

## MEDIA ADVISORY

8 May 2026

### DEPUTY MINISTER DR MIMMY GONDWE LAUNCHES NATIONAL DRIVE AGAINST ADULT ILLITERACY

The Deputy Minister for Higher Education and Training, **Dr Mimmy Gondwe, MP**, will officially launch the **National Adult Literacy for Empowerment Campaign 2026 - 2030** on Tuesday, 12 May 2026, at Lovedale TVET College, King Williams Town, Eastern Cape Province.

The campaign, themed “**Empowering Communities through Literacy for Inclusive Development**”, is a nationwide initiative led by the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET) in partnership with the Mining Qualifications Authority (MQA), Old Mutual, Services SETA, the National House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders, and other strategic partners.

The campaign seeks to address the challenge of approximately **3.8 million functionally illiterate adults** in South Africa by empowering **one million adult learners** by 2030.

The campaign will equip participants with basic and functional literacy, numeracy, digital, financial, entrepreneurial, and civic skills, with a strong focus on rural, mining, and marginalised communities, particularly in the Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and the North-West provinces.

#### Key goals include:

- Reducing adult illiteracy by at least **26%** from the current illiteracy rate.
- Enrolling **7,858 learners** during the 2026 pilot phase in four priority provinces.
- Creating sustainable pathways from literacy to skills development, employment, and entrepreneurship.

#### Members of the media are invited to attend as follows:

**Date:** Tuesday, 12 May 2026

**Time:** 09h00 – 14h00

**Location:** Lovedale TVET College, King Williams Town, Eastern Cape Province

#### Issued by the Ministry of Higher Education and Training

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