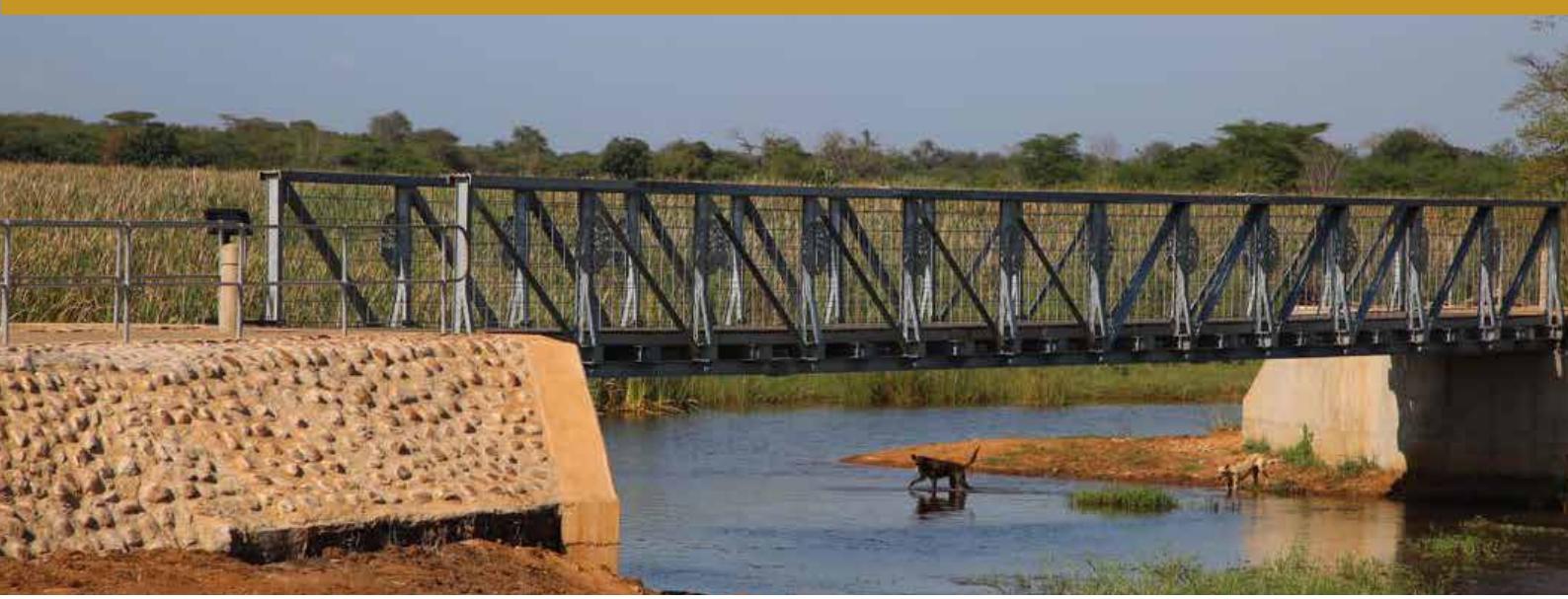


EDU NEWS

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■ Uhlanjana Pedestrian ■ Bridge Handover



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"A bridge to success"

Uhlanjana Pedestrian Bridge Handover

The Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) finally realized their dream to change the lives of the Jozini and Umhlabuyalingana community. On the 31 March 2022, DBSA held an official handover ceremony of the Uhlanjana Pedestrian Bridge at Mandonela Primary School under uMkhanyakude District. This project began in 2017 when a picture of learners crossing the river was circulated on social media, this touched the hearts of DBSA and they pledged to regain the learner's dignity by constructing a bridge that will enable them and the community to travel safely.

During the construction phase DBSA provided learners with transport until the project was complete. Mandonela Primary and Mjindi Secondary are the two schools that have benefited greatly from this project. In attendance was the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education Hon. Kwa-zi Mshengu, DBSA CEO, Patrick Gumede Mayors from Umhlabuyalingana and Jozini, Inkosi yakwaGumede and Inkosi Siqakatha, District Director Mr Mjozi Motha, Principal Mr Thulani Gumede, representatives from DBSA, representatives from the Motsepe Foundation and community members. The programme proceedings began with an opening and welcome by the Jozini Deputy May-



or, Cllr Ncamisile Zulu, she was followed by Ms Bathobile Sowazi who highlighted the reflections and overview of the project. The keynote address was by the Hon. MEC Mr K.I Mshengu. He called this project "A bridge to success" because there is no community that can succeed if their children are not educated. He further thanked DBSA, Motsepe Foundation and all the community leaders and stakeholders for ensuring that this project became a success. The ceremony ended with the cutting of the ribbon by the MEC, DBSA, CEO and the Mayors.



Early Childhood Development Indaba.



The KwaZulu Natal Provincial Government, under the leadership of Honorable Premier Sihle Zikalala together with the Human Resources Development Council Committee held a two-day Early Childhood Development Indaba, which started on 17 March 2022 and ended on the 18th at the Durban ICC arena under the theme Providing the Children of KwaZulu-Natal a flying start to the future. The Indaba was sponsored by UNISA, DUT, ETDP-SETA. Since the call made by the President Cyril Ramaphosa in his 2019 SONA speech that the Department of Basic Education must take Early Childhood Development function which has been under the Department of Social Development under its wing, both Departments have been working tirelessly to make this function shift a success. The shift took effect from 01 April 2022. Outlining the purpose of the day Hon. Sihle Zikalala said that the main focus of the meeting was to discuss the ECD as a whole and how the shift between these two Departments will be a productive



one. The Premier reminded the summit that the Indaba took place during the Human Rights month and the South African Library week. He also paid tribute to all the writers who are publishing for the ECD. Hon. Zikalala used the words of the world's icon The late Nelson Mandela when he said "The children must at last play in the open veld, no longer tortured by the pangs of hunger or ravaged by the disease or threatened with the scourge of ignorance."

Day two began with a recap of the previous day by the programme Director, Ms Thokozile Vilakazi who is the Department of Education ECD Director. The MEC, Mr Kwazi Mshengu spoke on the provincial vision for Early Childhood Development towards 2030. And mentioned the plans the Department will implement after 01 April 2022 when ECD has shifted to the Department of Education.



Districts welcoming social workers from DSD



Umgungundlovu District, welcoming the social workers from DSD



Umlazi District, welcoming the social workers from DSD



Zululand District, welcoming the social workers from DSD



Ilembe District, welcoming the social workers from DSD

SMART CLASSROOM HANDOVER AT ST JOHN PAUL SECONDARY SCHOOL



"the programme that will benefit our learners. I know teachers were never trained on this kind of platforms, therefore this is going to provide further learning for them on these ICT developments. This platforms offers a better way of communication,"

The Department, together with Vodacom continue to support schools around the province by introducing the smart classroom programme. This time, the roll-out event took place on the 22 March 2022 at ST John Paul Secondary School under the uMgungundlovu District. During Mr Japhet Mnguni's Vodacom Managing Executive presentation, he outlined the purpose of the launch and elaborated on the importance of introducing smart classroom platforms and devices in schools in order to improve quality education. "Our partnership with the Department is the testimony of our commitment. We are very honoured to be here today to officially handover this platform for the

benefit of all learners in the area and we are looking forward to partner with you to support you as a department. Soon we will be embarking on training teachers to be able to continue with what we have started today," said Mnguni. During the ceremony, the Head of Department, Mr Nkosi-nathi Ngcobo expressed his gratitude for the commitment and support given by Vodacom. "It's an exciting morning for all of us to be here in the programme that will benefit our learners. I know teachers were never trained on this kind of platforms, therefore this is going to provide further learning for them on these ICT developments. This platforms offers a better way of communication," said the HoD.



ILEMBE OPERATION SUKUMA

SAKHE DDM CABINET DAY

"We are here today, to bring the government closer to the people. To declare a war to the challenges that are faced by the community,"

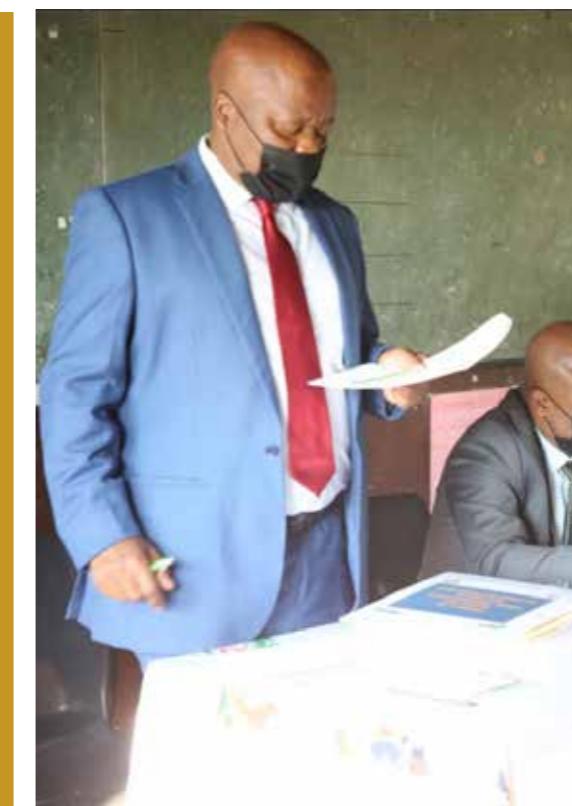


As part of the Sukuma Sakhe-DDM Cabinet Day, MEC Kwazi Mshengu visited Lusizolwethu Primary School, Momotheka ECD Centre and the War room at KwaMxhosa Area under Ward 5 in KwaMaphumulo Local Municipality. In his address to the community he said, "We are here today, to bring the government closer to the people. To declare a war to the challenges that are faced by the community," said the MEC. After the visit at Lusizolwethu Primary School, MEC visited Momotheka Crèche. From the 1st of April 2022, ECD function moved from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Ba-

sic Education. Development In his remarks, MEC Mshengu said, "The coming of this programme to the Education department requires kids to be taught from their early stages. Our kids should have a foundation so that they are able to perform all the way through the Intermediate Phase." During the visit the MEC and the First Lady, Ms Nelly Zikalala handed out educational toys to the kids and gift packs to the ECD practitioners. The Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Sihle Zikalala was at Ward 9, where he was accompanied by HoD Champion, Nathi Ngcobo



MEC and the First Lady, Ms Nelly Zikalala handing out educational toys and gift packs.



The Premier and HoD at the briefing in Ward 9 Magojolo Primary School



FUNERAL SERVICE OF THE LATE FORMER HOD DR ENOCK NZAMA

On Saturday the 26th of March 2022, the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Sihle Zikalala and The MEC, Mr Kwazi Mshengu together with senior managers and officials of Government, attended the funeral service of the former HOD, Dr Enock Vusumuzi Nzama at Bethsaida Ministries International in Phoenix north of Durban.

Delivering his eulogy, the Premier described Dr Nzama as an exemplary leader who gave his all and offered the true meaning of a servant in leadership, he also described Dr Nzama as a mentor, a counsellor and an inspiration and a pillar of support to others. "The education sector has lost a professional who contributed to the production of knowledge in a way that empowered the sector and all other stakeholders", said the Premier. "Wosiyane was not just an ordinary person, he was a consummate and a compulsive professional who led by example and who was a repository of knowledge in the education sector and government as a whole", said the MEC for Education Mr Kwazi Mshengu while delivering his eulogy. The MEC described Dr Nzama as a quintessential educator who understood that education was his true calling and

his only true vocation. "His legacy will become a standard of measure for all those public servants engaged in the service of our people", said the MEC.

Lala Ngoxolo Wosiyane



UMZINYATHI RCL INAUGURATION



U mzinyathi was among the first districts to formally inaugurate and induct the Representative Council for Learners (RCL). Excited learners from across the district converged at Dundee Junior School on 10 March 2022 ready to take their oath to amongst their duties, address the needs of all learners, keep learners informed about events happening in their school and community, encourage good relations between learners' and educators. The RCL structure is aimed at deepening the democracy and nurturing the leadership potential in learners. RCL's are established in terms of SASA 84 OF 1996 as amended, Section 23, 2 of SASA which provides for learners to be represented in the School Governing Body of their school. RCL's are therefore a legal structure and the only legitimate structure learners can participate in. The newly elected RCL's have a responsibility to use their influence to discourage the violent

behavior which is beginning to be a norm in our schools by helping the SGB's to adopt a strengthened learner code of conduct and to advocate for its implementation. Mr Sipho Ntombela, CES, Circuit Management, Umsinga CMC, on behalf of the District Director, Mr Kheswa, had these words to share "Dr Myles Munroe defines leadership as the capacity to influence others through inspiration generated by passion. You are expected to be positive role models and be approachable.". Mr Ntombela took the learners through 5 levels of leadership in order to become successful leaders. "As you journey through life and beyond, always keep in mind that you carry hope, aspirations, desires and freedom of your family, community and society. Be mindful of the steps you take today as they determine where you will land tomorrow," he asserted



SACE and Umgungundlovu District Collaboration



U mgungundlovu District held a workshop filled with enthusiastic presenters and well-crafted presentations aimed at equipping principals of high schools that performed below 75% in the 2021 NSC exams. The workshop provided strategies not only to improve performance, but also to be able to encourage educators to implement ideas to change their schooling environment despite challenges. The two day workshop took place at The Tropicana Hotel in Durban on 17-18 March 2022.

This collaboration with SACE was also aimed at reminding principals that they can do it and must not shy away from exercising authority and to have confidence in their leadership. Mr Sighamo Mabinza, District Director of Umgungundlovu addressing the keen principals said, "We believe that this session is going to help us a lot in providing quality leading to improved outcomes in the district. We aiming at getting no less than 80% in the 2022 NSC exams. We would also

"We aiming at getting no less than 80% in the 2022 NSC exams"



8th National Education Excellence Awards

CONGRATULATIONS TO ALL THE WINNERS!!!



MEC VISITS EMYEZANENI HIGH SCHOOL



On the 14 March 2022, MEC Mshengu together with the Head of Department, Nkosinathi Ngcobo led the team to Emyezaneni High School under uMgungundlovu District. The visit was as a result of the accountability sessions where schools that obtained less than 40% in the National Senior Certificate account and give reasons for their underperformance. In his address to learners, the MEC emphasized the importance of hard work, commitment and punctuality. Talking to the SMT about accountability sessions, the MEC said, "This is not a session where we are shouting to each other, but it's a session for all of us to account as we are all responsible for the results. We are engaged in the work of building a future for the learners therefore we need to work together."

LEARNER ADMISSION LAUNCH



On the 1st March 2022, The Department held its Lerner Admission Launch at Alexandra High School, under uMgungundlovu District. DDG: Curriculum Management and delivery, Dr Barney Mthembu said in preparation for the 2023 Academic year parents are requested to apply early so as to avoid the late registration that happens every January. He told audience who were gathered at hall that MEC Kwazi Mshengu call on parents and guardians to register their children early for 2023 Academic year. "We are beginning the learner admission buzz," said Dr Mthembu.



LEARNING ENGLISH AUDIO PROJECT (LEAP) TRAINING

The Rural Development and Inclusive Education directorate, together with the British Council, conducted an educator workshop for the Learning English Audio Project (LEAP) for the Umgungundlovu, Harry Gwala and Ilembe Districts at the Garden Court – Marine Parade in Durban, where the training took place for 4 days from 15 – 18 March 2022.

Amongst the attendees were the Chief Director: Mrs Jabu Khoza, the Director for Rural Development and Inclusive education Support, Dr Nelson Madela and the Chief Education Specialist, Mr Bheki Kubheka. From the British Council were Ms Nicoleen Janneker, the Head of English

for Education Systems; Ms Deborah Avery and others. The LEAP Programme is the product of the partnership between the Department of Basic Education (DBE) and the British Council, and was initiated to work in provinces where multi grade teachers are targeted for training so that they are able to promote quality education in multi grading schools by improving the listening skills and English fluency in learners.

The British Council assisted with the funding injection and by supplying of the audio equipment. When the project is implemented, learners will be able to access lessons through the audio in the classrooms.



ECD FUNCTION SHIFT ORIENTATION

Following the announcement by His Excellency the President of South Africa, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa at the SONA 2022, the Country is going to proceed to 2 years of compulsory Pre-school years before they enter Grade 1 and hence the shift of the Early Childhood Development from Department of Social Development (DSD) to Department of Basic Education (DBE) effective from the 1st of April 2022.

On 24 March 2022, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education (DOE) had an orientation session with the DSD Officials who will be joining the Department in the new financial year. The induction was held at the Durban Teachers' Centre (DTC) – Overport in Durban. The session was focused

on the variety of issues namely, the broad legal framework which informs the function shift from DSD to DOE. It also looked at the implications as far as the organizational structure of the KZNDOE as well as the demarcations of the job description of the personnel are concerned.

During the workshop, the Director for Employee Relations, Mr Sunil Mahabeer said in his opening remarks, " We are here today as education together with DSD in order to share with them an understanding of our skills development programme as well as the employee wellness programme which will assist our colleagues in providing psychosocial support services during the time of transition," he said.



Amajuba District Awards

Awards in any sector, when conducted seek to recognise those that are excelling in their work but also serve as a catalyst to help motivate those who are not doing well to aspire to be recognised one day. On 24 March 2022 at Ferrum High school, Amajuba district held their awards ceremony to recognise educators and schools that performed well in the 2021 NSC examinations. These educators triumphed in the midst of challenges brought by Covid-19. Amajuba district obtained.....% in 2021 NSC exams. The target for 2022 is.....%. Unions as important stakeholders in education rendered messages of support committing to continue to assist the district in implementing strategies to improve results.

Mr Thembi Nzama, District director of Amajuba, "we are very proud of our educators and learners for the hard work they put in 2021 and believe that in 2022 we will be able to go to greater heights. As Amajuba district we want to reclaim our glory as number one in terms of performance. We urge all officials and schools to work with us as we implement the District Improvement Plan" shared these words while also introducing the guest speaker for the day Dr David Chonco, Chief Director, District Operations Management. "Having attended an occasion similar to this yesterday, I am encouraged by the healthy competition amongst district. Indeed

may the best man win. We take our hats off to educators who persevered through the challenges of Covid -19. Educators had to find creative ways of assisting learners to achieve good results in their final year of schooling. These educators had to deliver quality education even with the trimmed curriculum. Today we celebrate their hard work and pledge our unwavering support to the district. To educators that excelled in their work, you have set a standard for your selves and cannot afford to drop. Congratulations to all the awardees and well done".



Ilembe District 2021 NSC Awards

Ilembe district has come a long way in the quest to produce quality matric results. In 2021 the district obtained 76% in the NSC examinations. Officials, learners and parents converged at KwaDukuza Municipality hall on 8 April 2022 to celebrate those that went the extra mile towards achieving these results. Dr Madondo, District Director remarked as follows “the train of excellence is moving on continuing on its journey towards 100%. Ilembe district is improving its internal processes to ensure that the culture of excellence is created and entrenched. As we hold the awards we intend to acknowledge those of us who did well, we want to plant a seed for improving our performance as a system through motivating our teachers.

Our target for 2022 is 85%, this is just our numerical target. Our real target is 100% which is in line with our mandate of providing education to all. Academic year 2022 is our year of doing well and I want to implore all officials and teachers to assist us in ensuring that our district continues to soar”. Ilembe district registered a 6% improvement in 2021, this shows that the district has the capacity to obtain its target. Mrs Thembelihle Gumeede, Chief Director, District Operations Management was invited to render a keynote address on this auspicious occasion. Taking to the podium she encouraged and motivated teachers, learners and parents as follows “ Ladies and gentlemen we are gathered here driven by our conscience to celebrate and give recognition to those who have excelled in the profession, you have dur-

ing turbulent times proven your mantle and gone far beyond the call of duty.

This morning we wish to express our gratitude to you and motivate you to continue the selfless endeavours that you make for our children, their future and for the benefit of our province and ultimately our country. This morning we honour passionate, creative and innovative educators who challenge, support, and guide and inspire their learners' every day. You are supremely fine examples of educators who have made a world of difference within your communities. To all awardees, congratulations stay focus and remain the best”.



NATIONAL SYMBOLS EDUCATION

WORKSHOP

On the 4th of March, the Department together with the Department of Arts & Culture launched their first National Symbols Workshop at Adams College in Durban, Under Umlazi District. In his welcome note, Mr Mandla Shangase, the Acting District Director for Umlazi welcomed the guests from Ugu, Ilembe, Harry Gwala, Umgungundlovu, Umlazi, Pinetown districts and officials from the Department of Arts & Culture . The Chief Director: for Rural and Inclusive Education, Ms Jabu Khoza stressed the importance of cooperation between the two departments. "The heads of both departments have the same vision that physical education should be part of co-curricular in every school," she said.



