



MEDIA ADVISORY

Attention: Journalists and News Editors

Issued by: Department of Women, Youth, and Persons with Disabilities

Thursday: 15 January 2026

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MINISTER SINDISIWE CHIKUNGA JOINS NATION-WIDE BACK-TO-SCHOOL CAMPAIGN IN ELUKWATINI, MPUMALANGA

Pretoria: The Minister in the Presidency for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, **Ms Sindisiwe Chikunga**, will on **Friday, 16 January 2026**, lead a **Back-to-School Campaign** in **Elukwatini**, Mpumalanga, as learners officially begin the **2026 academic year**.

The campaign forms part of government's broader **Back-to-School** efforts aimed at promoting **learner readiness, dignity, discipline, and retention**, while reinforcing the shared responsibility of government, parents, educators, and communities in safeguarding teaching and learning.

Minister Chikunga will visit **two schools across two wards in Elukwatini**, where she will engage directly with learners, educators, and school communities, and oversee the **handover of school essentials to identified learners from vulnerable households**.

Programme Details:

Friday, 16 January 2026

First Visit: Hambanatsi Primary School (Ward 12)

Time: 09:00

Second Visit: iHlabangamehlo High School (Ward 16)

Time: 10:30

The Back-to-School Campaign takes place within the context of the **province's readiness for the 2026 school year**, with Mpumalanga leadership confirming that learning and teaching have resumed, learning materials have been delivered to schools, and systems are in place to ensure stability at the start of the academic programme.

As the Minister responsible for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Minister Chikunga continues to place emphasis on **early intervention, child protection, and inclusive support**, recognising that poverty, inequality, and vulnerability remain key barriers to learner participation and success.

Members of the media are invited to attend and cover the engagements.

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