

COHORT SPOTLIGHT • WORK INTEGRATED LEARNING

Planting Roots for the Future: A New Generation of Teachers Takes Shape in Limpopo

Over four energised days in Polokwane, 40 student teachers were formally inducted into one of South Africa's most structured work-integrated learning programmes — a milestone in our mission to place classroom-ready, well-mentored educators in the schools that need them most.



A Thuto Trust facilitator orientates the new cohort on the programme's Weekly Video Contact Sessions at the Polokwane hub.

From 8 to 11 June 2026, the Thuto Trust Limpopo Hub in Polokwane became a hive of learning, reflection and renewal as we inducted our newest cohort of Bachelor of Education (B.Ed) student teachers into the Work Integrated Learning (WIL) Programme. The induction is far more than an orientation: it is the moment a future teacher steps from theory into practice — and the moment Thuto Trust commits to walking alongside them with mentorship, structure and support.

Held over four full days, the induction welcomed 40 new student teachers into the Limpopo cohort, equipping them with the knowledge, skills and professional habits they will carry into partner classrooms across the province. It marks an important milestone for a programme now operating across two provincial hubs — Gauteng (Soweto) and Limpopo (Polokwane).

Four days that set the foundation

The programme was designed to make every student teacher feel they belong, to ground them in the realities of the classroom, and to introduce the systems that will guide their year of practical learning. Sessions blended inspiration with practicality, opening with reflection and purpose before moving into hands-on pedagogy.

“When we induct a cohort, we are not simply enrolling students — we are committing to grow teachers who will transform learning for thousands of children across Limpopo.”

DR KUMBULA · PROGRAMME MANAGER, WIL

Classroom-ready skills

At the heart of the induction was a flagship workshop on Intervention Strategies to Improve Struggling Learner Performance, giving student teachers practical, evidence-informed approaches for the Foundation and Intermediate Phases. Complementing this, the cohort built confidence in CAPS-aligned lesson planning and assessment, and was oriented on the Weekly Video Contact Sessions that connect them with online mentors for check-ins, feedback and goal-setting throughout their placements.

This blend of in-person workshops and technology-enabled mentoring reflects our commitment to innovation in teacher development. Through the ThutoApp, mentors and student teachers track progress, capture feedback and maintain ac-

countability — ensuring no student teacher navigates the school environment alone.

Built on partnership

The strength of the WIL Programme lies in its people: onsite mentors who model professional practice, online supervisors who bring curriculum expertise, and hub teams who hold it all together. The programme is delivered in close collaboration with the Limpopo Department of Education and the Department of Basic Education’s Rural Education Directorate, alongside partner schools that open their classrooms as genuine sites of learning.

40 NEW TEACHERS INDUCTED	4 DAYS OF INDUCTION	2 PROVINCIAL HUBS	100% MENTOR SUPPORTED
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An investment in Limpopo

Each student teacher inducted represents a future educator entering Limpopo’s classrooms better prepared, better supported and better equipped to lift learner outcomes — helping address one of education’s most pressing challenges: ensuring new teachers are genuinely ready for the classroom.



Interactive sessions kept the cohort engaged throughout the four days.



The facilitators, mentors and hub staff behind the induction.



Guest educators brought decades of classroom experience to the programme.

Join us in shaping the future of teaching

As the programme grows across its Gauteng and Limpopo hubs, we welcome new partnerships with schools, universities, government departments, funders and donors who share a belief in the power of well-prepared teachers.

🌐 Visit www.thutotrust.org ✉ Partner partnerships@thutotrust.org