



## KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

EDUCATION  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



# THE NATIONAL TEACHING AWARDS 2022

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## KZN SHINES AT NATIONAL TEACHING AWARDS



The Department of Education in KwaZulu-Natal made the Province proud when its educators came up tops at the National Teaching Awards event, which was attended by the Presidency, Minister of Basic Education (DBE), Angie Motsekga, Deputy Minister, Dr Reginah Mhaule, all Provincial Education Departments (PED) MEC, including MEC Mbali Frazer. All PEDs Heads of Departments, including HoD Nathi Ngcobo, were also part of the event.

The MEC and the HoD congratulated all the winners and showered them with praises for their hard work and dedication. "You guys have really made us proud," said MEC Frazer.

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## THE 1 ST POSITIONS IN DIFFERENT CATEGORIES WERE AS FOLLOWS



Excellence in Secondary School Leadership – Mr Sizwe Zwane from Empangeni High School



Excellence in Special Needs Teaching – Mr Qaphela Dlamini from Kwazamokuhle Special School



Mr Joseph Mvungando from Upper Umhlathuze Primary School got 2nd position under Category: Excellence in Primary School Leadership.



Excellence in Primary School Teaching - Ms Pinky Ndlozi from Imizikayifani Primary School



## PROVINCIAL NATIONAL TEACHING AWARDS CEREMONY

It was glitz, glamour and all things splendour when the Department held the Provincial National Teaching Awards at Northlands Primary School, in Durban North, under Umlazi District.

This red carpet affair was attended by MEC Mbali Frazer, who was a keynote speaker, HoD Nathi Ngcobo, members of top management and senior officials of the department from the head office and the districts and most importantly, educators themselves, who were dressed to the nines for their special day.



## EXTRACT FROM MEC'S ADDRESS



It is great honour to have all of you here today where we have gathered to salute our educators who have displayed excellence in various aspects of education. While today is about celebrating those who have selected for 2022 National Teaching Awards, I would like to take this moment to pay tribute to all educators across KZN.

I want to say thank you for being that eternal flame that lights the path to the future of our learners. The theme for this year's 2022 National Teaching Awards is "The Transformation of education begins with teachers". This speaks directly to the critical role of educators as the backbone of the education system.

As government we want schools to be the epitome of excellence but that vision cannot be realised if we don't have dedicated educators like yourselves driving the curriculum delivery every day. Any transformation and development we yearn for as a developing nation starts in the classroom.

Always remember the best scientists and other innovators in the world have one thing in common, they were all taught by an educator. It was their educators that inspired greatness in them. It was their educators that made the classroom and school a conducive environment for them to shine.

Our first democratic President, uTata Nelson Mandela once said "education is a great engine of personal development. It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mine worker can become the head of the mine that a child of a farm worker can become the president of a great nation".

By the time our learners exit the basic education system, they must be empowered to apply what they learnt in classrooms to real life situations. They must be critical thinkers who are able to come up with innovative solutions currently faced by mankind, whether it be climate change or the ailing economy and even load shedding.

By the time our learners matriculate, you as an educator must have done everything possible to equip them with an education they can use to empower themselves, their families and communities. This is not just the responsibility of high school educators, it starts from the bottom.

I fully concur with the sentiments of a Silicon Valley innovator, Guy Kawasaki who said "If you have to put someone on a pedestal, put teachers. They are society's heroes". This profession takes relentless fortitude and passion for education.

It is one of the most patriotic things one can do for their country because you are essentially safeguarding the future of our learners and nation by ensuring that schools provide a safe and conducive environment for teaching and learning.

This means being proactive in dealing with challenges that threaten to disrupt lessons or put the lives and well-beings of any of our learners at risk. May you continue being great role models that inspire hope and eternal hunger for knowledge in all learners that cross your path.

Empower them by instilling lifelong love for learning, limitless imagination empathy for others and encourage them to reach for their dreams. Siyabonga bothisha bethu.

## REMARKS BY THE HOD



Judging from what we have seen when visiting schools, we can proudly say that the education of our children is in good hands and this occasion attests to that. I would like to thank all leaders in education and everyone who supports us, particularly those managers who are where the tyre hits the tar, the district directors and all officials of the department.

We are very proud of your achievements. To the winners. I congratulate you for having won, sibonga kakhulu umsebenzi wenu eniwenzayo.

To the teachers present here today, we want to say you are our foot soldiers. We are a few years away from reaching 2030 and the National Development Plan (NDP) has targets that we need to have reached by then. For us to achieve all the targets of the NDP, we rely on you.

# PROVINCIAL NATIONAL TEACHING AWARDS WINNERS FOR 2022

## Mr Joseph Vusi Mvungande

*Upper Umhlathuze Primary school – King Cetshwayo District  
Excellence in Primary School Leadership*

“The National Teaching Awards are a good journey for any educator. I think we still have a lot to do in decolonising our curriculum and education system to ensure that our epistemologies are changing towards our own and our methodologies accept, understand and accommodate the cultural background of our learners. I would encourage other educators to enter for the NTA’s.”



## Mr Thulani Faya

*Nhlosokuhle High School – Amajuba District  
Excellence in Teaching Maths (FET)*

“I have gained a lot. I have also grown as a teacher as a result of these awards and there are many things that I have learnt. I also interacted with different people, which gave me insight which is very helpful in my profession. I now understand I need to be prepared to be a lifelong learner. When I teach, I need to ensure that my learners gain knowledge easily. I now know that I need to impact not only my school, but the community as well. I now engage, I research and talk to various people on how to deliver concepts to my learners.”



## Ms Nokukhanya Xulu

*Nsimbini Secondary School - Zululand District:  
Excellence in Natural Science Teaching*

“I am a very unique, creative and innovative young educator. I entered the 2022 National Teaching Awards under the category: Excellence in Teaching Natural Science.”



I was inspired by my Principal, Mr Zulu, who has been part of these awards for quite some time. Mr Zulu believes in excellence, especially when it comes to teaching and learning.”

## Ms Pinky Thandeka Ndlozi

*Imizikayifani Primary School – King Cetshwayo District: Excellence in Primary School Teaching*

“It has been a great journey for me as I have been receiving support from many people. I was motivated to enter by Mrs Mngayi who works under Teacher Development Section and Mr Thabo Gina who is a Technology Advisor. Both of them have been coaching and supporting me.”

I have been also learning a lot as a result of this process. I decided to assist schools nearby as I am the coordinator of E-Library ICT. I have been sharing this with Dr Hendrick and Ms Sthombe Dubazana for them to give me a platform on how I can assist other schools.”

This journey of NTA’s has made me to think even broader. I have introduced E-library ICT in my school, not just the grade I am responsible for. I have been sharing knowledge gained with other educators in my school. We are now using projectors and Moodley site for informal assessments.

## Mr Sizwe Desmond Zwane

*Empangeni High School – King Cetshwayo District: Excellence in Secondary School Leadership*

“I have participated in the National Teaching Awards of 2022 after I’ve been motivated by my colleagues, Circuit Managers and also the officials in the Teacher Development Section. One has gained valuable knowledge through the questions that have been presented in the questionnaire issued by the department.”

I have managed to create a conducive environment where learners are given a platform to excel and to lead. I have developed skills in teaching and learning, where I create a friendly learning space for all learners. I strongly believe in diversity and inclusive education; and that each and every child matters.”



I am also working closely with the teacher librarian at my school. We have started identifying nearby schools that we will assist in E-Library ICT as we are transforming teaching and learning through digital systems and also improving the completion of the curriculum.”



I have been using this program as a barometer to check where one has been progressing in terms of school management, having participated in the category excellence in secondary school leadership.

I would like to encourage other principals of schools and school managers to enter this program because it is showing that there is still a lot we need to learn in the department of education. I would like to thank the department for affording us a platform to grow.

### Mr Bongumusa Dlamini

Injoloba Secondary School – Umgungundlovu District: Excellence in Physical Science Teaching

I have been a teacher for 8 years and for 8 years I have produced 100% in Physical Science and as a result I was nominated by my seniors to enter the category of excellence in teaching Physical Science FET. I have been motivated a lot through this program, firstly by the fact that this program is in line with the mission and vision of our school which promotes excellence and quality education.

It has been an educational journey for me, a journey through which I had an opportunity to learn, unlearn and relearn.”



From here, I will be encouraging others to enter because there is so much to be harvested from this project.”

### Ms Gugulethu Mkhize

Newton Pre-Vocational school – Umgungundlovu District: Excellence in Special Needs Leadership

I would like to thank Mr Nyathi for encouraging me to enter the NTA's which has been a great journey so far. It has impacted on my management style positively. It's been a great privilege to represent KZN nationally, especially in this category which is a passion of mine. I would like to thank my colleagues for their support.



### Mr Samkelo Welcome Ntuli

Anton Lembede MST Academy – Pinetown District: Excellence in Teaching Maths GET

This has been an interesting process which I found to be very informative. I went through phases of adjudication and represented KZN nationally. The competition gave me what is expected of me as an educator and it allowed me to be exceptional in delivering quality education that South Africa requires.

My school gave me full support and the school environment enabled me to participate effectively to an extent that I managed to make it up to national level. I cannot forget my wife who always encourages and supports me to work hard.



I just wish more educators could participate in the program because it really gives us an insight of what is expected from us as educators so that we can have a positive impact for our learners to receive quality education.”

### Ms Nonzukiso Duma

St Patricks Primary school – Ugu District: Excellence in Grade R Teaching

I would like to thank my school principal for nominating me and my colleagues as well as my family who have been very supportive through my journey. As a Grade R teacher, I believe that the first learning experience should be memorable and educational and that is why I expose my learners to a lot of information. This opportunity has been a huge learning experience for me and has taught me a lot that I am implementing in the classroom.



### Ms Nerina Rangasamy

St Patricks Primary school – Ugu District : Kader Asmal Lifetime Achievement Award

This has been a beautiful journey for me. I want to start by thanking my Principal, Mr Dlamini for motivating and nominating me to participate, the NTA coordinator at school who was an inspiration and always encouraged us to do the best and my family who have extremely supportive throughout this journey.



In my journey when I started teaching 30 years ago, I vowed to make the life of a South African child better. Over the 30 years, I have been dedicated and committed to ensure that I bring out the best in my learners. I look forward to seeing improved conditions in the education system.

**Mr Thandanani Hansford Myende**  
*Sibusisiwe Comprehensive Technical High school – Umlazi District: Excellence in Secondary School Teaching.*

“It’s been a long journey. The 35-minute presentation proved to be challenging because a lot of hard work goes into preparations. After participating, you realise that these are things I need to think about in my teaching career.”

The process gets me to ask a question, how do I contribute positively in the fraternity of education because these awards are saying to me, you are not only limited to teaching and learning in the classroom environment. It also gets me to think about how do I teach in such a way that it impacts the community.



I think those are the key points that I noticed with the NTA’s. After winning I became a better educator in terms of me trying to find other strategies that I can use to reach out to the learners I am teaching. These awards in one way or the other, contribute to the professional growth of a teacher. There are many other teachers I wish could be exposed to this program.”

**Mr Mondli Sibiya**  
*Shonkweni Primary School – Ugu District: Excellence in Technology Enhanced Teaching and Learning*

“When I joined the school in 2019, all classrooms had data projectors screen which then raised a question to me to say, if there are data projector screens, I have follow suit and be active like my principal. I then started to use the data projector, which gave me the courage to enter the NTA’s. It was a bit challenging when I started, especially the collection of evidence and preparation. Last year I entered and got position 3 in the provincial level, this year I am in a better position. This program gave me a good experience and taught me a lot.”



**Qaphela Professor Dlamini**  
*Kwazamokuhle Special School – Uthukela District Excellence in Special Needs Education*

By participating in the National Teaching Awards, I realised how blessed I am to teach these young souls with special needs. It gave me an opportunity to display what I do in my class. These awards have been a



## HAPPY RETIREMENT MS GUGU MGEYANE

The success of the National Teachers Awards (NTA) lies on various factors and individuals who dedicate their time to ensure the event is a spectacle. Gugu Mgeyane was one of those individual champions who ensured that the NTAs become a success.

Mgeyane has served as the NTAs Provincial coordinator for 10 years, after joining the Teacher Development Directorate at the Head office. As she retires, she commends everyone who has helped her in making sure that the event becomes a success. She mentions different stakeholders which have been very influential to the success of the NTAs.

Gugu Mgeyane joined the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education in March 1989-1997 as an educator at Dumelezi High School in Ntuzuma. She then made her way to various positions within the department. All those years of hardwork have proved to be of great importance to the department and have made Mgeyane a name to be reckoned with.

In her final remarks, she said "I would like to thank all the stakeholders who are involved in assisting me with the coordination of the National Teachers Awards and I would also like to thank all the individuals who contributed to its success. They do a great job and I wish them well going forward".

With so many good deeds and years under her belt, The Department of Education in KwaZulu-Natal would like to thank Ms Mgeyane for her contributions throughout the years and to wish her well in her future endeavors. She has been a true champion to the department and has ensured success at all levels.



## PROVINCIAL GALLERY











NATIONAL GALLERY

