



MEDIA STATEMENT

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Att: News Editors
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MEC CHILOANE LAUNCHES KHANYA LESEDI SPORTS SCHOOL OF SPECIALISATION

Gauteng Education MEC Matome Chiloane officially inaugurated Khanya Lesedi Sports School of Specialisation on Thursday, 21 September 2023, in Ratanda, Heidelberg.

Khanya Lesedi, situated in Ratanda, is a distinguished public school with a rich history of academic excellence, sports achievements, artistic endeavors, and social development. Established in January 1898, the school has consistently excelled in sports disciplines such as soccer, netball, and athletics, and it has proudly represented the Sedibeng cluster at the District, Provincial, National, and even International levels.

Notably, the late world 400m champion, Moses Mabaso, earned National Springbok colors during his time at the school, ultimately receiving a scholarship at Waterkloof in Pretoria. In a subsequent decade, twin athletes from the school represented the country in Botswana and Hungary. Among the school's standout athletes are Emma Manana, who excelled in events like 800m, 1500m, and cross country for five consecutive years from 1990 to 1995, and John Tshabalala, an exceptional athlete in 5000m and cross country for a similar duration.

Furthermore, Jan Mokoena specialised in 5000m cross country from 1997 to 2001, and Moses Mabaso distinguished himself as one of the world's best athletes, achieving a remarkable 46.15 seconds in the 400m run during 1995. He represented the country as a world junior champion in Australia and later in Spain in 1996, where he pursued further studies at Waterkloof.

The twin brothers, Sipiwe and Bongani Mtshali, made waves in the ABSA Mega Cup from 1998 to 2000, achieving world-best times. In 2001, Sipiwe secured a silver medal in the SA youth category in the 400m hurdles, earning him a trip to the world youth event in Hungary. His twin brother also claimed a bronze medal, qualifying for the Regional games in Kenya waterfalls. More recently, Bontle Lekone and Thabang Dube represented South Africa in soccer in Italy, adding to the school's impressive athletic legacy.

Given this remarkable track record, Khanya Lesedi has earned its status as a Sports School of Specialisation, providing students with opportunities to nurture their talents alongside academic pursuits. The school features a real racing track through which learners can run various lengths of races, hurdles and marathons. Accessible at the school is also a tennis court, volleyball court, soccer pitch, basketball court, and various equipment that can be used for javelin, discus and long jump, among other athletic sports.

This specialised curriculum extends beyond physical activities, incorporating scientific innovation in physical health. Subjects like Sports Science and Exercise, Geography, Physical Science, and Life Science play vital roles in shaping various aspects of sports training, from pitch conditions to dietary requirements tailored to different sporting codes. ICT, coding and robotics is also taught at the school through our Multi-Certification Skills Programme.

Moreover, students have the privilege of interacting with sports icons and legends who offer coaching clinics and guidance based on their respective sports. Community involvement is encouraged, allowing local residents to access school facilities, potentially at a nominal fee, promoting security and community engagement. This collaboration also holds the promise of revitalizing the township economy, drawing spectators and boosting local businesses as outside communities come to witness sporting events at the school.

For more information, contact the Gauteng Department of Education's Spokesperson, Steve Mabona on 072 574 3860 or Spokesperson for Gauteng Education MEC Matome Chiloane, Xolani Mkhwemte on 084 513 9285

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