

The continuous provision of innovative technology in Gauteng schools is paramount for pupils' development and the country's economy.

This was said by Gauteng MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and Human Settlements, Dikgang Uhuru Moiloa during the provincial School Readiness Programme in Katlehong Primary School in Katlehong, City of Ekurhuleni.

MEC Moiloa said that the Gauteng schooling system allows for children to have the best and innovative technology to compete with those in first-world countries, as well as be left out in the Fourth Industrial Revolution.

"The Gauteng province is doing very well in the introduction of new technology in our schools with smart classrooms equipped with smart-boards and tablets for every learner.

"We are ensuring that our children plough back into the economy by introducing schools of specialisation where they will now focus on specific sectors that are regarded as scarce skills," said MEC Moiloa.

MEC Moiloa also said that the provincial driven School Readiness Programme is a great initiative that ensures that learners are attended to by teachers on the first day of schooling and that resources needed are at the school.

MEC Moiloa was joined by the Minister for the Department of Public Enterprises, Pravin Gordhan. They sat in on some of the classes and interacted with both the teachers and pupils at the schools.

In addition, MEC Moiloa emphasised the importance of the involvement of parents in their children's schooling and ensuring that they are not exposed to various elements that could hinder their future, including alcohol, drugs and vandalism and break-ins into schools.

"Research has proved that alcohol is detrimental to a human being and we cannot continue to allow the exposure of our children to alcohol and drugs. No tavern should sell our children alcohol and no tuck-shop should sell our children cigarettes.

"We shouldn't allow criminals to vandalise and break-in into our schools. If we continue to allow these criminal activities that steal resources meant to benefit our future leaders and brightest minds, we will be a lost nation," said MEC Moiloa.

Minister Gordhan also echoed the same sentiments and said that it is important that the pupils fight the alcohol and drug scourge in schools.

"If we are going to build a brighter South Africa for the next generation, we must commit to fighting drugs, alcohol, pregnancy and bullying in our schools, said Minister Gordhan.

Moreover, MEC Moiloa hosted a meeting at the Tsholo Community Hall to interact and listen to grievances raised by the parents and community members. He promised that he will report their concerns to MEC for Education, Panyaza Lesufi.

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