

MEC Zolile Monakali
PYEI Workshop
Wednesday, 25 May 2022

Representatives from Department of Basic Education;
Executive and Senior Management present;
Government officials from various Departments;
Union representatives;
School Governing Body Associations;
School Principals and;
Education Assistants.

It is heart-warming to see so many stakeholders converging to discuss most probably the greatest initiative ever introduced in Government, called the Presidential Youth Employment Initiative (PYEI).

Ladies and Gentleman, today we are also celebrating **Africa Day**, which provides an opportunity for us to take hands with one another towards developing our continent and unite as one Africa and build a better continent and world.

The Agenda 2063 needs our support and is Africa's strategic roadmap to move us to a free, safe and fully developed continent. It is underpinned by the Africa Union's (AU's) vision to build an integrated, prosperous and peaceful Africa, that is a dynamic force in the international arena.

Program Director,

South Africa and the globe continuous to be severely affected by the COVID pandemic, which had a detrimental impact of the economies of the world. It further impacted on the livelihoods of families with a massive amount of job losses which further exacerbated poverty and unemployment levels in our country.

Ladies and Gentleman, in addition to this, the Education sector was put to the test. The massive amount of learning and teaching time which we lost was unimaginable, whilst schools were required to adhere to COVID-19 regulations. Yes, we succeeded because of initiatives such as the Presidential Youth Employment Initiatives.

The importance of this workshop cannot be over-emphasized, but should serve as a clear reminder that our Government and the Department of Basic Education are ready to account to all our stakeholders on the implementation of the PYEI project. We are creating this platform for dialogue, which will allow all participants to influence the future of the PYEI project.

The Presidential Youth Employment Initiative which started in November 2021, continues to make a meaningful and positive impact in the lives of young people in our Province. Since its inception, a total of 6 497 young people were appointed in this project and appointed at schools where they continue to gain valuable skills and work experience. This will position them to find employment beyond this project, either at a school or outside the sector. We do hope, that with the exposure to the education sector, young people will decide to take up or pursue careers in Education. This must be a key pillar and objective of this initiative.

We are equally pleased with the fact that all the young people participating in this initiative are being remunerated accordingly, through the monthly stipend they receive. We hope that they are making good use of this income for the benefit of their families and dependents.

We are truly grateful for the sterling work of all the participants, be it as an Educator Assistants, eCadres, General Assistants, Reading Champions, Handymen, Sport Enrichment Officers and Child & Youth Care Workers. Our schools have improved for the better and we owe it to them.

This workshop will allow for information sharing on the implementation of the project in the context of the Northern Cape and share best practices that will refine the PYEI project as a whole. Let our theme “**Responding to youth unemployment through stakeholder engagement and skills transfer**” find expression in your presentation and discussions here today.

I would like to wish you well during this two-day engagement and dialogue which forms part of a consultative process which will hopefully path the way for the future PYEI implementation framework in preparation for Phase 4 in the 2023 school academic year.

The Department would like to thank all School Governing Bodies and School Management Teams for their unwavering support in ensuring the successful administration process in the appointment of youth applicants onto the PYEI project.

Education is a societal matter, and therefore I would like to convey my gratitude to all our stakeholders and partners in Education, for your

continued support, especially in the implementation of the PYEI project. It is only through education that we'll be able to build a prosperous nation.

I thank you.