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MEC VISITS
SEATIDES
COMBINED SCHOOL

100 DAYS COUNTDOWN TO FINAL EXAMS MEC's 12 DISTRICTS ROADSHOW





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"100 Days Countdown."

> "FIND MORE PICTURES IN THE GALLERY AT THE END"

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MESSAGE FROM THE MEC



I am delighted to connect with you through the **Edu-News** platform, a vital channel for sharing updates and insights from the Department of Education. As we strive for excellence in education, I am eager to share our progress, challenges, and solutions with you.

As the MEC for Education, I address you today with a deep sense of concern regarding the safety of our learners in schools. Recent incidents have highlighted the urgent need for collective action to ensure our schools remain safe havens for teaching and learning.

As the Department of Education, we take the safety of our learners and educators seriously. We acknowledge the challenges and are committed to addressing them head-on through our School Safety Strategy which is premised on four pillars:

- 1. Physical Security of the school, where we ensure that all our schools are fenced and those not fenced are in the process of being fenced. The department is far advanced in the physical safety of our schools.
- 2. Working with the community and the community structures, making sure they form part of strengthening security in our schools.
- 3. Partnering with other Government Departments e.g., South African Police Serves, Community Safety and liaison Security, and the Department of Social Development. The Department shares a healthy relationship with SAPS. Despite their limited resources, they respond timeously to our calls when we face a crisis. From time to time, they also come and patrol our schools.
- 4. Providing security personnel in our schools. The provision of the security personnel is restricted by the availability of funds in the Department. However, some schools have security personnel.

Schools are microcosms of the

communities in which they are located; and moral degeneration and social ills that are found in communities will extend to the schooling environment. It is with this in mind that we ask community members, especially parents, to partner with us in curbing this scourge. Parents, as the primary caregivers and role models, play a vital role in shaping their children's values, attitudes, and behaviours. We urge parents to:

- Reinforce positive values and morals at home
- Engage with your children's education and school activities
- Monitor their behaviour and address concerns promptly
- Collaborate with teachers and school administrators to address social ills
- Foster open communication with your children, encouraging them to report incidents or concerns

By working together, we can create a safe, supportive, and inclusive learning environment that promotes academic excellence, social responsibility, and character development.

Let us unite to protect our learners and ensure they receive the quality education they deserve in a safe and secure environment.



MESSAGE FROM THE HOD.

It is a pleasure for me to write this message using our communication platform in the form of **Edu-News**. This message comes at a time when we are in the third quarter of the year; and we are counting days before our learners of all grades, sit for the end of the year exams.

In this Department, we have always said that much as the focus of the public is on the National Senior Certificate exams and the results thereof. our focus as a Department is on all grades, from the Foundation Phase to the Further Education and Training Phase. We have always said on many platforms and occasions, that the classroom is at the core of what we are about. That assertion means that our educators are at the centre of curriculum delivery that leads to the outcomes like the ones we have been enjoying in recent years. It is in this spirit that given the fact we are in the winter season, we continue to encourage our educators to not tire in equipping our learners and sharpening them to be

ready come the end of the year exams.

We recognise that our educators throughout our province are busy with Winter Classes which include the morning, afternoon and weekend classes. We want to assure our educators that we appreciate them - we acknowledge the good work that they do and their commitment to public service is plausible.

Winter and Spring Classes program are part of our Provincial Academic Improvement Plan; and there is nowhere that our plans can find true expression, than in the classroom. That is why we say our educators are the strong pillar that keeps this Department moving on an upward trajectory when it comes to learner performance.

We urge those schools that have not begun to take Winter Classes seriously to do so for the sake of the young ones that we are preparing for a brighter future.

To our office-based officials, from the CMCs, District Offices and the Head Office, we urge you to always ask yourselves

if what you do at the offices, wherever you are based, has any impact in the classroom. In your daily activities, you should be preoccupied with the vision of making the classroom better and make it a conducive environment for quality teaching and learning.

Ours is about the classroom and all of us must work as a collective to make our classrooms work.

BUDGET SPEECH VOTE 5, 2024-25 DELIVERED BY THE MEC FOR EDUCATION, MR SIPHO HLOMUKA

The MEC for Education, Mr. Sipho Hlomuka, delivered a Budget Speech that lays the foundation for a transformative journey in KwaZulu-Natal's education sector.

Focusing on strategic investments, the MEC emphasized key areas, including the enhancement of Educational Infrastructure, the Early Childhood Development, the integration of advanced technology in classrooms, the comprehensive employment of educators.

These initiatives are not merely budget allocations—they represent the department's unwavering dedication to creating an equitable and robust education system that empowers every learner, regardless of their background. As the

department embarks on this path, it signifies the commitment to ensure that the youth of KwaZulu-Natal are equipped with the skills and knowledge to thrive in a rapidly evolving world.

Date: 13 August 2024















THE BUDGET ALLOCATED TO THE KWAZULU NATAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION IS AS FOLLOWS:

PROGRAMMES	BUDGET ALLOCATION	BUDGET ALLOCATION IN WORDS
1. Administration	R2 341 621	Two billion three hundred and forty-one million six hundred and twenty-one thousand.
2. Public Ordinary School Education	R52 217 275	Fifty-two billion two hundred and seventeen million two hundred and seventy-five thousand.
3. Independent School Subsidies	R85 500 000	Eighty-five million five hundred thousand.
4. Public Special School Education	R1 727 871	One billion seven hundred and twenty-seven million eight hundred and seventy-one thousand.
5. Childhood Development	R2 089 021	Two billion and eighty-nine million and twenty-one thousand.
6. Infrastructure Development	R2 687 657	Two billion six hundred and eighty-seven million six hundred and fifty-seven thousand.
7. Examination And Education Related Services	R1 839 643	One billion eight hundred and thirty-nine million six hundred and forty-three thousand.
TOTAL	R62 988 588	Sixty-two billion nine hundred and eighty-eight million five hundred eighty-eight.

MEC'S VISIT TO SEATIDES COMBINED SCHOOL

BY: Qini Mkhize

The MEC for Education in KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Sipho Hlomuka together with the Head of Department Mr. Nkosinathi Ngcobo, conducted a site visit to Seatides Combined School in Tongaat.

The MEC and HOD were accompanied by Top Management to inspect the storm-damaged school. Grade 12 learners were accommodated at Anton Lembede MST Academy while the school was in the

process of being repaired. This was also to ensure they receive curriculum support, especially for subjects that require specialist classrooms.

Mobile classrooms were delivered to the school to ensure that teaching and learning is not affected as schools began in term 3 on the 09th July 2024.

The HOD, Mr Ngcobo motivated learners to stay focused despite what has befallen their school. The MEC, Mr Hlomuka

echoed the same sentiments "Your future is important, and we want to see all of you achieving great results. We are here to support you and wish you well as you commence with the third term".













KZN MEC SPENDS 67 MINUTES WITH DISTRICT OFFICIALS

BY: Xoli Tompson

The MEC, Mr. Sipho Hlomuka, commemorated Mandela Day by spending 67 minutes with district officials at Esifubeni Primary School in the UThukela District.

The event was attended by officials from the Head Office, including DDG Advocate Bheki Masuku, Dr David Chonco, District Directors, Ms. Popi Mokoena, as well as uMzinyathi District Director Mr. Sphiwe Kheswa and other district officials.

Ms. Moekana welcomed everyone and expressed her

gratitude for the opportunity to celebrate this special day at the school. The School Principal, Mr. Magubane provided a brief overview of the school's profile and requested the MEC's assistance with addressing the challenges faced by the school, including storm damage to the administration block.

The MEC took note of the challenges, particularly the decline in school enrollment, which affects infrastructure and educator capacity. He encouraged the SGB to mobilize parents to address these issues and emphasized the importance of maintaining sanitation facilities.

The event was a meaningful way to honor Nelson Mandela's legacy and promote peace and freedom in the country.

Date: 18 July 2024















MEC'S 12 DISTRICTS MEET AND GREET SESSIONS

The MEC for Education Mr Sipho Hlomuka hit the ground running and swiftly embarked on a 12 Districts road show across the KwaZulu-Natal Province.

The MEC accompanied by SMS Members, conducted sessions with all 12 Districts under the KZN Department of Education in an attempt to familiarize himself with District Directors, Circuit Management Centre Heads and Circuit Managers who form a crucial part of what transpires in each and every classroom where teaching and learning is concerned.

All District Directors presented their District state of affairs, underlining areas of concern, challenges at hand and their achievements.

The initially nerve wrecking exercise by District Directors proved to be seamless as all of them effortlessly took the MEC into confidence, even sharing with him their strategies on improving the 2024 NSC Examinations, it was evident that all of them are gunning for the number 1 spot which is currently enjoyed by UM-khanyakude District candidly known in this Department as "Uzakewu"

The MEC found pleasure in engaging District officials and learning in detail about their day to day endeavors. MEC Hlomuka in one of the Districts remarked "The work that is done by the KZN Depart-

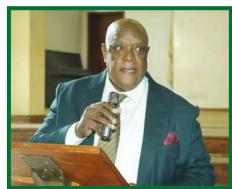
ment of Education's officials is tremendous and it is rather unfortunate that most of it goes unnoticed due to it being performed behind the scenes"

He further advised officials at all levels about the importance of working delegently, ethically and professionally.

The MEC promised to continually engage officials in order to collectively achieve consistent improvement, stating that he as an individual cannot bring about change all by himself but a collective effort will see KZN move to the number one spot in the country in terms of NSC Examination Results.















MEC'S MEET AND GREET ROADSHOWS

























BUDGET MEETING FOR THE 2024/2025 FINANCIAL YEAR

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, Mr. Sipho Hlomuka, met with KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Finance, Mr. Francois Rodgers, to discuss matters related to the 2024/2025 Budget. Mr. Hlomuka was accompanied

by the Head of Department for the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education, Mr. Nkosinathi Ngcobo, and top management, including CFO, Mr. Lal Rambaran. The meeting was held at the Treasury Offices, located in the Natalia Building, Pietermaritzburg, on

19 July 2024.

















TRAGEDY STRIKES PHIKISWAYO PRIMARY SCHOOL: DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION OFFICIALS ADDRESSES EDUCATORS

In the wake of a devastating incident that claimed the life of a female educator, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education's Head of Department, Mr. Nkosinathi Ngcobo, arrived at Phikiswayo Primary School to address the educators and offer support.

On July 29, 2024, the school was rocked by tragedy when a female educator was shot and

killed on the premises, sending shockwaves through the community.

Mr. Ngcobo's visit comes as the Department extends its deepest condolences to the family, colleagues, and students affected by this heartbreaking event. The Department has reaffirmed its commitment to ensuring the safety and well-being of edu-

cators and learners, standing united in the face of this tragedy.











KING MISUZULU KAZWELITHINI OPENS KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE

Pietermaritzburg, KwaZulu-Natal - His Majesty, King Misuzulu kaZwelithini, officially opened the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Legislature's Seventh Administration on, July 30, 2024, at the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature in Pietermaritzburg.

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, Mr. Sipho Hlomuka, was in attendance at the significant event, which marked a major milestone in the province's democratic journey.

The event was held under the theme "Growing KZN Togeth-

er," highlighting the importance of collaboration and unity in driving the province's growth and development.















2024 NATIONAL SENIOR CERTIFICATE EXAMS 100 DAYS COUNTDOWN.

BY: Thabile Dlamini

On July 16, 2024, the Honourable MEC, Mr. Sipho. Hlomuka, accompanied by the Chief Directors of District Operations, Exams and Assessments, and Curriculum, paid a special visit to Little Flower Combined School in the Harry Gwala District.

The purpose of the visit was to engage with the Grade 12 learners and provide them with encouragement as they ap-

proach their upcoming examinations. MEC Hlomuka delivered a motivational speech, stressing the significance of dedication and hard work in attaining academic achievement.

This event also marked the late nights of studying for the 2024 National Senior Certificate (NSC) exams as the MEC lit a candle to highlight the significance of studying till late night.

As part of the event, MEC

Hlomuka officially unveiled the matric support booklets, which have been meticulously crafted to provide comprehensive assistance to the learners. These resources are intended to bolster the students' preparedness and confidence, empowering them to thrive in their final assessments.

"Once we ring the bell there is no break"



















AMAJUBA DISTRICT MEN'S MONTH CELEBRATION

BY: Mbali Zulu

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education's Amajuba District celebrated Men's Month on 12 July 2024, at Ferrum High School, on the Lapha Sports Grounds.

This event focused on men's health and well-being, covering social, emotional, physical, and psychological aspects. During the event, the District Director, Mr. Themi Nzama, expressed appreciation for the organizing team and honored their efforts. He outlined the purpose of the event and welcomed all quests present. In his remarks, he stated, "We are gathered here to celebrate men's health and wellness and to promote positivity towards happiness and good quality health.". This will also make us productive in our daily lives and work performance. We hope that this event will give the District Office an opportunity to highlight social issues faced by men. As a district, we do not promote the gender-based stereotype which says "Indoda ayikhali ifela ngaphakathi kuhle kwebutho lakwaZulu." We also hope that this event will assist men in promoting positive and healthy behaviour at the District Office level and beyond."

Furthermore, District Director Mr. Themi Nzama urged male employees within the district to take part in this initiative. "A man should never be defined by his material possessions but by his actions. A man's strength, resilience, and compassion make him a role model for many," said District Director Nzama.

Various stakeholders ad-

dressed the audience on different aspects such as financial management, men's health including mental health issues, psychological issues affecting working men, and social programmes and institutions for men.















THE DEPARTMENT GEARS IT-SELF FOR ONLINE LEARNER ADMISSIONS SYSTEM "ONE PROVINCE, ONE PLAN, ONE FUTURE."

BY: Noluthando Zitha

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education hosted a meeting for the new Online Learner Admissions System. The department took proactive steps to implement the pilot system on day 1 of the meeting hosted at the Riverside Hotel in Durban. The meeting was chaired by the Deputy Director General of Curriculum Management and Delivery, Mr. Mbongiseni Mazibuko. The DDG welcomed all delegates and shared the purpose of the meeting which is for the KwaZulu-Natal Department of **Education Communications &** Publications directorate to facilitate the communication and queries between clients and the department.

Mr. Nhlanhla Mthethwa articulated the potential risks and benefits of the program, highlighting the advantages for clients, including the ability

to submit multiple applications and reuse supporting documents for various submissions. Additionally, he provided a comprehensive overview of factors to consider, encompassing special schools, arts, sports, culture, boarding schools, and technical schools. Mr. Mthethwa also shed light on the ongoing manual admissions processes initiated in April 2024 and underscored the accountability of governance and management for the coordination and reporting of admissions. The pilot program for Online Learner Admissions involves four districts: Amajuba, UMgungundlovu, Pinetown, and the uMlazi Districts.

Mr. Lucky Mthetho delivered a presentation on the system information and business rules of the online applications system, emphasizing that the applications are intended for grades 1 and 8. Additionally, Mr. Mthetho underscored non-system add-

ons, such as walk-in centers necessitating connectivity and hardware, contact centers for queries, mobile centers serving areas without facilities, as well as human and physical resources. He emphasized the anticipated non-system issues, such as the acquisition of laptops and LTE routers with data SIM cards, and the gathering of detailed client requirements for system routing.

During the second day of the Online Learner Admissions Meeting, DDG Mr. Mbongiseni Mazibuko highlighted the productive nature of the previous day's meeting. The proceedings of the 2nd of July served as a continuation of the meeting from the 1st of July, with the attendance of the service provider, the Information Technology directorate led by Director Simesihle Halimana, and all four district directors: Mrs. Busisiwe Mahlambi of uMlazi District, Mr. Sighamo Mabinza







of uMgungundlovu District, Ms. Sbongile Nkosi of Pinetown District, and Mr. Themi Nzama, the Director of Amajuba District.

The proposed project structure was presented by Ms. Dudu Mkhize, who is confident that it serves as a crucial tool in determining the hierarchical arrangement of team members, delineating their roles and responsibilities, establishing workflow procedures, and defining the reporting system. Ms. Mkhize effectively outlined the roles and responsibilities of the DDG, Mr. M.J Mazibuko, and the project sponsor, emphasizing his strategic role in ensuring the development and communication of the vision and positioning the organization to embrace change. Additionally, the DDG is tasked with presenting the project to top management and external stakeholders. Ms. Mkhize also underscored the responsibilities of the project manager, Mr. Sandile Mkhize, and the Chief Director of the Curriculum Development Directorate, Mr. Skhumbuzo Manganye, who serves as the project leader.

Mr. Muzi Mahlambi, the Head of Communication, with the assistance of his Deputy Director, Ms, Nonkululeko Ngcobo confidently presented the program report and communication project plan on behalf of the Communications and Publications directorate. The report outlined upcoming events aimed at facilitating the implementation of the online learner admissions program.

The Project Manager, Mr. Sandile Mkhize shared the background of the project. along with the improvements in the systems cyber security, Mr Mkhize highlighted the problem statement which includes, long ques at the beginning of the school year and low responses which leads to late detection by the department. He spoke about the scope of the project which includes web cloud, registration applications online, registration appeals, and eliminating overcrowding.

Mr. Ruan Van der Merwe from Telkom SA - BCX spoke on the transmission of information on the web cloud, and how the system assists the parents in providing information on the schools available to the learner and the learners information, Mr Van der Merwe also highlighted on how the system is set to provide the department with accurate information and feedback and that the system provides the client and the department with the communication which they have received during each step.



The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education's DDG, Mazibuko shared the ongoing issues within the department and commended all parties involved for their outstanding work.

The Department is preparing to initiate the pilot plan in selected schools within the designated pilot districts.





AMAJUBA DISTRICT TEACHER WELL-BEING SEMINAR

BY: Mbali Zulu

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education's Human Resources Development Directorate, in collaboration with the Provincial Education Labour Relations Council, conducted a Teacher Well-being Seminar on 19 July 2024 at Ferrum High School in Newcastle, under the Amajuba District.

The seminar was held under the theme "Educator Well-being to Ensure Quality Teaching and Learning in the KZN Department of Education." More than 200 delegates attended the seminar, including representatives from Organised Labour, ELRC, SACE, NPA, and Old Mutual. This engagement aimed to equip educators with the knowledge to address their physical, mental, and emotional challenges and to discuss wellness issues, thereby promoting productivity in the workplace.

Mr Bafana Zwane, Director of Performance Management, emphasized the crucial role that educators play in shaping the future of learners, referring to educators as builders of human potential. The presentation of the handbook on Teacher Safety and Security in South African Schools was shared by the SACE Provincial Coordinator Ms S. Mncwango.













CAREER EXHIBITION 2024

BY: Thabiso Mjwara

The KwaZulu-Natal
Department of Education in
partnership with the eThekwini
Municipality, Glory Bush
Foundation Ukhanya
Kwesizwe Community
Development, hosted a twoday Career Exhibition 2024
held at the Princess
Magogo Stadium in
KwaMashu, North of Durban.

The matriculants attended sessions on university applications and career choices. Ms. TPJ Khoza emphasized understanding strengths while Mr. Tami Mbanjwa reminded learners of the upcoming NSC Exams. Exhibitors included DUT, Transnet, Starlite Aviation, and many others.

Date: 18-19 July 2024.



















THE DEPARTMENT SUPPLIES TEMPORARY CLASSROOMS AT SEATIDES COMBINED SCHOOL

BY: Thabiso Mjwara

Following a tornado that passed through Tongaat, causing untold damage to homes and infrastructure including schools, the KwaZulu-Natal Natal Department of Education has since supplied Seatides Combined School with mobile classrooms and ablution facilities.

The DDG responsible for Institutional Development Support (IDS), Ms Weziwe Hadebe, led a team appointed to ensuring that everything is in order ahead of the resumption of

classes for the thried term.
Among the matters discussed, some key topics mentioned were flushable toilets, water tanks, electricity, fencing, equipment and site clearing.

DDG Hadebe said she was satisfied that everything was in order and that teaching and learning could take place at the school. "Our main aim for visiting the school today together with the district and the Implementing Agent was to ensure that our learners are able to return to a conducive environment" she said.

The Department swiftly supplied the school with new mobile classrooms to assist the school get back on track, whilst the school is being rebuilt.

Date: 14 July 2024













KZNDOE'S VISITS MTHAMBALALA SECONDARY SCHOOL

BY: Sphelele Madlala

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education led a high level delegation to Mthambalala Secondary School to conduct an inspect in loco of the severe storm damage to school Infrastructure.

The delegation led by the Deputy Director-General: Institutional Development Support, Ms Weziwe Hadebe met in Jozini. Implementation Agencies, namely; Independent Development Trust, (IDT) and Coega were part of the delegation to provide support and offer solutions.

The Chairman of the SGB was very humbled and delighted to receive the delegation from

the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education to visit and offer support to Mthambalala Secondary School after the storm damage.

The independent Development Trust (IDT) and Coega, both Implementation Agencies, presented a list of temporal as well as permanent solutions to help facilitate teaching and learning. DDG, Ms Hadebe, announced, that, 2 mobile classrooms will be delivered at the school for temporal use. while the major construction and renovation is being arranged. She also mentioned that they will provide the school with a bore-hole to provide water supply to learners and teachers urgently and to also deploy professionals to assess

the process of renovating the school in a very short space of time.

Apart from the 37 new class-rooms to be built and the water bore-hole, there will also be a kitchen, special classrooms for science students, fencing and may other amenities. The District Director, Mr Thanduyise Motha also requested the community to ensure that the school is taken care of and be protected by the community.













THE 25TH INTERNATIONAL AIDS CONFERENCE IN GERMANY

BY: Nikelo Dlamini

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, Mr. Sipho Hlomuka, represented South Africa at the 25th International AIDS Conference held in Munich, Germany. This conference was a pivotal event in the global fight against HIV/AIDS, bringing together leaders, researchers, and activists from around the world to share new solutions

and advancements in combating the epidemic.

MEC Hlomuka's participation, alongside the Head of Department (HOD), underscored the KwaZulu-Natal Province's commitment to addressing the HIV/AIDS crisis with innovative and revolutionary tactics. This international platform provided a vital opportunity for knowledge sharing and partnership

building, aimed at enhancing global efforts against HIV/ AIDS.

The presence of the two Kwa-Zulu-Natal Department of Education dignitaries demonstrated the province's dedication to being at the forefront of global health initiatives and working towards sustainable solutions to eradicate HIV/AIDS.



















SCHOOL SAFETY CONFERENCE

BY: Noluthando Zitha

The KwaZulu-Natal Department Of Education, in collaboration with the University of Zululand, successfully organized a conference on School Safety in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal at Brackenham Primary School, Richards Bay in the King Cetshwayo District. The conference brought together education stakeholders and members of SMS to address

the critical issue of school safety.

Distinguished keynote speakers from the KZN Department of Education, The University of Zululand, Teachers Unions (CTU ATU & SATU), and UNISA graced the event. The School Safety Conference delved into essential topics such as identifying potential threats and preventing violence and bullying, safety protocol

and procedures, and providing mental health support for learners and teachers.

Date: 07 August 2024

















UMLAZI DISTRICT CONCLUDES 2-DAY INDUCTION WORKSHOP FOR NEW DEPUTY PRINCIPALS AND PRINCIPALS

BY: Philakahle Ngubane

The UMlazi District wrapped up a two-day induction workshop for its newly appointed deputy principals and principals.

The event, held with the aim of orienting and empowering the new school leaders, was a significant step in ensuring that the district continues to thrive under capable and informed leadership.

The workshop was well-attended by all newly appointed deputy principals and principals within the UMlazi District. The highlight of the event was the presence of the Chief Director for District Operations, Ms. T.A. Gumede, who not only graced the gathering with her presence but also offered invaluable words of support and leadership advice.

Ms. Gumede emphasized the importance of the role that these new leaders will play in the success of their schools and, by extension, the future of the district's education system. "We wish you success as you execute your duties to your optimum best," she remarked, underscoring the district's commitment to fostering a strong leadership foundation.

As these newly appointed deputy principals and principals

return to their schools, they do so with the backing of the district's leadership and a solid understanding of the expectations placed upon them.

The UMlazi District remains committed to supporting its school leaders as they strive to achieve educational excellence.

This workshop marks an important milestone in the ongoing efforts to enhance the quality of education within the district, with a clear focus on strong, informed, and effective leadership at the helm of every school.

Date: 26 July 2024











READ TO LEAD CAMPAIGN: HOD'S ANNUAL ADDRESS TO BOY-CHILDREN'S READING CLUB

BY: Silindile Zungu

A total of 120 school boys from the 12 districts of KwaZulu Natal gathered for the Department of Education's Annual Address to the boy-children's reading club as part of the province's "Read to Lead Campaign". This event aimed to emphasize the importance of reading as a catalyst for success for the next generation of leaders. The transformative impact of literacy on individual growth, academic excellence, and future leadership was highlighted.

Dr. Davide Chonco spoke about the significance of reading clubs, emphasizing how reading develops vocabulary, grammar, comprehension, and more. He encouraged the young audience to make reading a habit, as it broadens perspectives and unlocks full potential.





During the event, a learner from Ikusaselihle Secondary School shared a powerful poem, and Phendukani Full Service School delivered a compelling recitation and analysis of "The Black Man's Burden" novel by author Mack Reynolds. Inspiring messages were also shared by representatives from PASA and NECT, with a focus on developing the boys' reading skills.

The 120 school boys pledged their commitment to embrace the "Read to Lead" campaign, standing alongside the Acting Chief Director, Mr. Skhumbuzo Manganye. They vowed to prioritize reading, lead by example, and inspire their peers to do the same.

Mr. Mbongiseni Mazibuko, Deputy Director General for Curriculum Management and Delivery, urged the young men to explore the meanings





behind their given names, as a way to reconnect with their roots and discover their inherent leadership potential.

In closing, Ms. Busi Mahlambi facilitated the handover of library books to the 12 District Directors, marking the distribution of resources to establish and sustain reading clubs across the province. These books strive to foster a culture of literacy and leadership among the boy-children.

Date:31 July 2024.







THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCA-TION MEC DISCUSSES PL1 RECRUITMENT PLAN.

BY: Hlengiwe Mncibi

In a crucial move to address staffing concerns within the Department, MEC Hlomuka convened a high-level meeting today with the department's top management and the Human Resources Chief Directorate. The meeting took place at the MEC Boardroom, and focused on the finalization of the PL1 recruitment plan.

The PL1 (Post Level 1) recruitment plan is pivotal for the department as it aims to fill essential teaching positions across various schools in the region. With schools facing challenges due to vacancies and the need for qualified educators, the plan is expected to streamline the recruitment process and ensure that schools are adequately staffed ahead of the new academic year.

During the meeting, Mr. Hlo-

muka emphasized the importance of a transparent and efficient recruitment process. "Our priority is to ensure that every classroom has a qualified educator who can contribute to the development of our learners. The success of our education system hinges on the quality of teaching, and that begins with effective recruitment," said MEC Hlomuka.

The Human Resources Chief Directorate provided a detailed overview of the current staffing needs and the proposed recruitment strategies. Key topics discussed included the criteria for candidate selection, timelines for the recruitment process, and measures to address any potential challenges that may arise.

The MEC and the team deliberated on the importance of aligning the recruitment plan with the department's broad-

er educational goals, which include improving learner outcomes and reducing the educator-to-student ratio in overcrowded classrooms.

The meeting concluded with a commitment from all parties to expedite the recruitment process while maintaining rigorous standards to ensure that only the most qualified candidates are employed.

As the Department of Education continues to navigate the complexities of staffing and resource allocation, today's meeting marks a significant step forward in ensuring that every learner in the province has access to quality education.

Date: 31 July 2024









SOUTH AFRICAN SCIENCE OLYMPIAD TEAM HEADS TO INTERNATIONAL CHEMISTRY OLYMPIAD IN SAUDI ARABIA

BY: Hlengiwe Mncibi

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education proudly supports the South African Science Olympiad Team as they head to the International Chemistry Olympiad in Saudi

Arabia. Led by Professors Ajay Bissessur and Bice Martincigh from the University of Kwa-Zulu-Natal, team members Giana Govender, Gugu Mhlongo, Dylan Buys, and Joshua Combrink will represent South Africa in this prestigious competition, which includes a challenging five-hour lab practical and a five-hour theoretical exam. Best of luck, Team SA!







TURTON DISTRICT TEACHER DEVELOPMENT CENTRE (DTDC) HOSTS VODACOM CODE LIKE A GIRL AWARDS CEREMONY

Congratulations to the 90 talented young coders from 20 schools across 7 circuits, who received well-deserved awards at the Vodacom Code Like a Girl Awards Ceremony.

- Date: July 5, 2023

Location: Esibanini Community Hall, Umthwalume (Umzumbe Municipality)

- Beneficiaries: 90 girls from 20

schools across 7 circuits from 2 Circuit Management Centres (EMzumbe and Scotburgh) Congratulations to the young coders!









KZN SCHOOLS SHINE AT THE NATIONAL 2024 ABC MOTSEPE SASCE

BY: Mbali Zulu

The Department of Basic
Education and Sport, Arts and
Culture in partnership with the
Motsepe Foundation, hosted
the 2024 ABC Motsepe South
African Schools Choral Eisteddfod National Championship under the theme "Celebrating 30 years of democracy"
at the Rhema Bible Church
in Randburg, Gauteng from
Wednesday, 07 August 2024 Saturday 10 August 2024

The South African School Choral Eisteddfod (SASCE) remains the one of the most crucial school enrichment programmes that promote unity in diversity,national,reconciliation, a new South African National identity, social transformation and social cohesion among learners. The school choral and traditional music competition advances the holistic development of the young, preparing them for constructive lives fulfilling to themselves their country and their people. This programme is the lever for delivering key messages to young people on current challenges and threats facing our nation like human trafficking.,crime drugs,alcohol abuse, teen pregnancy, and other social ills.

Learners were competing under various categories that includes solo section, small ensemble, mixed choirs categories, gender pieces and

folklore.

More than 14 schools participated in the National Championship, the KZN team managed to obtain 1st position and 2nd from the first day of the competition which resulting team KZN obtaining a total number of 18 trophies.

Empangeni High School was one of the School that performed very well during competition, the school managed to deliver platinum performance on Female Voices under the baton of Principal Mr S.D. Zwane.





































MEC'S VISIT TO SEATIDES COMBINED SCHOOL.



















KZN MEC SPENDS 67 MINUTES WITH DISTRICT OFFICIALS







MEC'S 12 DISTRICTS ROADSHOW: UGU AND HARRY GWALA DISTRICTS































UTHUKELA MEC ROADSHOW.

























UTHUKELA MEC ROADSHOW.





























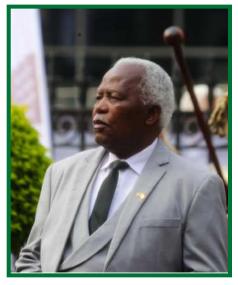


THE 2-DAY YOUTH IN BUSINESS SUMMIT 2024, HOSTED BY THE KWAZULU-NATAL OFFICE OF THE PREMIER AT THE DURBAN EXHIBITION CENTRE.

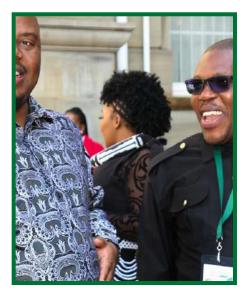






















KING MISUZULU KAZWELITHINI OPENS KWA-ZULU-NATAL PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE













2024 National Senior Certificate Exams 100 Days Countdown.













Amajuba District Men's Month Celebration.













THE DEPARTMENT GEARS ITSELF FOR ONLINE LEARNER ADMISSIONS SYSTEM "ONE PROVINCE, ONE PLAN, ONE FUTURE."













AMAJUBA DISTRICT TEACHER WELL-BEING SEMINAR.













CAREER EXHIBITION 2024.













KZN DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION SUPPLIES TEMPORARY STRUCTURES AT SEATIDES TO ALLOW TEACHING AND LEARNING.













SCHOOL SAFETY CONFRENCE.













READ TO LEAD CAMPAIGN: HOD'S ANNU-AL ADDRESS TO BOY-CHILDREN'S READING CLUB

























KZN SCHOOLS SHINE AT THE NATIONAL 2024 ABC MOTSEPE SASCE.































PHENDUKANI FULL SERVICE HIGH SCHOOL HELD AN EVENT TO OFFICIALLY LAUNCH THE COUNT DOWN TO THE NSCE.



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