

Deputy Minister Nemadzinga-Tshabalala participates at launch of the Education Accelerator Programme



Preparing South Africa's Youth for the Future Economy

Employment and Labour Deputy Minister Judith Nemadzinga-Tshabalala, on behalf of the Department participated at the the launch of the Education Accelerator Programme, an initiative by the South African education sector, aimed at strengthening foundational learning and preparing young people for the rapidly evolving world of work. During the launch, stakeholders highlighted the importance of reimagining the country's education system to ensure that every child has access to quality education and opportunities for future success.

The programme places strong a emphasis on improving foundational literacy and numeracy, while also equipping learners with critical skills such as problem-solving, creativity, entrepreneurship, and independent thinking. Speakers noted that education systems must evolve beyond traditional knowledge transfer to better prepare young people for changing labour market demands and emerging economic opportunities. Two key pillars underpin the initiative: improving foundational literacy and mathematics outcomes, and strengthening pathways that connect schooling with skills

development and employment opportunities. The programme also aligns with broader curriculum strengthening efforts led by the Department of Basic Education, including the expansion of technical and vocational learning pathways in schools. The launch brought together government leaders, education stakeholders, and development partners in support of a collaborative national effort to improve education outcomes and build a more skilled and future-ready generation.



Siviwe Gwarube
Basic Education Minister

Foundational Learning at the Centre of Education Reform

In her opening remarks, Basic Education Minister, Siviwe Gwarube, highlighted the critical importance of foundational literacy and numeracy in preparing Africa's growing youth population for the future world of work. The Minister stressed that unequal access to quality early childhood development and foundational learning continues to affect educational outcomes for many children, limiting future opportunities in fields such as mathematics, science, technology, and innovation. Using examples of learners from different educational backgrounds, she illustrated how early learning gaps can widen over time and impact long-term economic participation.

Minister Gwarube further reaffirmed government's commitment to strengthening reading and numeracy programmes, improving teaching methods, and expanding access to quality early childhood development to ensure that every child is equipped with the skills needed for future success.



Judith Nemadzinga-Tshabalala
Employment and Labour Deputy Minister

Collaboration Key to Preparing Youth for Future Jobs

Speaking during a panel discussion, Deputy Minister Judith Nemadzinga-Tshabalala emphasised the importance of aligning education and skills development with the evolving needs of the labour market.

Deputy Minister Nemadzinga-Tshabalala highlighted the need for practical education pathways that are responsive to industry demands, stressing that stronger collaboration between government, industry, and education stakeholders is essential to preparing young people for future employment opportunities. She further called for targeted support, strategic partnerships, and coordinated implementation across provinces to strengthen skills development initiatives and improve labour market outcomes.

Deputy Minister also noted the growing impact of new technologies on the workplace, underscoring the importance of equipping learners with relevant and future-oriented skills. She reiterated that collaboration between the education sector and the labour market remains critical in ensuring that young people are adequately prepared for the changing world of work.



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The Launch

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