

TOPTD IMPACT NEWSLETTER – SPECIAL EDITION: HANDOVER CEREMONY & ONGOING INITIATIVES



A Laptop, A Certification, A Dream Realized

Today, **Esizibeni High School** witnessed a moment of triumph as **TOPTD** handed over a brand-new **i5 Proline Laptop** to our 2024 Chess Tournament runner-up, **Sphelele Makhanya**, fulfilling a condition that made this handover even more meaningful.

To earn the laptop, Sphelele was required to pass the **PCEP™ – Certified Entry-Level Python Programmer certification** exam using the **\$69 (R1,300.74) Python Institute voucher provided by TOPTD**. Having no prior technical background, Sphelele began his learning journey on **December 26, 2024**



Through sheer determination, he mastered the course content and passed the exam **with flying colors (92%) on January 29, 2025**—just a **month and two days** after receiving the study materials.

This milestone is not only a reflection of Sphelele's incredible commitment but also proof of the life-changing potential of **TOPTD's technology-driven programs**.



The Organised People Towards Development.

Creating a way for better communities
through skills development

Handover Ceremony Highlights

The handover ceremony took place in the presence of **over 1,500** pupils, teachers, and two dedicated TOPTD volunteers, Mr. Nkululeko and Ms. Hlobisile Mthethwa. The event was facilitated by Deputy Principal Ms. Phila, who stepped in for Principal Mr. Linda Mthalande, who informed TOPTD that he could not attend due to an unfortunate family event. TOPTD extends its thoughts and prayers to the Mthalande family during this difficult time.

Mr. Mthethwa, a long-serving TOPTD volunteer, outlined our programs and urged students to take advantage of future opportunities like Sphelele's, emphasizing the importance of embracing the **Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR)** to secure brighter futures. The ceremony ended on an inspiring note with a Grade 10 learner delivering a heartfelt poem about chess.



TOPTD Cares: From Technology to Shoes on the Ground

While we celebrated Sphelele's achievement, **TOPTD Cares** continues its mission to restore dignity to rural youth through simple but impactful interventions.

- **25 pairs of shoes collected so far**
- **Goal: Over 200 pairs by the end of the year**
- **Current distribution: 200 pairs across schools, including KwaGumbi Primary, oPhapheni Primary, Mtimande Primary, and JHB Child Welfare**

Every shoe donated is more than just footwear—it's a symbol of dignity and hope, ensuring that children can attend school confidently and comfortably. We invite you to support us by donating shoes directly through any SPAR store - **R70 per pair**- or contributing funds.



A Ripple Effect of Hope in Rural Communities

Today's handover was more than just giving away a laptop—it was a **symbol of what's possible when youth in rural areas are given access to technology, education, and mentorship**. Sphelele's journey from no technical background to passing a global certification in just over a month demonstrates the **transformative power of opportunity and hard work**.



The Road Ahead: Continued Learning and New Certifications

Sphelele's success is just the beginning. Having shown exceptional dedication and passion for learning, he is eager to **continue his certification journey** through the next level of the **Python Institute curriculum**. As an organization, TOPTD is committed to supporting him all the way to the professional-level certification.

We are also working toward establishing the **TOPTD Early Childhood Development & Programming Centre**, a hub designed to nurture future tech innovators and equip rural youth with critical 21st-century skills.

How You Can Help

1. **Donate to TOPTD Cares:** Help us meet our goal of over 200 shoes by contributing directly or buying a pair of shoes from any SPAR store (R70 per pair).
2. **Partner With Us:** Be part of our mission to bridge the digital divide, fight poverty, and create lasting change in rural communities.

Together, we can empower more young minds like Sphelele to achieve greatness.



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