The KZN Department of Education’s Umlazi District held its TLS-GET Excellence Awards Ceremony at the Provincial Teacher Development Institute on Thursday, 16 October 2014.

The ceremony was well attended by education partners, members of the Media, Department Officials, educators and Learners.

Chief Organizer for the very successfully Excellence Awards Ceremony is, Mrs Busi Mahlambi, Acting Chief Education Specialist in the Department, said, that, “Dedication and Commitment bears Excellent Performance.”

In his words of welcome, Mr BH Ntuli, District Manager said, “We would like to celebrate some pockets of excellence demonstrated by our principals, educators and learners in areas of Maths, Languages, Social Sciences, Creative Arts and Life Skills.”

Some words of wisdom from the Guest Speaker, Senior Manager: Curriculum, Ms HB Dladla said, “Excellence Awards is one of the ways in which the Department of Education honour and recognise individuals who have achieved excellence, as district officials, as teachers or as learners.

For these learners to achieve excellence it is not by chance, but it was through hard work and dedication. Excellence is doing ordinary things extraordinarily well as once stated by John Gardener. The country and the Department is fully aware of the performance in terms of Literacy and Numeracy.

“We as a country we are not doing well, as a District we are doing ok, but as Foundation Phase we are doing well. Let us give a big round of applause for our Foundation Phase teachers and learners, we have already achieved our 2014 target.

There are 10 benefits of Reading. Mrs Mrs HB Dladla quoted them as follows:

- Kids who read often and widely get better at it;
- Reading exercises our brains;
- Reading improves concentration;
- Reading improves a child’s vocabulary and leads to more highly developed language skills;
- Reading develops a child’s imagination;
- Reading helps kids develop empathy;
- Children who read do better at school;
- Reading is a great form of entertainment; and
- Reading relaxes the body and calms the mind.

Wonderful incentives in the form of prizes were awarded to outstanding young learners, which, included; Cell Phones, Laptops, Tablets and many other gifts, trophies, certificates, pens, folders, etc, brought excitement to the learners proudly sponsored by Transnet and Maskew Miller Longman, Ms Sanelisiwe Ngbane.

Mrs Busi Mahlambi, CES Acting TLS-GET

Mr BH Ntuli District Manager: Umlazi

Ms HB Dladla, Senior Manager: Curriculum

Top Awardee in Maths Learner, Thobeka Shange, Grade 9 from Sibusiswe High School receives a laptop from Mrs Busi Mahlambi and Ms HB Dladla

“Together we are moving South Africa forward through Quality Education and Skills Development”, KZN MEC for Education, Ms Nletsiwe Peggy Nkonyeni, [MPL] "We have a Good Story to Tell" "Striving for Excellence"