



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

EDU - NEWS

Nov - 2020

Volume: 35

@dbe_kzn

kzn_education

kzndoe

kzndoe

A DIFFICULT JOURNEY TO 2020 NSC EXAMS



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**GROWING
KWAZULU-NATAL
TOGETHER**

CONTENT

1. GOOD LUCK MESSAGE FROM MEC MSHENGU

2. EDITOR'S NOTE

3. A BRAVE START TO THE 2020 NSC EXAMS

5. ANTON LEMBEDE MST

7. CODE LIKE A GIRL

9. PLEADING TO BEHAVE

10. THE YOUNG FALCONS AWARDS

12. READING: THE FOUNDATION FOR LIFE

13. JAPAN DONATES MOBILE LIBRARIES TO THE DEPARTMENT

14. OFFICIAL OPENING OF NSIMBINI SECONDARY

15. WORLD TEACHER'S DAY

16. MORE BUSES FOR SPECIAL SCHOOLS

18. THE DEPARTMENT BUYS 183 STATE VEHICLECLE

19. BOREHOLES WATER PROGRAM

20. MANDLA MTHETHWA SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

22. SMOOTH RETURNS TO SCHOOLS

23. GAMMA e-LEARNING PROGRAM

24. DEPUTY MINISTER VISITS AMAJUBA DISTRICT

25. CIRCULARS TO NOTE



GOOD LUCK MESSAGE FROM MEC MSHENGU

The time we have all been anticipating has arrived. The time where the Class of 2020, our matriculants, sit for their final examinations. The matriculants of 2020 have been faced with a challenging time because of the Covid 19 pandemic. However, through the commitment, resilience and hard work, our learners together with their teachers, have managed to get to the point of writing their final examinations.

We want to plead with our learners and caution them not to involve themselves with things that will compromise the integrity of the examinations. Instead, our matriculants should use their time wisely by immersing themselves in their studies.

We further encourage the learners to continue to come to school on the days that they are not writing, so that they are able to get assistance from their teachers.

WE WISH YOU ALL GOOD LUCK.

UNTIL WE SEE EACH OTHER AT TERTIARY INSTITUTIONS.

THANK YOU

EDITORIAL TEAM

EDITOR

Sihle Mlotshwa

WRITERS

Mbali Zulu

Qini Mkhize

Mpume Gasa

Nomzamo Madide

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Sibani Ngobese

Xolani Makhathini

Xolane Bucibo

DESIGNER

Xolane Bucibo

Editor's Note

To say the year 2020 has been a tumultuous, a perilous and a bumpy ride, a difficult year that visited untold suffering to the entire globe and South Africa in particular, would be because of the limited vocabulary of this particular scribe. 2020 has been a year that we all want to forget.

This has been a year like no other. A year where the resilience and resolve of South Africans was tested to the core. As extremely excruciating as the year 2020 was, it was also a year where the People of the South displayed their true mettle. The fighting spirit and the never say die attitude that was displayed by the people of South Africa during the difficult protracted period of apartheid, is what saw the nation through, during the year characterised by Covid 19 pandemic.

A lot of positives can be said regarding the clarity of thought and the progressive leadership that is still being displayed by the South African Government. As in all battle times, there were those who wanted to throw in the towel, but the majority of the people of South Africa remained steadfast. Government in general and the education sector in particular, had to strike a fine balancing act between saving lives and saving the academic year.

As in many battles that the country faced before, the resilience of our educators and our learners, brought us to the time that we are in today – the time where the sector, educators, learners, with the support of the rest of the society, have been able to save the academic year. To say it was not easy would be an understatement as many South Africans lost their lives. May their precious souls rest in eternal peace. We can only remember our dear departed as the martyrs, the foot soldiers who died in the fierce battle for survival.

We say bravo to all the educators of South Africa for risking their lives in pursuit of academic achievement for the class of 2020. As MEC Kwazi Mshengu aptly puts it, "the revolution will thank you for your act of bravery."

To the Class of 2020, here you are today, very close to realising your dreams.

You have been given a fighting chance in life.

Make use of this opportunity – the world is your oyster

SIHLE MLOTSHWA.



A Brave Start to the 2020 NSC Exams

MEC Kwazi Mshengu and DDG: Curriculum Management and Delivery, Dr Barney Mthembu visited Nyonithewle High School under Umgungundlovu District to monitor the first day of 2020 National Senior Certificate exams on 05 November 2020.

Judging by the enthusiasm and energy of learners as they were getting ready to write the English First Additional Language, one would be forgiven for thinking it is not the same 2020 academic year that visited untold anxiety on many learners and educators.

Speaking to learners who were seated expectantly in the examination room, MEC Kwazi Mshengu said, "you are the resilient cohort who against all odds, given the challenges of Covid 19, managed to weather the storm and pursued your academic activities to the point that today you are seated here ready to write the exams." The MEC wished all learners of the province good luck and thanked educators for working hard to ensure that learners are ready to sit for 2020 NSC exams.



On 06 November 2020, the MEC also visited Phambili High school under Umlazi District.





ANTON LEMBEDE MST ACADEMY

School of Innovation & Leadership



The department hosted an open day for the Anton Lembede Mathematics, Science, and Technology Academy at La Mercy; North of Durban on Saturday, the 14th of November 2020.

The programme was directed by the Head of Department, Dr E.V Nzama, who said the event was not the official opening of the school, but was an opportunity for students and parents to explore and to know more about the institution.

“Today we are here to introduce to potential students and their parent’s one of the governments focused schools – it is one of our public schools with specialized education, to expose those who are present at the school and what the school aims to achieve,” said DDG: Curriculum Management and Delivery, Dr Barney Mthembu, expanding on the

purpose of the open day.

The MEC, who was not present at the event due to pressing commitments, sent a message through a video recording where he encouraged parents to take advantage of the state-of-the-art specialised school.

The school is fitted with cutting-edge technology that will assist learners to develop at a faster pace.

Global award-winning Maths and Science educator, Dr Khangelani Sibiyha has been appointed the principal of the academy.

The HoD said he is expecting the school to be excellent, “but that will depend on the governing body of the school, the leaders that will take up the responsibility of the smooth-running of the school,” said the HoD.



Code Like A Girl

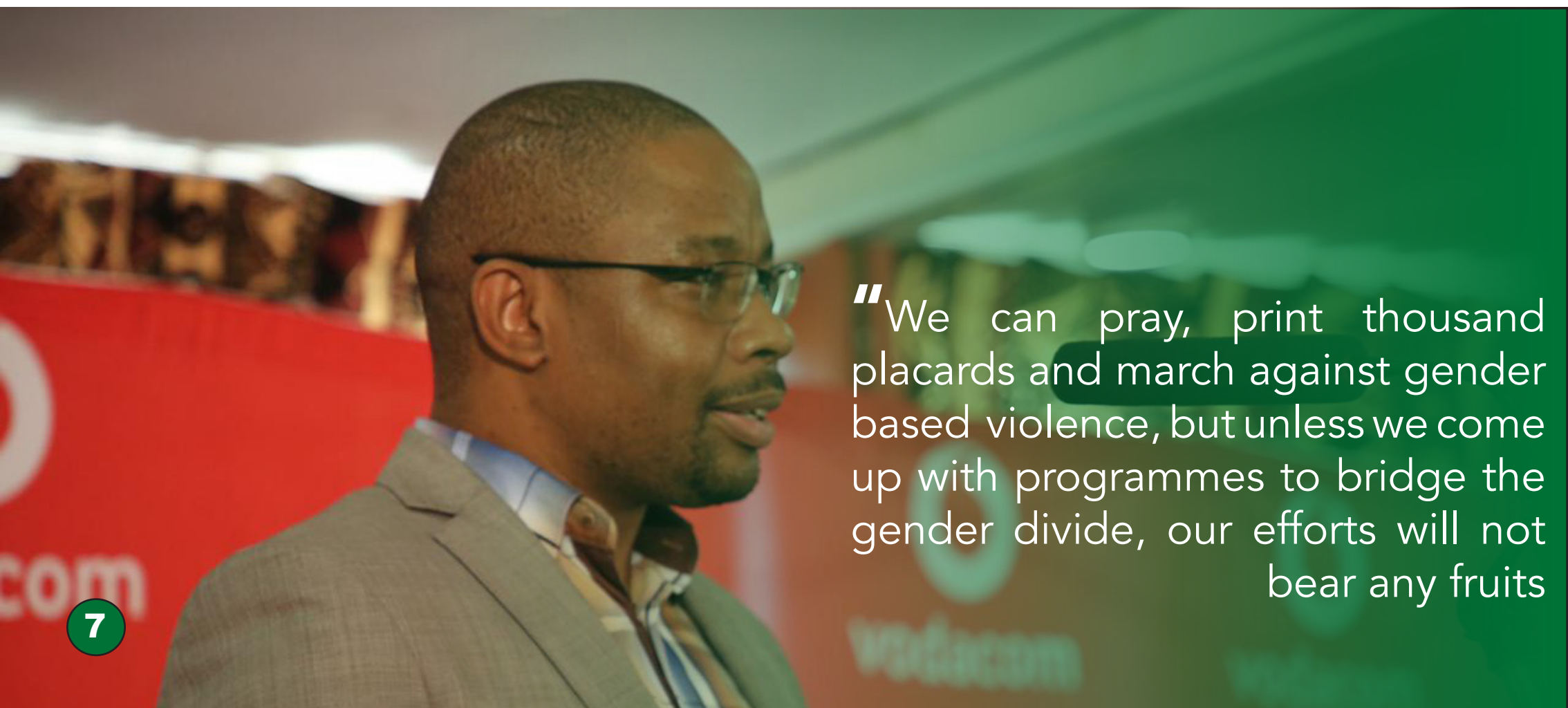
“Coding is a way of solving problems....”

On 12 November 2020, the department, in partnerships with Vodacom and the Durban University of Technology (DUT), launched The Code Like A Girl programme at the Durban ICC. This is a programme that will see over 300 young girl learners between the ages of 14 and 18 from previously disadvantaged schools, getting trained in coding and robotics. The event was attended by the MEC, Kwazi Mshengu, DUT Vice Rector, Prof Sbusiso Moyo, Vodacom Managing Executive, Chris Lazarus, DDG: Curriculum Management and Delivery Dr Barney Mthembu and girl learners who are beneficiaries of the programme..

Coding is a way of solving problems, sequential thinking, creating and designing. 300 young girls from KZN will have an opportunity to learn how to code during the 2020 summer school holidays, from 7 to 11 December 2020. During the course, learners will be exposed to basic knowledge of computer languages, robotics, and development programmes,

including HTML, Css, GitHub, JavaScript, basic computer and introduction to coding.

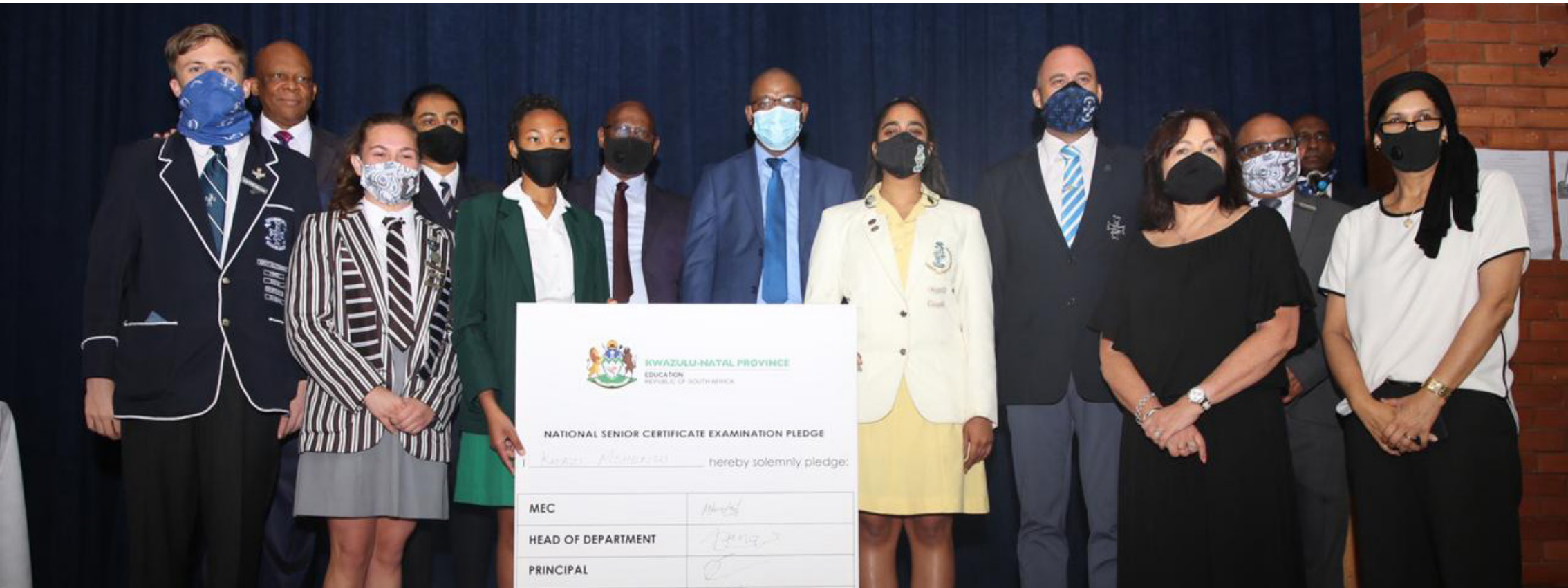
Making his remarks during the media launch, MEC Mshengu thanked both Vodacom and DUT for having forged a progressive partnership with the department. “We can pray, print thousand placards and march against gender based violence, but unless we come up with programmes to bridge the gender divide, our efforts will not bear any fruits,” said MEC Mshengu. The MEC concluded by saying the launch must not just be a mere talk shop, but must translate into a tangible and implementable programme, which will meaningfully change the lives of young girls for the better.



“We can pray, print thousand placards and march against gender based violence, but unless we come up with programmes to bridge the gender divide, our efforts will not bear any fruits



Pledging to Behave



The MEC, the HoD and DDG: Dr Barney Mthembu, attended the matric pledge signing ceremony that was held at Northwood Boys High School in the North of Durban. The pledge aims to encourage grade 12 learners who were going to sit for the 2020 National Senior Certificate examinations to commit that they will comply with all the rules and regulations of the National Senior Certificate exams.

Making his address during the ceremony, the MEC referred to the class of 2020 as a resilient

class. "Before the pandemic hit our shores, there was uncertainty and there were calls for the academic year to be postponed, but because of the resilience of our learners and educators, we are here today few days before the National Senior Certificate (NSC) exams," said the MEC, who added that significance of signing the pledge is to ensure that, "we deliver a credible 2020 NSC examinations."





The Young Falcons Awards



“Learners must know that leadership starts from the ground....”

The MEC and His Majesty, King Goodwill Zwelithini, presided over the Young Falcons Awards ceremony that was held in Durban on Friday, 23 October 2020. The event was also attended by Members of the Royal Household and the Deputy Chief of the Air Force, Major General Buthelezi.

The Young Falcons programme is done in conjunction with the South African Air Force and the Zulu Royal Council and its aim is to enlighten and encourage the youth on career opportunities available in the military, air force and the aviation industry. The program also aims to address issues of delinquency among young people.

In 2019, close to 1000 Grades 8 and 9 learners attended a two week programme which was held at Masibumbane High School under the Zululand District. Some of the learners who participated in the awards ceremony were those that took part in the 2019 programme. Making his remarks during the function, MEC Mshengu said, “I am also delighted that these Young Falcons will not only be going home

with the certificates that we will be awarding them here today, but they have been able to acquire knowledge of what disciplines like Military Health Services and Engineering, to mention a few, entail.

During his address, His Majesty the King gave his gratitude to the South African Air Force and the department for making history through the Young Falcons programme. “Learners must know that leadership starts from the ground. Learners who will be enrolling in the air force must bear in mind that this is not only about being able to fly aeroplanes, but it is about the safety of the passengers too. Projects like these do not only assist the youngsters academically, but helps learners and shape them to be disciplined and be emotionally sound,” said His Majesty..

Learners who were adorned in their pristine uniforms were a picture of excitement as they received their certificates from both His Majesty and the MEC





Reading: the Foundation for Life

The Department of Education in KZN is amongst the first provinces to launch the Provincial Reading Strategy. The KZN reading strategy was launched on 29 October 2020 at Ithongasi Primary School in Port Edward, under Ugu District. The event was blessed by the attendance of the Minister of Basic Education, Ms Angie Motshekga. The strategy is aimed at introducing innovative, but targeted reading promotion interventions from ECD to FET, whilst recognizing those with special needs.

In his remarks before introducing the guest speaker, MEC Mshengu said, "we have no doubt that the launch of this strategy will go a long way in changing the face of education in our province. We are here to change the status quo".

During her key-note address, Minister Motshekga congratulated MEC Mshengu and

the department for launching the strategy. "Today I join the MEC as he launches one of the very important strategies in the department. If you recall the president committed that our children at the age of 10 must be able to read for meaning and that is one of our key priorities in the 6th administration. I am very excited and proud that KZN has developed a reading strategy and we will support them all the way. This reading strategy is a foundation for life," asserted Minister Motshekga

Learners and educators of Ithongase became even more elated when MEC Mshengu and Minister Motshekga unveiled a library with the new equipment and all reading material. "We are very happy and we want to thank the Minister and the MEC for this wonderful opportunity," said one of the learners.



"We are very happy and we want to thank the Minister and the MEC for this wonderful opportunity"

Japan Donates Mobile Libraries to the Department





Official Opening of Nsimbini Secondary School

THE SCHOOL HAS THE FOLLOWING INFRASTRUCTURE

ADMINISTRATIVE BUILDING

- Principal's office
- Deputy Principal's office
- HOD'S office
- Staff room
- 2 sick rooms
- Kitchenette
- Reception and general office
- Print room
- Record room/ strong room

KITCHEN

- Vegetable store room
- Equipment store room
- 2 basins with taps
- Gas stove
- Tuck Shop

ELECTRICITY

- Electricity – Yes (Eskom)- Meter

RAIN WATER HARVESTING

- Number of water tanks in school – 24
- Number of wash hand basins – 4

FENCING

- Fencing – Yes (good condition)

COMPUTER CENTER

- 40 workstations
- Server room

MEDIA CENTER/ LIBRARY

TEAM TEACHING ROOM

GUARD HOUSE

17 CLASSROOMS

3 MULTIPURPOSE CLASSROOMS

TOILETS

TOILETS

Boys Toilet Block

- 3 boy's toilet seats
- 3 urinals
- 6 wash hand basins with taps

Girls Toilet Block

- 8 girl's toilet seats
- 8 wash hand basins toilets

Educators Toilet block

- 2 Male toilet seats
- 1 urinal
- 2 wash hand basins
- 2 Female toilet seats
- 2 wash hand basins

WORLD TEACHERS' DAY

“TEACHERS ARE THE FOUNDATION OF EVERY SUCCESSFUL NATION”



KWAZI MSHENGU
MEC FOR EDUCATION IN KZN



Teaching is a noble profession that shapes the character and future of an individual. Educators are professionals that we meet in our early years and they mould us, to become engineers, doctors, lawyers etc. We cannot be those things without the intervention of teachers but because of the intervention of teachers.

When you listen to African leaders, all of them always identify 3 enemies i.e poverty, diseases and ignorance. It was never lost in their minds that the only people who could exorcise the ghost of ignorance were educators’.

World Teachers’ Day is celebrated annually on the 5th October. This year’s theme is “Leading in Crisis, Reimagining the Future”. On the 5th of October 2020, which was the

World Teacher’s Day, Mr Kwazi Mshengu, MEC for Education in KZN had these words to say to our educators, “ As a Department of Education in KZN, we would like to thank our teachers’ for dedicating themselves to teaching our children as well as building the future of the nation. Educators have displayed great commitment during a very difficult period. We would like to thank them for working with us to save the lives of our children and protecting the academic year. To the educators who succumbed to Covid 19, may their souls rest in peace. The department will always remember their contribution. As the department we re-commit ourselves to working hard to ensure that our teachers are supported by supplying all the necessary resources to assist in the teaching of our learners.”



More Buses for Specials Schools

The MEC for Education in KZN, Kwazi Mshengu accompanied by the Deputy Minister for Basic Education, Dr Reginah Mhaule, handed over 15 specialized buses to various special needs schools across the province. The official handover was held at Schola Amoris Special School, under Ugu District on the 3rd of September 2020. During the handover, the MEC highlighted that provision of learner transport in special schools is prioritized as a strategy to increase access to education for children with barriers to learning.

The MEC highlighted that the provision of buses to special schools has alleviated the challenge of travel for learners with barriers and hence learner enrolment has increased at an average rate of 380 learners per year during the period 2009-2019. "It is our responsibility as the department to ensure that pupils with special needs are transported safely from their homes to the school and back. By providing special schools with these buses, we want to re-assert the rights of learners living with special needs and to give what is due to learners with special needs," he said. Mshengu concluded by expressing that the buses handed over are specialized

buses that cater for disabled learners.

Speaking at the handover, the Deputy Minister said it is imperative that education paves a way in making societies more inclusive for people with disabilities. "Being disabled is not a disgrace, a disgrace is having children in societies being hidden because of their state. Whether children are rich or from disadvantage backgrounds, they should be able to access decent education," she concluded.

The department has thus far provided 126 buses to 74 Special Schools. In November 2019 the department handed over 8 buses at a cost of R10 Million and the 15 buses that were handed over cost of R20 Million. The department has hired 96 state paid drivers and 77 SGB appointed drivers. The department has ensured that additional posts for drivers in special schools will be advertised as part of the human resource provisioning for support staff at special schools, in 2020/21.





The Department Buys 183 State Vehicles

“we are very excited about our latest acquisition..”

The shortage of transportation for the Department of Education in KwaZulu-Natal officials will be the thing of the past following the purchase and handover of 183 state vehicles in the province. The MEC, Kwazi Mshengu handed over brand new state vehicles to district officials at the event that was held on the 9th of September 2020 at Umsunduzi Athletics Field.

The department procured the vehicles in order to give support, especially to rural districts. This will help in providing necessary support to schools in order to maintain constant and efficient monitoring at school level.

During the event, the MEC said that the shortage of vehicles hinders curriculum delivery to schools, “we are very excited

about our latest acquisition which will enable us to deliver the much needed services right at the door steps of our schools. We believe that handing over these state vehicles will alleviate the problem of not providing constant support to school.”

Mshengu further underlined that among the beneficiaries will be Subject Advisors who are the key role players in terms of curriculum management and delivery. “We urge all beneficiaries to take good care of the vehicles in order to serve the purpose they were procured for. We also urge the community to work closely with us in ensuring that state vehicles are not abused, by reporting to the department those officials who are misbehaving,” said the MEC





Borehole Water Program

“We intend to ensure that all schools in the province have the availability of water on a daily basis.”

As part of the Department’s 2020/21 Infrastructure services delivery programme, MEC Kwazi Mshengu together with the Head of Department, Dr Enock Vusimuzi Nzama launched the borehole water programme for the schools around the province. The event happened on 21 September 2020 at Khulani Special School, Hluhluwe under uMkhanyakude District. This initiative aims to ensure that all schools are supplied with fresh water, especially in rural areas.

The Head of Department, in his opening remarks said, “the department continues to focus on the infrastructure delivery and maintenance in our schools throughout the province in terms of elimination of schools without water, sanitation and electricity.”

In his keynote address, the MEC emphasized the need and importance of water in schools. “We are here today at Khulani Special School to introduce the borehole programme as part of the sustainable solution to deal with the problem of water in our schools around the province. We wish that all schools should have sustainable water as part of entire ecosystem support of a school. In this financial year, there are 1000 schools that has been identified to benefit from this programme. Our aim is to rollout the programme throughout all the 12 districts. We intend to ensure that all schools in province have the availability of water on a daily basis,” said MEC.





MANDLA MTHETHWA SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

The MEC for Education in KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Kwazi Mshengu, accompanied by the Head of Department, Dr Enock Nzama, visited Mandla Mthethwa School of Excellence on 22 September 2020 in uMkhanyakude District, to monitor school functionality and learner progress.

Mr Thanduyise Motha, uMkhanyakude District Director and Dr Bhekisisa Mthabela, the Acting Principal of Mandla Mthethwa School of Excellence received the MEC and HOD. The team also took the time to do the walk about at the school.

Mandla Mthethwa School of Excellence first opened its gate for teaching and learning in January 2018. The school is a new generation school and one of many schools which the department intends to build.

This state-of-the-art facility consists of the theory e-learning room, library, swimming pool, workshop for electrical engineering, chemical engineering, technology, maths, a well-equipped media centre, multipurpose classrooms and boarding facilities.

Delivering his keynote address, the MEC expressed his sincere gratitude to the Acting Principal and entire staff for their commitment and for putting the school on the map. "We noted the immaculate look of the buildings and voiced out that considering the millions spent on the school, we are sure that it will still be like this 10 years to come. Mandla Mthethwa School of Excellence is the pride of the whole province," said the MEC, who also urged the community to safeguard the school.







A SMOOTH RETURN TO SCHOOLS

The MEC for Education in KZN, Mr Kwazi Mshengu monitored the return to schools of grades 12 and 7 after a long break due to the Covid-19 pandemic.

The Covid-19 outbreak necessitated that schools observe certain protocols to stop the spread of the virus amongst the schooling community. The department has provided personal protective equipment to schools in the province.

The day started without any glitches. The department received positive reports from Members of the Provincial Legislature

who also monitored the first day of school. "Learners and teachers are testimonies that we have done enough to prepare our schools. We are encouraged that as we march forward, we will work together with SGB's and unions to ensure that we join hands together to assist our schools. As we phase in other grades, we build from the experiences that we have had in this current period. These experiences will put us in a better position to manage the return of other grades. We would like to encourage parents to protect our learners as they leave schools", said the MEC.





Gamma e-Learning Program



KwaZulu Natal Department of Education launched the eLearning Gamma Solution Project at uBulinga Secondary

KwaZulu Natal, Premier Mr Sihle Zikalala and MEC for Education, Mr Kwazi Mshengu unveiled the roll-out of the Maths and Science development programme and e-Learning Solution at Ubulinga Secondary

under Uthukela District. The ICT Maths and Science support programme will benefit 50 rural schools in Uthukela District and it targets grades 8 to 12 Maths and Science learners.



DEPUTY MINISTER VISITS MAJUBA DISTRICT

Deputy Minister of the Department of Basic Education, Dr Reginah Mhaule together with MEC Kwazi Mshengu, visited Amajuba District to monitor the re-opening of schools for grade 7 learners, following the phasing in of other grades. This visit took place on 11 August 2020. The schools that were visited under Utrecht CMC, were Izimbuthu Primary School, uMzilikazi Secondary School and iThamsanqa Primary School.

The Deputy Minister said that while acknowledging the crisis of Covid 19, it is still important to facilitate quality teaching and learning in a conducive classroom environment. "The programmes by the Department of Basic Education includes ensuring that all schools are supplied with personal protective equipment, water and sanitation", she said

"As we return to school, we need to put safety first. It is important to protect your school and respect school property. It's also very important to follow all tips and protocols to avoid the spread of COVID-19 in schools," said MEC Mshengu.





CIRCULARS TO NOTE:

1. Finance Circular no. 08 of 2020: Under collection of tax on resettlement payments.
2. HRM Circular no. 41 of 2020: Procedures for the management of Public Service Employees with Comorbidities – Covid-19
3. HRM 48 of 2020: Annual leave closure of offices
4. HRM Circular no. 53 of 2020: Increase in the rates of remuneration for stipend and subsistence allowance for lead teachers
5. KZN IT Circular no. 62 of 2020: Implementation and access of office 365 for both office based and school based officials
6. KZN Circular no. 68 of 2020: NSNP submission of claims on time
7. KZN Circular no. 96 of 2020: Electronic payments made from schools bank accounts