

EDU NEWS

KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE | EDUCATION

Volume No. 48 | February 2023

Celebratory Edition



The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education Strategic Workshop



Pinetwon District Awards Ceremony



Ilembe District Awards For Nsc Class Of 2022



Amajuba District Excellence Awards 2022



KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**GROWING
KWAZULU-NATAL
TOGETHER**

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THE EDITOR SPEAKS

Many people in the country, and I guess elsewhere in the diaspora, have not stopped talking about the ground-breaking results of KwaZulu-Natal in the 2022 National Senior Certificate examinations.

Even the worst critics of our education system, find it difficult to criticise and run short of expletives in their endeavour to undermine what the class of 2022 has achieved.

Even the political parties that want to launch themselves on the ticket of education, trip over themselves trying to speak down on the feat that has been achieved by the Department of Basic Education, and KZNDOE in particular.

As much as people speak highly of our performance in the 2022 National Senior Certificate exams, they will appreciate the performance even better and shout even louder, if they were given some necessary context.

The province of KwaZulu-Natal forms about 25% of the entire basic education sector. It is the biggest system, with over 2.8 million learners, 6 242 schools and 90 000 educators. Over and above its size, the province of KZN is one of the most rural provinces in the country.

Needless to say that it faces certain dynamics and challenges that are not found in the urban provinces like Gauteng and the western Cape. It is not to speak ill of our sister provinces to mention that there are some whose education system (size) is the size of only one or two districts in the KZN province.

This background is given to highlight the odds against which the province of KZN performed. Since the announcement of results, education in the province has been trending nonstop. We have our friends in the mainstream and social media to thank for highlighting and chronicling the positive stories of education success in the province.

Let us talk about the education craze in KZN.

Sinakhokonke Siyaya from Phendukani Full Service School, under Amajuba District became somewhat of the poster child for academic excellence of the KZN province. I guess it was her bubbly innocent personality and wit, that endeared her in the hearts and minds of many the in the province and the country. Sinakhokonke and Vuyani Mbelu received the University of Cape Town Vice Chancellors scholarship for their hard work.

Someone opined that Sinakhokonke and Prof Mamokgethi Phakeng share the same personality, they are both, “lovely and bubbly and dubly.”

We will not say much about the struggles of Professor Phakeng in that very tertiary institution. We will also say less (or speak in hushed tones) about the plight of students in the tertiary institutions and their annual struggles for access and decolonisation of tertiary education. I digress.

For Schools like Menzi High School and Vlabahleke High School in Umlazi Township, obtaining 100% pass rate is their second nature, but this year they added a new twist to their predictable success. These schools became overnight social media sensations where the videos of them celebrating their results with sleek dance moves went viral.

This edition of **Edu-News** is the celebratory edition. It contains stories and images of various districts, and even those under the care of the Department of Correctional Services celebrating their performance. Because celebrations must and should have to have their “sell by date,” it also contains articles on the strategic workshop held at the beginning of the year as well as school functionality monitoring by members of KZN Legislature as well as the National Assembly.

Sihle Mlotshwa

UTHUKELA DISTRICT ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS

For Top Performing Principals



The MEC and the HoD, celebrated principals, educators and centre managers for a job well done during the 2022 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations. The event took place at Wembezi Community Hall, under Othukela District, on 14 February 2023.

UThukela District had performed well with great improvement in 2022 NSC exam from 74.6% in 2021 to 80% in 2022. MEC Frazer also congratulated 12 schools from UThukela which achieved a 100% pass rate.

MEC Frazer told all district officials and principals that more work needs to be done to ensure that no learner is left behind when it comes to their academic work.

“As principals you have a patriotic duty to mould the next generation of leaders, people who will take this country forward and come up with inventions that will address the challenges that we face as a nation,” said MEC Frazer.

The MEC together with the top management also awarded principals, schools who achieved 100, the best Centre Managers and appreciated the District Director, Ms Mokoena.

The Deputy Chairperson for Kwa-Zulu Natal House of Traditional leaders, INkosi NWS Sithole, who was a special guests, also



shared his words of appreciation for the job well done by the awarded schools.

UTHUKELA DISTRICT ACADEMIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS FOR TOP PERFORMING PRINCIPALS





PINETOWN DISTRICT AWARDS CEREMONY

For Top Performing Principals

Pinetown District celebrated the outstanding performance of schools, principals, learners and educators who worked very hard to ensure that the class of 2022 pass with flying colours.

The event was held at Greenheights Primary School in Phoenix, on the 17 of February 2023. The purpose of this event was to celebrate the class of 2022 that performed exceptionally well and managed to increase the pass rate from 74.8% in 2021 to 80.5% in 2022. 17 schools achieved 100% pass rate in the 2022 NSC results, with 6 schools maintaining a consistency level of 100 % over the past 3 years. The awardees were conferred with certificates and trophies of excellence.

Speaking during the awards ceremony, Mr Sibusiso Kheswa, the Pinetown District Director thanked all the Principals and Educators who dedicated themselves in moulding and shaping the future of the learners. “Today I am so proud to stand here to celebrate the sterling work done by our educators in producing quality results which has increased the number of bachelor passes in our district, it is through diligent, teamwork and communication that we are here today.

Let us continue to ensure quality teaching and compliance to further improve the results of 2023 by at least 5%,” said Mr Kheswa. Mr Kheswa highlighted the importance of all schools to have a turnaround strategy and implement the strategy to ensure staff development, workshops for educators and the monitoring of teaching and learning programmes.



PINETWON DISTRICT AWARDS CEREMONY FOR TOP PERFORMING PRINCIPALS GALLERY





ILEMBE DISTRICT AWARDS FOR NSC CLASS OF 2022

Ilembe Education District celebrated their top learners, schools and teachers who contributed to the achievement of 83,9 % in the National Senior Certificate (NSC) Matric results of 2022. The event was held at Maphumulo Town Hall, on the 02 February 2022. The purpose of the event was to recognize and award excellence throughout the 2022 academic year.

The class of 2022 truly exceeded the expectations of many by demonstrating their mettle under the added pressures of the April 2022 floods and load shedding, yet that did not stop them as they managed an incline of 8,2 % from the 2021 matric results which puts Ilembe District among the top 20 of best-performing Districts and number five in the province.

The District has set a new target of 90% pass rate for 2023 NSC results. 25 schools under Ilembe obtained 100 % pass rate in the NSC results. Mbonambi Azandibusiso obtained 7 distinctions and top performed student in Mathematics, Physical Sciences and Accounting, making him the top achiever in Ilembe District. Dr Musawenkosi Modondo, the District Director of Ilembe said, “We are gathered here today to celebrate each other on the achievement obtained on the NSC results. The class of 2022 achieved what no other class in the history of our district has ever achieved. They deserve to be celebrated and thanked, their



achievement means, we as Ilembe team, from the teachers in class, SMTs, Principals, Circuits and district staff have out-performed ourselves.”

ILEMBE DISTRICT AWARDS FOR NSC CLASS OF 2022 GALLERY





AMAJUBA DISTRICT EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2022

Amajuba District, in a token of acknowledging the excellence of the matric class of 2022 as they for the first time achieved 85% in the NSC exams, held Amajuba District Excellence Awards on Thursday, 23 October 2023 at Ferrum High School in Newcastle.

The District Director, Mr R.T.T Nzama warmly welcomed the guests and zoomed in to the purpose of the day. In his speech he said “For the past three years we started acknowledging Grade 12, but we have realised that the performance that we are celebrating of Grade 12, starts at the GET level as they are the ones who lay the solid foundation. We thank you for looking after our children, slowly but surely, we are trying to take on board GET and Special Schools in the district”.

Educators and principals dressed the part, as they awaited to receive the awards, which are the recognition of their hard work. Messages of support were shared by these organisations: SADTU, SAOU, NATU as well as Old Mutual who were the main sponsor of the event.

The Chief Director: District Operations, Dr David Chonco in his speech said, “I am here to congratulate Amajuba District - thank you very much to the educators and the learners for the results attained. There were many challenges we were faced with through this class of 2022, but still they managed to give us outstanding



results. I call this class, the class of Hope.” The giving of the awards commenced and Phendukani Full Service School swept the proverbial floor as they received the most awards and were also represented at National Level.

AMAJUBA DISTRICT EXCELLENCE AWARDS 2022 GALLERY



CLASS OF 2022 GRADE 12 ANNOUNCEMENT of Results and Awards Ceremony



The Department of Correctional Services (KZN Region) in collaboration with the KZN Department of Education hosted the Matric Class of 2022 announcement of matric results at the Durban Westville Correctional Facility, on the 31 of January 2023. The aim of the event was to recognize the outstanding performance that had been achieved by the inmate matriculants. Usethubeni Youth Centre, Qalakabusha, Sicobengolwazi and Ekuseni Secondary School were present with the top achievers with Usethubeni achieving the most Bachelor passes and distinctions and achieving 100% pass rate together with Sicebengolwazi Secondary School.

The MEC, Ms Mbali Frazer delivered a keynote address during the event. In her speech she mentioned how happy she was to be witnessing such a life changing moment with the inmates. “You did not let adversity and past mistakes define the rest of your lives, and for that I applaud you. You have set an example to others that being locked up doesn’t mean it’s the end of the world - sometimes being locked up can present an opportunity for you to better your life by getting Education.” said the MEC.

Mhlengi Chiliza obtained position one with 6 distinctions in English, IsiZulu, Life Orientation, Tourism, Maths Literacy and Business Studies. He has enrolled at UNISA to further his studies in Industrial Psychology.



The MEC also congratulated those who enrolled in skills training programmes as they produced beautiful furniture, bead work and also manufactured school uniforms to the benefit of 200 learners that were affected by the April floods last year from KwaDinabakubo Primary School, Gwa-du Zenex and INgqungqulu Secondary School.

CLASS OF 2022 GRADE 12 ANNOUNCEMENT OF RESULTS AND AWARDS CEREMONY GALLERY





UMBUMBULU CMC 2022 NSC AWARDS CEREMONY

Umbumbulu Circuit Management Centre hosted their 2022 National Senior Certificate Awards function for the best performing schools and circuits in the CMC. The ceremony was held at Amanzimtoti Civic Hall on Thursday 02 March 2022.

Umbumbulu achieved 86% pass rate in the NSC results for the class of 2022, which also put them in the first position in Umlazi District. The purpose of the event was to celebrate the men and women who transformed education at Umbumbulu, the leaders that contributed to turning the tables around in history. Awarded excellency aims to strengthen the teaching profession in a way that supports effective classrooms that also benefit all learners within the education sphere.

Among the dignitaries that were present at this auspicious event was the Umgungundlovu District Director, Mr Siqhamo Mabinza. During the ceremony Mr Mabinza gave a keynote address where he mentioned how a great honor it was for him to attend the event of that caliber, which was occasioned by various successes. In his remarks he said, “Poor performance and success are very different concepts and therefore cannot live and survive together. We are gathered here today because the principals and officials that are here against all odds, were able to continue to



ensure that our nation is served correctly,” said Mr Mabinza. “To all the educators of the class of 2022 who continued to ensure commitment, all your years of hard work has been paid off. It is fitting to give the teachers of Umbumbulu a big round of applause that they deserve,” he said

UMBUMBULU CMC 2022 NSC AWARDS CEREMONY GALLERY





HAVERPARK SECONDARY SCHOOL 2022 AWARDS CEREMONY



THE KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STRATEGIC WORKSHOP

for the year 2023

It was the festival and the market place of ideas when the Department converged at the Coastlands Hotel in Umhlanga, for the strategic workshop. The theme of the two-day workshop, which took place on 09 and 10 February 2023 was: Exploring The Risk Adjusted Approach to Strategic Planning. All the delegates came to the workshop with the single mind of ensuring that the Department of Education in KZN is counted among the best, if not on the top tier of the education sector in the country.

After a warm welcome to the delegates by the DDG Corporate Management: Advocate Masuku, the HoD spoke at length about the purpose of the workshop, strategic review and alignment. In his address, the HoD gave an overview of the Department and outlined the role of managers in the Department. He spoke about the legislative mandates, department's NSC performance, hurdles the department is facing and a plethora of issues pertaining to the overall outlook of the Department. "There are certain things that we should not forget and among those is that we are running a system of public school in which every school is or should be a good school, every teacher is effective and every learner is successful," concluded the HoD.

The MEC, Mbali Frazer gave a strategic direction as well as scene setting for the workshop where she spoke at length about the importance of the resolutions of the workshop, the importance of equity, the performance of the leadership of Department, the importance of school sports, the importance of focus schools, the effects of silo mentality and many other issues which were raised sharply by the MEC.



She decried the unfortunate trend of appointing individuals on posts that do not exist on the organogram. "Accountability, across all levels is something that we cannot afford to compromise on, or we risk finding ourselves with the highly unstable system. We must, therefore, jealously guard the integrity of the Department and maintain high standards of professionalism at all times", asserted the MEC as she wished all delegates fruitful deliberations in the commissions. All the speakers gave the delegates something to mull over and reflect on. From DR Lwazi Lushaba, Prof Marry Metcalf, Prof Martin Gustafsoon, Prof Khoza, Dr Priyah Mahabbeer and Prof Braham Fleisch, all the speakers came well prepared and their contributions made the entire workshop very exciting.

All the commissions gave their best in contributing fruitfully to the workshop. All the four commission were the hive of academic and pedagogic activities and it was as if they all heeded the MEC's call that the workshop must not be just a talk shop. At the end of a two-day exercise and after the HoD had outlined the resolutions, all the delegates left the workshop replenished and hopeful that the Department's upward trajectory is like blizzard that no one can stop.

THE KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLANNING GALLERY



THE KWAZULU-NATAL DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION STRATEGIC PLANNING GALLERY



UMKHANYAKUDE DISTRICT ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN For the year 2023



Khulani Special School, under the Umkhanyakude District hosted a District Academic Improvement plan on the 13th of February 2023 under the theme: working towards better learner performance.

Provision of extra classes for matriculants was said to be very vital as well targeting a higher result that will encourage teachers and principals to work harder.

Lesson planning, preparation and presentation is also one of the key elements targeted in order to achieve high quality learning and teaching hence educators were advised to always prepare themselves before entering the classroom and have their timetables with them as well as their lesson planning booklets.

“In order to achieve all the objectives of the 2023 academic improvement plan, Umkhanyakude District will ensure that schools and circuits play their role in each of the six focus areas namely, Quality of learning and teaching, Provision of critical resources, Educator development and learner support, basic functionality, leadership management governance and relationship as well as stakeholder participation and management,” said Mr Thanduyise Motha, Umkhanyakude District Director.

Mr Nkosinathi Ngcobo, the Head of Department began his presentation by congratulating the school principals of Umkhanyakude District for achieving outstanding results in their respective schools.

He went on to mention the importance of checking which areas learners struggle with and making sure that the teachers intervene to curb such challenges. “Teachers must not rely on the analysis but be active as possible in class. It is encouraging for principals to see schools that were under performing doing well and improving in their academics” said Mr Nkosinathi Ngcobo.



OFFICIALS CONNECTING TO THE INFORMATION HIGHWAY through laptops as tools of trade

The Department of Education in KwaZulu-Natal has taken the lead in establishing and positively impacting a new organisational work culture that embraces technology as the primary driver of agility, mobility and effectiveness.

Mr Simesihle Halimana, the Director for Information Technology Services directorate embarked on this initiative of supplying laptops which took place at Dokkies on Friday, 17 February 2023 with the aim of ensuring that education system, including Subject Advisors, Circuit Managers, Social Workers, District Management and officials to be able connect to the province and to connect to the local schools.

The MEC, Ms Mbali Frazer outlined that, “as the department we will receive direct help from this project in hastening the implementation of an academic improvement plan that is heavily reliant on ICT”.



UGU DISTRICT TEACHER WELL-BEING SEMINAR

The Provincial Education Labour Relations Council (PELRC) in collaboration with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education's Human Resources Development (EHRD) Directorate hosted the Teacher Well-being Seminar that took place on the 24th of February at Marburg Secondary School under Ugu District.

The theme of the seminar is, "Educator Well-being to ensure quality teaching and learning in the KZN Department of Education. In his opening remarks as the Programme Director, Mr VB Maphumulo the Acting Director for EHRD highlighted the importance of such platforms where educators are given an opportunity to raise challenges pertaining to psycho social issues as well as teaching and learning environments in order to gain common understanding on such issues. " This platform will assist us to raise issues affecting teaching and learning with the aim to resolve them and ensure that we go back and ensure that we produce quality teaching and learning to our children," Maphumulo concluded.

Among the attendees were organise labour from SADTU and CTU ATU who both provided presentation on their observation in terms of how educators are behaving and provided guidance on how they can be assisted in terms of improving and developing themselves. Mr S. Mchunu who is the panellist and Ambassador from SACE was in attendance, he conducted a presentation on teachers' safety and code of ethics. GEPPF, GEMS Scheme, Old Mutual were also among the attendees. The chairperson for PELRC, Mr Thami Ntanda thanked everyone who participated during the seminar and encouraged guests to ensure that every information that was discussed during this seminar will reach all educators in order to ensure that every educator is well informed and know the relevant organisations,



platforms and procedures to be followed should they encounter challenges in their working environments. "At the end of the day we have one common goal to ensure that teaching and learning is taking place in schools and as the district Ugu position one is maintained," said Mr Ntanda.



UMZINYATHI TEACHER WELL-BEING SEMINAR

Umzinyathi District hosted a teachers well-being seminar at Sarel Cilliers High school, Glencoe on the 23 February 2023 under the theme 'Educator well-being to ensure quality teaching and learning in the KZN Department of Education'.

Teachers have their own personal life and they have to deal with difficult learners including the pressure of producing quality education to learners, that might cause stress, anxiety and depression. Advocate HC Masuku, DDG for Corporate Management Services said in his remarks "Teacher well-being seminars becomes crucial as teachers get an opportunity to share their experiences and challenges and come up with a coping mechanism.

The seminar gives a positive state that create a sense of wellness where teachers can get psychological help to deal with the stress and managing emotions and improving focus in class."





NATIONAL SYMBOLS WORKSHOP IN COLLABORATION WITH DOE AND DSAC

The National Symbols workshop was hosted in collaboration with the Department of Education and Department of Sports, Arts and Culture on the 3rd of March 2023 at Umzinto Hall under Ugu District. The purpose of the workshop was to improve collaboration and the implementation of Sport, Arts and Culture in schools.

Outlining an overview of the workshop, Mr J.W Mthethwa the Director for Co-Curricular Directorate highlighted the importance of knowing who we are as the country. “Today we are here to remind ourselves about our culture. Each country has its own national symbols that has to be respected. In South Africa we have our own flag which symbolises unity”.

Mr Mthethwa further stated that, the clear intent is to implement a well-coordinated and integrated school sport, arts and culture programme in all schools and communities. Also this programme aims to revive culture of school sport, arts and culture in all schools across the province and help identify talent from an early age.

During this workshop it was outlined that National Symbols are divided into four categories which were discussed as follows:

1. Primary National Symbols which involve National Flag and National Anthem .



2. Secondary National Symbols which represents beauty

3. National orders are the highest awards that a country, through its President, bestows on its citizens and eminent foreign nationals.

4. Living heritage which represents animals and plants.



THE SCHOOL FUNCTIONALITY MONITORING PROGRAMME

At Nhlolamvula Primary School and KwaPhindavele Combined School

The MEC, Ms Mbali Frazer together with members of the Provincial Legislature visited Nhlolamvula Primary School at the 1st of February 2023. The purpose of the visit was to assess the functionality school as it was put in the list of non-viable schools.

On her presentation, the principal of the school indicated that the school enrolment is 31 and it functions as a multi-grading school. The school has numerous challenges such as those of infrastructure and general basic living needs. After careful consideration of the condition of the school, the MPLs set a date to decide on the fate of the school, as its functionality seemed to be questionable.

The MEC, in conjunction with the KZN Legislature, on their second adventure also took the initiative to visit KwaPhindavele Combined School, in an effort to assess the functionality] of the school. The school was established in 1992 as a compensation for the rural community who suffered the experience of forced removals under the previous regime.

It is situated in Elandslaate in rural area of Enkunzi at Othukela District. The school is quantile 3 and has an enrollment capacity of 1500 and 9 educators.



The school still seem not to function effectively, due to a large number of dropouts, which lead to a decrease in the passing percentage. The Department expressed its dissatisfaction regarding the issue of decreasing numbers in the pass rate from the school.

After all the reports and discussions, the MEC recommended that they have to go through some research regarding the future of the schools and how to deal with the issues that were raised. The KwaZulu Natal Legislature requested the Department of Education to come up with a resolution for these schools, and they were given 30 days to take that decision.

THE SCHOOL FUNCTIONALITY MONITORING PROGRAMME

Visit by the MEC and the Legislature

The Department and the KwaZulu Natal Legislature, visited Lungelani Primary School and Kia Ora Primary School in Bergville (Othukela District), on the 2nd of February 2023. This visit was part of the school functionality monitoring by the Legislature in both these multi-grading schools, which were deemed to be non-viable schools.

The first visit was held at Lungelani Primary School, where findings indicated that the school has only 45 learners. The school accommodates learners from grades R to grade 7 with most learners being in the foundation phase. Identified challenges were those of transport for the learners and infrastructural damages. The second visit was to Kia Ora Primary School, where the principal also provided a detailed presentation about the state of the school.

The school has 65 learners with a capacity of more than 300 learners. The school has challenges of learner transport hence the low levels of enrollment. The school also has damaged infrastructure, which needs repair in order to extend school capacity. The MEC, Ms Mbali Frazer, promised to ensure that the issues raised were attended to.

The MEC alongside the District Director, Ms Poppie Mokoena promised to have consultation meetings to discuss how these challenges can be resolved. In her address, the MEC said, “for us to have

productive teaching and learning, the conditions of welfare for our pupil must be of good standard, and in this instance, our concern should be the education of a black child”.





KWAZULU NATAL'S BEST SCHOOL ATHLETES TOOK IT TO THE FIELD

KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Primary Schools Championships athletes competed on Saturday, 04th of March 2023 at UMSunduzi Athletics Stadium. The event was graced by the presence of Departmental officials.

The programme is coordinated by the KZN Department of Sport, Arts and Culture in collaboration with the Department of Education, as well as the South African Schools Athletics (SASA) and KwaZulu Natal Athletics (KZNA). Present was Ms Gugulethu Madlala, the Chief Director: Social Enrichment Programmes and Dr Thobile Sifunda, Acting DDG of the Department of Sport, Arts and Recreation. Also in support were members from the KZN Athletics.

The event was used to select the best school athletes who will represent the province in the national championships, schedule to take place from 19 – 21 March 2023 for primary schools in Pietermaritzburg. The learners participated in short sprints, long distance runs, short-put, javelin, high and long jumps and winners got medals and trophies at a medals and trophies presentation ceremony. The overall winners of the boys' and girls' competitors were Mholi Phili, with 1661 points and Amahle Mthethwa, with 1676 points and best District was Amajuba.

DISTRICTS PERFORMANCE SCORES:

PLACE	POINT	TEAM
1	351	Amajuba
2	269	Umlazi
3	156	Umzinyathi
4	155	King Cetshwayo
5	141	Ugu
6	133	Umkhanyakude
7	130	Umgungundlovu
8	112	Uthukela
9	93	Zululand
10	92	Pinetown
11	68	Harry Gwala
12	52	Ilembe



KWAZULU NATAL'S BEST SCHOOL ATHLETES TOOK IT TO THE FIELD GALLERY



KWAZULU NATAL'S BEST SCHOOL ATHLETES TOOK IT TO THE FIELD GALLERY





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