



human settlements

MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MEC MASHILO SLAMS COMMUNITY FOR VANDALISM OF SCHOOL PROPERTY

Vandalism of school property at Kwamanala Secondary School in Maphanga, Dr JS Local Municipality in Mpumalanga is a serious concern for Human Settlements MEC, Speed Mashilo. Mashilo challenged the school management, learners and local councillor to safeguard their properties in a meeting during his visit to the school on the first day of government's driven schools' re-opening programme. The Executive Council's invented programme seeks to ensure that teaching and learning commences effectively as the schooling year starts. It also establishes the state of readiness and challenges faced by schools in the province.

At the assemble MEC Mashilo appealed to learners and stakeholders to look after the school property. *"Those perpetrators who are stealing and vandalising your school are trying to steal your education, I want you to be the ears and eyes of the school so that we catch this criminal"* charged Mashilo. He also urged learners to take their education serious in order to achieve their goals and that discipline is key to success.

Despite the challenges the school is one of the improved schools in the region by achieving 74.6% in last year's grade 12 final results. The school principal, Mr. Jacob Mahlangu ensured MEC Mashilo and his entourage that despite the school's 4.5% increase in their pass rate, he is not that pleased and that is not the best reflection of their performance. *"The aim for this year is to reach 100%". I have confident in our 2018 matric student since they have showed good behaviour and well discipline"*.

On the second day he made a stop at Mbulawa Secondary School at Loding, Libangeni Circuit in the same municipality. The school produced above 88% matric pass rate making it one of the best performers in the entire circuit. Learners and educators showed a high level of discipline by being punctual and attending classes effectively. *"Let me take this opportunity and congratulate the school for its sterling performance despite its rural location. This feat is attributed to your hard work by all stakeholders at the school, and that is commendable"*, charged MEC Mashilo.

Despite its glowing report, Mbulwana Secondary School has a vacant principal's position including that of a head of department. There are also two posts for level one where educators are acting on them. Mashilo committed to personally buy the school a photocopier machine since they do not have a reliable one to produce learner material. Mpumalanga obtained a 74.8% pass rate in the 2017 grade 12 results which dropped from 77.1 in 2016 which is a 2.3 % drop from the 2016 results. Reports compiled by all teams visiting schools throughout the province will be consolidated to develop interventions by government.

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