



THE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES MEC FRAZER



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THE DEPARTMENT WELCOMES MEC FRAZER

By: Sihle Mlotshwa

At the date of publishing this edition of Edu-News (20/September/2022), the recently appointed MEC for Education in KwaZulu-Natal, Mbalenhle Cleopatra Frazer is 39 days in the office. We first start by congratulating her on her appointment. MEC was appointed in August, a month that will go down in history as a very significant and ground-breaking period for the people of KwaZulu-Natal. This is the month where, coincidentally, for the first time in the history of the province (pre and post democratic era), a woman was appointed to lead the province as its first citizen.

As if that was not enough to mark a significant shift from the patriarchal past, the very same history-making premier, in the person of Nomusa Dube-Ncube, made her own history as well as that of her political organisation, by deploying the majority of female Members of the Executive Committee in her cabinet.

As she begins her tenure as the MEC for Education, Frazer also follows in stands on the shoulders of other female MECs (MEC Ina Cronje and MEC Peggy Nkonyeni) who also steered the provincial education ship to the progressive trajectories.

Soon after her appointment, MEC Frazer hit the ground running where her first public engagement was visiting Hillcrest High School, which is unfortunately marred by the allegations of racism. The MEC soon made national headlines, which

endeared her to the members of the public, when she requested schools to honour and celebrate King Misuzulu kaZwelithini by wearing traditional garb on the 23rd of August 2022. This gesture as proposed by the MEC Frazer, will go down in history as the most significant symbolism of African pride and decolonisation of the education sector to be made by a leader in government.

Since then, it has been a very busy time in the office for MEC Frazer and all her engagement are documented in the issue of Edu-News. She has addressed several conferences hosted by teachers' unions, attended school functions, monitored school functionality and oversights programmes, and many other activities that the MEC has presided over.

The Women in Leadership Celebration, where the MEC Frazer gathered female departmental employees at Elangeni Hotel, must have been very close to her heart. In this event, which was punctuated not only by glitz and glamour, but by profound speeches and fruitful engagements. The MEC did not mince her words when she spoke about the urgent need for equality in the work place. You will also read about this in this issue of Edu-News. MEC Frazer is an affable and endearing figure, whose extensive teaching background will put her in good stead as the champion of education in the province. Once more, we congratulate the MEC and we wish her all the best in her responsibility.

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HONOUR & CELEBRATION OF THE CROWNING OF KING MISUZULU

MEC Mbali Frazer (in a groundbreaking announcement), encouraged learners, educators and departmental employees to wear their traditional attire on the 30th of August 2022, as a way of paying tribute to His Majesty, King Misuzulu kaZwelithini. As a result of this call by the MEC, learners and educators came in their bright beautiful traditional attires in many schools in KwaZulu-Natal. The provincial celebration which was at Nqabalazulu Comprehensive High School, was attended by MEC Frazer, the HoD, Mr Nkosinathi Ngcobo, The Chief Director: District operations, Ms Thembelihle Gumede, the Member of the Provincial Legislature, Ms Zinhle Cele, His Majesty's Spokesperson, Prince Thulani Zulu, members of the royal family; as well as officials from the district and head office "It is not our diversity which divides us, it is not our ethnicity or religion or culture that divides us, since we have achieved our freedom, there can only be one division amongst us between those who cherish democracy and those who do not" said the MEC as she quoted Nelson Mandela while talking about the importance of unity. The MEC said that the current generation is privileged to witness the coronation of His Majesty, as the last coronation of King Zwelithini Kabhekuzulu was almost 50 years ago. "It is our sincere gratitude that the department encourages learners to know their roots at a young age and to be proud of who they are" Said Prince Thulani Zulu who spoke on behalf of His Majesty,

King Misuzulu.



65TH ANNIVERSARY CELEBRATIONS FOR EMPANGENI HIGH SCHOOL



The MEC for Education in KwaZulu-Natal, Ms Mbali Frazer at the 65th anniversary celebrations of Empangeni High School in King Cetshwayo District.



Celebrating women's achievements and raising awareness about gender equality.



The Acting DG: Institutional Development, Ms Weziwe Hadebe, gave the purpose of the event, while the Chief Director, Ms Jabu Khoza was a Programme Director who filled the room with laughter and warmth. Statistics were shared by Ms Nokukhanya Hlongwane: Acting Chief Director: Human Resources Management. In her report she said, "females are over represented in production levels, but the gap is significantly reduced at the management levels." In her address, the MEC said that the education sector has a significant role to play in the emancipation of women in governance and socio-economic streams.

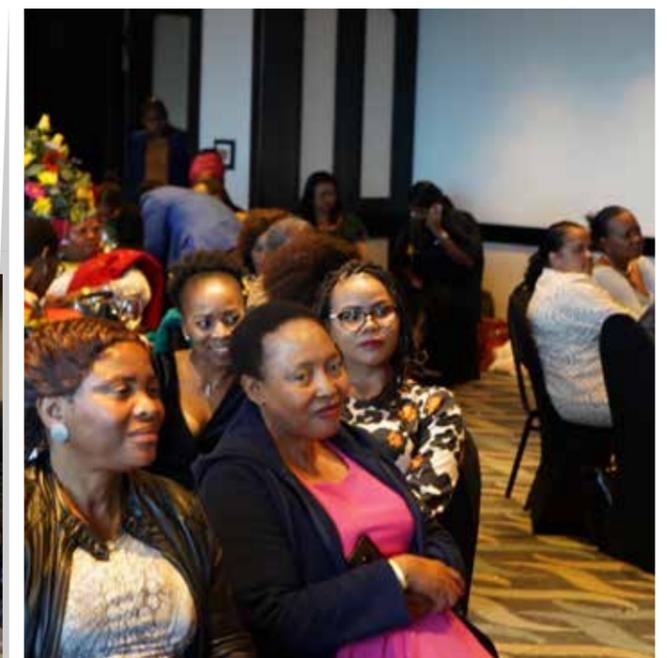


"Men must know that they are not entitled to management positions. The department needs to review its recruitment practices to ensure that women are given a fair chance," she said. The guest speaker, the Deputy Minister of Transport, Ms Sindisiwe Chickunga inspired women on the path of growth as her words were very powerful. "We need a cadre of teachers, managers, and women entrepreneurs who are committed to the growth and development of South Africa. We need women in governance to be appointed as Directors and Managers. When these appointments are made, the recipients must be appointed based on meritocracy," she said.



WOMEN IN LEADERSHIP CELEBRATION

The MEC for Education in Kwazulu-Natal, Ms Mbali Frazer addressed a seminar to celebrate women in the education sector at ELangeni Hotel in Durban. More than 200 women gathered to celebrate the strength and resilience of women and their contribution to society. This platform was created for women to network across different levels and spheres of government and to celebrate women's achievements and also raise awareness about women's equality. Counsellor Zondi from EThekweni municipality warmly welcomed the guests. In her speech she said that the MEC is making history by hosting such a progressive assembly of women,







“After 28 years of democracy we can’t still be dealing with the issues of racism. As a department we cannot tolerate racism, It is unacceptable, a school should be a safe place for teaching and learning.”



MEC’S HILLCREST HIGH SCHOOL VISIT

The then newly appointed MEC for Education in Kwa-Zulu-Natal, Honourable Mbali Frazer visited Hillcrest High School in what was her public engagement after her appointment. The increasing allegations of racial discrimination at Hillcrest High School necessitated that the MEC visits the school. The MEC gave learners an opportunity to speak freely about the issues that they were raising, which included racial discriminations as well as some instances sexual discrimination. “ We are called by all manner of derogatory names,” one learner said. After carefully listening to learners, educators and some parents, the MEC decided that there should be a thorough investigation on the matter. The team from head office, led by Chief Director: District Operations, Ms Thembelihle Gumede, is still underway.





school
functionality
monitoring
follow
up
programme



MEC & MPLs VIST SCHOOLS IN PINETOWN DISTRICT

The KwaZulu-Natal Legislature's Portfolio Committee on Education conducted its 2022 school functionality monitoring follow up programme at Illovo and Kingsburgh Primary Schools. Illovo Primary School reported that 30% of the learners are unable to pay school fees and that they have a problem of theft and burglary. They also reported the need for the school to be fenced as well as infrastructure and HR related matters.

It was agreed that EThekweni Municipality will be approached to build sports fields accessible to the school. Members of Provincial Legislature also promised to take up the issue of police refusal to investigate and process cases of school burglaries.

Kingsburgh Primary School also reported shortages of classrooms, infrastructure challenges as well as other

day to day needs that the school faces. The school was advised not to over-enrol; unless there are limited primary schools in the area and to fix JoJo tanks, to supplement water supply challenges.





MEC FRAZER ATTENDS SADTU INDABA EVENT

The MEC for Education Mbali Frazer was invited in a SADTU Indaba event that was held at The Station Urban Events Space on 19 August 2022. Teachers have always played a significant role in society, as they are tasked with molding the brains of future leaders, they have been an integral part of societal struggles in SA and a leap of hope for working struggles and victories.

“As a former teacher myself I’m grateful for the vast contributions SADTU is making in improving the standards of living for teachers and principals. We are grateful for your work and we are proud of you.” said the MEC.

The Department of Education has put together an academic improvement plan aimed at helping the system to plan improvement strategies throughout target based curriculum delivery. Pertinent policy based teaching will also help in improving the quality of Education input and the effectiveness of schools through well-functioning management systems. Through this plan, teaching Methodology and Subject content will be aligned to achieve the best education standards while also focusing on the support for the progressed

and struggling learners so that they can accomplish the same as other learners. Through this plan we’ll be able to raise learner proficiency of reading. As it women’s month the MEC recalls that SADTU has always been in the forefront fighting for the well-being and a total emancipation of women in the Education sector. The MEC urged teachers to continue doing their best and put KwaZulu-Natal on another level.



SADTU

I
am
a
school
fan
campaign





NAPTOSA CONFERENCE

A platform for unions to reflect on how they have performed with the purpose of correcting their wrongs

The HOD, Mr Nkosinathi Ngcobo was the guest speaker during the NAPTOSA conference, which was held at Greyville Conference Center. The conference was hosted under the theme Dancing In The Rain. The HOD said, "receiving an invite from NAPTOSA speaks volumes about the symbiotic relations that exist between the department and the union." He said NAPTOSA in KwaZulu-Natal is trusted and respected for remaining a truly disciplined union, focused on championing the needs of one of the very critical resources, the teachers. He also applauded the union for having a vibrant leadership that has always been able to fight for the rights of their members in a manner that is very professional and dignified.





“Listen to the teachers, they are there to help you pass and stop watching TV”



100 DAYS COUNTDOWN

2022 NSC examination approaching sooner rather than later

The purpose of the countdown is to raise awareness amongst members of society, especially learners and educators - to alert them that the time they have been working towards since the beginning of the year is approaching. A retired teacher who turned 100 years on the 19th of July 2022 was at the event to encourage the class of 2022. “Listen to the teachers, they are there to help you pass and stop watching TV.” said Gogo Maduna. Mr Elijah Mhlanga, who is the DBE Spokesperson, also encouraged learners to form study groups and use past papers for revision and avoid distractions. In closing the HOD encouraged parents to be involved in their children’s studies and to give them time to study. “Working very hard is important because the outcome is always rewarding - don’t forget to pray, but don’t rely on prayer alone.” said the HOD. He wished all the grade 12 learners the best of luck for their success in the 2022 academic year.





“The school needs to be in a satisfying and safe condition to accommodate school kids”



Engagement with the community of Emagcekeni on the bad condition of Emagcekeni Primay School



EMAGCEKENI PRIMARY SCHOOL

On the 5th of August, The HOD, Mr Nkosinathi Ngcobo visited EMagcekeni Primary School to engage with the community around the issue of building the new school for the community. The community of Emagcekeni had taken the initiative to build classrooms, which according to the department's standards, was not suitable to be used as a school.. The HoD and the community engaged on the matter and the community members were given a chance to voice out their concerns The HoD said that, the department appreciates that the community is interested in their children's education. "As the department we are indeed grateful to the community for taking the initiative, however, the school needs to be in a satisfying and safe condition to accommodate learners. In his closing remarks, the HoD announced that Emagcekeni Primary School will be provided with mobile classes so that the process of teaching and learning continues.





OUTREACH INITIATIVE AT SETHABE PRIMARY

It was an eventful day on 29 July 2022 when the department's Resource Planning Directorate held an outreach initiative to commemorate Nelson Mandela Day. The Resource Planning Directorate's Social Club team was led by the Deputy Director, Ms Londiwe Gumede. The items for donation were; school shoes, clothing (uniforms and casual clothing) stationery, books and food parcels. "We took inspiration for what we are doing today from Mandela," said Ms Gumede. "One of the things we have learnt from Mandela's life is that you should make a difference wherever you are."



INTERVIEW WITH 100 YEAR OLD GOGO

Gogo Maduna was born in 1922 in the Mgqutshane area, near Impendle. She started her teaching career in 1939 and taught for 11 years before she resigned in 1950, due to her failing eyesight. She taught at Mashiyane Primary School. She remembers an English book she bought, called 'What and How to Teach English.' She said that book helped her so much and changed lives of many learners. She recalls that she forgot it when she came back home and one of the learners brought it back to her. "That learner is now a Doctor," said Gogo Maduna beaming with pride. She taught for one year and went ahead to further her studies. Gogo says that her education was supported by the Roman Catholic Church. After Gogo resigned, she did not stay at home, she went to work in the farms doing everything, like every other worker, despite her bad eyesight. Gogo Maduna still has a vivid memory and remembers almost all the things that happened many years ago. Gogo was never married and never had children. She encourages the youth to focus on their studies and pass all subjects at school.





HANDOVER OF LAPTOPS BY THE DBE

Following the floods that affected some parts of Kwa-Zulu-Natal, a lot of schools were affected as the furniture and gadgets of the schools were destroyed. The Minister of Basic Education, Ms Angie Motshekga came to the province to assess the schools that were deeply affected by the floods - one of those schools was Brettonwood Secondary School. She then established a ministerial team from DBE to work closely with the province to support those affected schools. Mr Mpanza, the DBE Chief Director for IT and EMIS is part of the disaster relief task team who secured donations of stationary for Brettonwood Secondary School. South African School Administration and Management System (SA-SAMS) collaborated with Education Management Information System (EMIS) to handover boxes of printing papers and seven laptops to seven schools under Umlazi and Pinetown Districts.



AECI FLOOD RELIEF DONATIONS

The AECI Group handed over flood relief donations to 3 schools in Umlazi District. Kusakusa Primary hosted the donation handover function for Magama Primary, Zuzumqhele Secondary and Kusakusa Primary. AECI Group team provided learners with durable school shoes made out of recyclable material. Convertible Wheel School bags which was originated from a science project few years ago, to carry books also utilised as class desks and chairs. The stationary kit donated and provided access to clean drinkable water by handing over a borehole, water filtration plant and flow taps for all 3 schools. The schools are situated in a semi urban area and in a Township. The KZN-DOE HOD, Mr GN Ngcobo emphasized that education is a societal matter and appreciated the Corporate Social Investment generous gesture demonstrated by AECI. He said the relief donation came at the right time when KZN and the country is faced with water crisis.





UMZINYATHI DISTRICT LEADERSHIP SESSION



Understanding and Leading Change in our Districts and Schools





CREATING FUTURE SCIENTISTS



The Department Education in KwaZulu-Natal is Creating future Scientists by offering Physical Science Joint Revision Programme at Zuzulwazi Secondary, Mconjwana High, Laduma High, Gobindlovu Comprehensive and Mthoqotho High Schools under the Umgungundlovu District.

CODING AND ROBOTICS WORKSHOP



The Coding and Robotics Workshop took place at Nomathiya Technical High School in UMkhanyakude District.





ADOLESCENT COUNSELLING CLINIC



On the 17th of July 2022, Merebank High School launched a Adolescent Counselling Clinic. The clinic's aim is to address all social ills facing learners and to provide psycho-social support to learners. The HOD Mr Ngcobo addressed the launch

EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT- DRUM SESSION



The Flemish Association for Development Cooperation and Technical Assistance (VVOB) in partnership with the Department of Basic Education held a Drum Session with the KZN Department of Education's GET Directorate.

The Drum Session is part of Learning through Playing Programme for Early Childhood Development (ECD)



INTERDEPARTMENTAL GAMES TOURNAMENT SPORTS COMPLEX

The Kwazulu-Natal Department of Education Public servants Sports and Culture Events, Provincial Squad participated in an Interdepartmental Games Tournament Sports Complex.

A total of 16 Government Departments participated and Team Education performed exceptionally well.

The KZN results are as follows:

Umlababala obtained position 3

Male Soccer Veterans obtained position 3

Volleyball obtained position 1

Netball Veterans obtained position 1

Ladies Soccer matched Banyana Banyana's stunning performance and also came out winning, taking position 1

The teams competed in the following codes of sports, namely; Indigenous Games, Soccer, Netball, Volleyball and Male Soccer Under 35.

Indigenous Games



Soccer Veterans



Ladies Soccer



Netball Veterans



Netball Veterans



Male Soccer Under 35

