic and youth empowerment development project.

Programme Director, allow me to extend our sincere appreciation to the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport under the capable leadership of **MEC Thulasizwe Thomo**.

Thank you for delivering an institution worthy of the name Lucky Dube. You have built a stage upon which generations of dreams will perform.

We proudly receive this school on behalf of the Department of Education. From this day forward, we take the baton.

We commit ourselves to ensuring that this institution becomes one of the finest Schools of Performing Arts in South Africa.

We shall continue investing in specialized music equipment, recording studios, performance spaces, dance facilities, creative technologies and Learning resources and partnerships.

We will ensure that we invest in very other requirement necessary to produce artists capable of competing on the world's greatest stages.

To the Dube family, we are grateful to you for walking this journey with our Province. This is just the beginning.

Thank you for preserving the remarkable legacy of your husband, father and grandfather.

His name no longer belongs only to history, it belongs to the future. It belongs to every learner who will discover a hidden talent inside these classrooms. It belongs to every child who will dare to dream beyond their circumstances.

To the Principal, educators and School Governing Body. Thank you for believing in this vision long before it became a reality.

History remembers those who have the courage to believe before others can see. Your leadership has prepared fertile ground upon which generations of excellence shall flourish.

This is the first public no-fee School of Performing Arts in the Place of the Rising Sun. It announces a new chapter in the history of education in Mpumalanga.

Within these walls, learners will master music, dance, drama and performance.

They will become composers, producers, actors, dancers, choreographers, directors, sound engineers, stage technicians and creative entrepreneurs.

The life of Lucky Dube reminds us that greatness often emerges from humble beginnings. From the streets of Ermelo came a voice that united nations.

From this school shall emerge many more voices. Perhaps the next international recording artist, the next award-winning actor.

It is for this reason that this day is about much more than infrastructure, it is about possibility.

As I conclude , let me speak directly to the people of Ermelo and the broader Msukaligwa community. This school belongs to you, protect it, love it, celebrate it.

Let us embrace it through our Rhandza Xikolo Xa Wena Campaign.

When communities take ownership of their schools, excellence becomes inevitable. As the curtain rises today, tomorrow the world will applaud.

The music continues, the dream lives on.

From this stage, built in the Place of the Rising [Sun](#), a new generation of artists will carry the hopes of our province, our nation and our continent.

Indeed , on the day a legend was born, a new generation of stars rises.

Happy Birthday, Posthumous Lucky Dube.

May your legacy continue to inspire us to educate with purpose, to create with courage and to serve with humility.

I thank you to all who made this possible.

Ngiyabonga.