

Free State News

'Time out on time off'*Department lost millions because too many people were on leave, says HOD***Neo Mvubu**

HEAD of department of education Stanley Malope says the department lost almost R16m due to people taking leave in June alone.

Malope said the number of people who took leave in the department had increased tremendously and there is a need for an employee health and wellness programme in the department.

Speaking at the launch of the health and wellness programme at the Brekmer High School in Bloemfontein, Malope said the number of leave days taken by employees is a loss to the department.

More than 4 000 employees were on leave in one month in



LOSS: Education HOD Stanley Malope

Picture: NEO MVOUBU

the department. Malope said that although there are 215 days recorded for June, there were 878 people on family responsibility leave, 32 on unpaid leave, 2 491 on maternity leave, 112

on permanent incapacity and 1 032 on special leave during the same period.

"The age group 40-49 are most likely to take leave than those of younger age groups," he said.

Malope said the employee health and wellness in the department was designed to increase productivity of employees.

He also said the human resource department came with this idea in an effort to bring about a "customer centric culture, enabling high performance of employees".

"Our constitutional mandate is to provide high quality education and bring skills to young people of this country for economic growth," he said.

Malope said two fundamental things were required to achieve economic growth through education were personnel and personnel who have good health.

"Employee health and wellness is not managed in isolation of the departmental business but as an integral part of the drivers such as good governance, social responsibility, productivity measures, sick absenteeism and cost."

The union members, teachers and senior officials of the department were available to support the programme.

Sadhu's Jihad Seorya said the implementation of such programmes is often a challenge and hoped that the programme would be implemented.

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