

2026 SASCE Provincial Finals

MEC Abraham Vosloo

Mittah Seperepere Convention Centre

Thursday, 28 May 2026

Programme Director,
Officials from the Department of Education,
School principals and educators,
Parents and guardians,
Choir conductors and our panel of adjudicators,
Distinguished guests,
Members of the media,
And most importantly, our talented learners,

Good morning.

It is my great honour and privilege to welcome you all to the 2026 South African Schools Choral Eisteddfod Provincial Finals here at the Mittah Seperepere Convention Centre in Kimberley.

Today, this venue becomes more than just a stage. It becomes a place where talent, culture, discipline and unity come together through the powerful language of music.

We are proud to host more than 4 350 learners from 32 primary schools and 28 high schools across the Northern Cape.

Your presence here is a clear indication that the future of our province is bright, creative and full of promise.

The South African Schools Choral Eisteddfod has, over many years, become one of the most important platforms for nurturing artistic excellence, confidence and social cohesion among young people. Through music, learners develop discipline, teamwork, leadership and self-expression; values that are equally important inside and outside the classroom.

This year's competition carries special significance as we commemorate 50 years since the June 1976 Youth Uprising. As young people take to this stage, they do so in honour of the courageous youth of 1976, whose voices challenged injustice and helped shape the democratic South Africa we enjoy today.

In many ways, music has always been part of our country's story. It comforted communities during difficult times, united people across divisions and became a powerful tool of hope and resistance. Today, your voices continue that proud tradition.

To all participating learners: know that you are already winners. Your commitment, countless rehearsals and dedication have brought you to this prestigious stage. Perform with pride, confidence and passion. Let your voices inspire all of us gathered here today.

I also wish to extend sincere appreciation to principals, educators, choir conductors and parents for the guidance and support you continue to provide to our learners. Your dedication makes initiatives such as this possible.

As government, we remain committed to supporting programmes that develop the holistic growth of our children; academically, socially and culturally.

The arts remain a vital part of education because they nurture creativity, identity and nation-building.

Over the next two days, we will witness extraordinary performances that reflect the diversity, heritage and talent of the Northern Cape. Let us celebrate one another, encourage excellence and enjoy the spirit of togetherness that this event promotes.

It is now my pleasure to officially declare the 2026 South African Schools Choral Eisteddfod Provincial Finals open.

I thank you.