



GAUTENG PROVINCE

EDUCATION

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MEC Lesufi Officially Launches Schools of Specialisation with focus on High Tech and Innovation

The Gauteng MEC for Education and Youth Development, Mr Panyaza Lesufi, has today **30 August 2019**, officially launched St Barnabas and UJ Metropolitan Mathematics, Science and ICT School of Specialisation with focus on High Tech and Innovation.

Our partnership with Honeywell and Melisizwe Computer Lab Project will ensure that 197 Grade 8 learners from both schools are equipped with software programming and other ICT skills. This will ensure that computer literacy is a foundation for high school education. The partnership with Honeywell previously exposed some of our educators and learners to the Aviation world in America. St Barnabas High School and UJ Metropolitan High School are Mathematics, Science and ICT schools of specialization, with a series of courses in basic IT literacy, computer programming and robotics.

This is part of a wider initiative by the GDE to drive participation among learners in Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics (STEM) and ICT subjects, giving them skills needed to target the wide range of technology careers being created by the 4th Industrial Revolution.

“Through these partnerships and the initiatives with Honeywell, Melisizwe and University of Johannesburg (UJ), we are igniting a new level of hunger for learning about STEM and commit to helping our learners progress successfully through school. This will enable learners opportunities to build exciting technology and science-focused careers

in the future, making a positive impact in our country and the world we live in,” said MEC Lesufi.

“Industry 4.0 is shaping the future of how the world works and Honeywell’s innovations sit right at the forefront of this revolution. By investing in courses such as the Melisizwe Computer Lab Project, we are ensuring that young people in South Africa have the best possible start to their future technology careers so that they too can go on to help shape the way the world works through innovation,” said Sean Smith, President Africa, Honeywell.

Schools of Specialisation (SoS) offer a highly specialised curriculum and seek to nurture the development of top talent in South Africa across key disciplines, breeding the country’s future generation of leaders. A graduate of the SoS can look forward to multiple exit opportunities including joining the labour market, entrepreneurship or furthering their studies. These schools will also assist in addressing skills shortages in Gauteng by creating skilled labour for the economy that will respond to the Transformation, Modernisation and Re-Industrialisation strategy of the Gauteng City Region.

For more information, contact the Gauteng Department of Education’s Spokesperson, Steve Mabona on 072 574 3860.

Issued by the Gauteng Department of Education

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