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GDE Celebrates the Life and Times of Matthew Goniwe

The Gauteng Department of Education, through the Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership and Governance (MGSLG) is hosting its Annual Memorial lecture in honour of the late struggle icon and education activist, Matthew Goniwe on 10 May 2018, at SABC Auckland Park.

The purpose of the lecture is to commemorate the life and times of Matthew Goniwe under the theme, *“The Pursuit of Excellence in Learning and Teaching in the 21st Century,”* and honour the legendary educationist and political activist, as well as open a dialogue on trends and issues pertaining to education in the 21st century.

The Department last hosted the memorial lecture in 2008. The MGSLG board has now been mandated to resuscitate the lecture and ensure we celebrate the contribution of Matthew Goniwe on an annual basis. Several events will be lined up in the coming years with the focus primarily on generating an increased understanding amongst South Africans, promote dialogue and ensure we celebrate the contribution of the late Matthew Goniwe.

“In celebrating the centenary of Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu this year, and in pursuance of deepening our non-racial, united and democratic society, it is therefore fitting that we honour the memory of one of South Africa’s most illustrious sons, our own Matthew Goniwe. Matthew Goniwe was a strong, gentle, brilliant and courageous man who inspired so much loyalty and patriotism,” says MEC Panyaza Lesufi.

In her keynote address, the Minister for Basic Education, Mrs Angie Motshekga revered Matthew Goniwe’s leadership, and his ability to balance his role as a teacher and passion for politics.

“Goniwe is one of South Africa’s leaders of a very high calibre, who led by example and was hailed as a disciplined and dedicated teacher. His focus during the early years was on political education among the youth and attached importance to formal education. He was committed to political activism.

Aged 38, he was a member of the Cradock Four (Goniwe, Sparrow Mkhonto, Fort Calata and Sicelo Mhlauli) when they were abducted by security police in 1985 and taken to Olifantshoek Pass and later Port Elizabeth, where they were assaulted, killed and their bodies burnt in the vehicle they were travelling in,” said Mrs Motshekga.

During his opening address, Gauteng MEC for Education, Mr Panyaza Lesufi, lauded Goniwe’s passion for education, which has “become part of what formed the country’s new academic system.”

Matthew Goniwe’s family, the Nelson Mandela, Ahmed Kathrada, Matthew Goniwe, Steve Biko Foundations, the Cradock four Garden of Remembrance, SADTU and ZANEX Foundation, among others, attended the lecture.

About Matthew Goniwe

Goniwe was born on 27 December 1947 in Lingelihle Township on the outskirts of Cradock in the Eastern Cape. He matriculated at Healdtown, then studied for a teachers' diploma at the University of Fort Hare. It was whilst studying at Fort Hare that Goniwe became involved in student politics.

Goniwe’s political views had been influenced by the Rev Canon James Calata (a founder member and former secretary general of the African National Congress (ANC) and his eldest brother, Jacques Goniwe.

While in the Transkei, Goniwe joined a reading group which studied Marxism and Communism. The group’s activities were betrayed by a student from Fort Hare, and Goniwe was arrested on 19 July 1976. Five men (including the Ntsebeza brothers, Dumisa and Lungisile) were charged under the Suppression of Communism Act.

The Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership and Governance

It is his inspiration that influenced the establishment of the Matthew Goniwe School of Leadership and Governance (MGSLG). The MGSLG is a development institute that provides learning programmes in the education sector to enable quality teaching and learning in schools as espoused by the discipline of Goniwe.

The institution is located in two campuses; Vrededorp in Johannesburg which serves as the Head Office and Benoni which mainly serves as the ICT Training Centre for programmes.

MGSLG plays an important role in capacity-building for School Governing Bodies, Teachers, Learner-leaders, parents with school-going children, School Leaders and Managers in the form of Principals and School Management Teams thus focusing on:

- Professional growth of educators and school governors;
- School leadership and management development;

- Improving education practice through research;
- Other capacity-building initiatives relating to new education policy initiatives and teacher up-skilling.

MGSLG has over the years, established viable and value-adding partnerships with Higher Education Institutes and other public/private institutes in its quest to conceptualise and develop cutting-edge programmes for the schooling sector.

The institution has run a successful completion of the 2018 SGB elections across the schools in Gauteng Province amongst others:

School Governing Body (SGB) members;

- Implementation and hosting of the SGB database system containing SGB member profile details including training details;
- Completion of a study on the Representative Council of Learners (RCL) training needs analysis which will lead to a new and comprehensive modular capacity building programme;

ECD Qualification NQF L4 to date:

- GDE has trained a total of 2713 Pre-Grade R practitioners on NQF L4, who have completed and qualified
- Currently there are 400 Pre-Grade R practitioners who are enrolled for NQF L4 and will complete in – June 2018

Training of National Curriculum Framework;

- A total of 1647 Pre-Grade R practitioners on Curriculum implementation has been trained
- Currently there are 250 Pre-Grade R practitioners enrolled for training in Curriculum and will complete in September 2018

For more information, contact the Gauteng Department of Education's Spokesperson, Steve Mabona on 072 574 3860.

Issued by the Gauteng Department of Education

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