



## KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

EDUCATION  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### DIRECTORATE: MATHS, SCIENCE, TECHNOLOGY & INFORMATION COMMUNICATION TECHNOLOGY

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SUBJECT ADVISORS  
SCHOOL PRINCIPALS**

### KZN CIRCULAR NO. 07 OF 2024

#### **IMPLEMENTATION OF STRUCTURED ANNUAL MST LEARNER PARTICIPATION PROGRAMMES FOR THE YEAR 2024 ONWARDS**

1. The MST & ICT Directorate within the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education is allocated the conditional grant by National Department of Basic Education on an annual basis.
2. The Strategic goal for the Conditional Grant is to strengthen the implementation of the National Development Plan by increasing the number of learners taking mathematics, science, and technology subjects, improving the success rates in the subjects, and improving teachers' capabilities.
3. Its purpose is to provide support and resources to schools, teachers, and learners in line with the Curriculum Assessment Policy Statements (CAPS) for the improvement of mathematics, science and technology teaching and learning at selected public schools.
4. The outcome of which is to improve learner participation and success in Mathematics, Science and Technology subjects in the country.
5. Through this grant, the Directorate MST & ICT working together with schools and Subject Advisors must encourage learners to participate in Mathematics, Science and Technology Competitions like **Olympiads/Science Fairs/Expos/Coding & Robotics** and other events based on a structured annual calendar and additional learning, teaching and support material such as study guides.
6. Competitions must be aligned and recognized by the **Association of Science Technology Engineering Mathematics & Innovation (ASTEMI)**. Schools are advised to verify this with the ASTEMI Secretary, Patricia Gouws via email [GOUWSPM@unisa.ac.za](mailto:GOUWSPM@unisa.ac.za).
7. Alternatively, enquiries can be directed to the MST & ICT Directorate at Head Office.
8. Registration for participation in such initiatives including transportation, accommodation and meals for learners will be paid for by MST & ICT Directorate based at Head Office and therefore is at **NO COST** to schools or learners.
9. Registration forms are usually sent directly to schools; however, enquiries may also be directed to the MST & ICT Directorate at Head Office.

## IMPLEMENTATION OF STRUCTURED ANNUAL MST LEARNER PARTICIPATION PROGRAMMES FOR THE YEAR 2024 ONWARDS

10. Below is a list of competitions in which learners from different Grades must be encouraged to participate.

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|--|---|
| 1. The University of Cape Town Mathematics Competition | 13. Teacher Problem Solving Course          |
| 2. South African Physics Olympiad                      | 14. Sasol Techno X                          |
| 3. The World Robot Olympiad                            | 15. First Robotics                          |
| 4. The Living Maths Mathematics Olympiad               | 16. NZG Life Sciences Competition           |
| 5. Imbewu Science Foundation                           | 17. Nano Quiz                               |
| 6. Eskom Expo for Young Scientists                     | 18. Gear Competition                        |
| 7. South African Science Olympiads                     | 19. Robotics and Rockets Olympiad           |
| 8. Computer Talent Search                              | 20. National Science Olympiad               |
| 9. Computer Programme Olympiad                         | 21. Natural Science Olympiad                |
| 10. Computer Applications Olympiad                     | 22. South African Science Lens Competition  |
| 11. South African Mathematics Olympiad                 | 23. Young Science Communicators Competition |
| 12. South African Mathematics Challenge                | 24. AstroQuiz                               |

11. MST & ICT Directorate has structured learner participation activities based on the organizations which are actively involved in learner support programmes in the province and has availed funds to accommodate activities organized by the following organizations:

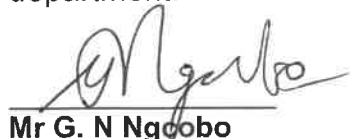
- SAMO/SAMF (Mathematics Olympiads);
- NASO (Science Olympiads);
- FEMSISSA (MST subjects Olympiads); and
- SAASTA (Eskom Expo, science week activities etc).

12. In the event that any other organization not listed above wishes to implement learner support programmes, that organization should approach Head Office, MST&ICT Directorate for confirmation of budget availability.

13. This circular, therefore, supersedes all other circulars issued in the previous year(s) relating to MST learner participation programmes (e.g., Olympiads, Expos, Competitions etc.)

14. For more information, school principals or coordinators are requested to contact the office of the Director through **Ms Thokozani Mahlaba** by email to [thokozani.mahlaba@kzndoe.gov.za](mailto:thokozani.mahlaba@kzndoe.gov.za). The office number is 033-846 5525

15. Kindly bring the contents of this circular to all schools and officials of the department.



**Mr G. N Ngcobo**  
Head of Department: Education

Date: 6/2/24