



READ TO LEAD THE WORLD



GDE encourages communities to become lifelong readers so that they can stay informed and participate meaningfully in the economy.

The department held the Johannesburg East District leg of the Drop All and Read Campaign last Friday. The event was held at the Saxonwold Primary School which coincided with the International Literacy Day.

The campaign seeks to encourage members of the school community (learners, educators and general workers) to take time out in their schedule to read. It is envisaged that school will commit at least 15 minutes for reading.

At the ceremony, scores of learners demonstrated their reading abilities. Books were read in diverse languages including English, isiZulu, Sesotho, isiTsonga among others.

Mnyamezeli Ndevu, the District Director, reminded the audience of the importance of reading. He also committed the district to ensuring that schools set aside time for reading.

“If you do not read, you will not be informed. Creating a culture of reading will ensure that

information is accessible,” he pronounced.

An official from the Department of Basic Education gave a disturbing account of the low levels of reading among South Africans while encouraging the nation to read.

“The statistics indicates that only 13% of South Africans read books- it is therefore important that we must read so that we fight the demons of illiteracy and misinformation,” he said.

Speaking at the event, MEC Lesufi encouraged the audience to emulate the Chinese and read.

“If you do not read, those who read will lead you,” he said.

The department encourages young people to read and write books. Annually, GDE buys books from 50 upcoming writers which translates to 4000 books making their way to the libraries shelves. African literature will be introduced to Gr 1 learners in the province as from next year.

Furthermore, MEC Lesufi also encouraged parents to read to their children. The event drew to a close with Dr Mathole Motshekga donating books to the school which is celebrating its 80th year of existence.

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