



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Building No 6 & 7, No 7 Government Boulevard, Riverside Park, Extension 2
Mbombela, Mpumalanga, Private Bag X11328, Mbombela, 1200
Tel: +27 (13) 766 6088, Fax: +27 (13) 766 8441

Litiko
Lekuhlaliswa Kwebantfu

Departement van
Menslike Nedersittings

UmNyango
Wokuhlaliswa Kwabantu

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STAKEHOLDERS URGED TO PRIORITISE CHILDREN'S EDUCATION

Stakeholders have been urged to join hands and play a meaningful role to prioritise education to ensure better future for children. Human Settlements MEC, Violet Violet Siwela challenged the Bushbuckridge Municipality, school governing body, educators and government departments, amongst others to prepare a foundation for learners during her visit at Ntsie Primary School, Health Centre Village at the municipality. Siwela addressed the young learners during her visit to the schools on the final day of schools' re-opening programme.

Addressing the learners, MEC Siwela encouraged them to focus on education to build a better future. She said, ***"It is pleasing that reported squabbles between SGBs and educators at our schools are no longer prevalent, hence a need to create harmony and focus for the children's future."*** The Maths and Science designated school started operating in 1991 and has about 500 learners. The 13 educators, including the principal and 18 classrooms' school requires additional classrooms and toilets to have undeterred learning and teaching environment.

The stakeholders were further advised to mobilise the community at ensuring safety on the learners and educators and crime free school. The school experienced incidents of break-ins in the last few years. ***"Since we have installed the CCTV cameras the situation has since improved and we are appreciative to the provincial government for providing resources to the school"***, charged school principal, Mr Phillip Mashale.

Siwela was concluding a three day visit to schools as part of government's programme to assess state of readiness of schools during their re-opening for the 2016 schooling year. MEC Siwela started her three day visit at Marcia Mokoena High and Soshangana Secondary Schools where she called on all to focus on children's education. ***"Let me implore the educators to identify skills and nurture talent from the children at an early age in order to produce sharp graduates in a bid to have competitive workers"***, she charged.

President Jacob Zuma announced few years ago that all public representatives must visit schools to encourage the culture of learning and teaching. The programme also diagnoses challenges and possible interventions to improve the state of schools. Reports compiled by all teams visiting schools throughout the province will be consolidated to develop interventions. Mpumalanga obtained a 78.6% pass rate in the 2015 grade 12 results, a 0.4 % drop from the 2014 results.

ISSUED BY THE COMMUNICATIONS DIRECTORATE
MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS
CONTACT: FREDDY NGOBE – 013 766 6014 / 082 859 4630/ fngobe@mpg.gov.za

