

Northern Cape Teaching Awards 2021

Opening Remarks: MEC Zolile Monakali

Big Hole Protea Hotel, Kimberley

Tuesday, 7 September 2021

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Premier of the Northern Cape, Dr. Zamani Saul

Members of the Executive Council

Head of Department: Ms Moira Marais

Social Partners of the Northern Cape Department of Education;

Representative from our Teacher Unions;

Senior Managers and Departmental Officials present

Most importantly, the Educators and participants of the Northern Cape Teaching Awards 2021

Ladies and gentlemen

Distinguished guests

Program Director

The National Teaching Awards was conceptualised and launched in 2000 and in 2021 it entered its 21st year of implementation. Through extensive consultation, the scheme has been refined, sharpened, as well as broadened in terms of its frame and categories. Last year, the Department could not convene the award ceremony due to the hard lock down measures. For this year, the scheme have been adjusted, both in size and shape, content and form, to the current contemporary developments informed by the world pandemic of Covid-19 and the Republic's regulations.

Programme Director, this is one of the ways in which the Department of Basic Education acknowledges and encourages dedicated and caring teachers in their efforts to develop each learner as a citizen of a democratic, non-racial and non-sexist South Africa.

Through the Northern Cape Department of Education's Provincial Teaching Awards, we are actualising the National Teaching Awards' aims and objectives which are to:

- Recognise and promote excellence in teaching performance so that our teachers feel valued by the system.
- Honour dedicated, creative and effective teachers and schools which will encourage our teachers to go beyond the call of duty.
- Encourage best practice in schools
- Afford South Africans the opportunity to publicly say “thank you” to all outstanding teams or individual teachers in schools

Your achievement shows that despite the “times of challenges and controversy” we face in our education system; our schools continue to have a cadre of torch-bearers, tirelessly working hard to deliver quality teaching. Better education is sorely needed by the young and this beautiful country of ours that is in dire need of development.

Action Plan 2019: Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2030 envisages the continuous improvement of teachers and their capabilities and who are confident in their profession.

It also aims at attracting a new group of young, motivated and appropriately trained teachers to the teaching profession. In one way or the other, the school systems has been expected to adjust to the current conditions of adjusting teaching methods, and excelling in doing work through this difficult conditions. Educators present here today, have mastered such art.

It also envisages a school principal and educators who ensures that quality teaching and learning takes place according to the national curriculum, but who also understands his/her role as a leader whose responsibility is to promote harmony, creativity and sound ethic within the school community and beyond.

The Integrated Strategic Planning Framework for Teacher Education and Development advocates for more targeted, subject specific teacher education and development that will improve teacher content knowledge.

The Northern Cape Department of Education have responded to this integrated teacher education and development plan by developing our Provincial Integrated Teacher Education and Development Strategy through which we will be able to identify and address individual teachers as well as systemic needs and attract an increased number of high level achievers into the teaching profession.

In conclusion, allow me to convey a special word of appreciation to our dedicated and motivated teachers for their sterling work and high standards. What you do for the nation's children, moves us closer to realising a better life for all.

You are being honoured tonight precisely because you stood the “ultimate test” in “moments of challenge” by striving endlessly and selflessly, against all odds, for quality teaching and quality learning.

Congratulations to all recipients of the prestigious teaching awards!

Indeed, the future of our country is in good hands!

I thank you all.