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PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

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## THE COUNTDOWN HAS BEGUN



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... Leading Social Compact and Economic Emancipation Through a Revolutionary Education for all



## EXTENDED TOP MANAGEMENT MEETING

BY: SIHLE MLOTSHWA

ON 02 August, The MEC and the HoD hosted the Top Management Meeting at Dokkies. Among the attendees were the DDGs, Chief Directors and Directors, including all the District Directors.

Making his remarks, the HoD spoke about the challenge of the increasing number of progressed learners in the province. This year the department has 34 000 progressed learners, while last year there were 32 000. "Even this year progressed learners are not doing well - the question is do we have a remedy," asked the HoD. He said he is also worried about Grade 9. "Grade 9 seems to be the weakest link from the days of ANA," he said. The HoD also spoke about the unqualified audit outcome that was obtained by the department and thanked everyone who worked towards ensuring that this outcome is achieved.



In his address, the MEC said it is always important to track the performance of the system, not only in matric, but throughout the schooling system. "In the next years, we need to assess all grades regularly so that we get to know well in time what interventions to make. We need to perform better throughout, hence we need to focus on all grades throughout the year," said the MEC.

The MEC expressed his dissatisfaction that it looks like the District Directors don't seem to be fully informed about things that are happening in their districts in as far as school functionality is concerned. "There are schools that get closed more than four days and district director doesn't know," opined the MEC, who asked District Directors to be more in control. He said schools are the foundation of the successful nation and, "we have been given a chance to be part of building that foundation. We can't be part in destroying that foundation."

Making his final remarks, the MEC said that as leadership they are called to clean out corruption in the public service. "We are going to deal with corruption and maladministration in the public service. Where we are called to investigate, we will be thorough and will be decisive," concluded the MEC.



## 50 DAYS COUNTDOWN TO 2019 NSC EXAMS

BY: SIHLE MLOTSHWA

On 27 August, The MEC and the HoD launched the 50 Days Countdown at Menzi High School. This event whose aim is to create awareness and alert learners, parents and members of the community that there are few days left before learners sit for the grade 12 exams, was also attended by the Acting DDG: Curriculum Management and Delivery, Dr Barney Mthembu, Acting DDG: Corporate Services, Mr Nathi Ngcobo, many senior officials, including all District Directors.

In his remarks, the HoD said, “We are here to endorse the department’s expected 80% pass rate in the 2019 NSC exams – ours is to provide support and ensure that you continue in your consistent excellent performance.”

Speaking to learners, the MEC said, “We are left with only few days before we start the Matric Examinations, avoid distractions and work hard to make our Province proud.” He commended Menzi High School for their sterling academic performance over the years and pledged to support the school. “Our appreciation goes to the principal and teachers for their dedication to duty by hosting extra lessons held after school and on weekends. We expect nothing, but 100% from Menzi High School,” said the MEC.

Giving her response on behalf of learners, Amahle Mathe thanked the department for encouraging them to work hard and promised that as learners of Menzi High School they are going to work hard to ensure 100% pass rate once again and that she will obtain 7 straight A’s.



## MEC ASKS DIFFICULT QUESTIONS AT THE PROVINCIAL SKILLS CONFERENCE

BY: SIHLE MLOTSHWA

The MEC, Kwazi Mshengu officially opened the National Skills Indaba on 22 August 2019, at the Coastland Hotel in Durban. The event was hosted by the KZN TVET Colleges under the theme “Skills For Self Reliance.”

The main objective of the conference was to create awareness so that different stakeholders understand the role played by TVET Colleges in addressing the need of their local communities. More than 200 delegates from education, skills and development organisations, labour and private institutions, attended the conference.

Speaking during the conference, the MEC said that TVET colleges must take a deep look at their curriculum and ask some of the difficult questions. “They need to ask themselves if it is correct at this point in time when there is high demand for technical skills for TVET Colleges to offer courses like Management Studies and Book Keeping. “I think TVET colleges were designed to offer technical skills and I think our colleges should be at the forefront of producing those skills,” said the MEC, forcing TVET Colleges practitioners to think hard about the direction they need to take in critical time in the South African economy.

The conference agreed that there is a need to intensify the resolve to solicit lasting partnerships that will contribute to improving the skills development and ensure impact on the employability and entrepreneurial opportunities for TVET students.



## MEC LAUNCHED E-LEARNING AT EMADUNGENI HIGH SCHOOL

BY KWAZI MTHETHWA

On Tuesday, 13 August, the MEC officiated at the launch of e-Learning programme which aims at providing equitable and quality learning through ICT in teaching for learners and teachers. The programme was launched at Emadungeni High School which falls under the Harry Gwala District.

While officially opening the project, MEC Mshengu recognised the role of government in the development of education in KwaZulu-Natal. He said the programme will reinforce what has been done to integrate ICT in Education. “As a department and as a system we have taken a decision to embrace the 4th Industrial revolution. We are confident that the e-Learning will improve education environment and increase access to digital world, which can be done by utilising digital devices and internet-based learning contents and enhance teacher competency,” said the MEC.

MEC Mshengu appealed to the members of the community of Emadungeni to join the department in ensuring that the school and its learning equipment is protected and safe.



## MEC SPEAKS AT SADTU'S PRINCIPALS SEMINAR

BY: SIHLE MLOTSHWA

The MEC, Kwazi Mshengu was the key-note speaker on the first day of SADTU's Principals Seminar which was held at the Coastland Hotel from, 15-16 August 2019. Apart from principals who packed the hall, looking bright in their SADTU regalia, this seminar whose theme was Decolonising Basic Education, was also attended by the provincial leadership of SADTU, including the Chairperson, Phumlani Duma and the Provincial Secretary, Nomarashiya Caluza.

Outlining the purpose of the seminar, the Provincial Secretary asked principals to exercise good leadership and to continue be exemplary at all times. The high spirited SADTU principals who were punctuating each address with revolutionary songs, listened attentively as the MEC took the podium to address them.

In his address, the MEC said educators need to understand themselves to be revolutionaries who are privileged to lay a foundation for a developed nation. “I consider myself to be a revolutionary and I consider myself to be part of you,” said the MEC to loud cheers and clapping of hands. He also spoke about the need to pay particular attention to the education of a girl child. “If we don't, girl children will be trapped in a patriarchal power relations,” asserted the MEC. He also said as part of decolonising education, the department has taken a decision to pay particular attention to rural and township schools.

After the address by the MEC, The provincial Secretary thanked the MEC for availing himself and said that as SADTU they are going to continue to engage the leadership of the department with a view to ensuring good and conducive working conditions for educators.

# MARITIME ACADEMY



## MARITIME ACADEMY LAUNCHED IN UMFOLOZIN TVET COLLEGE

BY: XOLI THOMPSON

The Department of Higher Education, Science and Technology and the Department of Education in KZN launched the Maritime Academy at Umfolozi TVET College. The event took place at Esikhaleni Township under King Cetshwayo District, on the 6th of August.

This launch was graced by the presence of Dr Blade Nzimande, Minister of Higher Education, Science and Technology, the MEC, Kwazi Mshengu, business representatives, representatives from Umhlathuze Municipality and all the principals of TVET Colleges in KZN.

Umfolozi Maritime Academy will provide advanced education and training to young people in the oceans economy sector. During the launch, the MEC said that the academy will not only revive the oceans economy locally, but will also enable KwaZulu-Natal to benefit from the regional and global maritime transport value chain. He also emphasized that despite the ever-growing demand and opportunities in the oceans economy, young people have lacked the opportunities to get sea time, a pre-requisite for serving on ships. "We are working hard to ensure that our education produces what is demanded by the economy," remarked MEC Mshengu.





## OFFICIAL OPENING AND LAUNCH OF THE COMPUTER LAB AT ESIQONGWENI

BY: KHETHIWE DLAMINI

The MEC presided over the official launch of the computer centre at Esiqongweni High School, on 08 August. 40 computers were donated by Aberdare Cables Company following a pledge by the President, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa, that he had made earlier in January this year. During the computer lab launch, the MEC said, "It is of paramount importance that we as the Department of Education work extremely hard to empower our children with quality education regardless of whether they are from deep rural areas or urban areas."

The CEO from the Aberdare Cables Company, Dr Song, pleaded with the learners to take good care of their school equipment. "It is a great honor for me to be handing over these computers to you, these are your weapon that will help you to fight for a brighter future, embrace them," said Dr. Song.

Overall, this computer lab will play a crucial role in promoting the forth industrial revolution.



## ILEMBE DISTRICT PRAYER FOR GRADE 12

BY: QINISILE MKHIZE

Ilembe District has received the award for the most improved district in the country for the past two years. It is against this background that the district adopted the theme for 2019 "Going Up" and set the target of 85%. The district held its matric prayer for 2019 NSC examinations on 1 August at Stanger High School. The management team of the district believe that they have done a thorough job of preparing the matrics for exams, now they invite the divine power to guide and strengthen learners through the exams. Speaking to learners who attended the prayer, the District Director, Dr Madondo said, "We want to sustain our performance, this requires effective functioning of the district at all levels. We are here to mark the last phase of our academic improvement plan, Operation Gonqa - this in the IsiZulu culture symbolises that something big is about to happen in an individual's life. We have allocated teams to visits schools to motivate learners and teachers for this life defining examination." Dr Singh, the guest speaker for the day said, "Your limitations are as far as your mind can take you. Push yourselves because no one will do it for you."



# MANDELA MONTH COMMEMORATIONS



BY: NOMFUNDO MALINGA

As part of the Mandela Month commemorations, the department, represented by the HoD, Dr Enock Nzama and MTN Team, visited Ithala and Inkosi Mphathesitha Secondary Schools in Nkandla, under the King Cetshwayo District.

This visit by the department and MTN was aimed at improving learner's lives and those of the community of Nkandla and also to carry on with the legacy of the former President Mandela by contributing towards education and change peoples' lives for the better.

During the event, Dr Nzama handed over bicycles to the learners of the two schools and also gave compujectors to both schools. Other activities during the day included painting of some structures, donating of school shoes, stationary packs as well as hygiene packs, sanitary towels and other cosmetics.

In his address, the HoD, highlighted the importance of celebrating the Mandela Month by dedicating 67 minutes assisting others in need. "We have partnered with MTN in order to work together in bringing technology to our schools and our gratitude goes to MTN for their generosity," said the HoD.

## COMMEMORATING MADIBA'S LEGACY



BY: MBALI ZULU

**O**n Monday, July 27, the HoD together with officials from different districts, celebrated Mandela Day with learners of Lions River Primary School, under uMgungundlovu District.

Learners and staff of Lions River Primary were very honoured to be part of Mandela Day celebration. A brief outline of Mandela's life was given by the principal, Mrs Mhlongo. She also thanked the HoD and his entourage for visiting the school and the generous donation from the department. The donation of school uniform was well received by the learners.

The Head of Department participated in the painting of the wall. From there, the HoD proceeded to the Mandela Capture Site together with learners to view the Mandela Museum. Learners were very excited to learn about their hero and by the look of things, this is the Mandela Day that they will never forget.

## MEC SPEAKS AT THE AFRICAN RENAISSANCE CONFERENCE



BY: MBALI ZULU

**T**he 20th annual African Renaissance Conference took place on 16 August at the Albert Lutuli International Convention Centre. The conference was organised by the KwaZulu-Natal Growth Coalition, the Durban Chamber of Commerce, and non-profit organisations. African Renaissance Conference brings together various stakeholders across the continent to focus on strategies for the implementation of inclusive social economic transformation.

The MEC, Kwazi Mshengu delivered his speech on the role of KZN Provincial Government in education. "One of the initiatives that we have taken is that we will be introducing subjects like coding and robotics next year, starting from primary schools. We are identifying about 100 schools in the province where we will start with these subjects because we want to equip our learners from the early stages of primary levels to secondary levels," Said MEC



## DEATH OF SECURITY GUARDS AT UKUSA HIGH SCHOOL

BY: QINISILE MKHIZE

On the morning of 18 July 2019, a day many South Africans intended to spend helping others as part of the Mandela Day commemorations, the principal of Ukusa High School in Hammarsdale, Mr Musa Dlungwana discovered lifeless bodies of 2 security guards with the 3rd security guard severely injured. The injured security guard was rushed to hospital for medical attention. It is alleged that the three refused to open the strong room where the schools valuables are kept, which led to them being beaten to death. The MEC and the HoD visited the school after learning about the incident. On their arrival, the SAPS were still processing the scene. The MEC and HoD comforted family members of the deceased who were already at the scene. The MEC condemned the brutal killing of the security officers and called on the police to immediately arrest the perpetrators.

## 2019 SPELLING BEE PROVINCIAL COMPETITION



BY: MBALI ZULU

As part of the Integrated National Literacy and Numeracy Strategy, on 29 August, the department's Curriculum Directorate (GET), hosted the provincial 2019 Spelling BEE Competition, at Durban Primary School. This programme started at a school level and advanced to circuit and district level.

Ms Busi Dladla, Director: Curriculum – GET, outlined the purpose of the event. “This is the 4th time having this programme in the province. Last year as a province we obtained position 1 at the national competition and I believe again this year we will do the same,” Ms Dladla explained.

Jordan Govender, a learner from Fairhaven Primary School, obtained first position. He will compete at the national competition to be held later in September 2019.



## OSS CABINET DAY, GREATER KOKSTAD MUNICIPALITY

BY: QINISILE MKHIZE

The Operation Sukuma Sakhe cabinet day for the Month of August was held in the Greater Kokstad Municipality on 28 August. The MEC was deployed in ward 5, at Bhongweni area. The MEC met with the ward committee where the ward report was discussed. Some of the challenges highlighted in the report were: gangsterism, unemployment, permits not issued by the department of transport, neglect of disabled people, overcrowded schools and that community has one clinic which is short-staffed.

After the meeting with the ward committee, the MEC proceeded to visit projects in the area. He officially opened Bhongweni Hostel, which was built by the Greater Kokstad Municipality. Search and seizure was conducted by SAPS at Thembaletu and Carl Malcomess High Schools. "Schools are a place for teaching and learning and nothing else," said the MEC.

During community engagement, the community expressed their concerns and challenges. They feel like the wheels of service delivery are moving very slow in their municipality. The people of Bhongweni were pleased that the government took time to listen to their concerns and challenges and hoped that in the near future they will start to see changes and improvement.



## MENTAL MATHS COMPETITION AT TEACHERS CENTRE

BY: KHETHIWE DLAMINI

On 15 August, the Department, together with Casme Centre for Advancement of Service and Maths Education, held the Mental Maths Competition at the Durban Teachers Centre. This competition was aimed at instilling love of mathematics to learners from the lower grades.

Nine learners from the five different districts were ultimately announced according to their positions. Grade-4's first position was Dante Lazarus from Umlazi District, second position was Yurvil Narain from UThukela District and the third position was Athandiwe Shinga from Ugu District. Other positions were also announced according to their grades

Miss Dainty Mkhize, Maths Advisor from Ugu District presided over the programme. She thanked all those involved in the competition. "I would like to thank colleagues from the districts, Chief Education Specialists in charge of curriculum and advisors in their different capacity for working very hard to ensure success of this competition," said Ms Mkhize.

# Y-CAP 2019

BY: QINISILE MKHIZE

**Y**outh Action Citizen Program (Y-CAP) is a tool to assist learners in making positive changes in their schools and communities. It is aimed at making learners feel confident and empowered to be active citizens. The program is also intended to instill positive values in learners that are consistent with the ethos of a modern state. The program gives learners an opportunity to brainstorm solutions regarding the social ills that hinder their progress in teaching and learning and give them a sense of ownership to ensure that the challenges faced by their schools are resolved. Youth Citizen in Action Program assists in creating a team of proactive learners who are role models for other learners. The Y-CAP provincial competition was held on 19-20 July. Sivelile High School took position 1 for their hygiene project in the secondary schools category while Kranskop Primary with their recycling presentation, out shined all primary schools. Both schools will represent the province at the national competition.



## MEC RESOLVES GLENHAVEN SECONDARY SCHOOL PROTEST

BY: SBONISIWE SHEZI

**O**n 29 August, The MEC went to Glenhaven Secondary School in Verulam, following a learner's protest and boycotting of classes, which resulted into disruption of teaching and learning at the school.

The MEC met with the staff, including the principal and SGB, where it was reported that the riot ensued when the gate system was installed at the school. When the situation got out of hand, police were called to intervene. It's alleged that during the altercation, shots were fired, which resulted into some learners sustaining injuries and three getting arrested. Learners were also given a chance to give their own version to the MEC.

They complained about the gate system that has been installed while they have no water taps. The issue of not having access to toilets and not receiving sanitary towels was also reported. Learners also complained about racial slurs from other educators.

After hearing both sides of the story, the MEC addressed learners and teachers at the assembly and announced that the gate system will be suspended, while the matter is being investigated. The MEC then told learners to go back to classes. "Let's not be participants in destroying our future by allowing anger to get the better of us. Teaching and learning should resume as soon as possible," said the MEC, warning learners against further disruption of teaching and learning.

## OUR STARS CONTINUE TO SHINE

The department is very proud of learners from Umlazi District who came out first during the National Learner Focus Week that took place in Pretoria recently. As part of the Learner Focus Week, learners had to present projects based on energy saving methods and write a national science related test in this regard. **EDU-NEWS** spoke to these learners as well as their educator who saw them through this competition.

BY: NOMPUMELELO GASA

### PROFILE

**NAME & SURNAME:** NQ Makhaye  
**OCCUPATION:-** Physical Science Educator  
**SCHOOL:** Sibongindlela High School



#### WHAT WAS YOUR ROLE IN THIS PROJECT?

My significant role was to facilitate project based on content taught in class and to give guidance on their ideas and research. I have also assisted them to develop powerpoint presentation, to design a portfolio using MS Word, monitored the progress of the project, assisted them with resources required, which included improvisation of columns, condensers, delivery tube and many more. Lastly, I made sure that transport during elimination processes is organised.

#### ADVISE TO OTHER EDUCATORS:

It is essential to work closely with neighbouring schools and institutions especially if you are lacking resources. Affiliate with Centre for the Advancement of Science and Mathematics Education to borrow equipments to do experiments. Assist learners to gain confidence in the subject. Application of content in real life situations. Involve stakeholders who are experts in science, such as parents and to make sure that learners see the need and the importance of the subject

## PROFILE

#### WHAT MOTIVATED YOU TO ENTER THE COMPETITION?

Two learners were required to participate in the project, Ms Ndawo(HOD) and Ms Makhaye(Physical Science teacher) gave us a chance as a class to choose learners to represent the school. The class voted for us.

#### GIVE US THE BACKGROUND OF YOUR PROJECT:

We were asked to identify a problem experienced by our local community and try to find a solution to that challenge. Although we had no idea of what to do, we tried our best to find something which will assist. Our first try was of creating / generating electricity using a magnet. Due to financial problems for the materials we needed, we ended up not succeeding. We then came up with a second idea. This project was about producing ethanol and ethanol vapour from Gavin to be utilised as an alternative energy source during load shedding or to minimise energy usage in households, hospitality industry and in engineering sector. It was a challenging project, but through hard work and dedication, we were able to successfully complete it.

#### WHAT CHALLENGES DID YOU FACE?

It was challenging to get lab materials e.g thermometer, tripod etc. It was also difficult to create time for preparing ourselves thoroughly and to perfect our model, since we had to prepare for our exams at the same time. Fortunately with the assistance from our teachers and concerned parents, we made it.



**NAME & SURNAME:** Thabiso Ndlovu & Promise Maphumulo  
**AGE:** 17  
**SCHOOL:** Sibongindlela High School  
**DISTRICT:** Umlazi

#### WHAT DID YOU LEARN DURING THE COMPETITION?

We learnt that crude oil is imported from other countries. It is then separated or broken down into smaller useful substances like petrol, diesel, paraffin and petroleum gel etc. We learnt that some companies work together and share resources like BP and Shell (50 - 50). **Eskom** - we learnt how they generates electricity from coal and how they supply it to households. **Sanedi** - it is a company which deals with the greenhouse gases concentrated in the atmosphere like CO<sub>2</sub>. **NECSA** - a company uses a gold by product, uranium to ease energy by splitting its atoms. This uranium is further used in nuclear medicine which cures cancer. If we can further explain what we learnt, this whole book will be filled so we think this is adequate but much is filled in our heads.

#### ADVICE TO OTHER LEARNERS:

Nothing is impossible, as long as you give yourself time to listen and learn from other people. Don't be afraid to try something new in life. It is up to you to fill your mind with positive thoughts or negative thoughts. You are what you think. No one owes you success. The only limit you have in your life is the one you occupy yourself with.



## 2019 KZN INDIGENOUS GAMES FESTIVAL

BY: XOLI THOMPSON

Various schools from different district attended the 2019 KZN Indigenous Games at Kandahar Sports Grounds in Ladysmith. The games took place from 16 to 17 August 2019. The aim of these games is to encourage learners to play sports and embrace an active healthy life-style.

This event which was organized by the Department of Education and the Department of Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation saw over 2400 learners from different districts competing in various track and field codes in preparation for the National Indigenous Games which will be held at Polokwane in September 2019. The stadium was packed with children, teachers and parents who were there to give support to the participating learners.

Ethekwini Metro team won the 2019 KZN Indigenous Games and collected a total of 28 overall points to claim top spot. They were followed by the King Cetshwayo District with 16 Points and Team uMgungundlovu came 3rd position with 15 Points. In the schools category, Umlazi District took first position with overall 17 Points, followed by UMkhanyakude on 11 points and UMzinyathi was third with 9 points. Based on their overall performance, teams were selected to represent KZN in the national games taking place in Polokwane.

# Gallery

CONGRATULATIONS TO MEC MSHENGU AND ALL OFFICIALS WHO TOOK PART IN THE NELSON MANDELA MARATHON

