



GAUTENG PROVINCE

EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

**To: All Media
Att: News Editors
For immediate release**

31 August 2023

MEC CHILOANE OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES PHAHAMA SCHOOL OF SPECIALISATION

Gauteng Education MEC Matome Chiloane officially launched Phahama Maths, Science & ICT School of Specialisation with a focus on Mining today on Thursday, 31 August 2023, at Mohlakeng, Randfontein.

The Gauteng Department of Education is moving beyond the normal status quo of our Public Ordinary Schools. We are launching schools that will be a beacon in our communities and produce learners who are highly skilled, ready to work, ready to continue to Institutions of Higher learning or start their own businesses. We are doing our best to prepare learners for the jobs of the future, jobs that may not exist currently, and we are achieving this through Schools of Specialisation.

We are pushing for learners to have skills that are linked to the economy in the proximity of their school. Phahama Maths, Science & ICT School of Specialisation with a focus on Mining is in the Western Economic Corridor, where the industries focus on mining, archaeology, logistics, tourism and manufacturing.

Learners at this school have already proven their diligence in resolving challenges in the mining sector by developing a number of innovative solutions. As early as Grade 9, learners have invented a Network Time Protocol Server which enables GPS signals and accurate time to be accessed while underground. Learners have also developed an app which detects whether miners have their safety helmets on or not, have created models of machinery that can advance the process of mining, and have displayed a deep understanding of the operations within the sector.

As the Department, we are thrilled by this display of knowledge and insight of a sector which was previously not taught in the basic education curriculum. We anticipate the advanced educational outcomes we will achieve through Schools of Specialisation and look forward to launching many more such schools across the province.

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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