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SOON TO BID FAREWELL TO THE YEAR OF MANY POSSIBILITIES

We all thought 2020 was a hectic year, until 2021 made its presence felt. The less said about Covid 19 and the subsequent July unrest, the better. What is interesting about the year that is soon going to be the year that was, is that despite the tumult and the turbulence, the KZN Department of Education not only weathered the proverbial storms, but managed to stick to its undertakings and achieve most of the things that were pronounced by the Member of the Executive Council.

The vision of the department is to be **an innovative hub for quality teaching and learning that produces learners developed to exploit opportunities for lifelong success**. The activities and the programmes of the current administration speaks of the leadership that does not waver on the undertakings. A lot has happened that speaks and gives meaning to the mission and vision of the department.

During the 2021/22 budget speech, MEC Mshengu asserted, "The department has since launched a programme of **One principal One laptop** with an aim of ensuring that principals are able to work online and reduce travelling time for submission of reports and attending

workshops/meetings that can be done online. This will further make it easy for principals to effectively use the HR App in the process of appointing educators and thereby reduce the time it takes to fill a post."

Since then, the MEC, supported by the leadership of the department, traversed the length and breadth of the province, ensuring that this and many other pronouncements, are realized, not only by learners, but also by the employees of the department.

As we write this editorial, not a single principal in KZN is without a tablet, and these are not tablets for tablets sake. Each tablet has a software that enables the principal to send requests to fill vacancies as well as all other programmes that should be in a tablet of a manager of the institution, who are our principals in this instance.

We congratulate not only the principals, but a number of schools in the province which have been modernized through the ICT roll out programme. We also congratulate the MEC and his management for the foresight, energy and zeal to achieve this feat.

In this edition of **Edu-News** you will read about many programmes and activities of the department that have been happening in all the 12 districts.

It has been a very long year – this is the last edition of **Edu-News** for year 2021 and we are grateful for the support that we have received from the executive, management and all employees of the department. We value your contributions and constructive criticism.

Till we engage again in 2022, God willing.
So long!!!

SIHLE MLOTSHWA



Monitoring of the 2021 NSC Exams

On the 27th of October, the MEC was at Inhlakanipho High School, KwaMashu, to monitor the commencement of the National Senior Certificate Examinations.

This marked the beginning of the National Senior Certificate examinations across the country, with English being the first examination paper to be written.

With over 184 090 candidates writing the National Senior Certificate exams across the province, the department monitored the examination sessions to ensure that learners were prepared to write their exams and to check if everything is going smoothly.

Upon arrival to Inhlakanipho High School, the MEC began by briefly addressing learners and giving them words of encouragement as well as to wish them good luck for their NSC exams. He then proceeded to check the other classes where the learners were writing to ensure that everything was in place for learners to write their exams.

“In KwaZulu-Natal we have about 178 000 learners who are full time plus about 22 000 that are writing part time which makes us

[KwaZulu-Natal] to have the biggest number of matriculants who are writing exams,”
said the MEC

as he was addressing the media about the exams at Inhlakanipho High school. The MEC also mentioned that the department has a 12 point plan that will be rolled out until the final day of exams that will help learners to perform optimally for their Matric exams.

The MEC pleaded with parents to allow learners to come to school and also to give them space and time so that they can concentrate on their studies, “we want them to give learners support and not pressure,” he said.

The MEC also spoke about a second chance programme that is provided by the department of education that will be announced at the beginning of the year in 2022. The second chance programme will give learners an opportunity to rewrite in 2022.

PROVINCIAL SIGNING OF THE EXAMINATION PLEDGE

On the 22nd of October 2021, MEC Mshengu and the HOD Mthembu hosted the National Senior Certificate Examination Pledge signing Ceremony which was later followed by the media briefing on the state of readiness for the National Senior Certificate examinations in 2021. The event took place at Lamontville High School.

With just a few days left before the National Senior Certificate (NSC) exams commence, the provincial signing of the pledge encourages grade 12 learners to commit to complying with all the rules and regulations of the NSC examinations.

"The importance of knowing and understanding these lyrics is equivalent to the effort you should put in preparation of your

exams" said Dr Mthembu after the singing of the national anthem as he outlined the importance of preparation for the exams.

Among the guest speakers present, the principal of Lamontville High School, an educator and a parent, all thanked the department and the MEC for hosting the provincial signing of the pledge at Lamontville High School and also gave words of encouragement to the learners.

Speaking on behalf of all the Matrics in KZN, Ms Lethokuhle Cele, a matric said "we pledge and promise to do our best in making the whole of KwaZulu-Natal Province proud in terms of obtaining a 100% pass rate."

The MEC mentioned that Lamontville High

School matriculants represent over 200 000 learners who have registered to write their Matric exam and that the 22nd of October 2021 marks exactly 5 days before they write their final exam.

“These exams will determine whether you succeed or fail in life’ said the MEC as he addressed the learners in attendance. He also informed the learners “what happens now till the last day of the exam will determine your future.”

Mr Mshengu emphasised the importance of a credible exam, and that a minor irregularity committed by just one learner can cost the whole of KZN.

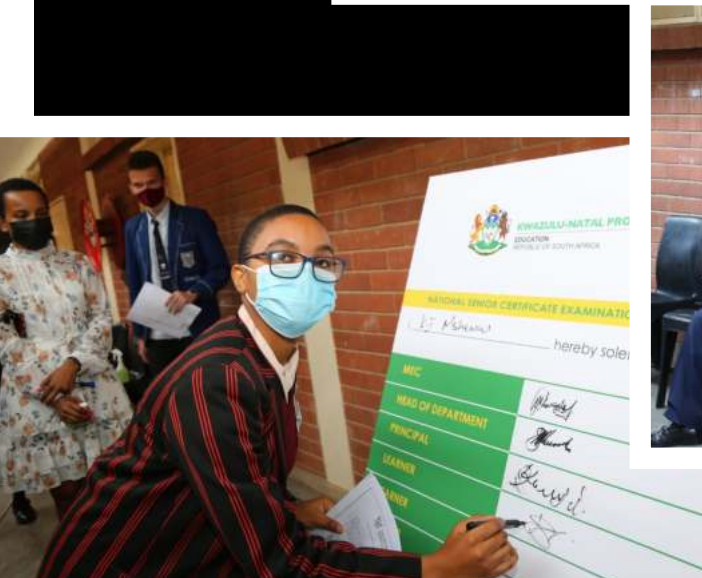
Dr Penniston thanked the guests for attending the event and also gave a special thanks to the teachers and learners

“I want to thank all the warriors (teachers) for your endless dedication, hard work and intervention to ensure that our children succeed”

said Dr Penniston

as the Provincial Pledge signing event concluded.

Following the National signing of the Pledge event, a media briefing on the state of readiness for the National Senior Certificate examinations in 2021 was held.







Provincial Matric Prayer



Provincial Matric Prayer

The Acting HOD, Dr Barney Mthembu attended the Provincial Matric Prayer.

In attendance at the event were the The HOD for the Department of Health in KwaZulu-Natal Dr Sandile Tshabalala, Chief Director: Curriculum, Schools and LTSM, Ms B T Dlamini, Pastor Mzimela from the kwaMashu Christian Centre as well as teachers and matric learners from different schools.

With only just a few days before matric learners start writing their national senior exam, the exam prayer service was held in order to help motivate the learners to achieve better results for their National Senior Certificate exams, following an academic year filled with challenges such as the Covid-19 pandemic and the civil unrest.

KZN Health HOD began the proceedings by informing the attendees about the current Covid-19 statistics in the province and encouraged learners to get vaccinated. "What we've seen now is that the age of people who die also includes young people, it then becomes important that they go and vaccinate as well," he said.

"It doesn't matter how you start but it matters how you finish!" said Ms B T Dlamini speaking before the Acting HOD, as she gave her words

of encouragement to the matric learners.

Speaking in behalf of the MEC, Dr Mthembu highlighted the departmental programs that were put in place to help the learners to prepare for their matric exams including the "12 point plan" which focuses on targeting areas which are critical for improvement of matric performance.

"We are encouraged by Jeremiah 29 where he reminds us that God has only good plans for us and his purpose to favour, bless and prosper 201 107 learners who will sit for the 2021 exams, will prevail" said Dr Mthembu as he addressed the attendees at the church. The Acting HOD also shared some words of encouragement to the learners, "To our learners we want to say this is your time, make the most of it, this is the time where it is required of you to focus and concentrate on the task at hand" said Dr Mthembu.

Towards the end of the event, all the teachers and learners were called to the front of the church by Pastor Mzimela who proceeded to pray for them to write their exams successfully and without any challenges.



MR. KWAZI MSHENGU
MEC for Education

PROVINCIAL NATIONAL TEACHING AWARDS

Northlands Primary School in Durban north under Umlazi district hosted the Provincial National Teaching Awards on Wednesday, the 3rd of November. The event was opened with a Universal Prayer by Programme Director, Mr Siyanda Nxumalo, and translated by Sign Language interpreter, Nomathemba Ndlovu. Entertainment included a classical piano piece from the Yung siblings, as well as a saxophone performance from Noah Bosch, all three being students of Northlands Primary.

Mr Linda Shezi, a representative of the South African Principals Association (SAPA), remarked that teaching is a noble job that socializes young people into society. School Governing Body member, Mr Mageba further encouraged teachers to continue to do the good work. Mr Sibusiso Mchunu, an official from the South African Council for Educators (SACE) remarked, adding that without teachers, the department would never succeed.

Mr Natanda, Chairperson of the Provincial Education Labour Relations Council (PELRC), commented that teachers "rose to the occasion" and delivered, saluting them for their hard work and developing young people with "good skills, good heads, and good hearts". National Professional Teachers' Organisation of South Africa (NAPTOSA) representative Ms Theron Moodley echoed that despite adverse circumstances, teachers delivered and led. National Teachers' Union representative, Ms Phindille Nabe asserted that she hoped that the standard would rise, considering the level of excellence.

Acting Head of Department, Dr Mthembu,

invited Education Member of the Executive Council Mr Kwazi Mshengu to deliver his keynote speech. The MEC asserted that school conditions must be improved in order to enhance the ability to teach; therefore, the department will invest its resources into the classroom. These investments include replacing traditional chalkboards with interactive boards, as well as giving teachers laptops with access to wifi, adding that

"we cannot innovate if we are stuck in old ways."

Schools will also make use of media centers which consist of a hybrid of hardcopy and digital textbooks. School principals have also been given tablets to assist with work. Moreover, training and development of teachers will be gradually implemented. In closing, the MEC stated "no matter the circumstances, don't give up".

Mr Manganye, Director: Teacher Development, presented the educators who participated in their various categories. In the fourteen categories presented, some of the awardees included Ms Mandisa Mtolo for the Best Teacher, Sivuyile Gebashe for Best Learner, and Ms Dlamini for the Shero Award.

A vote of thanks was given by Mr Mazibuko, the Chief Director: Curriculum Development Programmes, expressing gratitude to all contributors, including the MEC, awardees and the organizing committee.



Handover Of Pholela High School



On the 8th of October 2021, the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Sihle Zikalala together with the MEC Kwazi Mshengu, handed over a newly upgraded and refurbished Pholela High School in the community of Bulwer, under the Harry Gwala District.

The event was also attended by the Minister of COGTA, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, District Mayor, Zamo Nxumalo, local Chief, Inkosi Memela, the local Mayor of Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma Municipality, Councillor Mncwabe and the Acting HoD, Dr Barney Mthembu. Teacher unions, the SGB of Pholela, former learners as well as current learners and educators were also in attendance.

Located on the main road in Bulwer near Drakensberg, Pholela High School was previously run by the Presbyterian Church who built the school buildings in the Old Dutch style. With a carrying capacity of 1000 learners, the upgrades and renovations of school took 18 months to complete, with the project commencing on the 19th of September 2019 until its completion on the 7th of September 2021.

The R74 183 002, 33 state of the art hi-tech school features 5 new multi-purpose classrooms (Life Sciences laboratory, Engineering Graphics & Design Studio and Dramatic Arts), 10 new standard classrooms, a library /media centre, a computer room, a new school nutrition programme kitchen, a guard house, 33 parking bays, internal alterations to the existing administration block and renovations and repairs of all existing buildings. Upgrades were also done to the sports facilities, including a combo-court, a netball court and netball field as well as a soccer field.

455 tablets were also given to the school principals from the Harry Gwala District on the day as part of the Department of Education's ICT Roll out program which aims to provide 6000 tablets to all school principals around the province.

After the unveiling of the school plaque, a walkabout around the school was conducted that was led by the MEC, Premier and Minister, where they inspected the school and witnessed demonstrations of how the newly acquired infrastructure functions. Addressing the attendees, the Acting HOD Dr Barney Mthembu praised the department for having 98.4% of its teachers vaccinated against COVID 19 as part of the vaccination program.

Minister of COGTA, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma who is also from Bulwer, expressed her words of encouragement to the learners and said that South Africa is faced with 3 major challenges which are poverty, unemployment and inequality.

“The only way to impact these challenges is to give out education and skills.”

She encouraged learners to get educated, come back and contribute to society.

The Premier emphasised the importance of maintaining the school and the resources provided by the government and that the government should set aside 7% of their budget to maintain its resources. He also mentioned that the school has been supplied with equipment for IT, maths and technology to the value of R3.5 million. ‘The Pholela High School that we deliver today has not only transformed the landscape and the horizon, it will forever change the lives of the learners and the community of this area’ said the Premier as he was closing his address.

“The Department of Education in KwaZulu-Natal has prioritized quality education to ensure the province remains at the cutting edge of the fourth industrial revolution” said MEC Kwazi Mshengu, who also spoke about his plans of rolling out ICT infrastructure to schools in the province. His plan consists of providing laptops to teachers, replacing all chalk boards with smart interactive boards, smart classrooms in each school, laptops to be provided to learners as part of a media centre and a hybrid library which consists of digital and hard copies of books and textbooks. The MEC urged the community to work with the department by protecting the infrastructure from theft and vandalism.

ANTON LEMBEDE MST ACADEMY - SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DAY

Anton Lembede Maths, Science and Technology Academy, recently hosted a Science and Technology Day event on Friday, 3rd of September 2021. The purpose of the innovative exhibition was for the school to celebrate science and technology and also to provide a platform for the young scientists of the institution to show case their skills, innovative ideas and creativity in science. The MEC, Kwazi Mshengu visited the academy to observe the technological displays of the Grade 8 learners and to monitor them as they put their innovative minds into practice. "We are here today to witness the work by our learners. This is an important day for the education sector," said MEC.

MEC Mshengu was accompanied by the Acting Head of Department, Dr Barney Mthembu; the Chief Director for Curriculum, Mr Mbongiseni Mazibuko; the Acting Deputy Director General: Institutional Development and Support, Ms Weziwe Hadebe; Head of Communications, Mr Muzi Mahlambi; the Director for Curriculum, Dr Bheka Makhathini; Director for Legal Services, Ms Ntokozo Maphumulo and other senior

managers. The panel members included the DUT Deputy Vice Chancellor, Prof. Sibusiso Moyo; DUT Senior IT Lecturer, Mr Ebrahim Asmal; Didactic Area Manager – South and Eastern Africa at FESTO, Mr David Sethlake; University of Johannesburg – Department of Science and Technology Lecturer, Dr Thasmai Dhurumraj and the Pinetown District Physical Science Subject Advisor, Mrs Lynette Mkhize.

Mr Mbongiseni Mazibuko, both as the Chief Director: Curriculum Development Programmes and the Chairperson of the Board, described the event as that which assisted learners to reveal their creative thinking. "This kind of exposure allows our learners to be able to come up with solutions to problems and are able to address current issues that our world is facing," he said.

During the science expo MEC Mshengu and the panel conducted a walkabout where they observed the projects of learners led by their science teacher, Mr Shewyn Shumba. Some of the projects on display were presented by FESTO and the Grade 8 students. The students lead presenters for the projects were as follows:

Eyami Khuzwayo - Climate Change, Carl Miranda – Berlin conference, Olwethu Dube – Opposing the English language in all education systems, Nosipho Ntombela – Anti bullying, Amanda Cele – Power on White people poverty still exists, Zekhethelo Buthelezi – Open learning in South Africa and Mangaliso Khumalo – Relationship between Resistance and LED's.

The DUT Vice Chancellor, Professor Moyo

mentioned the basis of the projects in her remarks when she motivated the learners and mentioned how great it is to see the youngsters showing so much interest in science and having to compete with other students globally by providing possible solutions to current issues.

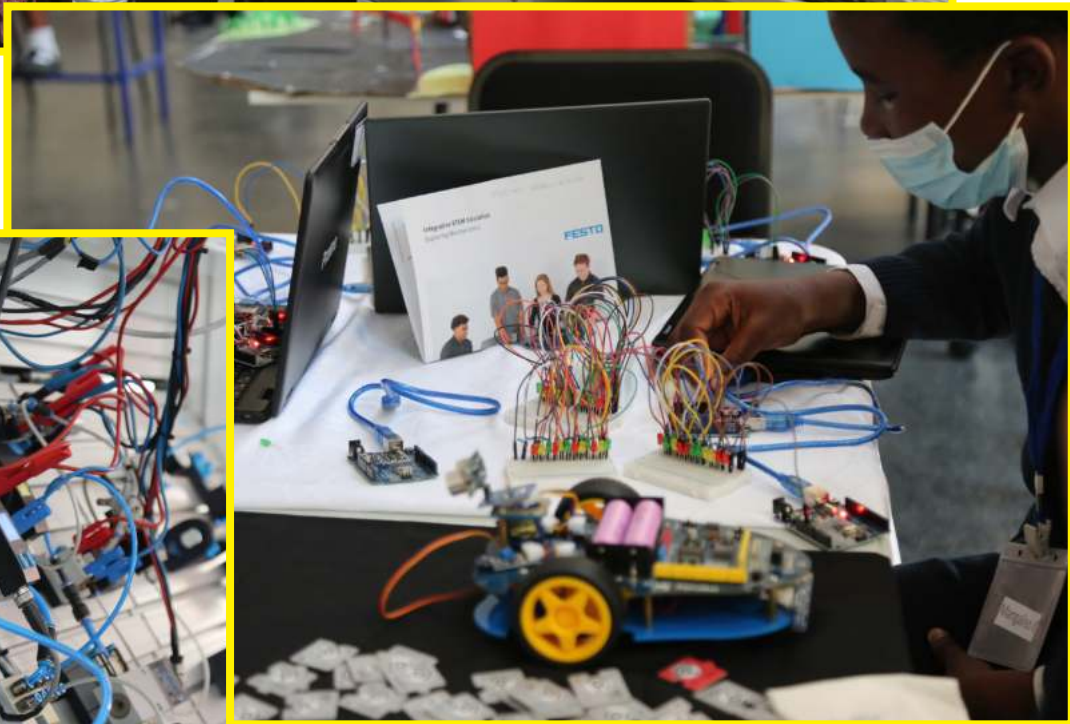
“These projects are based on research, climate change, social issues, robotics and coding. Many of our learners regard Mathematics as a difficult subject until they realize that everything gets better with practice. Practicing several times makes perfect,”
said the Professor.

“I would like to encourage our learners here today to have something we refer to as a WIG (widely important goal). secondly, be creative. Try creating something until it works, she continued. ” In her concluding remarks

she mentioned how wonderful it would be to see more girl students being interested in Engineering.

In his key-note address, MEC Mshengu said: “The world we live in today is different from our past and that of the future. This is why science and innovation is important in our lives. We now live in a world of the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR),” said the MEC. “We need to appreciate being guided by scientists and we are very proud that our learners are collaborating with global peers. For young people to be innovative, they need to be exposed in real life issues and provide possible solutions,” he continued.

The principal of the Academy, Mr Dumisani Sibaya concluded the ceremony by expressing gratitude to everyone that made the day to be a success. He thanked the learners who participated, the teachers for their dedication and parents for being supportive to their children and the school.





SCIENCES AND TECHNOLOGY DAY



ANNUAL BEST PRACTICE AWARDS FOR THE NSNP

The Department hosted the Best Practice Awards for the National School Nutrition Programme for 2020-2021. This event is celebrated annually and was held at the Premier Hotel – Umhlanga on 21 September 2021. Amongst the officials present were Mr Name Mahlomola (Nutrition Grant) and Mrs Mapule Mohube (Best Practice Directorate), both from the Department of Basic Education.

The Best Practice Awards were established in 2009 with the aim of recognizing excellence in schools for nutrition and also to raise a profile for the programme. In his remarks, the Director for NSNP, Mr Thanduxolo Cele outlined the purpose of the ceremony.

“We are here today to celebrate excellence and to reward schools and districts who ensured the excellent implementation of the National School Nutrition Programme. We also express gratitude to the principals who made sure that learners are

given a nutritious meal every day,”
he said.

The Chief Director at the office of the HOD, Mr Thami Mbanjwa gave the congratulatory remarks to all the school winners and districts. He also mentioned a few elements that best describes excellence.

During the event, the presentation of school and district awards were conducted. The 6 finalists were as follows; Mthethomusha Primary (UMgungundlovu), Emthaleni Primary (Ilembe), Mthulasizwe High School (Umkhanyakude), Ndabukhona Primary (UMgungundlovu), Casino Primary (Umzinyathi) and KwaNgubeni (UMgungundlovu). The Winners for the School Awards were; Luvisi Primary (Umzinyathi), Henryville Primary (UMgungundlovu) and SizakancanePrimary (Amajuba).

The 2 District Finalists were Ilembe and Zululand and the winners were; UMgungundlovu, Umzinyathi and Umkhanyakude.

The prizes included tablets, laptops, printers, stainless steel tables, seeds, seedlings, certificates and medals. The top 3 winners were to represent all schools at the national level.





BEHAVIOURAL CHANGE CAMPAIGN LAUNCH FOR HIV/AIDS TB AND STI'S

The MEC, Mr Kwazi Mshengu attended the Behavioural Change Campaign Launch Programme for HIV/AIDS, TB and STI's, in his capacity as both the Ethekewini Operation Sukuma Sakhe Programme Champion and on behalf of the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Sihle Zikalala.

The event was held at Cato Crest Community Hall, near Mayville in Durban, on 05 October 2021. MEC Mshengu was accompanied by the Mayor of Ethekewini, Mr Mxolisi Kaunda, PCA Members, Development Partners and Civil Society.

The purpose of the event was for the reactivation of the HIV/AIDS campaign and empowering the youth of Ethekewini, that of the province and of South Africa as a whole. It was also focused on knowing your status (by getting tested for HIV, AIDS and TB), Get treatment (without defaulting) and behavioral change (protect others by getting vaccinated against the COVID 19 pandemic).

MEC Mshengu also led the visits to Chesterville Clinic and Cato Manor Clinic. The visits were conducted prior to the dialogues that were held at Cato Crest Hall. During the campaign, the MEC gave remarks to encourage the

youth. "Our message to the youth is that the youth must not rush in sexual activities. On behalf of the Government, we encourage parents to have talks with their children about these issues, especially teenagers, so that we prepare them for adolescence. Let us all stand up and build the future of our children by ensuring that they are safe and protected against these diseases. It takes a village to raise a child," said MEC Mshengu.

During the ceremony, the Deputy Director-General for Stakeholder Coordination, Mr Sithembiso Kubheka, outlined the key programmes to be monitored by the Provincial Government, some of which includes youth empowerment, girls empowerment, capacity building, adolescence and young women, LGBTQI plus, Operation Siyahlola and revitalization of people living with HIV/AIDS and TB. Messages of support were also given by Mr Siyabonga Nzimande, the District Chairperson for Civil Society and Ms Zonke Ndlovu, the Chairperson of THE PLHIV Sector.

The Mayor of Ethekewini, Cllr Mxolisi Kaunda, in his address also urged the youth to be accountable, condemned excessive drinking and also warned teenagers against unprotected sex.





OFFICIAL OPENING OF HHOYE SECONDARY

The MEC together with the Acting HOD officially opened Hhoye Secondary School on Monday, 3rd of October 2021, in Jozini, under Umkhanyakude District.

Hhoye Secondary School which is located in a deep rural area of Bhambanana in the Northern part of KwaZulu-Natal, was established in 2007 under the Jozini Municipality. It was originally planned to accommodate 400 learners and currently has 1090 learners enrolled. The school took 3 years to build and complete at a total cost of R29,255,599.62.

The school features 10 classrooms, a media centre, a kitchen, a computer room, admin block and a councillor suite

The Acting HOD, Dr Barney Mthembu encouraged educators to see how they can improve on two major subjects which are Maths and Science.

The MEC addressed the officials at the briefing session and mentioned some of the plans he had to improve the school.

After the walk about and unveiling of the school plaque, the MEC addressed learners and teachers in attendance. He mentioned that the department will install white interactive boards in all classrooms, provide laptops to all educators, build an ICT lab with 40 computers and a hybrid library which will have digital and hard copies of textbooks.

“Your future is determined by your education”

is what the MEC said as he advised learners to study hard and to continue to improve the school's pass rate and also to take care of the infrastructure and learning tools provided by the department.



SCHOOL IN A BOX TRAINING AND HANDOVER

The Rural Academic Support in collaboration with VVOB – education for development and ELITS, conducted a training session and handover at the Provincial Teacher Training Academy on Friday, 8 October 2021. Amongst the officials that were present was the Chief Director for Curriculum, Ms Thembile Dlamini, the Director for Rural Academic Support, Dr Nelson Madela, the Chief Education Specialist, Mr Bheki Kubheka, and representatives from ELITS, Mr Simphiwe Zondi and Ms Bester Brown.

During the workshop, the Programme Coordinator for VVOB, Ms Fathima Osman outlined the purpose of the training.

“The aim of this session is to introduce the School in a Box and to show the trainees how it works. The objective of the gadget is to promote ICT and develop learning in schools.”

Ms Osman also introduced the Facilitator from VVOB, Ms Noma Moyo who was going to conduct the training.

The School in a Box (SIB) was designed Seven (7) years ago, to offer assistance in learners from the less advantage schools. It was developed in order to enhance the culture of teaching and learning. The Programme offers content for Grades 1 up to 12 for the Coding Syllabus. The box contains 30 tablets and a router, which ensures that each tablet is connected to a server. Each learner is also issued with a different user name in order to log in to the server. A lot of content is video - based which makes it easier for learners to grasp knowledge of the subject.

The handover of the SIB to three Multi grade Schools was conducted by VVOB and Rural Academic Support. The schools that benefitted were Etete Primary – Ilembe District, Corrolyn Primary – Umgungundlovu and Cungcwana Primary in King Cetshwayo District. Curriculum Development is to monitor the use of the gadget and give support to the 3 schools.



CAPACITY BUILDING INITIATIVE ON SEXUAL MISCONDUCT, TEENAGE PREGNANCY AND HIV/AIDS

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education recently conducted a capacity building initiative on sexual misconduct, teenage pregnancy and HIV/AIDS, in collaboration with the Department of Health (DoH), the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) /the Department of Justice (DoJ), Lifeline and Community Cohesion Initiative (CCI USAID). The seminar was held at the Provincial Teacher Training Academy (Ex-Dokkies) on 19 October 2021.

In attendance from NPA were Advocates Omashani Naidoo and Mzoxolo Rusi; Dr Sagie Naidoo for DoH; Mr Siphon Nhlangu for CCI USAID and from Education, Mr Sunil Mahabeer for Employee Relations, Mr Mafika Hadebe for Special Needs Education Services, Mr Sibusiso Mpethwane for Governance & Management and Ms Dudu Mkhize for Organizational Development.

The collaboration of these Organizations was purposed at dealing with the scourge of sexual predation and abuse, following a series of occasions where educators and Public Personnel had sexually harassed and abused learners in their care. Even though the Government have put in place the laws and policies to address these afflictions, many of them remained unreported.

The workshop was also aimed to enhance the capacity of personnel within the Department and reduce the number of sexual violence within schools and other government institutions.



NATIONAL NUTRITION WEEK COMMEMORATION

On 29 October 2021, the Department of Education in KwaZulu-Natal celebrated the National Nutrition Week at Emthahleni Primary school in Nyoni area, under Ilembe District. The purpose of the event was to commemorate the National Nutrition Week which is observed from 09 to 15 October, annually. The day is celebrated in order to ensure that learners are given a nutritious meal in schools each day. This year's theme is,

**“Eat more
vegetables
and fruit
every day.”**

The Director for the NSNP, Mr Thanduxolo Cele gave a key-note address where he warned the learners against the use of drugs and substances. He also urged the teachers and parents to work together so that they are able to build a healthy mind and body of a child. In his address Mr Cele said, “we are

here today to pursue the work of the principal and the staff, which is to ensure that the meals given to learners are nourishing. Eating healthy builds the body and protect the bodily immune systems.

During the ceremony, messages of support were also given by other Stakeholders. On behalf of the Department of Agriculture, Mr Sanele Shandu brought the children to know about the importance of Agriculture. He also offered aid to the school in terms of seeds and fertilizers. The Department of Health, represented by Mr Sandile Mbatha, outlined the objectives of the Intergrated School Health Programme (ISHP) by instilling awareness of the health promoting behaviour to the learners. Ms Fundiswa Zuma from Nedbank stressed the importance of investing into the future by saving and ploughing the money seeds.

Learners participated in the fun walk with color run, games including netball, planting of gardens and painting the walls. School backpacks and stationery packs were handed over to the learners for the various activities and as a prize giving venture.





Planting Season Launch

The launch of Planting Season took place at the Inchanga local office of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, where EThekwini Metro Speaker, Cllr Weziwe Thusi gave a word of thanks to the farmers, consisting mostly of older women. Tractors were then driven across the field where corn seeds were planted by Cllr Thusi, along with HOD of Public Works, Mr Siboniso Majola.

The team made way to the gazebo where various vegetables such as beetroot, cabbage, onions, potatoes, carrots as well as spinach, were sold by the farmers.

The Ethekwini Metro rollout of the Planting Season commenced inside the Nondlini Community Centre Hall, where the Acting HOD of Public Works gave an introduction. Following this, Ward Counsellor of Inchanga, Mr Zwide Nxumalo gave a word of welcome, adding that land should not only be used "to plant flowers", but to plant vegetables. Mr Sfiso Msibi, District Director of Agriculture, reiterated this message. He praised the hard work of the farmers, adding "phezu komkhono

balimi", which translates to "start working, farmers". He further added that nine tractors will be given to the farmers in the ward.

A wall has also been recently built to prevent the drowning of children in the area. Seven household water tanks have been delivered and provided to the Inchanga community. An irrigation system has also been installed as promised to the community of ward 1. Mr Msibi further reiterated that the Department of Agriculture cares for its community, as demonstrated by what they have done for them. Ward 4 Committee member, Nokulunga Dlamini, also came forward to deliver a message of support. She emphasized that this is the Planting Season; therefore, why "waste money on buying vegetables at shops" when one can simply plant them at home?

Cllr Weziwe Thusi, before engaging the topic of the event, expressed apologies on behalf of MEC Kwazi Mshengu, as he had a clash of schedule at the time, as well as for the Mayor of eThekwini, and would thus speak on their behalf. She expounded that on the 29th of September this year, the Planting Season initiative was initiated by Premier Sihle Zikalala. She said because the Month of October is Food Security Month, farming is crucial to reduce hunger as well as unemployment. She further added that R96 Million has been invested to assist farming.

After the speech by Cllr Thusi, there was a handover of farming tools to the community "Phansi ngobuvila phansi", which translates to "down with laziness" was chanted, along with songs of celebration, before the ceremony came to a close.



OFFICIAL HAND OVER OF SMART CLASSROOMS & ICT EQUIPMENTS **INKOSI UTATAZELA SECONDARY SCHOOL**

It was all smiles and joy when the MEC for Education in KwaZulu-Natal officially handed over smart classrooms and ICT equipments at Inkosi Utatazela Secondary School which is situated in Escourt under Uthukela District as part of the ICT rollout, on the 19th of October.

Inkosi Utatazela High School is situated in Inkosi Langilibalele local Municipality under Uthukela District. The site was handed over in 1997. A joint effort of Bhhekuzulu development community, the King of the Amahlubi Tribe (Inkosi M. J. Radebe), South African Breweries and Nelson Mandela Foundation with collaboration of Dr. Nelson R. Mandela. The school was established in January 1999 and had platooned at Bhhekuzulu Primary School in its infancy stages.

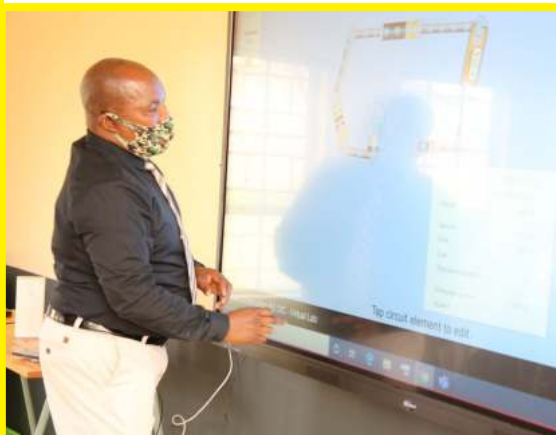
There was neither a single room, furniture nor financial allocation. During the construction there were 11 classrooms, 1 media centre, 1 computer lab, 1 science lab, 1 classroom which was converted into a NSNP kitchen, 1 admin block, ablution blocks: eight(8)for boys and eight(8)for girls, a guard house and also a borehole.

The purpose of the event was for the department to showcase the improvement that has been made in the school. Following are the improvements that were made: Computer labs(80 tablets for learners),14 laptops for Educators, 14 reflective boards with 14 projectors, smart classrooms, Science Laboratory & wifi connection.

Program Director Advocate Bheki Masuku welcomed all the officials which were, MEC Kwazi Mshengu, The representatives of the King Nduna Hadebe, Nduna Ngcobo, Nduna Mazibuko, Local Mayor Mrs Mbele, Member of ASCO of UThukela District, Mrs T. Shabalala, Ward Councillor Mr Ndumo, Principal B. Kheswa, District Director Mrs Mokoena, Mr Mthlane (HOM), Chief District Director Ms T.A. Gumede, Dr D. Chonco, Chief Director Mr Mbanjwa(HOD'S office), Governing body, Teachers, Learners and community.

The government has implemented a National Development plan vision 2030 which says: By 2030 South Africans shall have access to education and training of the highest quality leading to significantly improved learning outcomes. The performance of South African learners in international standardised assessments shall be comparable to the performance of learners in countries at a similar level of development with a similar level of access.

The MEC complimented the improvement done at the school, stressing that this is an example of a modernised method of teaching and learning. "We wish to close the gap between schools in the urban areas and those in rural areas. we are improving the quality of teaching because we want our children to be able to compete fairly with the learners of the other parts of the world. We are here today to fulfil the improvement of the quality of education and training, which is why we say we are modernising the way of teaching. We have also done an orientation on ICT skills for Educators, also trained our educators on the utilization of science kits. I emphasize that all learners take the jab for Covid-19. I plead the community to take good care of the developed infrastructure", said MEC.



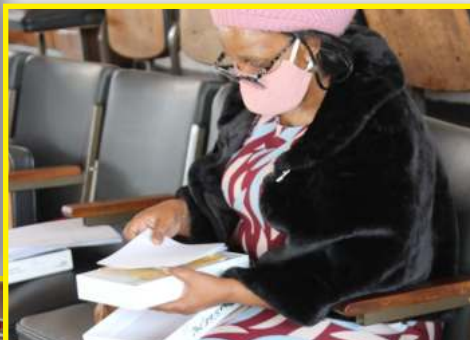
ICT ROLLOUT DRIVE THROUGHOUT THE PROVINCE



Acting HOD Dr Mthembu handing over the tablets as well as other ICT gadgets to the teachers and principals in the district.



MEC Kwazi Mshengu handing over the tablets and other ICT gadgets to the teachers and principals in the Ilembe district as part of the ICT roll out drive in the province.



STRATEGIC PLANNING SESSION



The department held the strategic planning session intended to be a process of engaging on the department's progress in relation to the vision, mission, outcomes and impact and make adjustments where necessary.





" Sound corporate governance and accountability leading to optimal service delivery".





WORLD AIDS DAY

Kuqopheke umlando ngezi 1 December 2021 kumphakathi waseMtubatuba kwisiFunda saseMkhanyakude ngaphansi kobukhosi bakwaMkhwanazi lapho khona bekugujwa khona usuku olubalulekile eNingizimu Africa iWorld Aids Day.

Lolusuku lubeyimpumelelo enkulu umphakathi uhlanganele ndawonye ehholo lomphakathi Inkosi Mzondeni kwaMsane. UNgqongqoshe weZemfundo kwiSifundazwe sa KwaZulu – Natali, uMnu Kwazi Mshengu, uSodolobha weSifunda saseMkhanyakude, Khansela Mandla Ndlela, bangabanye bezikulu zikahulumeni ebezithamele lomcimbi ngenhloso yokuyohlanganyela nomphakathi ukuba kuqhubeke ukufundiswa nokuqwashisa kwabantu negcikwane lengculazanesandulela salo. uMnu Raymond Khumalo oyisakhamuzi ophila negciwane lengculaza kusukela ngonyaka ahlolwa ngawo 1992, uthe uphila impilo enhle ngenxa yokuthatha imishanguzo yakhe ngendlela. Uqhube wathi kubalulekile ukulalela imithetho yabaphathi bezempilo ngoba bayalulekana futhi bayafundisana indlela okufanele uphile ngayo uma usuhloliwe watholakala unegcikwane. Kubalulekile ukuthi uzinakelele indlela ophila ngayo futhi udle kahle. “Ngiphila ngathi anginalutho ngendlela engiziphatha ngayo ngizibona ngizingqoba zonke izinselelo nezingqinamba sekuphele iminyaka engamashumi amathathu yonke

ngiphila negcikwane emzimbeni wami,” kunaba uMnu Khumalo.

UNgqongqoshe weZemfundo kwiSifundazwe sa KwaZulu-Natali, uMnu Kwazi Mshengu uthule inkulumbo yosuku waphinda waqwashisa intsha yaseMkhanyakude ngengozi yokusebenzisa izidakamizwa. ‘ siyabonga ukuba phakathi kwalendawo namhlanje kulonyaka ka2021 lolusuku siligubha ngesiqubulo esithi ngokubambisana asiqede ukungalingani, siqede ingculaza, siqede TB siqede, covid-19 sizihlole sigome, sithathe imishanguzo njengoba kade kuchaza uMnu Khumalo. Ngifuna ukugcizelela ukuthi asiqede ukungalingani kobulili, abantu besifazane basazithola becindezekile ngakho njalo ukungalingani. Njengamanje sisezinsukwini zokuqwashisa ukuvikela kwabantu besifazane nezingane. Abantu besifazane namanje kusakhona abantu ababathatha kancane nabangabahloniphi abazi ukuthi umuntu wesimame into yokuhlukumezwa nje. Sifisa ukugcizelela indaba yokungalingani ngisho ebudlelwalweni babo akulinganwe kube khona inhlonipho. Kwintsha sifisa nazi ukuthi imfundo ibalulekile futhi kuyaphileka ngaphandle kotshwala. Nakuzo lezizinsuku zikancibijane sifisa niqhubeke nokuziphatha kahle nizihloniphe ngoba yizo lezizinsuku enizifakela ngazo incindezi yezidakamizwa. Sifisa ukuthi niphephe ngasosonke isikhathi,” kuphetha MEC.

