

EDU NEWS

KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT | EDUCATION

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KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**GROWING
KWAZULU-NATAL
TOGETHER**

TABLE OF CONTENTS

3. MESSAGE FROM THE MEC	14. COLLABORATION WITH DBSA TO TACKLE INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES AND ENHANCE LEARNING
4. MESSAGE FROM THE HOD	15. RISING TOGETHER: THE T49 SCHOOLS MEETING FOR CHANGE
5. MEC MR SIPHO HLOMUKA HOSTS WOMEN’S DAY GALA DINNER “WOMEN ELEVATE”	16. IDS BRANCH HOLDS QUARTERLY REVIEW MEETING
6. DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CELEBRATES WOMEN’S DAY: “WOMEN ELEVATE”	17. POST PROVISIONING CONSULTATION 2025/26
7. CELEBRATING WOMEN’S DAY IN UMGUNGUNDLOVU DISTRICT	18. 2024 PROVINCIAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION
8. UMLAZI DISTRICT CELEBRATES WOMEN’S DAY	19. MATHS INDABA KC RICHARDS BAY CIRCUIT
9. INTERVENTION VISIT AT MUKELANI PRIMARY SCHOOL	20. A BOLD STEP TOWARDS A BRIGHTER FUTURE
10. INTERVENTION VISIT AT MUKELANI PRIMARY SCHOOL	21. 50 DAYS COUNT DOWN
11. PHIKISWAYO PRIMARY SCHOOL RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM MIDESK GLOBAL	22. ONLINE LEARNER ADMISSIONS PROJECT MEETING
12. INTERVENTION VISIT AT VERULAM SECONDARY SCHOOL	23. HISTORY AWARDS AND GALA DINNER CEREMONY
13. MEC’S MEETING FOR POST LEVEL1 VACANCIES	24. ROAD SAFETY DEBATE AND PARTICIPATORY EDUCATION TECHNIQUES COMPETITION

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MESSAGE FROM THE MEC



I am thrilled to share some exciting developments as we continue on our journey toward transforming education in our province.

We are proud to announce the release of 747 post-level 1 teacher vacancies for unemployed and temporarily employed educators. This is more than just a number—it represents our unwavering commitment to nurturing the minds of the leaders of tomorrow by ensuring that our classrooms are filled with dedicated and passionate educators.

We are also in the process of Post Provisioning Consultation 2025/26 where strategic engagements are held with Key Educational Stakeholders. This began with a critical consultation meeting held on 03, September 2024. This session was designed to discuss the Post Provisioning Norms (PPN) for

the 2025/26 academic year, a crucial process in determining the allocation of educator posts across the province's schools. The meeting brought the Human Resource component of the Department, the Education Labour Relations Council (ELRC), and School Governing Body Associations (SGBA).

Various factors must be considered when determining the PPN for the year. These include the provincial education department's budget, the impact of the post-establishment on the employment security of educators, and the need to redress imbalances in the implementation of curriculum policy, not neglecting the importance of justifiable division between personnel and non-personnel costs, as well as between educator and non-educator personnel costs, in accordance with national policy.

The PPN Consultation Management Plan 2025/26, emphasizes the department's commitment to collaboration and transparency throughout the post-distribution process. This plan outlines a comprehensive timeline for the consultation, ensuring that all key stakeholders, including organized labour and School Governing Bodies (SGBs), are actively engaged. The importance of participation from all involved is highly required, as the successful execution of this plan is vital for the timely distribution of PPN certificates, which are scheduled to be finalized by the end of September 2024.

The Post Provisioning Consultation for 2025/26 marks a significant step forward in the KwaZulu-Natal Department

of Education's efforts to strategically allocate resources and enhance the educational landscape of the province. By engaging with a broad spectrum of stakeholders, the department is ensuring that decisions are made collaboratively and transparently, with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of education for all learners in KwaZulu-Natal.

As the province moves forward with its plans, the dedication to addressing both national and provincial priorities will undoubtedly pave the way for a more equitable and effective education system. The finalization of the PPN by the end of September 2024 will be a critical milestone, setting the stage for continued progress in the 2025/26 academic year and beyond.

As we push forward with these initiatives, we want to take a moment to celebrate the incredible women who contribute so much to our communities, particularly in education. Your strength, wisdom, and compassion inspire us everyday, and your impact is felt in every classroom and beyond.

Let us continue working together to build an education system that is not only robust but also inspiring for all.



MESSAGE FROM THE HOD

This issue of **EduNews** will set the alarm of having less than 50 days left before our Class of 2024 sit for the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Examinations.

Practically, there are very few days left before the big day of October 21, when our learners sit for English Paper 3.

This is the time for all of us in the family of education to close ranks and do whatever it takes to ensure that our learners get into the examination rooms with all the confidence that they can muster. The only way our learners can get into the examination rooms with such high levels of confidence, is when they are adequately equipped and sharpened to stand a good chance come the last week of October.

As a Department, we are satisfied that throughout the province, in all our twelve districts, our 2024 Academic Improvement Plan has been implemented to the letter and our strategies and tactics have reached every classroom of our 5 872 school in the province, especially those classes that are

occupied by our National Senior Certificate Candidates.

As we close ranks, intensify our work and up our collective tempo, we urge all stakeholders, especially parents and members of the public, to do likewise. After all, the learners that have been in our education system for 12 years, belong to the very same communities.

We urge our schools to make good and full use of the study and revision material available to them, as well as the Matric Support Booklet (with study tips) that was given to all our Grade 12 Learners.

Much as academic readiness is important during this crucial time, we urge educators and parents not to put undue pressure on learners. As competitive as we are as a province when it comes to academic performance, we know that our learners cannot perform well if they are anxious and stressed about the looming examination period.

It is therefore our collective duty

as the Department; together with the rest of society, to also mentally prepare our learners so that they approach these exams with the relative sense of ease and calmness.

We need to ensure that they are not only mentally agile, but are fortified and cushioned from unnecessary distractions.

That being said, we are persuaded as a Department that our star is going to continue to rise, shine and that our learners are going to make our Province, our Department; and their parents proud come the release of results in January.

Now is the crunch time – lets us make it count.

MEC MR SIPHO HLOMUKA HOSTS WOMEN'S DAY GALA DINNER "WOMEN ELEVATE"

BY: THABILE DLAMINI

The MEC for Education, Mr Sipho Hlomuka, and the Head of Department, Mr Nkosingithi Nkomo, attended a Women's Month Gala Dinner which was attended by female officials from level 9 to level 15.

The Department chose the theme "Women Elevate" as it signifies a powerful and uplifting concept that celebrates the empowerment and support of women. The theme reflects the sisterhood that fosters community and connection among women by encouraging mutual support.

The stunning ladies of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education dazzled at the glamorous event, dressed in glitz and glamour, all in celebration of Women's Month. The evening was met with great excitement by all esteemed guests, who actively participated in informative engagements led by a panel of women specializing in various fields, including Legal, Finance, Health, and the Corporate sector.

Anele Nojiyeza, a Grade 12 learner from Mqhawe High School in the Pinetown District, delivered a beautiful solo performance. The Department of Education ensured that all guests were well-catered for and treated to the highest standard of hospitality on this special day.

DDG Ms Weziwe Hadebe spoke on why the MEC chose the theme "Women Elevate," emphasizing that it reflects his understanding of how capable and ready women are to occupy high positions. She noted that women need to support and uplift each other, always remembering their inherent beauty and strength.

Throughout the evening, all women were gifted with goody bags containing bath salts, a flask, and roses.

Ms Zodwa Zwane representative of South African Democratic Teachers Union(SADTU) spoke on the power and hard work of women, addressing the challenges women face in industries dominated by men. She encouraged women to aim high and pursue their goals.

The Head of Department Mr Nkosingithi Nkomo expressed his joy in seeing all the women celebrated, and he was pleased to be part of the Gala Dinner, which aimed to promote support for women and emphasize their importance.

MEC Hlomuka addressed the women, expressing his honor in being part of this event that celebrates such powerful and beautiful women. He emphasized the significance of women in the department, praising their shared knowledge and expertise. The MEC also thanked the former MEC, Ms Mbali Frazer, acknowledging the work she had done. He concluded by wishing all women a happy Women's Day.

Date: 30 August 2024



GALLERY



DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CELEBRATES WOMEN’S DAY: “WOMEN ELEVATE”

BY: KHOLEKA KHESWA

The MEC for Education, Mr Siphon Hlomuka, and the Head of Department, Mr Nkosinathi Ngcobo, hosted a Women’s Day Breakfast Celebration for female employees at the Head Office from levels 2 to 8. The event aimed to recognize and appreciate the significant contributions of women in the department.

MEC Hlomuka welcomed attendees and expressed his gratitude to the women of the Department of Education. He emphasized the importance of celebrating women’s achievements daily and encouraged self-recognition. He also highlighted the importance of mutual support and motivation in addressing current challenges. HOD Ngcobo shared insightful thoughts, emphasizing the equal value of all roles within the department. He acknowledged the significant impact of women on

the department’s success and expressed his appreciation for the lessons learned from them.

DDG Weziwe Hadebe expressed her gratitude to MEC Hlomuka and HOD Ngcobo for hosting the event. She commended the women for embracing the ‘Women Elevate’ theme, which embodies empowerment, strength, and resilience. She emphasized that women are ready to lead and occupy their rightful spaces, encouraging them to prioritize their happiness, uniqueness, and beauty.

Chief Director Ms T.P.J. Khoza shared her inspiring journey from being a teacher to a Chief Director. The Director of Legal Services, Ms N. Maphumulo, talked about legal matters, including marriage, family law, and the two types of divorces, explaining them in depth. The panel discussed divorce and its implications, while Ms T.A. Gu-

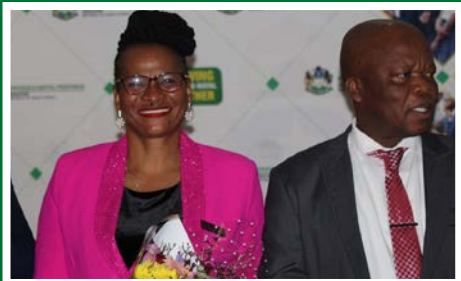
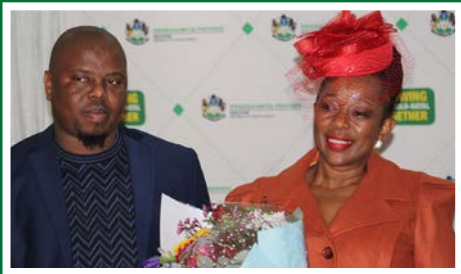
mede shared life coaching techniques to empower women. She emphasized self-prioritization, focusing on things that bring happiness, and understanding one’s rights. Ms Gumede also highlighted the benefits of having a will and encouraged women to take control of their finances.

There was also a discussion on life insurance and the importance of ensuring that premiums are always up to date. The Women’s Day celebration was a success, particularly because of the informative insights on women’s health, emphasizing collaboration with medical practitioners and the importance of regular check-ups. Bullying in the workplace was also discussed, with guidance on how to address it.

Date: 29 August 2024



GALLERY



GALLERY

CELEBRATING WOMEN'S DAY IN UMGUNGUNDLOVU DISTRICT

BY: MBALI MAGWAZA

UMgungundlovu District celebrated Women in Management, honouring the vital role female managers play in shaping the district's educational landscape.

Ms Balungile Ndlovu, Chief Education Specialist, warmly welcomed everyone on behalf of the District Director, Mr S'qhamo Mabinza. She shared that the gathering was held under the theme "Celebrating 30 Years of Democracy Towards Women's Development" for Women's Month 2024. Ms Ndlovu paid

tribute to the historic march of thousands of South African women in 1956, who courageously protested the introduction of pass laws at the Union Buildings.

The celebration embodied the district's values of inclusivity, diversity, and equality, serving as a poignant reminder of the essential role women's empowerment plays in building a stronger, more democratic society.

Professor Thabile Mbatha, a guest speaker from the University of Zululand, encouraged

women to seize every chance to uplift, inspire, and empower one another, and to renew their commitment to establishing a society free of prejudice, violence, and inequality.

Gamma Technology, Pro Edx, and NAPTOSA sponsored the event.

Date: 23 August 2024



UMLAZI DISTRICT CELEBRATES WOMEN'S DAY

BY: CAROL NGCOBO

The Umlazi District recently honoured its female heroes under the theme "Women fix each other's crown." The event, led by Programme Director Ms. Zama Mbongwe and Umlazi District Director Ms. Busisiwe Mahlambi, aimed to celebrate women's empowerment and unity.

Ms. Mahlambi opened the proceedings by expressing gratitude to all attendees and emphasising the importance of learning and growth. "Today, we celebrate all of you. It's not just a celebration, but an opportunity to learn and grow to change the status quo," she said.

Advocate Abigail Ngobene fol-

lowed with a powerful address on women's rights and equality. She stressed that being a woman is not enough and encouraged teachers to empower both boys and girls. "Rise, but rise better when you rise with a boy child," she said. Advocate Ngo-bene also emphasised the need to raise girl children to be independent and confident, rather than idolising the institution of marriage.

Other notable speakers included Mr. Ujeeth Singh from the Pension Fund (GEPF), who explained the new two-pot system, and Dr. Xoli Msomi, who discussed women in leadership. Dr. Msomi encouraged women to occupy spaces traditionally dominated by men, saying, "If

we liberate ourselves, we can occupy all positions as women."

Ms. Zipho Zawadi highlighted the importance of mental health and wellness, urging women to prioritise self-care, practice mindfulness, and support one another. "You should flourish, blossom, succeed, and thrive to commit," she said.

The event concluded with a beautiful performance by learners from Umlazi High School, making the Umlazi District's "Women fix each other's crown" celebration a resounding success.

Date : 29 August 2024





GALLERY

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION: AMAJUBA DISTRICT

BY: THERESA VAN NIEKERK

Amajuba District held the Women's Month Celebration at Fer-rhum High School on 07 August 2024.

The Head Office was represented by the Chief Director: District Operations, Ms TA Gumede.

As the keynote speaker, Ms Gumede welcomed all present at the Women's Day Celebration and acknowledged all stakeholders and union representatives.

She congratulated all women

appointed to senior/management posts. She also emphasized that, "As you lead and manage, you need to check on the people you lead and manage. Do not use your position to oppress others. As females let us not be tokens - we need to get managerial posts on merit."

Ms Gumede stated that Amajuba District has the ability to move up and become a top-performing district.

Date: 7 August 2024



GALLERY

MEC MR. SIPHO HLOMUKA'S INTERVENTION VISIT TO MUKELANI PRIMARY SCHOOL

BY THABILE DLAMINI

The MEC for Education, Mr. Siphso Hlomuka, visited Mukelani Primary School following a devastating robbery at gunpoint on the school premises. Accompanying the MEC were HOD Mr. Nkosinathi Ngcobo, DDG Ms. W. Hadebe, Chief Directors Ms. T.A. Gumede and Ms. T.P.J. Khoza, and District Director Ms. S. Nkosi-Tembe. The delegation expressed their deep concern over the tragic incident that took place at the school.

The Principal, Mr. Z Shabalala, provided details of the incident, describing it as a traumatic experience for both learners and teachers who were robbed of their belongings. He expressed his profound sadness that such

a crime occurred in front of young learners.

In his address, MEC Hlomuka commended the bravery and dedication of the teachers who continue to diligently perform their duties despite being violated by criminals. He expressed his gratitude to all stakeholders who immediately offered support upon learning of the robbery.

MEC Hlomuka stated that the incident had weighed heavily on his heart, and he felt compelled to come and offer support to the teachers and learners of Mukelani Primary. He acknowledged the efforts of community stakeholders and unions in combating crime and praised the South African Police Service (SAPS) for ensuring that the perpetrators

were apprehended. The MEC emphasized the importance of prioritizing school security, including the need for fencing and strict security measures.

The MEC concluded with a brief message for the learners at Mukelani Primary, apologizing for the disruption of teaching and learning caused by the incident.

Date: 27 August 2024



PHIKISWAYO PRIMARY SCHOOL RECEIVES SUPPORT FROM MIDESK GLOBAL

BY: NOLUTHANDO ZITHA

MiDesk Global, a company based in Cape Town, in collaboration with their sponsor, Games Global, has generously donated to Phikiswayo Primary School in the community of eNtuzuma. This contribution is expected to have a significant and lasting impact on the lives of the learners, fostering their growth as the leaders of tomorrow.

During the event, Mr Mthokozi-si Mchunu, the principal of Phikiswayo Primary School, expressively conveyed his appreciation for the substantial contribution made by MiDesk Global, underscoring its profound influence on the future of the learners.

Ms Selvo Moodley of Games Global, articulated the objective of the donation as providing learners with the necessary

tools to cultivate a passion for learning. Ms Farana Boodhram, the Chief Executive of MiDesk Global, presented an innovative digital desk and emphasized its potential to make a meaningful difference in the lives of every learner. This desk, designed by MiDesk, incorporates features like a “wheelie schoolbag” that transforms into a study desk and chair, a USB charging port, a solar light, and leg extensions to accommodate the learners’ physical growth, ensuring that the desk remains useful for 12 years.

Circuit Management under Mr. Makhosonke Sangweni and Mr. Sibusiso Mutwa, on behalf of Pinetown District Director Ms. S Tembe-Nkosi, expressed their gratitude to MiDesk Global and its sponsors for the significant donation, emphasizing the optimism it instills for the enhancement of the depart-

ment’s infrastructure. MiDesk Global distributed 294 digital study desks to the learners of Phikiswayo Primary School, with 30 desks being presented to the top 10 learners in grades 5, 6, and 7.

Mr Thula Shozi, representing the SGB, conveyed gratitude and emphasized the significance of unity between the community and the Department of Education, highlighting its profound impact on instilling confidence in the success of the learners’ future.



GALLERY



INTERVENTION VISIT AT VERULAM SECONDARY SCHOOL

BY: THABILE DLAMINI

MEC Mr. Sipho Hlomuka, accompanied by DDG Ms Weziwe Hadebe, Chief Director, Ms. T.A. Gumede, and District Director Ms. S. Nkosi-Tembe, visited Verulam Secondary School to address the incident of a learner being bullied.

During the briefing session, MEC Hlomuka expressed his concern about the behavior of learners and how they conduct themselves. He noted that learners lack respect and emphasized that all schools should have a code of conduct and policies to provide structure and discipline.

The school principal Mr. S. Govender addressed the learners, expressing his disappointment with their behavior. He appreciated the presence of MEC Hlomuka and informed the learners that the MEC was there to discuss the viral video showing a learner being bullied outside the school premises. He expressed his disappointment in seeing the video circulate and mentioned that despite the incident, the school achieved a 96% pass rate.

One of the learners from Verulam Secondary was asked by DDG Ms. Weziwe Hadebe to explain her understanding of bullying. The learner quoted the phrase “Wathinta abafazi, wathinta Imbokodo” and spoke about the embarrassment of witnessing females fighting and

trending for bullying. She added that male learners laughed at them for fighting each other and trending for the wrong reasons.

The MEC Mr. Sipho Hlomuka addressed the learners about respecting time and noted that he was present because of the reports he had received. He acknowledged what was said by the principal and shared that he was also once a learner who respected other learners and educators. He reminded learners that they represent their parents and that while in school, they are learners, not adults.

He urged learners to strive for a 100% pass rate, supporting each other as a united front. He was impressed by how the female learner spoke about the need for unity among females. MEC Hlomuka concluded with the phrase, “Protect yourself from yourself—don’t let bullying affect your future.”

Date: 27 August 2024

GALLERY



GALLERY



MEC'S MEETING FOR POST LEVEL1 VACANCIES

BY: QINISILE MKHIZE

The Department of Education in KwaZulu-Natal released HRM Circular 26 of 2024 on 23 August 2024, inviting unemployed and temporary educators to apply for post-level 1 vacancies. 747 suitably qualified educators are going to gain permanent employment in the Department. The MEC for Education, Mr Siphso Hlomuka, convened a meeting with all District Direc-

tors, Human Resources officials from districts and head office to ensure that it's all systems go for the start of the recruitment process.

"I am pleased with the work you have done thus far. We need to be meticulous during this process. I implore you to ensure that suitably qualified applicants are appointed so that we deliver on our commitment to providing quality education to the learners in KwaZulu-Natal," said MEC

Hlomuka.

Date: 27 August 2024





COLLABORATES WITH DBSA TO TACKLE INFRASTRUCTURE CHALLENGES AND ENHANCE LEARNING

BY: SPHELELE MADLALA

The Development Bank of Southern Africa (DBSA) met with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education's Institutional Development Support Branch under the leadership of Deputy Director-General (DDG), Ms Weziwe Hadebe, to present reports on project progress and address ongoing challenges.

Mr Chuene Rampele, Group

Executive of Infrastructure at DBSA, highlighted the need for the Department to sever ties with non-performing contractors to prevent delays in critical projects. He stressed the importance of maintaining productive and safe environments for teaching and learning.

DDG Hadebe emphasized the significance of accurate data capturing, ensuring that all stakeholders are aligned and

that information is kept up to date to avoid potential issues.

Date: 26 August 2024



RISING TOGETHER: THE T49 SCHOOLS MEETING FOR CHANGE

BY: KHOLEKA KHESWA

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education's Deputy Director-General (DDG) of Curriculum Management and Delivery, Mr M.J. Mazibuko, recently held a mandatory meeting with the principals of T49 schools—those with a pass rate of 49% or below in the 2023 National Senior Certificate Examinations. The meeting focused on strategies to improve learner performance across these schools.

DDG Mazibuko highlighted the department's commitment to eliminating underperformance and emphasized the need to redefine success yearly, targeting a 100% pass rate. Principals were tasked with developing

clear strategies to ensure learner success. The meeting also saw discussions on targeted interventions, collaboration between schools, regular management visits, and the importance of profiling learners for special assistance.

Velabahleke High School's Principal, Mr Bheki Mhlongo, shared successful strategies, including clear communication with educators and support for matriculants. DDG Mazibuko reminded the meeting of the limited time left to improve their performance this year, urging principals to guide them effectively.

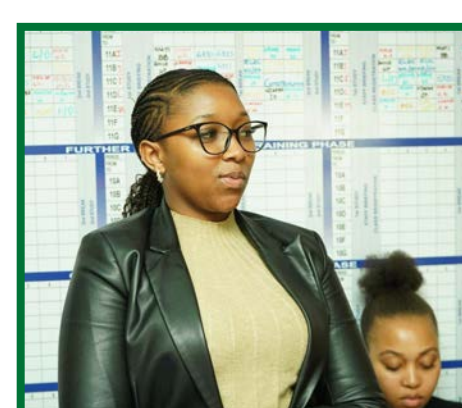
Chief Director of Curriculum Management, Ms Sindi Zakuza-Njakazi, advised on setting

high standards from the start of the school year and emphasized supporting at-risk learners. Umlazi District Director, Ms B.N. Mahlambi, expressed confidence in the department's efforts to help her schools overcome underperformance, predicting a significant turnaround in academic achievement.

Date: 22 August 2024



GALLERY



GALLERY



IDS BRANCH HOLDS QUARTERLY REVIEW TO ENSURE TIMELY COMPLETION OF SCHOOL PROJECTS

BY: XOLI THOMPSON

The Institutional Development Support (IDS) Branch, led by Deputy Director General (DDG), Ms Weziwe Hadebe, convened report-back meetings with all Implementing Agents (IAs) to ensure that all IAs meet the project deadlines currently in progress.

Emphasizing the significance of these meetings, DDG Hadebe noted that numerous schools are under construction, making

it crucial to monitor progress closely.

DDG Hadebe was clear about the consequences of failing to complete projects on time, stating that the primary focus is to ensure all projects are completed within the stipulated time-lines and that the Department receives value for the funds invested in school construction.

She further indicated that these meetings will be held quarterly,

providing implementing agents with a platform to report on any challenges they encounter. "The goal is to address any issues as they arise. We do not have the luxury of time to proceed at a slow pace. We strive to be a Department that adheres to deadlines and completes all projects on time," she affirmed.

Date: 26 August 2024.



POST PROVISIONING CONSULTATION 2025/26: STRATEGIC ENGAGEMENT WITH KEY EDUCATIONAL STAKEHOLDERS

BY: HLENGIWE MNCIBI

On 03 September 2024, the MEC for Education in KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Sipho Hlomuka, hosted a critical consultation meeting at the MEC Boardroom in Pietermaritzburg. This session was designed to discuss the Post Provisioning Norms (PPN) for the 2025/26 academic year, a crucial process in determining the allocation of educator posts across the province's schools. The meeting brought together top management from the Department of Education, key external stakeholders, representatives from organized labor, and the Education Labour Relations Council (ELRC).

In his presentation, MEC Hlomuka emphasized the legislative underpinnings of the post-provisioning process. He referenced key pieces of legislation, including Government Gazette No. 19627 (dated 18 December 1998), as amended by Government Gazette No. 24077 (dated 15 November 2002), the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa Act No. 108 of 1996, the South African Schools Act No. 84 of 1996, and the Employment of Educators Act No. 76 of 1998.

MEC Hlomuka elaborated on the various factors that must be considered in determining the

PPN for the year. These include the provincial education department's budget, the impact of the post-establishment on the employment security of educators, and the need to redress imbalances in the implementation of curriculum policy. The MEC also highlighted the importance of justifiable division between personnel and non-personnel costs, as well as between educator and non-educator personnel costs, in accordance with national policy.

The MEC Hlomuka presented the PPN Consultation Management Plan, emphasizing the department's commitment to collaboration and transparency throughout the post-distribution process. This plan outlines a comprehensive timeline for the consultation, ensuring that all key stakeholders, including organized labour and School Governing Bodies (SGBs), are actively engaged. The MEC stressed the importance of participation, as the successful execution of this plan is vital for the timely distribution of PPN certificates, which are scheduled to be finalized by the end of September 2024.

Insights from the Education Labour Relations Council were shared by Mr Thami Ntanda, Chairperson of the Office of

the Education Labour Relations Council. In his opening remarks, he expressed his appreciation for the opportunity to hold such a significant meeting on post-creation. He noted that, while other provinces are grappling with post reductions, KwaZulu-Natal's commitment to creating new posts is commendable. Mr Ntanda highlighted that the financial challenges facing the province have, paradoxically, brought the Department of Education and the ELRC closer together in their shared goal of securing quality education for all.

In closing, MEC Hlomuka stated that the Post Provisioning Consultation for 2025/26 marks a significant step forward in the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education's efforts to strategically allocate resources and enhance the educational landscape of the province. By engaging with a broad spectrum of stakeholders, the department is ensuring that decisions are made collaboratively and transparently, with the ultimate goal of improving the quality of education for all learners in KwaZulu-Natal.

"As the province moves forward with its plans, the dedication to addressing both national and provincial priorities will undoubt-

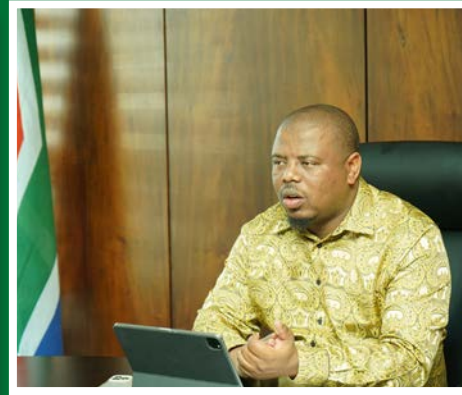
edly pave the way for a more equitable and effective education system. The finalization of

the PPN by the end of September 2024 will be a critical milestone, setting the stage for con-

tinued progress in the 2025/26 academic year and beyond," said MEC Hlomuka.



GALLERY





2024 PROVINCIAL MOOT COURT COMPETITION

BY: MBALI ZULU

On 31 August 2024, the Department of Education in KwaZulu-Natal, in partnership with the Department of Justice, Legal Aid South Africa, and the South African Human Rights Commission, convened the Provincial School Moot Court Competition at the Durban Magistrate Court in Durban.

The School Moot Court programme provides an opportunity for the entire legal profession of the country to engage in the promotion of the Constitution and the role of the law in our society.

The schools that participated in the 2024 competition were Sarel Cilliers High School, Phendukani Full Service School, Siyamukela High School, Empanjeni High School, Mzamo High School, Raisethorpe Secondary

School, Mandini Academy, Silver Heights High School, Zephania Secondary School, and Jabula High School.

Among the attendees were Dr Ngogi Mahaye, representing the Office of the MEC, DDG Institutional Development Support Ms Weziwe Hadebe, and various District Coordinators.

Dr Ngogi remarked, "Their arguments and presentations were truly impressive, showcasing their mastery of legal concepts, critical thinking, and problem-solving skills. This is a testament to the exceptional quality of education in KwaZulu-Natal and the dedication of our learners," said Dr. Mahaye.

DDG Hadebe stated, "We want to thank educators for their wonderful work. Your support for learners is amazing. This is a

very important and educational programme, and we promise to provide full support so that our learners can gain comprehensive exposure to the legal fraternity."

The winners are as follows:

- Sarel Cilliers High School, uMzinyathi District
- Raisethorpe Secondary School, UMgungundlovu District
- Mzamo High School, Amajuba District
- Siyamukela High School, Amajuba District

The winners will represent the province at the national level, which will be held at the University of Pretoria from 25-29 September 2024.





GALLERY



MATHS INDABA KC RICHARDS BAY CIRCUIT

BY: XOLI THOMPSON

The King Cetshwayo District held a maths summit at Richards Bay on the 20th of August 2024, among the attendees were the Deputy Minister of Science and Technology, Ms Nomalungelo Gina, DDG Weziwe Hadebe, Chief Directors and Directors from the Head Office. District Director, Mrs Wenzliwe Nzama, welcomed dignitaries and educators from the 22 circuits, acknowledging their crucial role in addressing learners' struggles with mathematics. She emphasized the need to enhance mathematics participation and performance beyond 2025.

The Indaba was informed by an analysis of results at various levels, including interval analysis of learners' performance in mathematics across grades.

The Maths Indaba considered district, provincial, and national mathematics strategies, with a focus on:

- Improving foundational skills in numeracy
- Implementing curriculum competencies for a changing world, including coding and robotics

Labour organizations and SACE expressed their support for the Indaba, recognizing the collective effort to enhance mathematics education.

Mr Lucky Mthetho, Director of MSC, shared best practices for addressing mathematics challenges, referencing Circular 54 of 2024. He emphasized the importance of supporting learners in competitions like Olympiads and encouraged greater participation.

Professor Kutame from the University of Zululand highlighted the challenges faced by learners who drop out or struggle with mathematics admissions due to poor marks.

Chief Director for District Oper-

ations, Dr Chonco introduced the Deputy Minister, providing insights into the system's operation and cautioning against neglecting other areas while focusing on one aspect.

Deputy Minister Gina commended the Indaba's theme, "Enhancing Maths Participation and Performance, 2024 and Beyond," emphasizing the need for collective action to address challenges. She encouraged directing learners toward mathematics, science, and accounting subjects, making mathematics almost compulsory.

The Maths Indaba concluded with a call for annual assessments to monitor mathematics infusion in schools and ensure targets are met. Five commissions were established for group discussions.

A BOLD STEP TOWARDS A BRIGHTER FUTURE

BY: NOLUTHANDO ZITHA

As the end of the year draws near, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education is diligently preparing for the official opening of the Maritime School in Durban. Led by Deputy Director Generals Ms. Weziwe Hadebe and Mr Mabongiseni Mazibuko, the team is focused on finalizing the necessary arrangements to ensure a successful launch of the Maritime School of Excellence in January 2025.

Ms Lindelwa Sithole, the Director of Infrastructure Planning, presented the project profile, outlining key deadlines and budget projections. She also emphasized the scope of work, which encompasses the construction of a regional swimming pool and 400 bedding facilities. Ms Sithole acknowledged the challenges and risks that have caused delays in the project timeline but reaffirmed the commitment to completing the school by November 30, 2024, with facilities to accommodate 700 learners in both classrooms and dormitories.

Additionally, the Chief Director

of Curriculum Management, Ms. Sindi Zakuza-Njakazi, provided a comprehensive overview of the Maritime School's educational concept, emphasizing the importance of a specialized maritime-focused curriculum. She highlighted the collaboration with industry experts and other departments to integrate theoretical learning into the curriculum effectively.

The meeting also included representatives from the maritime industry, including African Marine Solutions, SAMSA, eThekweni Maritime Cluster, eThekweni Municipality, eThekweni Maritime Industry Development, and Transnet Durban Harbour. These stakeholders emphasized the specific requirements for learners and future employees in the marine industry, such as mandatory eye exams and proficiency in working with technology. They also suggested the inclusion of a foreign language in the curriculum, reflecting the evolving needs of the industry.

Chief Director of Human Resources Ms. Nokukhanya Hlongwana, representing Deputy Director-General, Advocate Bheki

Masuku, expressed the department's commitment to providing HR support for the development of the Maritime School. This includes overseeing the recruitment process and implementing the necessary organizational structure for educators and principals.

The establishment of the Maritime School represents an unprecedented initiative by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education, and it's part of its mission to build many focus schools in the province.



GALLERY



50 DAYS COUNT DOWN

BY: THABILE DLAMINI

The KZN Department of Education, under the Umlazi District, arranged a meeting for all secondary school principals and learners as part of the 50-day countdown in preparation for the 2024 NSC Examinations.

The Head of Department Mr. Nkosinathi Ngcobo, accompanied by DDG of Curriculum and Management Delivery Mr. M.J. Mazibuko, Chief Director Ms. S. Zakuza-Njakazi, and District Director Ms. B.N. Mahlambi, were attendees.

Ms. Sindi Zakuza-Njakazi, Chief Director for Curriculum Management and Delivery, addressed the purpose of the day and discussed strategies to improve learner performance and results. She emphasized that with only 50 days left, the focus should be on ensuring every learner achieves a 100% pass rate. She highlighted that some learners have been in the system for 13 years or more, and it is crucial to work hand in hand to achieve this milestone.

Representatives from various unions expressed their appreciation for the support provided by Umlazi District, emphasizing the importance of staying focused and utilizing past papers. They thanked educators, circuit managers, and district managers for their efforts in organizing programmes and boot camps for learners.

Mr. S'thabisi Mkhonza, UKZN Matric Helpline Coordinator, spoke about the partnership with Umlazi District in providing extra

classes to prepare learners for the exams. He praised the district's efforts and assured learners that help is available whenever needed. The UKZN Matric Helpline focuses on Grade 11 and 12 learners, offering open days, Saturday contact classes, weekly online classes, night classes, and revision sessions. He encouraged matriculants to apply to UKZN.

DDG Mr. M.J. Mazibuko remarked on the significance of the matric examination as an important milestone and encouraged learners to work hard. He stressed the importance of making study books their friends and preparing mentally and physically for the exams. The department, he said, is ready to assist and is committed to running a credible examination process, discouraging any form of cheating.

The HOD Mr. Nkosinathi Ngcobo gave the keynote address and officially launched the 50-day countdown. He expressed confidence that Umlazi District can be number one this year, thanking all principals, teachers, and unions for their support. He urged parents to discourage laziness and encourage learners to dedicate time to their studies. He emphasized the importance of this milestone, comparing it to national events like elections, and stated his confidence in the district's readiness to succeed. Mr. Ngcobo concluded by ringing the bell, signaling there was no turning back, with only 50 days left before the NSC examination.

Learner Thabiso Champion,

head boy of Parkhill Secondary School, expressed gratitude for the support received, particularly the extra classes provided to help prepare for the exams.

Ms. B.N. Mahlambi gave the vote of thanks, accepting the challenge from top management to awaken the giant within the district. She expressed confidence that Umlazi District will rise again and that all Grade 12 learners are champions. She thanked all principals and learners who attended the event.

Date: 2 September 2024

GALLERY



GALLERY



GALLERY



ONLINE LEARNER ADMISSIONS PROJECT MEETING

BY: NOLUTHANDO ZITHA

Mr. Mbongiseni Mazibuko, the KwaZulu-Natal Deputy Director General for Curriculum Management and Delivery, adeptly led a meeting dedicated to the ongoing online learner admissions system project, held at the Anton Lembede MST Academy. Project manager Mr. Sandile Mkhize provided a comprehensive report on the progress of the online admissions project, highlighting the findings from the Gauteng Observation Visit. Mr. Mkhize meticulously outlined the potential challenges faced by the project, as well as the current state of the system,

which is scheduled for launch on September 30, 2024.

The departmental Head of Communication, Mr. Muzi Mahlambi, presented the contact center project along with the advocacy initiatives, including the communication plan and collaboration with Telkom/BCX. Mr. Mahlambi also reported on the successful demonstration of the platform, its approval status, and the implementation plan.

Mr. Nathi Mpungose, the EMIS Director in KwaZulu-Natal, shared a comprehensive plan for the upcoming training of users, which is scheduled to

take place from September 17 to September 18. The training will encompass manuals, tutorial videos, language translation, and the comprehensive training of DCTT.

In conclusion, DDG Mazibuko provided an insightful overview of the next critical steps and set clear expectations for the educational stakeholders moving forward.



INKOSI ALBERT LUTHULI ORAL HISTORY AWARDS AND GALA DINNER CEREMONY

BY: MBALI ZULU

On 24th August 2024, the Department of Basic Education, in partnership with the Albert Luthuli Museum, Robben Island Museum, and Freedom Park, hosted the Inkosi Albert Luthuli Oral History Awards Ceremony and Gala Dinner at Anew Hotel OR Tambo, Gauteng.

Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Dr. Reginah Mhaule, joined the learners for the launch of a strategic partnership with the South African Chapter of the International Association of Women Judges (SAC-IAWJ), marking the culmination of Women's Month. This launch aims to highlight the work of various ministers and the judiciary's intentions in supporting the Basic Education sector in its quest to establish rights-based, safe, socially cohesive, and inclusive schools.

Langsyde Secondary from uM-gungundlovu District, Macambini Secondary from iLembe, Mathubeszwe High from iLembe, Arthur Blaxall School from uMgungundlovu, Mbhekamuzi High from iLembe, Nonhlevu High from iLembe, and Shokwe-

ni Secondary from uGu District represented the KwaZulu-Natal province at the awards and Gala Dinner ceremony. Venue: Anew Hotel OR Tambo, Gauteng Date: 24 August 2024



GALLERY



ROAD SAFETY DEBATE AND PARTICIPATORY EDUCATION TECHNIQUES COMPETITION

BY MBALI ZULU

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education, together with the Department of Transport, hosted the Road Safety Debates and Participatory Education Techniques Provincial Competition, coordinated by the Road Traffic Management Corporation (RTMC) Directorate. This prestigious event took place at the International Convention Centre (ICC) on 31 August 2024. The

purpose of this programme is to provide a platform for learners to develop research, project management, presentation, and decision-making skills. It also encourages Grade 10 and 11 learners to identify and discuss road safety issues that have a direct impact on their schools and communities.

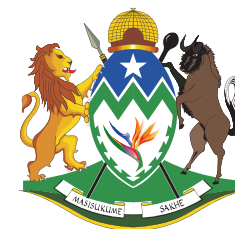
The following schools participated and won the provincial round:

1. Cwakeme Secondary School

2. Grosvenor Boys School from uMlazi District
3. King Bhekuzulu College from Zululand District

These schools will represent the KwaZulu-Natal province in the final round, which is scheduled to take place in Bloemfontein.

Date 31 August 2024



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