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2018 NSC AWARDS



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KWAZULU-NATAL LAUDED FOR IMPROVEMENT IN THE NSC RESULTS

BY: SIHLE MLOTSHWA

THE Department has once again made the province proud for the improvement in the 2018 National Senior Certificate (NSC) results. The results were announced at the Inkosi Chief Albert Luthuli on January 04/ 2019. The release of results event was attended by the MEC Mthandeni Dlungwana (the host), His Majesty, King Goodwill Zwelithini, the Acting Premier, Sihle Zikalala, Provincial MECs, MPs, MPLs, the HoD, departmental officials and the guests of honour, the learners.

The Department obtained 76.2 in the 2018 NSC results. What is noticeable and commendable about these results is that rural districts were the ones that performed very well. What was also commendable is that there is no district that obtained below 70%. The Zululand and uMzinyathi districts saw enormous improvement from the 2017 NSC results. "This is very encouraging," said the MEC. The province obtained more bachelors when compared to 2017 results. There are 118 schools that obtained 100%.

"As we shower with accolades the class of 2018 for having done an amazing job, we are also encouraged that 2019 must even be a better year for us as a province. Having congratulated the Class of 2018 for outdoing themselves, I think it is important, at this point, that we also shower with accolades our teachers who work very hard to ensure that our learners succeed," said a visibly animated MEC Dlungwana. Both His Majesty and the Acting premier, congratulated the province for the outstanding results.



A PRESIDENTIAL VISIT FOR ESIQONGWENI HIGH SCHOOL

BY: THEMBEKA MCHUNU

“When you are disciplined, you enable yourself to reach high levels of performance and success.” These were the words of His Excellency, President Cyril Ramaphosa, as he applauded Siqongweni High School at iMbali Township, for obtaining 85% matric 2018 pass rate. It all took place on January 09, where the learners failed to contain their excitement as the president graced the school premises with his presence.

The president outlined that the school has performed above 80% for the past 5 years without proper teaching and learning facilities. In this regard, he promised that the government is upgrading the school and within 3 months, the lack of Mobile science, Computer Centre and a Library, will be the talk of yesterday.

This visit singled out the highest degree of importance as he was accompanied by the Minister for Basic Education: Angie Motshekga, Minister for Higher Education and Training, Naledi Pandor, the Acting Premier of KwaZulu Natal, Sihle Zikalala and the KZN MEC for Education, Mthandeni Dlungwana.



DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONAL SERVICES MATRIC RESULTS ANNOUNCEMENT

BY: QINISILE MKHIZE

The Head of Department, Dr Enock Nzama, attended the announcement and certification ceremony of the Department of Correctional Services, that was held at the Westville Prison Hall, on January 08/ 2019. Nhlakanipho Mpfana a learner from Usethubeni Youth School in Westville, was the overall achiever with 5 distinctions. Nhlakanipho revealed that his next goal is to study Bachelor of Education. The HoD speaking to the learners said, "You have made the Department of Education proud - you have contributed immensely to the improvement of our results in the province. You are a good example, you took a good decision, when you are released from prison your communities will be proud of you. They will realise that you are really rehabilitated. Now you have a better chance of contributing to a better South Africa. We would also want to appreciate our teachers who work tirelessly in order to see these learners pass. We understand that sometimes they work under difficult circumstances nonetheless they produce quality results."

2019 SCHOOL FUNCTIONALITY MONITORING CALLS FOR SCHOOL TRANSFORMATION

BY: SIHLE MLOTSHWA

AS part of the School Functionality Monitoring Programme, the MEC, in his capacity as the Champion of the Ilembe District, together with Members of the Provincial Legislature, visited schools under Ilembe District. This programme which took place from the 15th to the 17th of January, visited various schools in the district to look at the performance of schools, the challenges faced and to intervene where necessary.

The first school to be visited was Izithabeni High School where the leader of the delegation, Ms Makhosi Ntuli, MPL, congratulated the province for the 2018 NSC results and also motivated learners to work hard and obtain 100% pass rate in the 2019 NSC results. The delegation proceeded to Stanger Manor Primary and Stanger Manor Secondary. Much as these schools impressed the delegation in terms of performance, the delegation decried the fact that there is very little transformation taking place in these schools. What was of concern to the delegation was that these schools don't prioritise ensuring that African learners get equal access to the school, don't prioritise ensuring that Isizulu is among the prominent learning areas taught at this school and that the SGB formation of these school's is not reflective of the demographics of the area.

Speaking to the principals of these schools, the MEC said, "we need you to ensure that the transformation we are talking about does take place – if that doesn't happen, we will have to ensure ourselves that this transformation happens because this is important." These schools undertook to ensure that transformation become the priority.

The delegation also visited Somshoko High School, which is a school with numerous problems that affect the school performance. It was agreed that there should be an Education Indaba involving all stakeholders, to find a solution to a myriad of challenges faced by the school.





BACK TO SCHOOL

CAMPAIGN AT MANDOSI COMBINE AND BAZAMILE PRIMARY SCHOOLS

BY: SBONISIWE SHEZI

The Department led the Back to School Campaign together with the Department of Environment Affairs, Department of Human Settlement and the Ethekewini Municipality. On the 9th of January as it was the first day of schooling in 2019, these departments visited Mandosi Combine School at Inanda, under the Pinetown District. This is where they donated eco-school desks, sanitary towels, stationary packs, school uniform and planted environmental friendly trees.



The Head of the Department, Dr Enoch Nzama, speaking to learners during this campaign, said they have identified a site where a secondary school will be built since Mandosi is a combined school from Grade R to Grade 12. Environmental Affairs Minister, Nomvula Mokonyane, handed over eco-school desks as a part of environmental awareness campaign. She also assured learners and community that a new school that will be built, will be environmental friendly because their aim is to turn schools in KZN to green schools. The Chairperson of the Executive Portfolio Committee for Human Settlement, Ncawu Mafu, committed to donate two science laboratories to the school and to offer bursaries to 5 learners who performed well in 2018.

THE DEPARTMENT IS HUMBLLED BY MOTSEPE FOUNDATION DONATION

BY: QINISILE MKHIZE

THE Motsepe Foundation was founded on the philosophy of “Ubuntu”, the African concept of giving and caring for your neighbour and other members of the community. Eleven schools in the Umgungundlovu District were recipients of this gesture of goodwill from the Motsepe Foundation. The criteria for the selection of these schools amongst others, was that the schools should be from a densely populated area, the school must excel academically and participate in sports. They each received R150 000 to use in areas they feel need attention. Speaking to the beneficiaries of the donations, Mr Patrice Motsepe said, “We are grateful to each of you. We are trying to make a small contribution in education because we understand that government cannot do it alone. We want to impact as many schools and communities as we can.” Schools assured Mr Motsepe that the donations will be used wisely.

Some have committed to building and furnishing science labs while others saw computer labs as a priority for their school. All the high schools that received the donation selected three learners that excel academically to attend the Sustainable Development Goals Celebration Concert that took place on 2 December 2018 at the FNB Stadium with guest artists Beyonce Knowles and Jay Z from USA. The Motsepe Foundation paid for all the costs.





UGU DISTRICT OSS

BY: QINISILE MKHIZE

The Government of KwaZulu Natal is committed to improving the lives of its citizens. This commitment saw the KZN government descending to Ugu District in Umdoni Local Municipality on 31 October 2018, under the banner of Operation Suskuma Sakhe. This program was established for the government to be able to not only listen to the masses, but for the people of KZN to have a say on how their communities can be developed.

The community of Breamer who gathered at the Mahlathini Hall, ward 6, told the MEC the challenges they face daily. Amongst the challenges were, housing, water, learner transport, unemployment, sports and recreation facilities, speed humps and a request for a Home Affairs mobile office. The MEC responding to the issues raised by the community said, "let me start by saying we are glad to be here. We are here with all government departments to ensure that all your concerns receive the necessary attention. Issues raised are going to be compiled into a report that I will table at Cabinet this afternoon. I want to assure you that we value all your inputs and we will ensure that all these challenges get resolved."

The MEC also visited the Breamer Irrigation Project. One of the challenges this project has, is that they have 50 hectares of land and can only plough 32 hectares because of funding. The Mayfiled ECD was also visited where the MEC handed over chairs, tables and toys donated by Department of Arts and Culture. The Breamer community believes that although their concerns will not be addressed in one day, the fact that the provincial government has taken time to listen to them, they will gradually see their community improve.



WORLD AIDS DAY

BY: QINISILE MKHIZE

The MEC as the OSS Champion of Ilembe District, commemorated World AIDS day at Mandeni. Speaking to the community the MEC said, “the message that we have for you today is that get tested, there is no longer a waiting period to start treatment, as soon as you test positive you start receiving treatment for free in government hospitals and clinics. It all starts by accepting your status.

To the youth, abstain, there will come a time when you are ready to engage in sexual activities, for now focus on ensuring that you have a bright future. Out of 7, 9 million people living with HIV in the country, over 2 million are in KZN and this is frightening.”

The MEC said the government has launched many campaigns to educate, make its citizens aware of the virus and where to get help for those infected.

HIV & AIDS is one of the most talked about illnesses in recent history. The theme for 2018 commemoration was “Know your Status’. The government has made significant progress in the fight against HIV and AIDS and ensuring that all those infected have access to treatment.



FEZEKA'S DREAM ACCOMPLISHED

BY: NOMPUMELELO GASA

Fezeka Nxumalo (13), a Grade 7 learner from Inchanga Primary School, had her dream of studying at Oprah Winfrey Leadership Academy accomplished. Fezeka was overwhelmed by the news that she is admitted to be a student at Oprah's Winfrey's Academy. "I felt so happy that I even cried, but had a little sadness because I have to leave my family behind. I am willing to go and learn at the academy in order to make my family and Inchanga community proud. After completing matric, I want to do science because I love doing experiments and learning more about nature, chemicals and the human body. What also inspires me to continue with science is that at my current school, there is no laboratory and at the academy there is an advanced laboratory," she said.

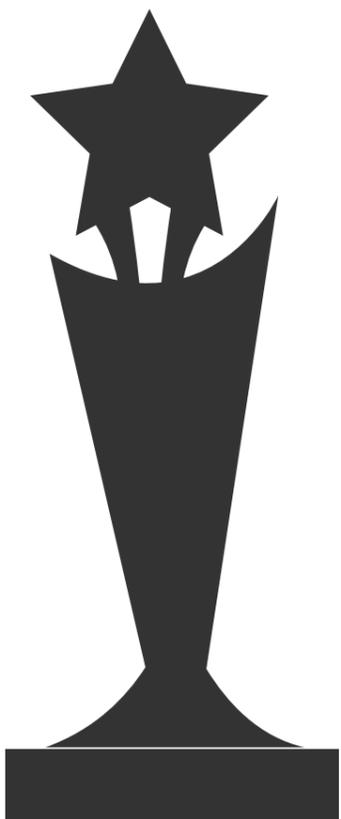
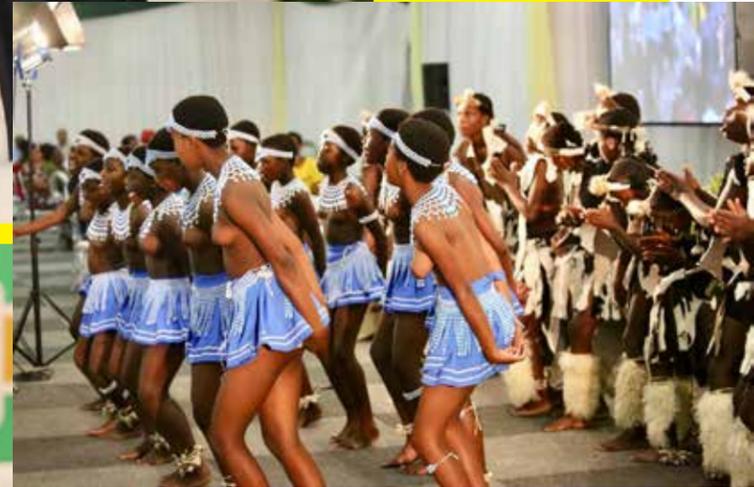
Fezeka described herself as a humble person who is working hard in everything she does and very committed in her school work. "I like to exchange and share ideas with other learners because I am always keen to gain new knowledge every day." Fezeka also gave advice to other learners who want to be respected citizens in the country that the key in gaining good results is hard work, "working hard always bare good results. Even if you see yourself as a failure start changing that attitude now and consider yourself as a successful person.

Change starts with you, the sky is the limit if you focus on your studies."

Fezeka's English teacher, Ms Leashnee Pooran, described Fezeka as a wonderful child who is ambitious and a hard worker. "She is respectful and kind hearted. What I like more about Fezeka is that she knows what she wants in life and to be an achiever she works extremely hard," she said.

Ms Pooran assisted Fezeka with applying to the Academy. When Leashnee was asked why she chose to apply for Fezeka she said, "Fezeka stands out from the rest, she is a hard worker and has lots of potential. I knew somewhere in my heart that Fezeka is a winner, so when applying for her I was almost certain that she would get into the academy. She has both brains and personality, so it makes it easy to be sure that I have chosen the right learner for the application at Oprah Winfrey Leadership academy for Girls."





2018 KZN NATIONAL TEACHING AWARDS CEREMONY

BY: MBALI ZULU

IT was all smiles, joy, ululations from educators at the Royal Show Grounds in Pietermaritzburg during the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education National Teaching Awards ceremony. This event was aimed at acknowledging, recognizing, rewarding and saluting excelling creative dedicated teachers for their extra efforts and to recognise educators that played a meaningful role in providing quality education.

The MEC delivered a keynote address at this event. He told the diverse audience that teaching is the calling and also stressed the significance of teaching as a profession. "We congratulate all our best educators that excelled in their categories. Very few other professions are as future-oriented as teaching and it takes a special type of person with unique skills and a good attitude to excel in teaching. We celebrate your efforts because you have dedicated yourselves in your work. We acknowledge that at some point teachers have to operate in a very difficult environment that is not conducive at all for teaching and learning," said MEC.

He concluded by saying, "We thank you for your commitment and we encourage you to continue giving more to our children and sharing treasures of wisdom with other teachers" said MEC Dlungwana.



MEC DONATED BOOKS

BY: NOMBULELO SHEZI

THE Acting Chief Director: Office of the MEC, Dr Ngogi Mahaye, on behalf of the MEC, donated books to Indlovana Primary School which is in Greytown, under the Umzinyathi District, and Sibanisethu Primary School in KwaMaphumulo under the Ilembe District. The books were donated by Roger and Ann Reece from Brecon Rotary. The purpose of this donation was to enrich learners with knowledge and to encourage the culture of reading. Indlovana Primary School principal, Ms Mngadi thanked the department for books that will be helping learners to have a good reading skill.

“We are very grateful to the Department of Education for their intervention with this donation of books. These books are going to be helpful to our learners,” said Mr Ntuli, the Acting Principal of Sibanisethu Primary School. Luyanda Nzuzza, a learner from Sibanisethu Primary School, also thanked the department for the gift of knowledge.

KZN YOUTH FOR CHRIST TEAM GOES TO GERMANY

BY: CAROL NGCOBO

Aaliyah Ndlovu (17), Makhosi Mngoma (16), Khulekani Ndlovu and Zenzele Makhathini, the members of the Youth for Christ organisation get the rare opportunity to explore Germany. The Youth for Christ is an organisation that focuses on the issues that the youth faces and assist them where there is a need. This year it gets to take the team outside the country to meet up with the other organisational team that is based in Germany. Aaliyah who is doing grade 11 at Dumehlezi High School under the Pinetown District, is one of the team members that will get to go to Germany. This young lady joined the organisation when she was in Grade 8 after it was introduced by her teacher, Miss Motha, and became interested in it.



“The reason why I joined the Youth for Christ it’s because it started at a school where I was a peer educator where we were taught on how to make our own choices and taking the right decisions. It all related with me very well because I am a person who likes helping other people,” said Aaliyah. Aaliyah has managed to help a lot of people in her area and in school and also help those in the streets with no homes through the Youth for Christ Organisation.

Makhosi Mngoma one of the members said, “even though it is sometimes not easy to resolve other issues, but I make it a point that I find the solution to problems and I always seek for help from the elders. When I get to Germany I want to make sure that I gain a lot from my other team members in Germany so that when I come back I get to give back.”



Gallery

