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PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

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## THE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES MEC KWAZI MSHENGU



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## NOTE FROM THE EDITOR

### KWAZI MSHENGU – MAKING EDUCATION FASHIONABLE

“Education is about acquiring knowledge and contributing to the society – we should even “gloat” about it and make education fashionable.” These words were said by the MEC during his graduation ceremony in April last year. Mshengu said these words not knowing that exactly a year later, he would be responsible not only for the education department, but for the biggest education department in the country. It would not be too far-fetched to construe these words by the MEC as having been prophetic – that his tenure in the Department of Education is going to be characterised by nothing other than making education fashionable. His timely appointment is going to inspire more than 2.8 million young people, who happen to be our learners, to fly the education flag even higher.

The deployment of MEC Mshengu to the department (few days before the youth month), could not have come at a more appropriate time. It is a vote of confidence to the young people and their ability to lead. His deployment speaks to the fruits of the sacrifices that were made by the youth of 1976. The youth of 1976 died so that young people like MEC Mshengu can be given an opportunity to realise their full potential. Given the manner in which he has served and performed in his responsibilities, both past and present, we have every reason to be optimistic.

MEC Mshengu, who is also the Chairperson of the ANC Youth League in the province, hold a Masters in Law, from the University of KwaZulu-Natal. Chagwe (his clan name), also holds an Honours degree in public policy and development studies from UKZN. Whether he is going to pursue a second Masters in public policy or pursue a PhD in Law, it's all up to him – it is all so fashionable.

Since his appointment (as you will read in this edition of Edu-News), the MEC has hit the ground running. He started his engagement by officially opening the state-of-the-art education centre at Durban Girls High School. Mshengu has addressed the staff at the Pietermaritzburg City Hall, met with teacher unions, conducted a surprise visit at Laduma High School and met with disgruntled Phoenix parents association. It was on a rather sombre note however, that barely two weeks into his portfolio, MEC Mshengu had to visit the family of a learner who tragically died in the car accident at eMpangeni and also visited the injured learners at Ngwelezane Hospital. Such is life, you take the bitter with the sweet.

We wish MEC Kwazi Mshengu all the strength and the wisdom of Solomon as he makes education fashionable. His sharp mind and his youthful exuberance are some of the traits that are certainly going to see him through.

In the words of the erstwhile President of the Republic, “However improbable it may sound to the sceptics,” the time for young people to lead is upon us and nothing is going to stand in the way of the idea whose time has come.

- SIHLE MLOTSHWA



## THE HOD WELCOMES MEC MSHENGU

**T**HE Head of Department, Dr Enock Vusumuzi Nzama, welcomes the appointment of the MEC, Kwazikwenkosi Mshengu as the new MEC for the Department of Education in KwaZulu-Natal. “It is with great pleasure that we welcome the Honourable MEC Mshengu to the education portfolio. We have no doubt that he is going to significantly contribute to the education outcomes upward trajectory that we are currently enjoying as a province and that we are going to work together as a team to ensure that we continue to improve the outcomes of education at all levels for all the people of KwaZulu-Natal. As the Department of Education in the province, we welcome MEC Mshengu and undertake to support him in the fulfillment and the attainment of the vision that he brings to the Department,” said Dr Nzama.

### DBE welcomes Minister and new Deputy Minister for Basic Education



Mrs Angie Motshekga has been reappointed as the Minister for Basic Education! Minister Motshekga was first appointed Minister of Basic Education in 2009 when the previous Department of Education was split into two departments.

Dr Reginah Mhaule has been appointed as the new Deputy Minister for Basic Education. Dr Mhaule, who was appointed as a Member of Parliament during February 2018, has been serving as Deputy Minister for International Relations and Cooperation from 27 February 2016. She served as MEC for Education in Mpumalanga from 2009 until 2018.

During an engagement session with DBE employees a week ago, Minister Motshekga identified the major focus areas for the next administration: “We have stabilised the Basic Education Sector by improving access; however, more still needs to be done. One of the key aspects for the sixth administration relates to issues of quality and efficiency, and providing citizens with a dividend of democracy”.





## MEC OPENS THE STATE-OF-THE-ART EDUCATION CENTRE

BY: BONGISWA XULU

**O**n the 31st of May, the MEC for Education in KwaZulu-Natal, Kwazi Mshengu, together with the Head of Department, officially opened the Durban Girls High School Education Centre.

The District Director, Mr Ntokozo Cele and the Principal, Mrs Hayes-Hill, briefed both the MEC and the HOD about the centre. After the briefing, the HoD said, “as the department we are pleased that this school always ensure that it gives us 100% pass rate. We are very proud and encouraged to do more for this school. To the sponsors who helped build this ideal block, we are very grateful and honoured.”

Addressing learners for the first time since his appointment, the MEC said he was fascinated that learners contributed to the building of the education centre. “I invite people to be active partners to contribute in making sure that education becomes a success. I also encourage you learners to excel where you are in order to achieve good performance and make our province proud. I really appreciate the help of the sponsors who contributed to the building of this centre,” said the MEC.



# SASCE 2019

BY: THOKOZANI SIBISI

THE theme for the 2019 Eisteddfod is “Celebrating 25 years of our democracy.” The prescription and music is aligned to the theme. We are inspired by the talent that has emerged from this choral music competition. The Eisteddfod at its 19th year, remains one of the critical school enrichment programs that promotes national reconciliation, national identity, social transformation and social cohesion among learners. Eisteddfod represents our values as a nation while at the same time giving learners an opportunity to have fun and exhibit exceptional talent. This year the Eisteddfod happens soon after celebrating Africa month, it is therefore worth mentioning that we showcase our diverse culture and talent through folklore-indigenous music and dance. This gives learners a platform to demonstrate that as a country we are united in our diversity through cultural expression.





## MEC MSHENGU MEETS HEAD OFFICE STAFF

BY: PHUMLA DLAMINI

**T**HE MEC, Mr Kwazi Mshengu, held a meeting with the Head Office staff members at Msunduzi City Hall in Pietermaritzburg. The MEC thanked all employees for availing themselves for the meeting. Addressing the packed hall the MEC said, "I invite all of us to see value in the work that we do in the department and every day you need to reflect and ask yourself, did your work add any value to the department?" The MEC warned the officials not to allow themselves to be given any illegal instructions not even by himself. He then concluded by saying each and every person must be held responsible and accountable for his or her work and that they will not allow any form of laziness. "We must deliver quality services on time," concluded the MEC.





## SURPRISE VISIT AT LADUMA HIGH SCHOOL

BY: SBONISIWE SHEZI

ON the 4th of June, The MEC for Education in KwaZulu-Natal, Kwazi Mshengu together with the Head of Department, Dr Enoch Nzama, conducted a surprise visit at Laduma High School. KwaMpumuza, under uMgungundlovu District.

During the meeting with the staff, the principal, Mr Peter Masikane, gave a brief profile of the school and said that in 2017 the school obtained 65% in the NSC results and dropped to 47.14% in 2018. He further mentioned the challenges that are faced by the school, which are late coming of teachers and learners, the problem of not having the SGB, as well as drugs and substance abuse.



The MEC in his remarks, spoke about the filthy state of the school premises and said that one can tell entering the premises that the school has a problem. About late coming of teachers and learners, he requested a list of late comers and told to Circuit Managers to play their role in consequence management. "We can't have 47% this year while our target in the province is 85%. We need a comprehensive plan to turn around the performance of this school", said the MEC. On the issue of drugs and substance abuse, the MEC advised the principal to request police to regularise random searching of learners.

The HOD also complained about the teaching and learning culture of the school, which he said, "is not strong." He requested a school improvement plan on how they will increase the pass rate in 2019.

## MEC VISITS THE FAMILY OF THE DECEASED LEARNER

BY: SIHLE MLOTSHWA

**U**PON hearing the sad news of the accident that took place on Friday, 07 June 2019, near Empangeni, involving a bakkie transporting learners, the MEC and the HoD woke up early the following day to visit learners who were recovering at Ngwelezana Hospital, as well as the family of a learners who passed away during the tragic accident.



The MEC was accompanied by the Mayor of Umhlatuze, Cllr Mdu Mhlongo, as well as the District Director, Dr David Chonco. The MEC decried the fact that these learners were transported in the bakkie, which is against the law. “Worse still, this bakkie was overloaded, given that it is reported that there were 19 learners in it,” said the MEC. The MEC wished all the injured learners a speedy recovery and went to the family house of the deceased learner, where he conveyed his words of condolences on behalf of the department.

# DISTRICT PROFILING

The following segment contains the profiles of top performing learners (for all the 12 districts). These are learners who made the province proud in the 2018 National Senior Certificate exams. We decided to track these shining starts and find out about their current studies, current tertiary institutions and asked them to give advice to other fellow learners.



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BY: NOMBULELO SHEZI

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**NAME:** Rachael Rose Job  
**AGE:** 19  
**NAME OF SCHOOL:** Pietermaritzburg Girls High School  
**DISTRICT:** UMgungundlovu  
**RESULTS OBTAINED:** NSC Exams passed with Bachelor and obtained 8 distinctions in English Home Language, Afrikaans First Additional Language, Mathematics, Physical Science, Life Sciences, Life Orientation, Accounting and Information Technology.  
**SECRETS OF SUCCESS:** There is no secret just hard work.  
**ADVICE TO OTHERS:** You can only do your best so make peace with that. There is no substitute for hard work. Focus on your studies, join study groups and use past papers for revision.  
**CURRENT STUDIES:** Studying Actuarial Science at the University of Stellenbosch



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BY: BONGISWA XULU

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**NAME:** Kleynhans Annika  
**AGE:** 18  
**NAME OF SCHOOL:** Pionier High School  
**DISTRICT:** Zululand  
**RESULTS OBTAINED:** NSC Exams passed with Bachelor: Obtained 7 distinctions in Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, Geography, Afrikaans Home Language, English FAL and Life Orientation.  
**SECRET OF SUCCESS:** Study a lot, do tasks and assignments on time.  
**ADVICE TO OTHERS:** Give your absolute best, it's worth it at the end and the feeling of satisfaction will overflow when you achieve all your goals. Always remember that you are the master of your own life and that the brightness of your future is depending on you.  
**CURRENT STUDIES:** Studying Pharmacy at the North Western University.





BY: PHUMLA DLAMINI

**NAME:** Karl Thom  
**AGE:** 18  
**NAME OF SCHOOL:** Dundee High School  
**DISTRICT:** UMzinyathi  
**RESULTS OBTAINED:** NSC Exams passed with Bachelor: Obtained 8 distinctions in English HL, Afrikaans FAL, Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Accounting, Business Economics, Business Studies and Life Orientation.  
**SECRET OF SUCCESS:** A lot of hard work and study every day.  
**ADVICE TO OTHERS:** Keep on working hard and the results will show.  
**CURRENT STUDIES:** Studying Bachelor of Commerce at the University of Pretoria.



BY: SINETHEMBA DLAMINI

**NAME:** Ndlovu Bongumenzi Cedric  
**AGE:** 17  
**NAME OF SCHOOL:** Zama High School  
**DISTRICT:** Amajuba  
**RESULTS OBTAINED:** NSC Exams passed with Bachelor: Obtained 7 distinctions in IsiZulu, English First Additional Language, Mathematics, Life Orientation, Geography, Life Sciences, and Physical Sciences.  
**SECRET OF SUCCESS:** There is no secret to success, I worked very hard before matric. At the beginning of the year, I did revision with previous matric question papers. My family, teachers and the principal encouraged me throughout the year to work hard.  
**ADVICE TO OTHERS:** Dedicate all your time in your studies. Avoid doing unnecessary things like using cellphone, watching tv and hanging out with friends. Do your homework and ask for clarity if you do not understand.  
**CURRENT STUDIES:** Studying Bachelor of Medicine and Surgery (MBCHB) at the University of Cape Town.



BY: ZINHLE MTOLO

**NAME:** Ashraf Irshaad Moosa  
**AGE:** 18  
**NAME OF SCHOOL:** Scottburgh High School  
**DISTRICT:** Ugu  
**RESULT OBTAINED:** NSC Exams passed with Bachelor: Obtained 9 distinctions in English (HL), Afrikaans (FAL), Mathematics, Life Science, Accounting, History and Advanced Programme Mathematics.

**SECRET OF SUCCESS:** There is no “secret for success”. I attribute my success to hard work and dedication to my studies. No matter your intelligence quotient, talent or resources you have access to, hard work pays off.

**ADVICE TO OTHERS:** Work hard throughout the year. Do not leave anything to the last minutes. Most importantly, use your study guide – they aren’t ornaments only to be used days before an exam. Achieving good results is not as difficult as it seems.

**CURRENT STUDIES:** Studying MBCHB (Medicine) at University of Cape Town (UCT).



BY: SBONISIWE SHEZI AND KHETHIWE DLAMINI

**NAME:** Evashen Morgan Pillay  
**AGE:** 17  
**NAME OF SCHOOL:** Stanger Manor Secondary School  
**DISTRICT:** ILembe  
**RESULTS OBTAINED:** NSC Exams passed with bachelor and obtained 7 distinctions: Accounting, Afrikaans FAL, English HL, Physical Sciences, Mathematics, Life Sciences, Life Orientation and he also obtained 1st position in the district and number 8th position in the Province. “I worked hard, believed in myself and prayed. I was dedicated and self-disciplined”.

**SECRET OF SUCCESS:** “I worked hard, believed in myself and prayed. I was dedicated and self-disciplined”.

**ADVICE TO OTHERS:** “My advice to other learners is to believe in themselves work hard, listen to educators and revise with past year papers”.

**CURRENT STUDIES:** Studying Medicine at Nelson Mandela School of Medicine in UKZN.



BY: THEMBEKA MCHUNU

**NAME:** Zwelenkosi Siviwe Mqwambi  
**AGE:** 18  
**NAME OF SCHOOL:** Clydesdale Senior Secondary School  
**DISTRICT:** Harry Gwala  
**RESULTS OBTAINED:** NSC Exams passed with Bachelor: Obtained 7 distinction in Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Geography, Life Sciences, English FAL, (Confirm home language) and Life Orientation.  
**SECRET OF SUCCESS:** Reading, listening, studying, practice, REPEAT!  
**ADVICE TO OTHERS:** One has to know their strengths and weaknesses. I was able to establish academic goals and develop a time management system. I would also recommend this to others who are aspiring for success. Try to sleep 8 hours every night, eat healthy and drink lots of water. Hard work pays off, keep your study sessions short but effective and reward yourself with short, constructive breaks. Last but not least, be positive and have all your materials ready before you begin.  
**CURRENT STUDIES:** Studying Medicine at Howard College.



BY: NONTUTHUKO MOTHA

**NAME:** Lindokuhle Nkululeko Mgabi  
**AGE:** 18  
**NAME OF SCHOOL:** Empangeni High School  
**DISTRICT:** King Cetshwayo  
**RESULTS OBTAINED:** NSC Exams passed with Bachelor and obtained 7 distinctions in Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, Accounting, Life Orientation, English and isiZulu  
**SECRET OF SUCCESS:** Going an extra mile during matric is crucial and most importantly love and enjoy doing the work.  
**ADVICE TO OTHERS:** Time management and prioritising your studies will help reap good rewards.  
**CURRENT STUDIES:** Studying Medicine at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits)



BY: MBALI MCHUNU

**NAME:** Israel Thandukwazi Mathenjwa  
**AGE:** 28  
**NAME OF SCHOOL:** Ezinhlabeni Secondary School  
**DISTRICT:** UMkhanyakude  
**RESULTS OBTAINED:** NSC Exams passed with Bachelor and obtained 8 distinctions in IsiZulu Home Language, English First Additional Language, Mathematics, History, Tourism, Life Orientation, Geography and Economics.  
**SECRETS OF SUCCESS:** Working hard, concentrate in studies and respect teachers  
**ADVICE TO OTHERS:** Focus on your studies, join study groups and use past papers for revision.  
**CURRENT STUDIES:** B.Ed in Secondary Humanities at the University of Eswatini



BY: SIPHOKAZI NDLOVU

**NAME:** Aaron Mattews  
**AGE:** 17  
**NAME OF SCHOOL:** Kharwastan Secondary School  
**DISTRICT:** Umlazi  
**RESULTS OBTAINED:** Obtained 8 distinctions in History, Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, Information Technology, English, Afrikaans, Life Orientation.  
**SECRET OF SUCCESS:** Focus on exams, study and ask questions  
**ADVICE TO OTHERS:** During exams give yourself time to prepare for examinations.  
**CURRENT STUDIES:** Studying (BSC) Mechanical Engineering at the University of the Witwaterstrand (Wits)



BY: LINDIWE MLABA

**NAME:** Jarrod Staples  
**AGE::** 18  
**NAME OF SCHOOL:** Westville Boys High  
**DISTRICT:** Pinetown  
**RESULTS OBTAINED:** 9 Distinctions in Mathematics, Physical Science, English (Home Language), Afrikaans (First Additional Language), Life Sciences, History and Accounting.  
**SECRETS OF SUCCESS:** Managing your time and commitment.  
**ADVICE TO OTHERS:** Dedication to your studies is essential, engaging in extra-curricular activities is vital for an enjoyable and successful year.  
**CURRENT STUDIES:** Studying Chemical Engineering at the University of Pretoria.



BY: MBALI MCHUNU

**NAME:** Andiswa Fortunate Gwala  
**AGE::** 18  
**NAME OF SCHOOL:** Ladysmith High School  
**DISTRICT:** Uthukela  
**RESULTS OBTAINED:** 7 Distinctions in Mathematics, Physical Science, English (Home Language), Afrikaans (First Additional Language), Biology, Life Orientation and Accounting.  
**SECRETS OF SUCCESS:** Studying hard and drew motivation from her mother to achieve good results  
**ADVICE TO OTHERS:** Work hard, focus on your studies and understand what you're dealing with  
**CURRENT STUDIES:** Studying Actuarial Science at the University of Cape Town

# Gallery

