KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

To All Media

News Editors

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KWAZULU-NATAL CHOIRS STRIKE GOLD AT THE 2026 ABC MOTSEPE SASCE NATIONAL CHAMPIONSHIP

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education proudly congratulates all learners, educators, choir conductors, adjudicators, school management teams, district officials and parents who represented the province with distinction at the 2026 ABC Motsepe South African Schools Choral Eisteddfod (SASCE) National Championship, held at Moreleta Kerk, Pretoria.

Hosted by the Department of Basic Education, the championship brought together South Africa's finest school choirs in a celebration of musical excellence, unity in diversity, social cohesion and holistic learner development. The competition provided learners with an opportunity to showcase their exceptional talent while promoting the values of discipline, teamwork and cultural appreciation.

KwaZulu-Natal once again demonstrated why it is regarded as a powerhouse of choral music, delivering outstanding performances across multiple categories and bringing home an impressive 24 national trophies.

The province recorded the following outstanding achievements:

•Primary School
(Special School)
2nd Position
Thuthukani Special School (King Cetshwayo District).

• Special Schools (MID, PD, Deaf And Blind)
2nd Position

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Issued by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education

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Newtown Special School (Umgungundlovu District)

• Boy's Choir
2nd Position
Vusukukhanya Primary School (Pinetown District)

• Mixed Choirs
Western
2nd Position
Grantham Park Primary School (King Cetshwayo District)

• Mixed Double Quartet (Farm & Small Schools)
2nd Position
Einsiedein Secondary School (Umgungundlovu District)

• Chamber Choir SATB
1st Position
uMinathi Secondary School (Umgungundlovu District)

• Secondary "B" Schools
1st Position
Aquadene Secondary School (King Cetshwayo)

• Mixed Choirs (AFRICAN)
3rd Position
Aquadene Secondary School (King Cetshwayo)

• Folkore Category siSwati Culture
3rd Position
Zimisele Secondary School (UThukela District)

• Folkore Category Setswana
2nd Position
Langalakhe Secondary School (Umgungundlovu District)

Soprano -Solo
3rd Position
By Sibahle Radebe

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Swelihle Secondary School (uMlazi District)

•Tenor - Solo
2nd Position
By Thobani Mthiya
Lihlithemba Secondary School (iLembe District)

•Secondary A Mixed Choirs (Western)
1st Position
Lihlithemba Secondary School (iLembe District)

•Female Choir
1st Position
Empangeni High School (King Cetshwayo District)

•Male Choir
1st Position
Zama Secondary School (Amajuba District)

• Secondary A (African)
Mixed Choirs
3rd Position
JG Zuma Secondary School (Pinetown District)

• Mezzo Soprano – 2nd Position
Sinethemba Nzama
Empangeni High School (King Cetshwayo District)

• Baritone Solo – 1st Position
Mpilo Zungu
Empangeni High School (King Cetshwayo District)

• Trio – 2nd Position
JG Zuma (Pinetown District)

• Champ of Champs – 1st Position: Empangeni High School (King Cetshwayo District)

3rd Position: Zama High School (Amajuba District)

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• Best Conductor Award : Mr NE Ndlovu
Zama High School (Amajuba District)

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, Mr Sipho Hlomuka, joined thousands of South Africans in Pretoria to support the provincial choirs and personally congratulate the learners on their exceptional achievements. The Department extends special congratulations to Empangeni High School for being crowned the 2026 SASCE National Champ of Champs for the second time in the two consecutive years, a remarkable achievement that reflects the school's unwavering commitment to excellence in choral music. The Department also commends Zama High School for securing Third Position in the prestigious Champ of Champs category and for producing the Best Conductor at the national championship.

MEC Hlomuka applauded every learner who represented KwaZulu-Natal with distinction.

"These outstanding achievements are a testament to the dedication, discipline and passion of our learners, educators, conductors and support teams. Your performances have made KwaZulu-Natal proud and have once again demonstrated the exceptional musical talent that exists within our province. We celebrate every choir that qualified for the national stage and thank everyone who contributed to this remarkable success," said MEC Hlomuka.

The Department further expresses its sincere appreciation to choir conductors, educators, district officials, school management teams, parents and all support staff whose commitment, guidance and countless hours of preparation enabled the learners to compete successfully at the highest level. The South African Schools Choral Eisteddfod remains one of the Department of Basic Education's flagship programmes, providing learners with opportunities to develop confidence, leadership, discipline, teamwork and social cohesion through music while nurturing artistic excellence.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education congratulates every choir, every conductor and every learner who proudly wore the provincial colours and represented KwaZulu-Natal with honour.

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