

Free State Education MEC, Tate Makgoe SGB Election open letter to parents and all stakeholders

I call upon parents, business people and professionals to participate in the upcoming School Governing Body (SGB) elections taking place between 6 and 28 March 2015.

Voting gives the electorate power to exercise their democratic right. By voting, electorates will be able to give a specific direction of how to govern their schools to improve teacher and learner discipline and improve scholastic performance.

I urge voters to choose resourceful and community builders with relevant experience in different spheres to ensure that SGB members are drawn from all works of life and embody a diverse representation.

A school governing body must ensure that a school is governed in the best interest of all the stakeholders; members must always put the best interest of the school before any personal interest.

The SGB is made up of elected members, the principal by virtue of his or her official capacity and co-opted members.

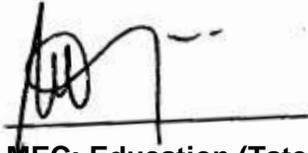
In a case of a special school, it should be composed as follows: parents of learners enrolled at the school, if reasonably, educators at the school, members of staff at the school who are not educators, learners in grade 8 or higher and a representative of an organization of parents with special needs, sponsoring bodies, organizations of disabled person, disabled persons, experts in relevant fields of special needs education and the principal by virtue of his or her official capacity.

According to the South African Act, it stipulates that an SGB must: adopt a constitution setting how the SGB will operate and help the principal, educators, and other staff members to perform their professional functions. Other key responsibilities of the SGB are: decision making, planning, conflict management, team building, and negotiation and school finances.

The Free State Department of Education is embarking on a massive campaign to educate the community about the SGB Elections and encouraging them to vote.

The programmes include engaging with educator unions, meeting with professionals, a door-to-door campaign by the Free State Premier and his Executive Council. The province would also seek divine intervention by holding an Election Prayer Service on March the 1st.

About 1400 schools are expected to participate in the 2015 SGB Election. These elections are regarded as the second biggest after the National Elections and are held every three years. The importance of school governing body cannot be over-emphasized. Education is a social responsibility and through the SGB, public participation is ensured.

A handwritten signature in black ink, appearing to be 'Tate Makgoe', written over a horizontal line. The signature is stylized with a large initial 'T' and a long horizontal stroke.

MEC: Education (Tate Makgoe)

Date: