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PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

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BUILDING SCHOOLS OF EXCELLENCE



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Championing Quality Education - Creating and Securing a Brighter Future



NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

Considering it is now too late to exchange pleasantries and say compliments of the new season, let me just cut to the chase. As we present to you the 28th Edition of Edu-News, we hope that you enjoy each and every edition we bring you. This electronic newsletter is one of the platforms through which we encourage the seamless flow of information, where we encourage the employees of the department to converse among themselves.

We began this year on a rather positive note, having been buoyed by the consistent improvement in our National Senior Certificate results. 76, 2% is by any measure, no mean feat. It is something to write home about, and writing home we did.

Once again we congratulate our educators and all our officials for having reached this milestone. After the Extended Top Management meeting that took place at Glenwood High School early on February, it was resolved that the target for National Senior Certificate results for 2019 is 85%. Judging by the enthusiasm of the top management and all the district directors, we are confident that all the troops are going to work towards the attainment of this goal.

You are going to notice that in this edition we have included district and school profiles, including their motto and projections for the year ahead. We do this because this platform is not only for and about what is happening at the head office. Edu-News is for and about the department from the head office to the school level.

We remain interested in knowing about the success stories of the districts, CMCs, schools and even successes and achievement of individual educators. Let us use this platform as a mirror through which we see ourselves. We want to know and profile those among us who do exploits sometimes under very trying circumstances. We want to know and chronicle the brilliance of our individual learners. To this end, we request all our readers to share with us the stories that they think are worth documenting. Let us use Edu News to celebrate ourselves. We request District Directors to be our pathfinders to lead us to the good things happening in their respective districts.

As we continue to communicate and make the conversation circle bigger, let us work together to take this department to the heights unprecedented and heights unthinkable.

- **SIHLE MLOTSHWA**



OFFICIAL OPENING OF NYONYANA PRIMARY SCHOOL

BY: MBALI MCHUNU

NYONYANA PRIMARY SCHOOL is a deep rural school which was established in 1906 by the missionaries from overseas. It was initially situated under Nyonyana Mountain, on the land of the Ndebele family. The school has been in operation since early 80's and it has classes from Grade R to Grade 7.

On February 19, the MEC for Education in KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Mthandeni Dlungwana, officially opened the school at Msinga, under the uMzinyathi District. This school is very beautiful. The principal, Mrs Mbatha, was very excited and appreciated everything that the department has done for the school. "It is exciting that last week we were here at the very same place of UMsinga, opening UkukhanyakoMsinga Special School and yet again today we are here handing over Nyonyana Primary School is very attractive school," said MEC Dlungwana. Nyonyana Primary School has 9 classrooms, a computer room, a library, teacher's room and offices. There is also a Grade R block and a toilet for the little ones. They also have combo court and soccer field for extra mural activities.



11th SCHOOL EXCELLENCE AWARDS

BY: MBALI ZULU

On February 28, the Greater Kokstad Circuit held its 11th School Excellence Awards ceremony at the Kokstad College under Harry Gwala District. The aim of this august occasion was to recognise the exceptional work of the educators who played a meaningful role and who go an extra mile in ensuring that quality education is a reality in the province by showcasing the incredible work that have managed the Harry Gwala district to be the one of the most improved district in the 2018 NSC examinations.

District Director, Ms Sindisiwe Njakazi outlined the purpose of this gathering and commended Mr Cedric Mseleku for hosting these awards which have been taking place over the years and have contributed positively in motivating and encouraging both educators and learners of this circuit. "Education was declared as an apex priority in the country, it is for this reason today we are celebrating the excellence and the great achievements of our educators who support the learners to succeed in life," said Ms Njakazi.

Dr Somadoda Fikeni who was a guest speaker during this event, addressed the audience on why it is important for everyone to be involved in education. "Education profession is a CALLING, it is a source of everything and today we are showcasing the dedication and hard work of educators who go an extra mile. These educators and learners deserve to be acknowledged and rewarded for their hard work. These days we are talking about Fourth Industrial Revolution and we are preparing our learners to dominate in the near future? The programmes of this magnitude will help to enhance high performance in the education system," concluded Dr Fikeni.







UMVOTI CMC MATRIC AWARDS

BY: QINISILE MKHIZE

HAVING obtained 74% in the NSC examinations in 2018, the Umvoti CMC saw it fit to celebrate this milestone on February 23 at Greytown High School with all who made it possible. Principals, learners and SGB Chairpersons were applauded for their efforts in ensuring that the CMC performs well. Umvoti CMC has set themselves a target of 80% for 2019 and are confident that this will be achieved. Ms Nozipho Mkhize, CES Circuit Management, congratulated Mud-en Secondary School for the best performance in the circuit, obtaining a 100% in the NSC exams results and obtaining 46.66% bachelors. “We also need to commend Esokheni Secondary School for their performance against adversity with 68,4%. The circuit will continue to provide support to schools that performed below 65%, we have reduced the number of these schools from 13 in 2017 to 09 in 2019,” said Ms Mkhize.

The District Director of Umzinyathi Mr Sphiwe Kheswa said, “We acknowledge you on your work well done, all we ask from you this year is that you produce quality passes. The district improved by 7% in 2018 because of your contribution.”

Addressing the guests, Ms Thembele Dlamini, Chief Director, Schools Curriculum and LTSM said, “You teachers are the chosen generation to lead these young people. We celebrate the many challenges you faced in order to achieve the strategic directives given by the CMC leadership. It is important in life that we leave people better than we found them, whatever was the state of learners that you had to work with, you were able to change,” said Dlamini. Concluding her speech, Ms Dlamini said, “an investment in education pays the best interest.”



UKUKHANYA SPECIAL

OFFICIAL OPENING OF UKUKHANYA - KOMSINGA SPECIAL SCHOOL

BY: NOMFUNDO MALINGA

THE Head of Department, Dr Enoch Nzama officially opened Ukukhanya KoMsinga Special School at Tugela Ferry under uMzinyathi District on Friday, February 15. The HoD presided over the official opening on behalf of the MEC, Mr Mthandeni Dlungwa-

This school has cost the department R128 Million and consists of a renovated administration block, 20 new and modernised classrooms, 2 computer laboratories which include the latest technology, a newly built hostel, a multipurpose hall, a laundry, a kitchen and ablution facilities for boys and girls. Amongst the dignitaries who attended were; the Mayor of uMsinga, Cllr Buyiswa Ngcobo, a representative of UBuKhosi bakwaMabaso, Mhlushwa Mabaso, the Acting Director for Special Schools, Dr Radebe and the Chairperson of the School Governing Body Sibongile Ngubane.

The day started with a morning briefing session where the principal of the school, Mrs Nonhlanhla Dlamini, gave the history and the layout of the school and also gave a short version of how the school was established. This was followed by the unveiling of the plaque by the Head of Department.



During the official opening ceremony, Dr Nzama expressed the department's gratitude. "As a department we are very grateful for the work that is being done here at the school by the teachers, it shows a lot of passion and dedication. We also extend gratitude to the school principal for an amazing contribution that she has given for the success of the school. The department has supplied learners with all the necessary equipment for them to study, all we expect from them is dedication and hard work," said Dr Nzama, who also urged the community to take a good care of the newly built school facilities and avoid vandalism.

The Head of Department closed off the ceremony by quoting directly from the MEC's speech, "Special schools are close to our hearts. As the ruling party and as Government, we have decided to give priority to special schools because they were neglected during the apartheid era. In doing this, we have made sure to provide special schools with free education, learner transport, nutrition, and best quality education possible," said Dr Nzama.

PEACE WALK ON SAFETY IN SCHOOLS AND INSTITUTIONS OF HIGHER LEARNING

BY: CAROL NGCOBO

THE learners and students from the Department of Basic Education and the Department of Higher Education and Training held a peace walk on February 14 in Durban. The walk started at the Durban Christian Centre and ended at the eThekweni City Hall.

Forming part of the peace walk was the Head of Ministry Dr Ngogi Mahaye, Mr Jomo Sibiyi the member of the PEC and Chairperson of Education and Health Committee, Bishop Bongani Mngadi, Bishop Lindelani Msomi, learners of Thornwood High School, Vuyiswa Mtolo High School and the students of Durban University of Technology.

The purpose of the peace walk was to bring forward safety issues that are affecting learners in schools on daily basis to the Department of Education and other departments which were also invited. One of the issues that were raised for the Department of Education was the unprecedented increase in reports of sexual abuse committed by the educators against young vulnerable girls in schools. "We demand that the Department of Education should implement the necessary disciplinary procedures without fear or favour and those principals or department officials who attempt to conceal these cases should also face the full might of law," said a learner.

Dr Nzama addressed learners on behalf of the MEC. "We are going to take these issues to the relevant offices and the MEC will see it today before sunset", said the HoD. He added that, "as the Department of Education and as the Government we are very honoured for being invited here today and we promise that all the issues that were raised will be taken into consideration."



DESIRE IS THE STARTING POINT FOR SIKHETHUXOLO HIGH SCHOOL

BY: NOMPUMELELO GASA

VISION with action is what kept Sikhethuxolo High School under Pinetown District thriving no matter the difficult circumstances they faced in the 2018 academic year. The school was able to obtain the pass rate of 91.95% in the 2018 NSC results. Sikhethuxolo had faced problems in such a manner that the Head Office had to intervene to support the school. “We thank the Head Office for their interventions that were led by Dr Ngogi Mahaye, the Acting Head of Ministry. Early classes, late classes and Saturday classes have produced good results. During interventions we as educators forgot who we are and where we come from, but focused on working as a team. We all committed ourselves that the starting point for all achievement is desire,” said the Acting School Principal, Mr Busani Khomo, during the launch of Quality Teaching and Learning Programme.

Sikhethuxolo High School recently launched the Quality Teaching and Learning Programme as they believe that quality education is one that focuses on the whole child, the social, emotional, mental, physical and cognitive development of each learner regardless of gender, race, or geographic location. “Quality Education prepares the child for life, not just for testing. As we educate these learners, we want to see them continuing with their studies and being the most respected citizens of our country. We want them to come back educated and uplift their homes and communities,” concluded Mr Khomo.



THE DEPARTMENT AIMS AT 85% MINIMUM TARGET

BY: SIHLE MLOTSHWA

THE Department of Education in KZN held its first extended top management meeting which was led by the HoD, Dr Enock Nzama. The meeting was attended by all DDGs, Chief Directors, District Directors and their management committees. The aim of the meeting which was held at Glenwood Boys High School, was to look at all the matters pertaining to the administration and management of the department.

The HoD commended all the districts for their performance in the 2018 NSC exams. He also thanked all the DDGs for their work in supporting the work of teaching and learning. "This meeting is about setting the tone and setting targets for the year and to ensure that we move beyond the 80% mark," said the HoD in his opening remarks.

The HoD said that as much as there is considerable progress in the provision of infrastructure, the issue of sanitation and ensuring that there are no schools with asbestos, should still be prioritized. The HoD decried the fact that there are some schools that are not functional in the province. He impressed on curriculum managers that they should put more focus on ECD and primary schools education if the department is going to succeed at all levels.

After the presentation by DDGs and engagements with the district officials, it was agreed that the department should not attain less than 85% in the 2019 National Senior Certificate results.







ILEMBE DISTRICT AWARDS CLASS OF 2018

BY: MBALI MCHUNU



“2019 UP WE GO - THERE IS NO TURNING BACK!!!” These were the words used when ILembe District held the awards on February 8, at Stanger High School.

ILembe District awarded the class of 2018 in different categories. The categories during this ceremony were best performing schools, top students, best performing circuit, best performing teacher, etc. This year they target 85%, as they were in position 5 last year.



These Awards were sponsored by Pillow, Zanex, Moses Kotane Foundation, Isibaya Community Trust, University of Zululand and Old Mutual. They all committed themselves in doing good things for the district.

Cllr.D Govender, the Deputy Mayor was the guest at the event. Dr. Vusi Sikhosana (FORMER CES: CIRCUIT MANAGEMENT- UMFOLOZI CMC) gave the purpose of this event and encouraged the winners to improve this year. Dr. LMMS Madondo who is the Director of ILembe District also motivated those who have done well and encouraged them to work even harder.



PINETOWN DISTRICT 2018 NSC AWARDS CEREMONY

BY: MBALI ZULU

THE 2018 NSC Pinetown District Awards Ceremony was held on February 8 at the V.N. Naik School for the Deaf. The Pinetown District Director, Mr Sibusiso Kheswa said excellence is defined as the quality most valuable to the district. Many parents, educators and principals of the schools in the Pinetown District converged at the V.N. Naik to celebrate the excellence of learners in the 2018 NSC Examination. Educators were also honoured for their excellence in contributing towards improving the quality of education and improved pass rate. "During the year 2019 as Pinetown District we will be *WALKING WITH HONOUR* and we are doing things with honour, we want to see Pinetown District excel." These were sentiments shared by the Pinetown District Director to the diverse audience during the ceremony.

JG Zuma High School under the leadership of Mr Thulani Mthembu was one of the schools that performed exceptional well in the 2018 NSC exams and acknowledged the Director's Award. "As a school we are very fortunate that we have highly dedicated educators who work selflessly and tirelessly. We work as a collective whereby each educator supports the other and the management gives full support to all educators. Our morning, afternoon, weekend classes and the supervised evening studies are our secret for success. We always believe in going an extra mile in whatever we do," said Mr Mthembu. In conclusion, Mr Mthembu expressed his gratitude to the commitment and support given by the SEM and SGB members.





DOOR TO DOOR CAMPAIGN

BY: BONGISWA XULU

ON February 5, the door to door campaign for the 2019 learner admission took place for the first time in the year 2019 at the Ilembe District. The purpose of the campaign is to make sure that every child that has to be at school is indeed in school and also encourage families that are living with children with any kind of disabilities that there are special schools for such children with special needs.

Following a gathering that was held at Ezindlovini Combined School, four groups were formed that were deployed in different areas surrounding Indwedwe Local Municipality (ward 14). A total of 28 families were visited. The briefing took place after door to door visits that's when the presentation was done by each and every team leader. During the presentation, some challenges were identified and there were donations made to some families.

Forming part of the team was Dr Ngogi Mahaye who was representing the MEC, the officials from the MEC's Office, the officials from the Governance and Management Directorate and the officials from the Ilembe District.



RURAL EDUCATION ACADEMIC SUPPORT WORKSHOP

BY: LINDIWE MLABA

THE Acting Director of Rural and Inclusive Education, Mrs TPJ Khoza led the provincial seminar of all Districts in Kwa-Zulu Natal, which took place on February 4 at Dokkies in Durban. The aim was to deliberate on challenges faced by rural schools, to ensure that there is an integration in education and teachers development to improve the system of learning. The proposed agenda of the meeting was based on discovering toolkits to improve results for the schools and ensuring school's needs are met, as well as adapting programmes at scale to ensure quality learning and academic support in rural schools. Electronic learning was perceived as one of the tools that schools can use to improve the curriculum.



AMAJUBA OPERATION SUKUMA SAKHE

BY: MBALI ZULU

ON January 30, The Provincial Cabinet was deployed throughout the Amajuba District. The MEC for Education, Mthandeni Dlungwana, accompanied by HoD champion, Mr Thando Tubane and Cllr Bawinile Khumalo, visited eMzondo area of Dicks in Ward 7 under the traditional leadership of Inkosi Siwela Kubheka. The day started with the visit to the war room to monitor functionality of the war room. He further visited Buhlebomzinyathi High School where he monitored the school's functionality. The MEC also met with residents at Khethokuhle Primary School in a huge marquee where various issues on service delivery were raised. In his address to the residents, the MEC urged them to work together with the local leadership in their municipality to tackle issues in a positive manner. He also urged the community to look after the schools.



PROPOSED UPGRADES AND ADDITIONS AT DINGUKWAZI HIGH SCHOOL

DINGUKWAZI HIGH SCHOOL





INTRODUCTION OF THE CONTRACTOR FOR DINGUKWAZI SECONDARY SCHOOL

BY: XOLI THOMPSON

THE joy was all over the faces of learners, educators and School Governing Body members of Dingukwazi Secondary School as the contractor started to build their school. An amount of R100 million will be used to build this state of the art school in the area of Olubise-Phongolo, under Zululand District. The contractor was introduced by the HOD, Dr Nzama on January 29.

Addressing the packed audience, the HoD said, “The school that we are going to build for you, look after it, and make use of it with care so that whoever will be using it in the coming year, finds it in good condition.” The HoD also emphasized that Dingukwazi Secondary School was one of the schools that the MEC prioritised and that it should be completed by May 2021.



SONA PRONOUNCEMENT ON EDUCATION BY PRESIDENT CYRIL RAMAPHOSA - 2019

“In line with our framework for skills for a changing world. We are expanding the training both educators and learners to respond to emerging technologies including the internet of things, robotics and artificial intelligence”.

“Several new technology subject and specialisations will be introduced, including technical mathematics and technical sciences, maritime sciences, aviation studies, mining sciences and aquaponics”.

“We conducted an audit last year and found that nearly 4000 schools still have inappropriate sanitation facilities. we have launched the SAFE initiative in august last year, through which they mobilised all available resources, including pledges from business, strategic partners and the building industry to replace all unsafe toilets in public schools”.

“Over the next six years we will provide every school child in South Africa with digital workbook and textbooks on a tablet device”.

“We will start with those schools that have been historically most disadvantaged and are located in the poorest communities, including multigrade, multiphase, farm and rural schools”.

“This year we will migrate responsibility for ECD centres from Social Development to Basic Education, proceed with the process toward two years of compulsory ECD of all children before they enter grade 1”.

“We will be substantially expanding the availability of these early reading resources across the foundation phase of schooling”.

“Since we launched the initiative, 699 schools have been provided with safe and appropriate sanitation facilities and projects in further 1,150 schools are either in planning, design or construction stages”.



BUDGET SPEECH 2019: PRONOUNCEMENTS ON EDUCATION

BUDGET

BASIC EDUCATION – R250.4 BN

EDUCATION ADMINISTRATION – R17.6 BN

“Over R30 billion is allocated to build new schools and maintain schooling infrastructure. An additional R2.8 billion is added to the School infrastructure Backlogs grant to replace pit latrines at over 2 400 schools. But to make certain these schools are effective centers of learning will also require parents to be a visible and constructive part in the governance of schools”.

“Our children are our future, most the spending goes to education, and we will strengthen early childhood development”.

“Learning and culture receives the largest share of spending as Government continues to access quality basic and higher education, develop skills, provide training and contribute to social cohesion.

“Our budget spending has to focus on getting our country ready for technology. The first step is to fix the education system. Government is rolling out a Maths and Science grant”.



PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL BUDGET ADDRESSED BY: MS B.F SCOTT MEC FOR FINANCE

ON TABLING OF THE 2019/20 MTEF BUDGET IN THE PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

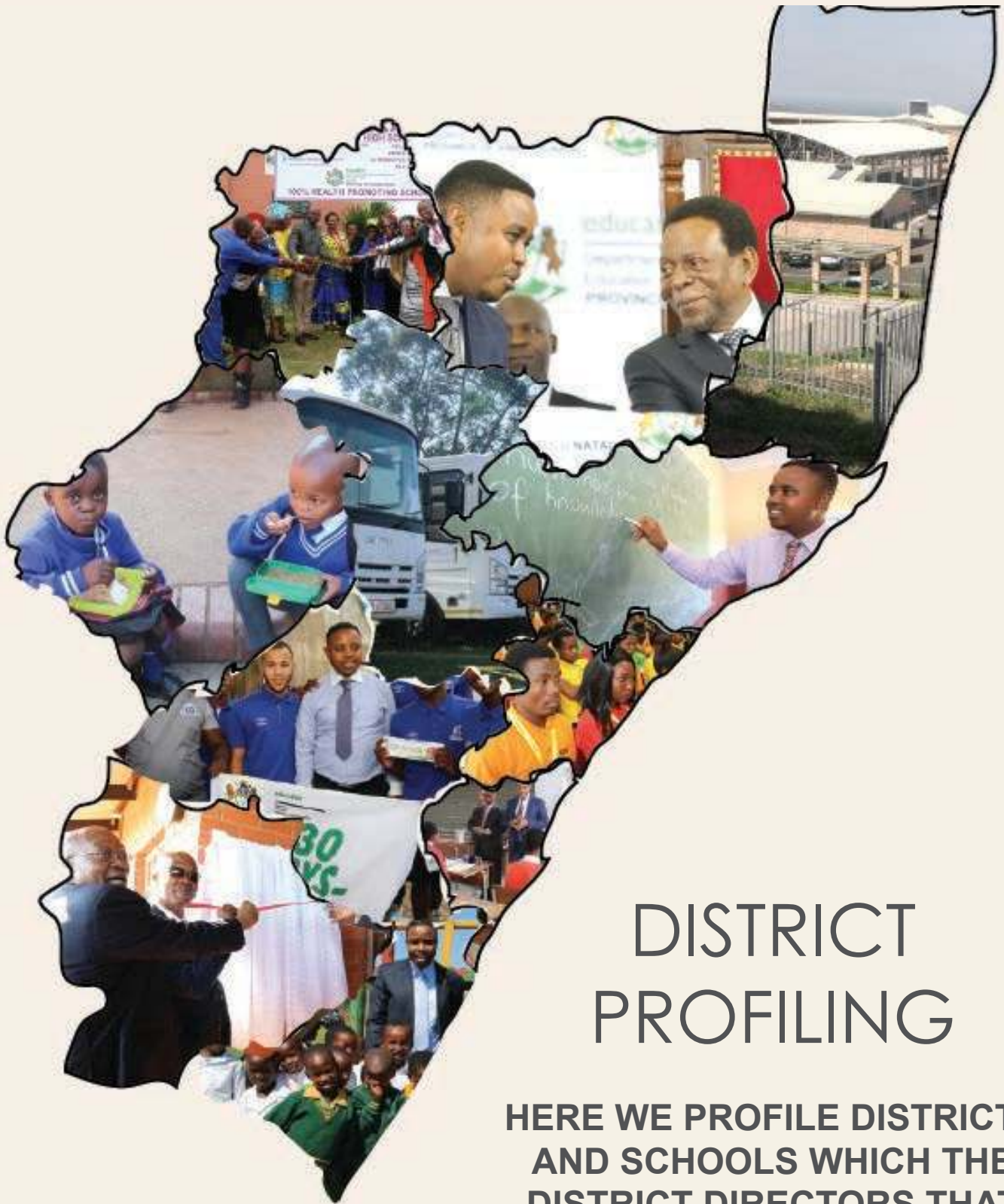
THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IS BUDGETING TO SPEND R7.6 BILLION OVER THE 2019/20 MTEF. THE FOLLOWING ARE SOME OF THE INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS THAT WILL BE UNDERTAKEN:

Dingukwazi Secondary School in the Zululand district will receive major upgrades amounting R90 million.

Pholela Special School in Harry Gwala district which entails the continued construction of a new school with a budget of of R109 million allocated.

Open Gates Special School in uMgungundlovu district which will see major upgrades being done in the amount of R80 million.

Collingwood Primary School in uMlazi district which relates to the construction of a new school is allocated R80 million.



DISTRICT PROFILING

**HERE WE PROFILE DISTRICTS
AND SCHOOLS WHICH THE
DISTRICT DIRECTORS THAT
THINK PERFORMED WELL -
OTHERS UNDER DIFFICULT
CONDITIONS.**

MENZI HIGH SCHOOL

Ms. T. Ntombela

Menzi High School is one of the well achieving schools in the Umlazi District. It maintains good results by preparing a year ahead, keeping matric students for longer hours to ensure they get sufficient study time and all study materials needed such as textbooks and stationary. Admission is only open for Grade 8 learners so learners can adapt to the school culture quickly. Early grooming is critical, said the School Principal, Ms. Thulisile Ntombela. She also adds that learners are constantly supervised so a relief programme is always in place to ensure that learners are never left unattended to. They operate on an analysis that only considers raw marks without Continuous Assessment (CASS). This helps focus on the true reflection of their performance. This year's focus is mainly on Mathematics in the Grade 8 and 9 to instill a good foundation since there seems to be a gap in the learners skills in this grade that ultimately affects their performance in matric. The school faces challenges such as illnesses attacking mostly matric students and also underlying problems such as pregnancy and drug abuse. The school motto is **"The Year ends when it begins"**.

- by: *Siphokazi Ndlovu*



UMLAZI DISTRICT

Mr P.N. Cele

Umlazi District is among the districts which have improved in the 2018 NSC results. As a district Umlazi has faced some problems and challenges. Mr. Cele mentioned that despite instability in some schools, they aim to increase the results by 5%. Mr Cele said each school is expected to increase with no less than 10%. "Reaching the milestone of 85% with the resources provided will not be difficult." said the District Director.



OTHUKELA DISTRICT SIYAPHASA FOR SURE

Ms P. Mokoena

OThukela District had a very high number of progressed learners (in 2018). Their target is 80% - 85% and to improve on their results they'll conduct quarterly content workshops, weekend camps for learners and strengthening of SBA administration. The district did various things including mentoring of schools, SWOT analysis for progressed learners and motivational talks to learners and educators. The districts' motto is **"Siyaphasa for sure."** Despite many adversities facing the school did exceptionally well under the leadership of Ms Nondumiso W Nxasana.

EMAHLWANENI HIGH SCHOOL

Ms N. Nxasana

Emahlwaneni High School under the leadership of Ms Nondumiso Nxasana did exceptionally well, in the 2018 NSC results. Ms Nxasana reported not to have any challenges which is reflected by the 100% pass rate, meaning all the learners passed. "Although the district target is 80% - 85% we are looking to achieve 100% again," said Ms Nxasana.

- by: *Nduduzo Buthelezi*



UMZINYATHI DISTRICT

Mr S. Kheswa

Umzinyathi District was one of the improved districts in the NSC results. “If it was not for the supportive team we wouldn’t have made it this far,” said Mr Sphiwe Kheswa. He also mentioned the challenges that they face of not having enough resources, but that couldn’t prevent them from striving for the best. They conducted workshops at all levels and also applied the SWOT analysis which worked well in their favour. Mr Kheswa said that this year they are positive that they will do even better and they want every learner from Grade R to Grade 12, subject teachers and Subject Advisors to have his/her own target that they are going to account against.



Mr Mazibuko

Ilangamadoda was one of the schools that did very well in the 2018 NSC results in the uMzinyathi District. “We tried to complete our syllabus earlier and embarked on intensive revision programme for two weeks which was one of the strategies we used in order to obtain these results,” said the school principal Mr Mazibuko, who also said time was not enough to fit with their plan and they could not keep learners as they like because of the distance learners walk to get home. Mr Mazibuko says the school motto for this year is **“shine where you are.”** Despite the challenges we face as a deep rural school we have to carry our heads above the water, we need to shine and show our existence,” he said

- by: **Phumla Dlamini**



ILEMBE DISTRICT

Dr MMLS. Madondo

“Looking UP, thinking UP and going UP” is the motto for Ilembe, which is one of the district that has been improving tremendously, from 64.91% in 2017 and obtained 71.1% in 2018. The District Director, Dr Musawenkosi Madondo said they have strategically allocated resources to the academic improvement plan, “We then ensured the implementation of all activities of the plan” he said. “What has been a major challenge in 2018 for us were the teacher’s protests, and service delivery protests. What we want to do better to improve in 2019 is to monitor learner and teacher attendance and also to improve district support to underperforming schools. Our target as the district is to obtain 83-85% for the 2019 NSC exams,” said Dr Madondo



NONHLEVU SECONDARY SCHOOL

Mr M. Sithole

Nonhlevu Secondary is one of the schools that performed well in the district, even though it had bigger number of 188 candidates who set for NSC examinations in 2018, but they still managed to achieve 91.49% pass rate. The Deputy Principal, Mr Dumisani Zondi, Speaking on behalf of the School Principal, Mr Mzwandile Sithole, stated that the dedication shown by teachers through providing extra classes in the morning, afterschool, Saturday and during holiday classes has yielded great results. Substance abuse was one of the challenges they encountered and children not being serious about classes. “This year we are aiming for 100% so that if we fall, we don’t fall far from our target” said Mr Zondi. The School motto is (Qhubekela ekujuleni) which means enduring till the end.

- by: **Sbonisiwe Shezi**



HARRY GWALA DISTRICT

Ms Z. Zakuza-Njakazi

“I feel that the greatest reward for doing is the opportunity to do more”, expressed the Harry Gwala District Director: Ms Sindisiwe Njakazi, following the achievement of 76% NSC results in 2018. The District Director said that, “it was all through team work despite the challenge of vacant posts, we have been able to cultivate the culture of strengthening teaching and learning”. She further outlined that Harry Gwala is aiming at 80% this year and they have content workshops for teachers, mini tests for subjects with performances below 65% and Circuit Managers are to ensure the commencement of these programmes.

ENSIKENI SECONDARY SCHOOL

Mr D. Mpompi

Situated in the deep rural settlement, Ensikeni Secondary School has defied the odds by achieving 100% matric results consistently for the past 5 years. “Dynamites do come in small packages indeed” said the delightful principal, Mr Daniel Mpompi. He also stated that, even though the school does not have a science laboratory, library, proper teaching and learning facilities, the aim still stands at 100%. However, Mr Mpompi says their motto is **“We strive for world excellence”** - quite evidently so.”

- by: **Thembeke Mchunu**



AMAJUBA DISTRICT

(A) Mr Kubheka

Teamwork is one of the most vital competencies, it is behind Amajuba District outstanding performance. Amajuba district got the first position in the 2018 NSC results districts rankings. “Determination and hardwork is the secret behind our performance,” said the Acting District Director, Mr Kubheka, who spoke confidently and proud about his district performance. “Shortage of teachers and drugs abuse challenged us, but did not stop us from achieving our goal. Our aim is to reach 90% this year and I am assured that we will achieve it with the assistance of our team. We came from third position up to the leading district.” With the spirit that we have, we are going places,” said Mr Kubheka. He thanked the officials from the department for their programmes and assistance which made a huge difference. “We strive to give the best results and keep this position,” he said.



ZAMA HIGH SCHOOL

Zama High School under Amajuba District is one of the schools which did very well in the 2018 NSC results. “The school performed very well and it’s due to the involvement of the district officials and QLTC. Matric learners reports are issued every month and participation is done and parental involvement is the key,” said Mr Kubheka. He complained about the unavailability of revision material sometimes due to the issues of photocopying material. “To reach the target percentage (85%), learners and educators should be motivated to be able to work beyond the call of duty and contact time should be prioritised,” said Mr Kubheka.

- by: **Sinethemba Dlamini**



UMGUNGUNDLOVU DISTRICT

Mr S. Mabinza

“As a district we do have District Academic Improvement and Strategic Action Plans. We have crafted a separate academic programme for progressed learners. They are separately taught during morning, afternoon, Saturdays and holiday classes by their respective subject teachers. Again, we ensured that these classes are monitored,” said the District Director, Mr Siquhamo Mabinza. The staffing issues was a major challenge for them in 2018, nevertheless their target this year is between 85% and 90%. Mr Mabinza said they will consolidate multi-disciplinary team visits to all under performing schools being guided by Department of Basic Education (DBE) circular D2 of 2017. Mr Mabinza said their motto this year is **‘Working together to take our children to a brighter future, sihamba sonke.’**



KWA MNCANE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr MJS Dlamini

Mr MJS Dlamini the principal of KwaMncane High School said that they embarked on a number of different engagements with their learners which include extra classes, networking with Gobindlovu High School, motivational talks from different stakeholders and night vigils because they had learners residing at the school. “Teachers took turns in giving evening classes,” he said. The principal stated that the challenge of the school is that it is in a violent community and learners bring their fighting within the school premises as a result teaching and learning was disrupted in May 2018 for almost 3 days. “This year we intend to intensify our previous year’s engagement with the learners and set up more cluster schools in the circuit where the learners will be taught by teachers from surrounding schools,” said the principal. Their motto for this year **‘WORK WITH PRIDE.’**

- by: **Nombulelo Shezi**



UGU DISTRICT

Mr MW. Sibiyi

Ugu District got second position in the 2018 NSC results ranking. “We focused on capacity building of teachers through subject specific content workshops, ensured school based assessment and moderation was taken seriously. We also strengthened the partnerships amongst stakeholders to drive our achievement,” said the District Director, Mr Mfundi Sibiyi, who said their major challenges are human resources such as quality of educators, lack of science and mathematics educators and long process of appointments. Mr Sibiyi said their mantra for this year is **“teamwork and decisive management is the key to unlocking the potential of their learners.”** He said this year they want to do better to improve more by sustaining and monitoring of curriculum delivery in schools and collaborate interventions as required. “Our target for this year is a minimum of 85% and to increase the bachelor passes by 5%. The district is driven by teamwork and decisive management,” said Mr Sibiyi who concluded by saying “working hand in hand we hope to take our district to higher levels.”

PORTSHEPSTONE SECONDARY

Mr G. Odayar

The District Director congratulated Port Shepstone Secondary School for their achievement in the 2018 NCS result. “The one of the reason why the school get result is because the teachers work as a team, they do morning and afternoon classes and also attend on Saturdays without any set of conditions,” said the principal, Mr Ganganathan Odayar. He continued mentioned major challenges that faced the school where most of learners were attacked by various illness – especially the matriculants and that time was is never enough. The motto of the school this year is **“Strive to give out your best despite of challenges.”** This year we want to reach 100%, if all resources are available,” said Mr Ganganathan Odayar.

- by: **Zinhle Mtolo**



KING CETSHWAYO DISTRICT

Mr D. Chonco

King Cetshwayo District managed to obtain a 73,9% pass rate in 2018 NSC results. District Director of King Cetshwayo, Mr David Chonco believes that dedication of educators and various Grade 12 support programmes put into place has helped the district to do well in the 2018 NSC results. "Our focus in 2018 was on getting improved matric results, winter and spring classes, curriculum coverage, lesson plans, content workshops and setting performance targets was amongst our priorities," said Mr Chonco. In spite of one major challenge, which is filling of critical office based posts like circuit management and Subject Advisors, King Cetshwayo District will work with the available workforce to reach new heights in 2019. Mr Chonco says this year the focus is on "greater collaboration with stakeholders who can assist the district in Maths, Science, Geography and Accounting in order to meet the desired 80-85% pass rate which we want to achieve as a district".

ESHOWE HIGH SCHOOL

Mr Curtis

Eshowe High School was recognized as the best performing High School by King Cetshwayo's District Director, Mr David Chonco in the class of 2018. "Our motto is getting to the classrooms and teaching. One of the main things about our school is that we can't do anything without discipline. We first have to make sure our classrooms are a disciplined environment and also ensure our learners know exactly how to behave. The teachers main function is to teach, my function and that of management is to ensure the environment is conducive for teaching and learning, that is why I am always on my feet walking around the school property to make sure work is being done," said Mr Curtis, Principal of Eshowe High School. Despite the biggest challenge of poor infrastructure, Mr Curtis says the consistent yearly pass rate of 100% will be maintained. "We have been getting a 100% pass rate for many years and this year, we are planning on avoiding a situation where a single learner fails, something which occurred in 2018,".

- by: **Ntando Nsusha**



PINETOWN DISTRICT

Mr S. Kheswa

KWATHINTWA SCHOOL FOR THE DEAF

Kwathintwa School for the Deaf is a Special Needs School located in the Pinetown District. The school achieved a 100% pass rate for the fifth year in a row. The Audiologist, Caitlin Wafield, spoke on behalf of the principal saying that they provided extra lessons on weekends, holidays and encouraged learners to use native tongues to understand subjects better. "Funding is the big challenge for the school", said Caitlin. She concluded by saying that they want to ensure the individual quality of a pass rate. Their motto is "Sithintwe ngomoya sezwa."

- by: **Lindiwe Mlaba**



UMKHANYAKUDE DISTRICT

Mr T.J. Motha

Even though Umkhanyakude District is the most rural district in KZN, it obtained position 3 in the province for the 2018 NSC result with a pass percentage of 78.1%. To reach this pass rate, the district officials had to mentor and coach school principals, work with all stakeholders to motivate and support schools and hold boot camps to support poorly performing learners. The district has a limited budget to support learners and camps for maths and accounting which is a challenge in producing good results. "We want to support Maths, Accounting, Business Studies and Maths Literacy in order to boost academic performance. We have a target of 88.5% pass rate for the 2019 NSC examination and there is nothing that is going to stop us from reaching this target." said the District Director, Mr Thanduyise Motha.



SINETHEZEKILE COMBINED SCHOOL

Mr NH. Mkhwanazi

Sinethezekile Combined School is among the largest school in uMkhanyakude District with a track record of excellent results. It is situated in deep rural area of Makhonyeni. The principal, Mr Nkosinathi Mkhwanazi believes that this is a result of collective effort and the culture of discipline and excellence that runs in the blood of all stakeholders within the school. They have afternoon classes which start at 16:00 to 18:00 from Monday to Thursday from the beginning of the year. The school give learners more tests apart from what is stipulated for them monthly and quarterly. In 2017, they got 84%, last year they got 99.02% and this year they target 100% in matric. Their motto for this year Matric 2019 is a **"Taking Life to the next level!"**

- by: Mbali Mchunu



ZULULAND DISTRICT

Mr Ndlovu

Zululand District is the most improved district in the 2018 NSC examinations, with 8.97% improvement. "Despite the urban-rural divide, lack of basic necessities such as electricity and running water, we did our best to improve our pass rate. We thank the relationship with the stakeholder's, despite the major challenge that was the critical vacant posts, we were able to improve. We are willing to intensify the 2019 programmes which are extra tuition programmes namely: Maths Saturday programme, 1 + 9 Maths programme, winter classes, spring classes and lastly the last push programme. Our 2019 target is 83.8% overall pass percentage and 35% Bachelor passes," said Mr Ndlovu the District Director who says this year's motto is **"Operation moving beyond limit."**



PHUMANYOVA HIGH SCHOOL

Mr Ncala

Phumanyova High School in Nongoma got 100% with 91.44% Bachelor pass. "We had programmes that really helped us to improve. We opened before school opens, at 06:30 and break at 14:30, had after classes at 17:30 – 20:30, study on holidays, give learners monthly tests and did revisions every week. We had one major challenge that was not having proper toilets. "Our 2019 target is to maintain 91.44% bachelor passes. Our school motto for this year is **"Hard work and coercion leads to success,"** says Mr Ncala.

- by: Bongiswa Xulu

EDU-SPORT





PRIMARY SCHOOL'S ATHLETICS EVENT

BY: XOLI THOMPSON

THE Department of Education with the Department of Sports and Recreation as part of the School Sports Program in encouraging learners to play sports and embrace an active healthy lifestyle held the 2019 Summer Games Championships in Durban.

Schools from various areas around KwaZulu-Natal came in numbers to attend the Summer Games Championships that were held on the 15th of February 2019. The games kicked off at 07h00 with a 5 and 10 kilometres in full walk at Kings Park Athletics Stadium.

Over 811 learners from all 12 districts around the Province competed in various track and field disciplines in preparation for the National Championships that will be held at Gauteng Province in March this year.

The stadium was packed with children, teachers and parents supporting the learners. Athletes competed against each other in different fields in accordance to their age groups of under 9, 14 and 15.

THE OUTCOME POSITIONS FOR 2019 PROVINCIAL KZN ATHLETICS WERE AS FOLLOWS IN DISTRICT

1. First position: Amajuba District
2. Second position: Umlazi District
3. Third Position: Pinetown

THE FIVE (5) FIELD CODES THAT WERE REPRESENTED ARE AS FOLLOWS:

- Long Jump
- High Jump
- Short put
- Discus
- Javelin



GALLERY





S.O.P.A.