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BOOT CAMPS OFFICIALLY OPENED

By: Sihle Mlotshwa

The MEC officially opened the Boot Camp Programme at Drakensville Resort under the Drakensburg Mountains and the Sierra Family Resort in Mooi River on Sunday 02 October 2016. The Boot Camp Programme, which is called the Provincial Excellence Project, is a high-impact project where top-achieving learners are involved in a revision programme for a period of three weeks. These camps, which involve all the 12 Districts, are located in three areas in the Province i.e Magudu Inn in Ophongolo, Drakensville Resort and Sierra family Adventure Camp. Opening the Drakensville Camp, the MEC said, “We are all aware that education maintains and accelerates overall development by preparing and developing resources required by nations. The Boot Camp we are launching today is expected to harness the concentration of all of us so that collectively we can achieve our goals and be winners.”
PROVINCIAL WORLD TEACHER’S DAY CELEBRATION

By: Mbali Zulu

The Department of Education in KwaZulu-Natal celebrated the World Teachers Day and National Teachers Awards Ceremony on the 5th of October 2016 at uMfolozi TVET College under the Uthungulu District. The World Teacher’s Day is celebrated annually on 05 October across the world. The main objective of this prestigious function was to celebrate the essential role of the teachers in providing quality education, to appreciate and showcase the work done by the teachers and also to support all teachers across the province.

This function was graced by the presence of the Honourable MEC for Education, Mr Mthandeni Dlungwane. “We as the Department of Education indeed celebrate the World Teachers Day today. The attitude of teachers in schools is very vital and we have a huge responsibility in ensuring every learner gets a chance to succeed by making sure that the knowledge they obtain from teachers is quality,” said the MEC.
DR EV Nzama appointed as the Head of Department

By: Sihle Mlotshwa

Dr Enoch Nzama has been appointed as the Head of Department for the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education. Dr Nzama started working for the Department of Education in 1983 where he became an educator at Ohlange High School. In 1987 he became a Principal at Lihlithembba High School in Ndlande. In 1993 he also became a principal at Sivananda Technical and Comprehensive High School in KwaMashu. In 1997 Dr Nzama became Deputy Chief Education Specialist (DCES) responsible for Labour Relations, Education Management Development and Governance. In 2001 he became the Chief Education Specialist (CES) with the same responsibilities as those of the DCES. In 2002 Dr Nzama became the Director: Education Provisioning. From 2003 to 2013 he served as a Chief Director for what is now known as TVET Colleges and in 2014 he became DDG responsible for Curriculum Management and Delivery.

He holds 6 Degrees and one Diploma. The degrees include Bachelor of Pedagogics, Bachelor of Education, Masters of Education, Masters of Arts, MBA, PhD and the Senior Secondary Teacher Diploma.

“We congratulate Dr Nzama on his appointment and we are confident that he is going to take the Department to an upward trajectory,” said the MEC. The MEC also thanked Adv Bheki Masuku for a job well done while acting as the Head of Department.
DEPARTMENT TO BE PART OF INTERNATIONAL SCHOLARSHIP AND STUDENT EXCHANGE PROGRAMME

By: Nompumelelo Gasa

The Department will participate in the International Scholarship and Student Exchange Programme. This programme will play a vital role in sharpening the skills of the youth of KwaZulu-Natal. The province of KwaZulu-Natal produces the highest number of learners passing Grade 12 every year which means that the Department, at all times have to come up with strategies that will see many of these learners being employed once they have completed their higher education. “It is important as the Department to have programmes that will make our students shine amongst other students in the country. We are very humbled to be part of this programme as it will continue to play a critical role in putting life into our vision of skilling young people at all levels,” said the MEC.

This programme is aimed at indentifying and developing the academic funding opportunities for deserving learners from previously disadvantaged communities, promoting career development in scarce skills and facilitating student development and exchange programmes, empowerment of youth through the facilitation of fund raising for skills development and training, exchange of information and cultural experiences among students and creation of partnerships between education and training institutions in the province of KZN and other institutions abroad. The MEC indicated that the province, has in the past successfully coordinated scholarship programmes that have seen student benefiting. “In the past few years the province has seen five students admitted to study in Japan, 40 students to study in India and 12 students applied to study in Poland. This shows how much the province is committed in making sure that young people are developed and have their skills sharpened,” said the MEC.
KZN GRADE 11 SPEECH CONTEST

By: Sandile Ntombela

The final round of KZN Grade 11 Speech Contest and the Awards Ceremony was held on the 30th of September 2016 at the Ugu District. The competition is hosted annually where schools across the province, compete against each other on given topics by the KwaZulu-Natal Financial Literacy Association Trust (KZNFLA). The Head of Department, Dr Enoch Nzama, was representing the MEC. In his address, Dr Nzama gave a strong message of support to the hosts, sponsors, learners, dedicated educators and parents. He further applauded the former KZN Treasury MEC, Ms Ina Cronje, who supported this programme during her term of office.

Philasande Shongwe from Little Flower High School under Harry Gwala District took the 1st place and scooped a number of prizes, including the Chairman’s Trophy, laptop sponsored by FPI, Bursary to study Financial Planning and R1000 from Clivera. The 2nd place was taken by Anele Khumalo from Sunnysdale Secondary under Uthungulu District who won a laptop from Metropolitan Life and bursary from Richfield Institute to study a Junior Degree. The 3rd place was taken by Nkowanda Zimu from ML Sultan Secondary under Umngungundlovu District who won a Laptop from Metropolitan Life.
Read to Lead Campaign

By: Nompande Mncube

The Department of Education in KwaZulu-Natal launched the Provincial Reading Roundtable on the 15th of September 2018 at Scottville Primary School in Umgungundlovu District. The main drive of this event was to address the challenge of poor reading habits, to share reading promotion strategies that could be implemented in schools, to network and share best reading practices as well as to launch the Read-To-Lead Campaign in the province and KZN Reading Clubs. Ms Kulula Manona from DBE who is the Project Manager: LTSM Policy Development and Innovation said, “Literacy does not only start with children reading books in school, but it starts at home when parents tell them stories. The Department of Basic Education supports this initiative whole heartedly.”

Ms Manona further highlighted that International Literacy Day is celebrated every year in September and it is aimed at highlighting the importance of literacy of individuals, communities and societies.

ELITS Director, Ms Khanyi Dubazana in her presentation highlighted that every learner should become devoted, competent and a lifelong reader. “All schools must ensure that they have well-developed and sustainable reading culture. We need to promote reading for pleasure,” said Ms Dubazana.
KZN 2016 Indigenous Music and Dance School's Competition

By: Sakhile Kunene

Kwazulu-Natal schools from all the 12 Districts gathered at the Ugu Sports and Leisure Centre, in Gamaakhe, for the **2016 Provincial Indigenous Music and Dance Championships**. From the 16 -18 September 2016, the Department of Education in Collaboration with Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation hosted the Championships as part of the Government’s efforts to unearth and nurture talent as well as to encourage participation of school children in sports and physical activities.

Top talent was displayed as over 6000 learners competed in different cultural dance and musical codes during the exuberant 3 days long Championships. Visual Arts, Amahubo Girls and Boys, Ingoma Girls and Boys, Indlamu and Maskandi were the order of the day as all schools gave their best performances by several permitted dance styles, before a group of judges. Judging was based primarily on the dress code and overall performance.

The event was opened by the Deputy Mayor, Cllr Mondli Chiliza, who stressed the importance of culture and heritage. Ms Ningi Ncobo Director: Co-Curricular Services represented the MEC Hon. Mtandeni Dlungwane, “To me all schools are winners, as all participants presented excellence and showed that they were all prepared,” she said.
Albinism Awareness Campaign

By: Thembelihle Ntuli

The Department held an Albinism Awareness Campaign on the 27th of September 2016. Amongst the people who were part of this campaign were Advocate Bheki Masuku, who was representing the MEC. The main purpose of this campaign was to support people with albinism and to put a stop to the beliefs, myths and killing of children and people with albinism for muthi purposes. Advocate Masuku encouraged all people to have Ubuntu, to protect and love one another and to treat one another equally. Mr Timothy Mathenjwa, Acting Principal of Khulangolwazi Primary School, stressed that albinos drop out of school because of oppression and discrimination that they experience in schools.
By: Nompumelelo Gasa

The Sail Africa Youth Development Foundation has selected a Grade 12 learner from JG Zuma High School to be part of its Marine Inspirational Programme in Spain. A 17 year old Smangaliso Dlamini flew off on the 29th of September and will be coming back on the 15th of October 2016. The main aim of this programme is to equip learners from disadvantaged backgrounds with knowledge needed for a maritime career. “This opportunity means a lot to me as I am intending to pursue a career in the maritime industry next year. I will ensure that I share the knowledge and experience that I will obtain from this trip to all my fellow school mates,” said Smangaliso. Mr Thembokuhle Mthembu, the principal of JG Zuma said, “Smangaliso is very gifted in Mathematics and Science. As a school we are very proud of him and we know that he will put JG Zuma on the map.”
By: Sihle Mlotshwa

The Department held a World Milk Day at Noqomboshe Primary School under Umzinyathi District. World Milk Day is celebrated by people across the world on an annual basis on the 28th of September. The event was attended by officials from the Department of Basic Education, Head Office, District Office, Local Municipality as well as Traditional Leadership.

Ms Nonkululeko Ndalela who is an Acting Director: NSNP, highlighted the purpose of the day. “This initiative was started in September 2000. It is celebrated to increase the common public awareness about all aspects of natural milk such as its natural origin, milk nutritional value and various milk products.” The Acting District Director for Umzinyathi, Mr Sphiwe Kheswa emphasised the importance of drinking milk everyday. “Milk is a great source of all the health nutrients required by the body, (calcium, magnesium, zinc, vitamin A, etc). Vitamin A helps children to grow and develop properly as it protects the body against infections,” said Mr Kheswa.

Mr Kheswa concluded by thanking Dalton Nutrition for their offer to adopt the school.
By: Sihle Mlotshwa

Shayamoya High School (Harry Gwala District) and Nhlanhlayethu Secondary School (Finnethown District), became overall winners under the netball category, during the Kay-Motsepe competition that took place in Gauteng Province, from 04 October to 08 October 2016. As part of the overall prize, Nhlanhlayethu and Shayamoya High Schools will represent the country during the competition that will take place in Singapore from 24 November to 06 December 2016. Ningi Ngcobo, Director-Co-Curricular Services said, “The two schools that won the competition come from disadvantaged areas and Shayamoya High School especially, played against a very resourced school, but emerged victorious. We are very proud of them. It seems as if dynamics in netball are changing, as African learners are beginning to dominate.”

The MEC, Honourable Mthandeni Dlungwane, congratulated these two schools. “The Department of Education in KwaZulu-Natal is very proud of these two schools. They have outdone themselves and we are confident that they are going to represent us well in Singapore. We thank their educators for supporting these learners to a stage where they are now going to compete internationally. We also thank Co-Curricular Services Directorate, which is the directorate responsible for sports in our Department,” said MEC Dlungwane.
By: Vumani Shezi

The Ongoyo Secondary School learner, Snehlanhla Dlamini, won a top prize at the 2016 Eskom Expo and also begged a scholarship to study in Germany. Snehlanhla invented a smart system, which helps monitor energy usage in households. She competed against 580 young scientists across the country and abroad. She will be joining a training programme at the Warner-Von-Siemens Vocational in School and Professional Educational Lab in Berlin.

During an interview with Edu News, she sounded very excited as she remarked, “I am quite overwhelmed and little bit shocked about the opportunity. Now I can be able to make a difference in my community and to my fellow students. Without hard work there are no good results.” Mr Sibusiso Ngema, a Science teacher at Ongoyo Secondary School said, “We are very happy for Snehlanhla. It is not that she is better than others, what works in her favour is that she is a very diligent and hard working person.”