

Intel and the Department of Education provides professional development for Principals in ZF Mgcawu District

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A number of technology projects for education are being implemented by the Department of Basic Education and Department of Telecommunication and Postal Services. One of these projects include the Universal Service Obligations rollout where all telecommunication operators are providing ICTs to schools as part of their license agreements with ICASA. All provinces have been offered a full service solution that includes a trolley of tablets, wifi connectivity, and curriculum-aligned offline DBE content. The Department of Basic Education and Northern Cape Department of Education in partnership with Intel and SchoolNet provided a professional development workshop for all principals from the ZF Mgcawu district in Upington, Northern Cape.



Figure 1: ZF Mgcawu District Principals at Change Leadership Workshop

SchoolNet's Omashani Naidoo facilitated the professional development workshop for principals at the Siyanda District office. The Change Leadership for ICT Integration course which earns principals 20 SACE CTPD points, is underpinned by [Michael Fullan's](#) (@MichaelFullan1) work on educational reform and explores the moral imperative and principles of change.

The following seven modules were facilitated in the four day workshop:

- Module 1: Why are we doing this?
- Module 2: Understanding the change process
- Module 3: Capacity building
- Module 4: Facing challenges
- Module 5: Let's communicate for a change
- Module 6: Culture of learning in the workplace
- Module 7: Culture of evaluation

The programme included two modules being facilitated per day and incorporated learning strategies such as Jigsaw Method, Role play, and Learning stations. Each module also worked through why a change leader is crucial to his/her school and scaffolded techniques for dealing with peer supported teacher professional development, finding solutions to adaptive challenges, and developing strategies for breaking down resistance, inculcating a culture of lifelong learning and an ethos of self-reflection.

All modules include badge activities which school leaders will complete as they implement changes at their schools. This change process for each school will be documented and captured as principals' portfolio of evidence in order to achieve the 20 SACE CTPD points.

Participants had the following to say when asked what was great about the training:

- “Information available to support teaching and learning and networking with other principals”
- “The core elements of communication”
- “The way in which the workshop was conducted”
- “All the modules was helpful and insightful”
- “The Presenter/Facilitator is brilliant”
- “Group work sessions/lively , enthusiastic and comfortable presentation”
- “Learning from the tutors as well and colleagues”
- “How to find learning and teaching resources and how use ICT in your school”
- “The communication between each other and the working together in groups”
- “Working in groups”
- “Motivation to use technology”
- “The use of Technology during the course”
- “Integration of technology in school across all subjects”
- “I've learnt more about using technology”
- “The way the content was delivered using group discussions, role play. Interactive with different principal - being exposed to different situations at different schools.”



Figure 2: Group work activity

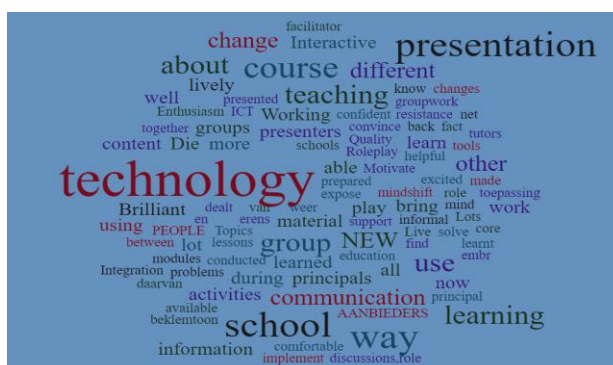


Figure 3 Word cloud representation of participant comments

“The fact that we dealt with tools that could be used in the workplace.”

“I am now more confident than ever to bring changes in our school. I know that I will be able to convince my staff to use technology for their lessons.”

“I learnt a lot and the course make me very excited about the wonder of technology”

“I am now able to see usefulness of technology in teaching and learning to enhance the Quality of education”

“I learned a lot about how to implement technology in our school, the interaction with other principals during group work, how to solve any problems and how to bring a change in the school”

Recommendations for the next workshop

- Many participants felt that the group of 93 was too large and that smaller groups would have been more beneficial.
- The Wi-Fi and Internet connection needs to be stronger so that all activities can be enjoyed to the maximum. Reducing the number of participants would also assist to alleviate the traffic.
- The SMT as well as principals should be invited to this type of workshop.
- There is a call for follow-up workshop for principals and in particular the following skills:
 - More awareness of apps and tools and how they can be used for teaching and learning
 - More practical examples of technology use in classroom activities
 - Demonstration on how to present lesson plans in ways other than PowerPoint



This was a brilliant workshop with participants who were weary at first and who ultimately were able to understand their role as change leaders. Now all that remains is implementation of change in each of the schools in the ZF Mgcawu district.

Additional photos of the training can be found via the [Link](#).

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