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Department:  
Education  
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

# EDU-NEWS

JAN - 2020

VOLUME - 33

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## 81.3% PASS RATE FOR KZN



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



## NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

This is the first issue of **EDU-NEWS** for the year 2020. As a Department of Education in KZN, we started this year on a positive note, with a spring on our step, riding the crest of the 2019 National Senior Certificate results wave. While we were busy celebrating, the MEC was quick to remind us that we cannot afford to over celebrate – that we need to forget about the results of 2019, and shift our focus on the year ahead. This year, according to the leadership of the department, is going to be the year of hard work and excellence in all areas of our operation.

As **EDU-NEWS**, we want to be there when all the hard work and academic activities happen. We want to be there when the MEC, the HoD and the leadership of the department, drive and steer this gigantic ship to an upward academic trajectory. As the MEC said, “we cannot afford to go back.” We would want to be there when our District Directors, Circuit Managers, Subject Advisors and all our officials visit our schools, performing different tasks in the length and breadth our beautiful province. We would love to be there when our educators, who are our indispensable pillar, do their magic in the classrooms. We would certainly want to be there when our learners do exploits in academic activities and when they show us proverbial flames in the district, provincial and even national competitions. We want to document and chronicle all these positive stories as these are the things that inspire us to work even harder.

The fact of the matter though, is that we cannot be everywhere at once. How I wish we were omnipresent! This is the reason why we urge you, our dear reader, to be our eyes and ears.

As this year begins, we want to communicate like never before. Through **EDU-NEWS**, we want people in Harry Gwala District to know what is happening in the Zululand District. We want our educators in KwaMaphumulo Circuit to know what educators in Msinga Circuit Management Centre are doing. We therefore request you to share with us the good and inspiring things that happen in your districts. **EDU-NEWS** is not only about reporting on the activities of the leadership of the department, but is a communication and information tool for all of us. Let us use it.

We also urge you to follow us on our communication platforms like Twitter, Facebook, Instagram and our website. These platforms are for all of us to occupy and utilise. Please check the handles of our social media platforms on the cover of this **EDU-NEWS** edition.

To communicate with us and inform us about what is happening in your districts, circuits and schools, you can reach us on [nompumelelo.gasa@kzndoe.gov.za](mailto:nompumelelo.gasa@kzndoe.gov.za)

Here is hoping that 2020 is going to be the year of academic excellence, enhanced performance and renewed vigour to succeed.

**As this year begins,**

**Thuma Thina!!!**



# KUDOS TO THE CLASS OF 2019



**T** was a red carpet affair during the release of results for the 2019 National Senior Certificate examinations. This event which took place at the ICC on January 08, was characterised by glitz, glamour and razzmatazz. The palpable excitement was because the Class of 2019 had made history, becoming the first cohort of learners since the dawn of democracy, to go beyond the 80% mark.

The event was attended by the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Sihle Zikalala, His Majesty, King Goodwill Zwelithini, Members of the Provincial Executive, Members of the

Provincial Legislature, corporate citizens, parents and learners.

“As KwaZulu-Natal we have improved again and obtained 81.3% from 76.2% in 2018. This is a historic achievement since the 1994 democratic breakthrough as this pass percentage for NSC exams is comparable to none in the past. The 2019 pass percentage represents 81.3% of candidates who passed out of 116 937 candidates who sat for the final examinations last year. We are not only boasting in terms of numbers but also the quality. Our bachelor passes have increased from 38

573 in 2018 to 44 189 in 2019. In percentages that translates to 37.8% in 2019 compared to 33.2% in 2018” said the MEC. Ugu District also made history by moving very close to 90% mark, becoming the top performing district in the province. “We congratulate Ugu District for being the best performing District in 2019. We also congratulate all twelve districts as they recorded improvements in 2019. We particularly congratulate Ilembe District for being the most improved District by 5.90%,” the MEC said.

**- BY: SIHLE MLOTSHWA**







# STATE OF READINESS FOR 2020 ACADEMIC YEAR



**T**HE MEC and the HoD held a media briefing on January 13, to inform the media and the society about the department's state-of-readiness for the 2020 academic year. "As the department, we would like to congratulate the Class of 2019 for achieving 81.3%, it is indeed a positive performance for our province. It is our duty to ensure that the first day of the 2020 academic year will be a smooth one," said the MEC. The MEC also reported about 144 schools that were damaged by storm and ensured everyone that even in these schools, learning and teaching will take place on the first day of the 2020 academic year.

- BY: LINDIWE MLABA



# EDUCATORS AND LEARNERS AWARDED FOR THEIR OUTSTANDING WORK



**N** pursuit of academic excellence, learners put in an extensive amount of effort to obtain best results. While praised for their achievements, the efforts of their educators cannot be ignored. It is for that reason the educators and learners of Mkhambathini and Mid-Illovo Circuits, under Umgungundlovu District were recognized for their outstanding work, dedication and commitment. The event was held at Camperdown Community Hall on Wednesday, January 22, where Mkhambathini and Mid-Illovo Circuits and Mkhambathini Municipality collaborated in awarding the

achievers of these circuits. Among the attendees were Umgungundlovu District Director, Mr Siqhamo Mabinza who was also the guest speaker of the day, the Mayor of Mkhambathini Municipality, Cllr Ngcongo, Deputy Mayor, Cllr Lembede, department officials, municipality officials, unions, educators, learners and SGB members.

During his address, the keynote speaker, Mr Mabinza said that these awards are aimed at recognizing the efforts of educators who have contributed towards learners' academic, cultural and sporting excellence and for learners who have performed well during the 2019 National Senior Certificate exams. Speaking to the guests, Mr Mabinza said, "today is a celebration of your achievement and contemplation of what now lies

ahead for the class of 2020. Celebrations such as this one helps us to challenge negative myths. These awards will encourage us and our communities to aim higher. As teachers and learners, we'll achieve excellence by strictly adhering to the non-negotiables, teachers and learners at school must be in class on time. What matters most, is that which happens within the four walls of the classroom."

In conclusion, Mr Mabinza congratulated all the hardworking, dedicated learners, educators and officials who were the recipients of awards. "Keep on doing your best, we are indeed proud of you," he concluded.

- BY: NOMPUMELELO GASA





# MENZI HIGH SCHOOL ANNUAL PRIZE AND THANKSGIVING CEREMONY



**T**HE School is renowned for producing excellent Grade 12 results. Menzi High School made certain it lives up to its reputation yet again and produced top pupils who obtained 100% in the 2019 National Senior Certificate exams. To celebrate this achievement, Menzi High held the prestigious event at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre on January 24.

The Head of Department, who was the Key-Note speaker at the event said, “well done to Menzi High School, you did well to lay a foundation to produce a generation of productive citizens with the motivation, intellectual abilities and habits to achieve greater things. To all of you, the world is your oyster, go out there and make your communities proud.”

Lungiswa Cele, who scored 7 distinctions and has secured a place to study Medicine at UKZN said, “to the class of 2020, continue raising the flag high, hard work pays off. Engage in team work, no

procrastination, use study groups and go through past papers.” A grade 12 learner, who aspires to become a Gynaecologist, Nomfundo Mdladla, expressed how inspired she is by this event. “There is absolutely no greater motivation other than to witness the awardees today. I will start preparing myself for the final exam now, learn from my mistakes and continue putting Menzi High School on the map and make sure it stays on top,” Mdladla concluded.

- BY: THEMBEKA MCHUNU







# NHLANHLAYETHU SECONDARY 2019 AWARDS FUNCTION

**NHLANHLAYETHU** Secondary School held their 2019 Excellence awards function at Inanda, under Pinetown District on the January 24. The HoD, Dr Enock Nzama, was a key-note speaker during this event which was aimed at celebrating a 100% matric pass rate obtained by the school in the 2019 NSC exams.

In his key-note address, the HoD thanked educators for instilling discipline to learners and their dedication towards providing quality education and

producing good results. He also expressed his joy to see a township school obtaining a 100% matric pass rate, something which has made Nhlanhlayethu Secondary to be rated among best performing schools in the district. "Well done to Nhlanhlayethu Secondary School. This school has been consistently on the rise in terms of matric results, therefore I want to thank the educators and the entire School Management Team for their commitment and dedication," said the HoD.



- BY: NTANDO NSUSHA







# THE HOD WELCOMES WORLD CHAMPIONS



**T**HE Head of Department, Dr EV Nzama and DDG: Institutional Development, Judy Dlamini welcomed learners who emerged victories during the 2020 International Moot Court Competition that took place in Gdynia, Poland, from 30 to 31 January. During the spectacular welcome that took place at the King Shaka International airport on February 02, the HoD said, “We

are very proud of you and thank you for raising the South African flag high.” During this competition, students from around the world competed in simulated court proceedings and had an opportunity to prepare memoranda and participated in oral arguments. This is the second time South Africa wins the competition, the second time being in 2016.

- BY: SIHLE MLOTSHWA



# EXTENDED SENIOR MANAGEMENT MEETING



**S**HORTLY after the MEC released the 2019 National Senior Certificate results at the ICC, he convened an Extended Senior Management meeting at Dokkies on January 21. The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the 2019 National Senior



Certificate results and review the 2020 Academic Improvement strategy. Speaking during this gathering, the HoD commended the District Directors for the improved results. He also emphasised that the department still has the responsibility to improve the

2020 results and deal with underperforming schools. The Acting Deputy Director General: Curriculum Management and Delivery, Dr Barney Mthembu presented the performance of the class of 2019. The MEC said while addressing SMS members, “We are going to work together in order to

achieve good results. We need to increase the pass percentage this year, decline is not our portion and we are not going to get less than 80% this year.”

- BY: MBALI ZULU



# HOPE FOR NQUNDU COMBINED SCHOOL





**T**HE community of KwaNqundu in Nkandla took to the streets and disrupted teaching and learning demanding that grades 11 and 12 be added to the school. The parents complained that after their children complete grade 10 in Nqundu Combined, they have nowhere to go as other schools are reluctant to accept their children and if they are accepted, it means they need to find places to rent for their children because the schools are far. Upon hearing this, the MEC held a meeting with the community on January 17, to find ways of assisting the community. “We commend the

community for not destroying school property during the protest. We are here to come up with a solution to best assist not only Nqundu Combined, but neighbouring schools because they are also affected. We have agreed that we will implement grade 11 in 2020 and also provide a mobile classroom to accommodate them. It is also necessary that we form a committee to look at the issues affecting schools in the surrounding areas holistically because we have noted that they all have a declining enrolment,” the MEC said. Concluding his speech, the

MEC urged the community to safeguard the school and work together to improve the lives of learners because for some families, they are the only hope out of poverty.”

**- BY: QINISILE MKHIZE**



# DEPUTY MINISTER VISITS KZN

**O**N January 15, which was the first day of the academic year, the Deputy Minister for Basic Education, Dr Reginah Mhaule and MEC Kwazi Mshengu, conducted a back to school monitoring visit at Havenpark Secondary under Pinetown District. The aim of this visit was to assess the readiness of schools on the first day of the academic year, to ensure that LTSM is provided and to ensure that challenges facing schools in the province are attended to as soon as possible.

Havenpark Secondary is one of the schools that obtained good results, with 98% pass rate in the 2019 NSC matric exams. During the assembly, the Deputy Minister told learners to treat 2020 as a year of excellence and encouraged them to take their work serious from the first day of schooling. She also encouraged love for reading and said there must be no day that passes without reading.

In his remarks, MEC Mshengu urged learners to do their work tirelessly and remain focused. “When we say no to drugs and alcohol, and no to early pregnancy, we are not doing it for us, but we are only doing it to protect your future”. Learners from all grades of this school pledged that they will put more effort to ensure that they get good results at the end of this year.

- BY: SBONISIWE SHEZI







# WESTVILLE CORRECTIONAL SERVICES AWARDS



**A**CTING DDG: Curriculum Management and Delivery, Dr Barney Mthembu represented the MEC at the award ceremony which was hosted by the Department of Correctional Services, on January 14. The aim of the awards was to celebrate the good results of offenders who wrote the 2019 NSC examinations. Three centres that participated in the 2019 NSC exams were, Qalaka-busha, Esidimeni, and Usethubeni Centres. E.K. Mathumbu, Miss T.G. Manqele and Miss Q. Nsi-bande were teachers from these centres who were also awarded with certificates for being the best educators. Dr Mthembu urged the offenders to continue taking education seriously. "You ought to remember that positive attitude always create positive results," said Dr Mthembu. The acting Regional Commissioner, Mr James Small Burger conveyed his gratitude to the KZN Department of Education for the support during the annual plans and thanked the teachers for the remarkable results produced by correctional facilities.

- BY: KHETHIWE DLAMINI





# MEC'S MEETING WITH HEAD OFFICE STAFF

**T**HE MEC held a meeting with Head Office staff on January 20, at the Pietermaritzburg City Hall. The Head of Department Dr Enoch Nzama, in his welcome mentioned that, "it is our duty to ensure that the department performs. We all have to remain focused so that the culture of quality teaching and learning continues" During his address, the MEC urged employees of the department to be actively engaged in the mission and vision of the department. "We should all work towards realizing our vision and we must set our vision in the

classroom in order to produce skilled learners. The 81.3% pass rate for our grade is now history, therefore aiming higher is the only option." He further stressed that the staff should ceaselessly engage in skills development programmes as they are tasked with a significance task of building an educated nation. "By 2030 South Africans should have access to the highest level of quality, which must elevate improved learning outcomes. Within the next 10 years from now, we should be able to increase the number of bachelor passes," he continued.

Mshengu spoke about the School Nutrition Programme, he encouraged everyone that all protocol must be followed during an NSNP process and everyone should be granted equal opportunity. He also warned the staff to refrain from any illegal dealings pertaining to NSNP. "We appeal to all officials to at least adopt one school each, and it is compulsory for all SMS members to adopt a minimum of 5 schools each," said the MEC.

- BY: THEMBEKA MCHUNU



# Gallery





