

The Weekly

MAKGOE RALLIES TEACHERS TO IMPROVE SCHOOL RESULTS

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Getting teachers' support Education MEC, Tate Makgoe, visited teachers in Tumahole, Parys

The department wants to rope in retired teachers as part of its strategy to improve the quality of teaching in the province

Education MEC, Tate Makgoe, visited teachers in Tumahole, Parys, to encourage them to work hard in improving the quality of education in the area, as well as listen to their challenges.

Makgoe's consultation with the teachers is part of Makgoe's vision to improve the quality of the basic education and learning outcomes. He held the meeting with the local teachers at the Partuma Conference centre known as Club and Hotel to find out the challenges they encountered in classrooms.

"If we want to fix the education system, we should be able to address the issues the teachers are raising. We want to explain to them why we can't deliver certain things," said Makgoe.

Responding to teachers' concerns of constantly changing curricula, Makgoe said the department was happy that the impractical Outcome Based Education (OBE) system has been scrapped.

"We were the only ones to have raised concerns about the OBE and we even supported the disbanding of learner groups and we suspended it. We believe that for children to participate in a group they must volunteer themselves and not be appointed by someone. So now we are counting on the new system to fix the problems which were created by OBE."

The department wants to rope in retired teachers to mentor practising teachers.

"Look, old teachers did not have ample resources but they managed to produce stars. However, teachers today who have more resources than their predecessors cannot produce the expected results. However, we appreciate those who always go all out to maintain the success of our passing rate in all the grades."

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He said the department was concerned that schools which have produced leaders such as himself and Premier Ace Magashule were not performing optimally. He said there were still gaps in the foundation phase citing that the 40% of learners in grade 9 don't do well in Mathematics. The department has called on teachers to put more emphasis on learners on the foundation phase.

Makgoe also highlighted that the slow building of new schools was hampering progress in improving the access to education in many parts of the province.

"The responsibilities given to the department of Public Works should be reviewed because there are some things which it's delaying and we become the victim because we are the ones who have to account to communities who are demanding schools," added Makgoe.

Meanwhile, all of the local secondary school has performed well contributing to the 83 percent matric pass rate the province achieved last year.

The department's head, Stanley Malope said: "We have improved in many things but we need to do more, 'children of the soil'."

Malope said results in the area have improved significantly over the past few years. Fezile Dadi district achieved 74.6 percent in 2011 and 85 percent in 2012. Tumahole Township were reported to have performed splendidly well with Barnet Molokoane achieving 90.5 percent Boitlamo, 78.4 percent Yakhe Sizwe, 72.9 percent and Phehellang, 72.7 percent.

Former teacher, Paulina Muso, urged teacher to take care of the so called slow learners so that they can understand what the teacher wants.

"There is nothing important other than being caring to a child. Your actions will lead to a child improving his work and marks."

Daniel Ntsumaelo said: "I have made a conclusion that our children need our love so they can feel motivated to change their character and behaviour. If you are a teacher and don't love your learners you clearly don't belong in the teaching profession."

Teachers raised concerns about the poor reading and writing skills of learners. They said some learners reach matric without knowing how to read, write and count.

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