



**Addressing unemployment
Grievances: A meeting with
unemployed educators
and the Premier's office**

**MEC Hlomuka monitors
exams at Westville Prison**

**KZN MEC conducts monitoring
visit at KZN DOE**

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MESSAGE FROM THE MEC FOR EDUCATION KWAZULU-NATAL, MR. SE HLOMUKA

As we approach the end of the year, I take this opportunity to reflect on the remarkable strides we have made as the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education in 2024. This year has been marked by dedication, resilience, and significant achievements, all made possible through the unwavering commitment of our teachers, learners, and staff.

One of the key highlights of the year has been the successful administration of the 2024 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations. I extend my gratitude to all educators, invigilators, and support staff who worked tirelessly to ensure that the examination process was conducted seamlessly and with integrity. Your diligence has once again set a high standard for our province.

I also take this moment to commend the exceptional work done at our marking centres. The centres have been operating efficiently, upholding the principles of fairness, accuracy, and professionalism. I am confident that the outcomes will reflect the collective hard work of our learners and educators throughout the year.

As we close this chapter, I wish to acknowledge every stakeholder—principals, teachers, administrators, parents, and school governing bodies, who have contributed to the success of our education system in 2024.

To our learners, your perseverance and dedication inspire us all, and we look forward to seeing you excel further in 2025.

In conclusion, I wish all the employees, learners, and families of the Department of Education a safe, peaceful, and joyous festive season. May this time of rest rejuvenate you as we prepare to enter the new year with renewed energy and focus.

Let us continue to work together for a brighter future for our children and the province of KwaZulu-Natal.



MESSAGE FROM THE HOD FOR EDUCATION KWAZULU-NATAL, MR. GN NGCOBO

May I take this profound opportunity to congratulate the entire KZN Education system on reaching yet another successful milestone both academically and administratively.

The academic year kicked-off to a positive start fueled by the 2023 second position in the country achievement on the NSC Examinations. The attainment of such a position proved to us that success is not entirely determined by all round urbanization or bottomless resources but that determination, hard work and resilience do produce stellar outcomes.

We congratulate our ground forces which are our teachers for reaching the finishing line and are positive that this year's results are nothing short of amazing.

Numerous achievements may be articulated on this piece but that would take up the entire publication, we saw the appointment of a new MEC, honorable Siphon Hlomuka who has been a perfect fit to our jigsaw puzzle of a Department that aims to efficiently educate the Province of KwaZulu-Natal children. We are humbled by your stern and visionary leadership.

We note with appreciation various programmes of the department being executed effortlessly by our esteemed officials, the DDG's, Chief Directors, Directors and so forth. Your efforts to elevate this department to greater heights is pleasingly professional and appreciated.

As the year end draws nearer we wish all our officials, learners, teachers and stakeholders a well deserved rest, safety and prosperity in the new year.

Merry Christmas to those that observe it and Happy New Year to all

KWAZULU-NATAL CELEBRATES 30 YEARS OF FREEDOM THROUGH EDUCATION AND COMMUNITY EMPOWERMENT

By: Xoli Thompson

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education, in partnership with MTN, hosted a Ministerial outreach programme in Msunduzi Municipality to celebrate South Africa's 30 Years of Freedom. This event highlighted the province's commitment to educational advancement, digital access, and community empowerment.

The programme began with a Council Chamber briefing led by Acting Deputy Director-General Mr Sandile Nene. KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education Mr Sipho Hlomuka, Deputy Minister in the Presidency Mr Kenneth Morolong, and Msunduzi Mayor Councillor Mzimkhulu Thebolla visited The Open Gate Special School to showcase the impact of MTN School Connectivity, emphasizing equal digital access for learners.

Councillor Eunice Majola officially launched the second phase of the connectivity project, while Umgungundlovu District Mayor Muziwokuthula Zuma spoke on education as a shared societal responsibility. MEC Hlomuka highlighted the Bella Bill's support for inclusive education and the importance of climate education for Geography learners. Mayor Thebolla closed by stressing the power of collective dedication to a better future.

The day's tour, led by Principal Mr Trevino Pillay included Umgungundlovu District Official Mr Mxo Mncwabe, and Head Office representatives Mr Ronald Sithole and Ms Neli Mhlongo. The visit featured a demonstration of new digital infrastructure and Film and Publication Board (FPB) training on information protection. The outreach programme will continue with community visits, a billboard unveiling, and FPB campaigns to promote responsible media use.

KwaZulu-Natal's 30 years of Freedom celebration serves as a statement to the province's dedication to educational empowerment, and unwavering commitment to creating opportunities for educational advancement and fostering a legacy of freedom, equality, and shared responsibility for future generations.



THE MINISTER FOR BASIC EDUCATION MS SIVIWE GWARUBE VISITS KWAZULU-NATAL SCHOOLS

The Minister for Basic Education, Ms Siviwe Gwarube, led the Basic Education delegation and embarked on a series of school visits in the Umlazi and Pinetown Districts.

These visits form part of the build-up programmes ahead of the President's KwaZulu-Natal Imbizo, scheduled to take place on 08 November 2024.

The Minister, accompanied by the Deputy Minister, Dr Reginah Mhaule, began by monitoring the administration of the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) at Nsimbini Full-Service School.

The nutritious meals offered by the department help learners to kick start their day with full energy and readiness for tuition. The delegation was there to oversee the administration of this important programme, especially as learners sit for year-end examinations.

The second visit was to the Maritime School of Excellence, where a first-of-its-kind school is currently under construction. This school will focus solely on Maritime Studies and offer vast career options for learners choosing to study at this prestigious institution.

The Maritime School of Excellence received praise from the Minister, who expressed her pleasure with the progress on the construction which is nearly at completion.

Lastly, the delegation visited Inanda Seminary in Pinetown. This beautiful and historically rich school has produced numerous leaders in society and remains one of KZN's top-achieving schools.

The delegation was honored to learn about the school's history, even exploring the school's museum. "I have read about some of these schools and always wanted to see them. I am pleased to be here today; your work is amazing," remarked Minister Siviwe Gwarube, who also thanked MEC Hlomuka for his dedication to offering quality education for learners in KZN schools.



KZN SCHOOLS BENEFIT FROM GISSA INITIATIVE

By: Philakahle Ngubane

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education hosted the Geographic Information System (GIS) computer handover event at Udumo High School under the iLembe District.

The event was attended by representatives from 9 districts, including subject advisors and school principals.

The Chairperson of the Geo-Information Society of South Africa (GISSA), Ms Mahlangu-Sithole, tabulated a presentation that entailed career guidance for learners interested in pursuing careers in Geography. She highlighted that the donation of 8 computers was made possible by ESRI South Africa, which identified a gap in resources and decided to address it with this generous donation.

Funda Lula official, Mr Pradeep Mahabeer, indicated that the donated computers are preloaded with GIS software. This resource will immensely benefit Geography learners by enhancing their knowledge and academic performance in the subject.

Mr Sikhumbuzo Manganye, the Acting Chief Director: Curriculum and Management, presided over the handover of the devices to the principals of selected schools.

“We appreciate this gesture from ESRI South Africa and GISSA. The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education is entrusted with the largest number of learners in the country, and your assistance in fulfilling this duty is deeply valued,” said Mr Manganye in his closing remarks.





ADDRESSING UNEMPLOYMENT GRIEVANCES: A MEETING WITH UNEMPLOYED EDUCATORS AND THE PREMIER'S OFFICE

By: Luyanda Sikhakhane

Deputy Director-General (DDG) Advocate Masuku met with unemployed educators at Boardroom 229, 2nd Floor, Burger Street, to address concerns surrounding the distribution and application of vacancy posts.

Advocate Masuku acknowledged previous discussions with another group claiming to represent unemployed educators. He emphasized, "A recent bulletin has been released, announcing approximately 700 vacancy posts. We urge all eligible educators to apply. This is an opportunity to address the unemployment crisis and fill critical positions in our education sector."

Advocate Masuku reiterated the department's commitment to resolving these issues with diligence and transparency. "We are working tirelessly to address these issues. We ask unemployed educators to bear with us as we work through the necessary procedures and processes to eliminate this problem. It is important to note that not everyone can be assisted immediately due to these constraints."



PRIMARY SCHOOL PRINCIPALS' SEMINAR

By: Carol Ngcobo & Mbaliyabenguni Zulu

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education's Pinetown District successfully hosted a two-day seminar for primary school principals, focusing on empowering school leaders to enhance the foundations for learning. The seminar took place at Durban North-West CMC Primary School on Day 1 and concluded at the Mancosa School of Education on Day 2.

The first day of the seminar was officially opened by Mr Phumelela Nkosi, the Chief Education Specialist at the Pinetown District, who outlined the seminar's objectives. These included enhancing leadership skills, strengthening reading programmes, and improving foundational numeracy. The discussions also covered the introduction of unplugged coding and robotics into the foundation phase by 2025, as well as sustaining the functionality of Peer Learner Communities (PLCs).

Acting District Director Ms Sibongile Nkosi applauded the principals for their unwavering commitment to overcoming obstacles, including crime in schools. She expressed her gratitude for their dedication in achieving educational outcomes and assured them of her continued support.

Ms Nkosi also shared her experience monitoring examinations at Westville Correctional Centre, emphasizing the critical role of protecting young boys from entering the criminal justice system. She stressed the need to create safe learning spaces to nurture potential in the young boys charged.

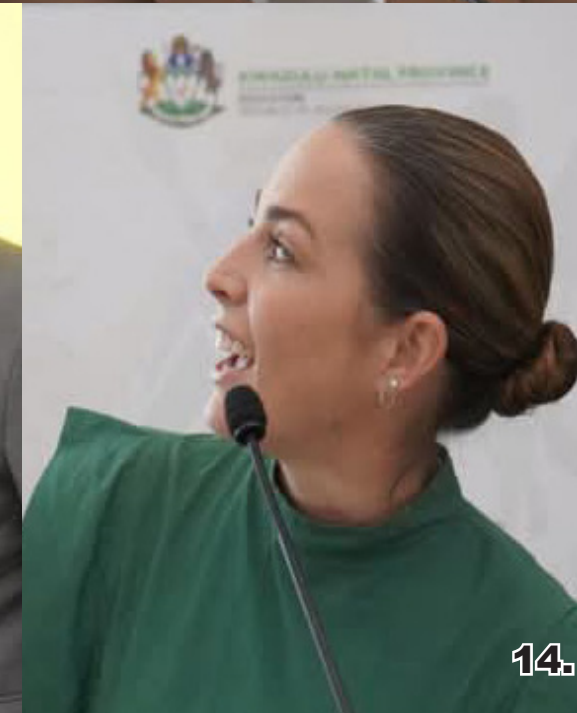
Dr Michael Naidoo addressed challenges affecting teaching and learning, highlighting the impact of poor school management on education quality as the key issue.

The second day, hosted in partnership with the Mancosa School of Education, focused on improving literacy, numeracy, and digital skills in primary schools. The event was attended by senior officials, including Deputy Director-General for Curriculum Management and Delivery, Mr Mbongiseni Mazibuko; Acting District Director, Ms Sibongile Nkosi-Tembe; and Chief Education Specialist for North-West Circuit, Mr Phumelela Nkosi.

Malandela Circuit Manager, Mr Makhosonke Sangweni, welcomed attendees, setting the tone for the day with an inspiring address. Various stakeholders presented strategies to enhance teaching and learning outcomes.

In his keynote address, DDG Mazibuko emphasized the importance of high-quality education, particularly in languages, mathematics, and sciences. "Our schools must be well-managed, coherent, and competitive on a global scale. They must become world-class centres of excellence," he said.

The seminar concluded with a thought-provoking message from Alvin Toffler: "The illiterate of the 21st century will not be those who cannot read and write, but those who cannot learn, unlearn, and relearn."



MOTHER TONGUE-BASED BILINGUAL EDUCATION WORKSHOP

By: Qinisile Mkhize

The Department of Basic Education, in collaboration with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education, hosted a pivotal 3-day workshop at Anew Hotel Ocean Reef in Zinkwazi. The initiative brought together subject advisors to prepare for the implementation of Mother Tongue-Based Bilingual Education (MTB-BE) in Mathematics, Natural Sciences, and Technology.

Opening the workshop, Ms Sindi Zakuza-Njakazi, Chief Director: Curriculum Management (GET), described the event as a historic moment in education. She emphasized the importance of ensuring that learners can fully access education, posing the critical question: “When our learners enter the classroom, are they able to access education fully?”

The MTBBE programme aims to promote and facilitate the use of African languages, such as IsiZulu and IsiXhosa, as Languages of Learning, Teaching, and Assessment (LOLTA) beyond Grade 3. The programme is designed to enhance quality education by using learners’ mother tongues as tools for teaching, learning, and assessment.

On the second day, subject advisors participated in group activities focused on “versioning” Annual Teaching Plans (ATPs), lesson plans, and workbooks for Grade 4 educators and learners. The process of versioning involves translating English content into IsiZulu and IsiXhosa to make learning materials accessible and culturally relevant.

Professor Nobuhle Hlongwa, Dean of the School of Arts at UKZN, shared the strides made in ensuring that mother tongue teaching and learning is effectively implemented in schools. She remarked, “The mother tongue of a learner will be a vital tool in delivering quality education.” Prof Hlongwa also reaffirmed UKZN’s commitment to providing resources that support and empower educators in this programme.

Closing the workshop, Ms Nozipho Mkhize, Director of Assessments, highlighted the importance of ensuring that districts are equipped for the programme’s implementation. She concluded, “Colleagues, from here onwards, let’s ensure that our districts are properly equipped to implement this remarkable programme.”

As a way forward, the system will be informed about the implementation of the MTBBE programme in schools before the end of this term. Subject advisors were tasked with ensuring that content materials are ready for use at the beginning of the academic year.



MEC HLOMUKA MONITORS EXAMS AT WESTVILLE



By: Qinisile Mkhize

The MEC for Education in KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Sipho Hlomuka, together with the Regional Commissioner for the Department of Correctional Services, Mr Mnikelwa Nxele, monitored examinations at the Westville Correctional Centre. Accompanying the MEC from the Department of Education were Dr R.C. Pennistone, Chief Director: Examinations, Assessment, and Quality Assurance; Ms Sindi Zakuza-Njakazi, Chief Director: Curriculum Management (GET); Mr Muzi Mahlambi, Director: Communications and Publications; Mr Vincent Myeni, Head of Ministry; and Ms Sbongile Nkosi-Tembe, District Director: Pinetown.

The department intensifies monitoring during the exam season to ensure that examinations are credible and free of irregularities.

The Department of Correctional Services in KwaZulu-Natal has four schools registered under the Department of Education. Inmates from Usethubeni at the Westville Correctional Centre have consistently achieved a 100% pass rate, making them the best-performing in the province.

“Educators here teach under abnormal circumstances, having to teach in a prison. We appreciate the extra mile they go to ensure inmates perform well despite the environment. We hope they continue to fly the KZN flag high again in 2024,” remarked Mr Nxele.

“I am satisfied with the strict administration and adherence to examination rules. I also want to thank you, learner inmates, for prioritizing education despite your circumstances. Indeed, education is the only tool you can use to change your future,” said MEC Hlomuka.





Amajuba District Bosberaad 2024

By: Mbali Zulu

The Department of Education in the Amajuba District hosted a 2-day Bosberaad at YWCA Special School in Newcastle under the theme: “Learner-Centred Education: Every Child, Every Chance.” This significant gathering aimed to prepare and provide direction for the 2025 academic year, focusing on enhancing the quality of education in the district.

Amajuba District Director, Mr Themis Nzama, welcomed the attendees. Among the attendees were the Chief Director for District Operations responsible for the Midlands Cluster, Dr David Chonco, school principals, and the District MANCO. During the session, organised labour and sister districts, uMzinyathi and uThukela, also rendered messages of support.

Speaking at the meeting, Dr David Chonco emphasized the importance of aligning planning and preparation for the 2025 academic year with the trends and priorities outlined in the 2024–2029 NDP. He highlighted key focus areas, including learner transport, school safety, inclusive education, early childhood development, mother tongue instruction, and general education and training (GET). Dr Chonco also stressed the value of collaboration, stating, “We need to be focused in planning for 2025.”

Day 2 of the Bosberaad continued under the same theme. A wide range of topics were presented, including the 2-Phase Approach, PRG Plus, High Flyers, Lessons from China, Google Calendar and District Communication Strategy, Mental Health Matters, and Transforming South African Teaching and Assessment through GEC.

The engagement reaffirmed the district’s commitment to maintaining and strengthening excellent working relations while enhancing the quality of education by following the mantra of the district.





ILembe District Planning Session 2025

By: Philakahle Ngubane

The Chief Director for District Operations in the Coastal Cluster, Ms Thembelihle Gumede, attended the iLembe District Strategic Planning Session hosted by iLembe District.

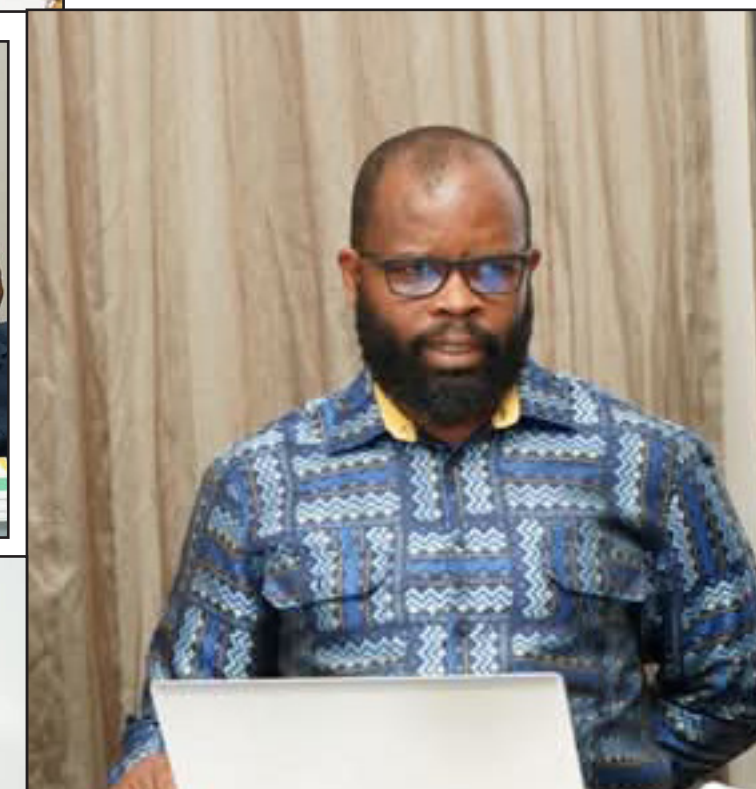
The session was attended by iLembe District MANCO members, led by the District Director, Dr Musawenkosi Louis Madondo.

This informative engagement comes as part of the district's reflective and outcomes-based strategic management process.

"I appreciate that the district conducts this session to reflect on, among other things, the three-streams model ahead of the 2025 academic year," remarked the Chief Director, Ms Thembelihle Gumede, as she delivered her message of support to the iLembe District MANCO members.

The District Director, Dr Musawenkosi Madondo, in his presentation, outlined the importance of maintaining an overall excellent work ethic, emphasizing the need to move forward as a collective to ultimately achieve the highest academic performance.

The presentations by Chief Education Specialists of the three Circuit Management Centres reflected on their progress, the challenges faced during the year, and plans to mitigate difficulties in 2025.



MEC Sipho Hlomuka Leads Monitoring Visits Across KZN

By: Xoli Thompson, Philakahle Ngubane, Noluthando Zitha, and Mbaliyabenguni Zulu

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, Mr Sipho Hlomuka, conducted comprehensive monitoring visits to multiple marking centres across the province to oversee the marking of the 2024 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examination scripts. These visits underscored the Department's commitment to ensuring the credibility, professionalism, and efficiency of the marking process.

Eshowe High School (King Cetshwayo District)

On 5 December 2024, MEC Hlomuka visited Eshowe High School, where a team of 281 markers was entrusted with marking Mathematics Paper 1. Under the leadership of Centre Manager Mr Sandile Sabelo and Chief Marker Mr Masango Mbuyuseni, the centre maintained rigorous quality standards.

The MEC commended the centre's management for fostering a disciplined and professional environment and acknowledged the dedication of the markers, 168 of whom were male and 113 female. He noted the seamless operations at the centre, which accommodated markers using various modes of transport and provided hostel facilities for 145 males and 93 females.

V.N. Naik School for the Deaf (Pinetown District)

On the same day, the MEC visited the V.N. Naik School for the Deaf in the Pinetown District, accompanied by Deputy Director-General Ms Weziwe Hadebe and Chief Director for Examinations, Dr Ray Penniston. Here, the team monitored the marking of English Paper 1 and engaged directly with markers.

The MEC praised the centre's leadership for ensuring smooth operations and assured the markers of the Department's support. "Our aim is to support your efforts and ensure the process runs efficiently without disruptions," he said, reaffirming the importance of adhering to deadlines while maintaining high standards.

Maritzburg College (uMgungundlovu District)

On 6 December 2024, MEC Hlomuka visited Maritzburg College, following an earlier inspection at Pietermaritzburg Girls High. Warmly welcomed by District Director Mr Siqhamo Mabinza and DDG Ms Weziwe Hadebe, the MEC interacted with markers and applauded their dedication.

Highlighting the critical role of the marking process in shaping the future of matric learners, the MEC emphasized the province's commitment to academic excellence and the need for collaboration among all stakeholders.

Estcourt High School (uThukela District)

On the same day, the MEC led a delegation to Estcourt High School in the uThukela District to monitor the marking of History Paper 1. Accompanied by senior officials, including Ms Weziwe Hadebe, the MEC received a detailed report from District Director Ms Mapaseka Mokoena.

The centre, managed by Ms F.P. Mlotshwa, accommodated 328 personnel, including markers, administrative staff, and security personnel. MEC Hlomuka commended the centre's efficiency and reiterated the importance of monitoring efforts to safeguard the integrity of the NSC results.

Reflecting on his visits, MEC Hlomuka expressed deep gratitude to all markers, centre managers, and support staff for their hard work and dedication. "These marking centres represent the backbone of our education system, ensuring the credibility of results and the future success of our learners," he said.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education remains committed to maintaining the highest standards in its 32 marking centres, highlighting the collaborative effort required to deliver reliable and credible results for the province.







KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE

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