EDU NEWS

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Celebration Edition



Usuyovinjwa wulwandle uMnyango weZemfundo KwaZulu-Natali



MEC Frazer Celebrates the Sterling Performance of Ndwedwe CMC in the 2023 NSC Exams



MEC Frazer applauds inmates' academic excellence



UMgungundlovu District 2023 NSC Excellence Awards

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Editor's Note - A Celebratory Edition

This edition of **Edu-News** is a celebratory edition. It starts from the celebration and a palpable euphoria that was experienced by the people who were there at the Durban ICC when the province of KwaZulu-Natal released its results on 18 January 2024.

It is also an edition that zooms into the celebrations that were held by our districts who performed exceptionally well in the 2023 NSC results.

In this edition you will see and be part of celebrations that were held in Umlazi, Ilembe, Harry Gwala, Amajuba and Pinetown District.

The three-legged pots full of tasty meat and the African cuisines that we saw in Amajuba and Umkhanyakude Districts, show that we know how to celebrate the African way.

It is an edition that awaits with great anticipation, the celebrations that are yet to be held in other education districts of our triumphant and high achieving province.

In this edition you will see images and engage with the content that depicts the success of our brothers and sisters in our correctional facilities. This is significant to us because as a sector we believe that it is only through education that re-offending and recidivism will be avoided. We believe that it is education that should be at the centre of the true rehabilitation of all offenders.

This is also an edition that celebrates the achievement of Circuit Management Centres as well as individual schools like Velabahleke and many other schools who without fail, always make the province of KwaZulu-Natal proud.

This is the **Edu-News** edition that celebrates the hard work and revolutionary spirit of our educator as well as our hard-working officials. Most of all, this is the edition that celebrates our learners, who against all odds, put the naysayers in their place and made a spectacular display of a triumph of the human spirit.

Much as this is a celebratedly edition, it is not only about bells and whistles. It is an edition that displays that even though the province is in the celebratory mood, the hard work of ensuring that the Class of 2024 emerges victorious, has begun.

You will see this by the strategic planning sessions and academic improvements plans that have been held in some of our districts and many of our districts are going to follow suit.

We urge the readers of this edition of **Edu-News** to enjoy this edition while hitting the ground running to ensure best education outcomes for the Class of 2024.

The struggle for accessible and quality education continues

Aluta Continua!!!

- Sihle Mlotshwa

TOP 10 IN THE KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE



1st Position
Khumalo Olwethu Kuhlekonke
from Mandla Mthethwa Secondary School,
Umkhanyakude District



2nd Position
Rajaruthnam Jaskaran Moopanar
from Westville boys High School,
Pinetown District



3rd Position
Shange Uphile
from Sidelile High School,
Umlazi District



4th Position
Brand Sean Michael
from Westville boys High School,
Pinetown District



5th Position
Khumalo Simlindele Thandolwethu
from Masibumbane High School,
Zululand District



6th Position
Mtshali Bonukwenza Thandolwethu
from Kadwa Secondary School,
Amajuba District



7th Position
Maharaj Mishka
from Port Shepstone High School,
Ugu District



8th Position
Mthembu Nomfundo Neliswa
from Ntulabakayise Secondary School,
Umkhanyakude District



9th Position
Thwala Zonke Hope
from Siphesihle Secondary School,
Pinetown District



10th Position
Mntambo Ziphozenkosi Sbongakonke
from Khombindlela High School,
King Cetshwayo District



The Sky is the limit for the KZN Department of Education

The KZN Department of Education did it again in the 2023 National Senior Certificate (NSC) results, leaving everyone spellbound by the magnificent and ground-breaking performance. As if the upward trajectory that was seen in the 2022 NSC results was not enough, the Department surprised everyone by obtaining spot number two in the country with the achievement of 86.4%, an increase of 3.4% from 2022.

It was to be expected that the 2023 NSC release of results event was going to be a carnival characterised by glitz, glamour, fanfare and razzmatazz. That the Minister of Basic Education, Ms Angie Motshekga, left everything to be part of this celebration, spoke to how proud she was of the feat by the KwaZulu-Natal province.

The MEC for Education in KwaZulu-Natal, Ms Mbali Frazer, could not hide her excitement, bursting into song before announcing the results of the province. The MEC expressed her gratitude to everyone who contributed to the performance of the province.

During her key-note address, the Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Nomusa Dube-Ncube was also beside herself with joy, expressing how proud she was of the performance of the province.

The excitement of the people of KZN was palpable at the Durban ICC, where these ground-breaking results were announced.

That four KZN education districts (Umkhanyakude, Ugu, Ilembe, and Zululand) were part of the national top 10, spoke volumes of the performance of the province. uMkhanyakude District toppled Ugu District, which has held the top position for many years. The comraderies among the district directors was commendable, as all the district directors kept on congratulating one another for the job well done. It is worth noting that all districts in KZN registered notable improvement

Given what has been done by the districts early in 2024, it is clear that the province is not resting in its laurel, busking on the performance of the past years. That many districts have started strategizing for the performance of the 2024 NSC results, says a lot about the determination of KZN to defy all the odds and become number one in the country

For the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education, only the sky is the limit.

- Sihle Mlotshwa

The Sky is the limit for the KZN Department of Education Gallery



















Amajuba District Schools Excellence Awards

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, Ms Mbali Frazer graced the Amajuba District Awards Ceremony held at Ferrum High School today, in Newcastle.

Today's event aimed to acknowledge exceptional work done by our dedicated educators and learners in the 2023 National Senior Certificate Examination Results.

The Amajuba District is made up of 8 Circuit Management Centres, that supports schools to produce excellence results.

The District achieved an 87% pass rate in the 2023 NSC Examinations Results. This is the highest percentage obtained compared with the previous years.

The Amajuba District Director, Mr RTT Nzama outlined the purpose of the event, speaking to a packed hall he said, ''We are in a celebration mood, celebrating the excellence work of our educators, we are also grateful for the good relationship we have with the Amajuba District Municipality, thank you to all the stakeholders, who have contributed to the excellent results celebrated today. The excellence that we celebrate today is because of sweat, commitment and hard work."

Furthermore, he also commended the unions and all subject advisors for both FET & GET band for their support.

Chief Director of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education, Dr David Chonco, District Operation Management in his address rendered the message of support and applauded all the Districts for obtaining over 80% in the 2023 National Senior Certificate Examinations results.

"There were targets that were set by the Department of Basic Education and the Amajuba District has done very well in that regard. All the best to Amajuba District again for the good work that you are doing," said Dr Chonco.

Dr Moses Thomas Simelane, Acting Deputy Director General (DDG) of Policy Support and Monitoring in the Department of Basic Education was the Guest Speaker in this prestigious event and he mentioned that, "As we celebrate the Class of 2023, we are indeed all speaking in one voice on these stars, it is heart warming that KZN contributed 44.8% of bachelor's for the first time in the history of Education, we need this kind of Excellence in our country", said DDG, Dr Moses Thomas Simelane.

During her address, MEC Frazer said, "Our educators are the pillars of our education system, We are here to celebrate the hard work of our educators, Amajuba District obtained 87% in the 2023 National Senior Certificate Examinations Results, which surpasses the previous years results."

MEC Frazer together with Mayor Misizwe Ndabuko Zulu handed over Awards to the Top 10 Learners in the Amajuba District.

- Mbali Zulu

Amajuba District Schools Excellence Awards Gallery



















iLembe District Awards Ceremony

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, Ms Mbali Frazer celebrated the 2023 National Senior Certificate Examinations Results for the Ndwedwe Circuit Management Centre during the Matric Excellence Awards Ceremony hosted by the Ndwedwe Local Municipality on 09 February 2024, in the iLembe District.

Ilembe District has improved its performance in the NSC Examinations for the past three years in succession.

The District achieved a 76% pass rate in 2021 and an 84% pass rate in 2022.

This District surpassed all its previous records with an 88.69% pass rate in the 2023 NSC Examinations, with Ndwedwe CMC leading at a 90.52% pass rate.

All Circuits in iLembe District have committed to work towards a minimum target of 80% for the 2024 Academic Year.

"The performance of iLembe District is significant because, in the 2023 NSC Examinations Results, this District secured position 8 in the Top 10 Districts of South Africa", said MEC Frazer.

MEC Frazer congratulated all the learners for putting Ndwedwe CMC and the entire iLembe District on the national map.

"I want you to know that your dedication, hard work, and perseverance have not gone unnoticed, and today, we celebrate your remarkable accomplishments," remarked MEC Frazer.

The Ndwedwe Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr SC Mfeka, announced that 50 Learners will receive full bursaries, and 70 will get registration fees for their tertiary studies.

iLembe District Director, Dr. Madondo, and the Mayor of Ndwedwe Local Municipality, Cllr SC Mfeka, joined MEC Frazer when she handed over awards to the top achievers.

- Qinisile Mkhize





ILembe District Awards Ceremony Gallery




















MEC Frazer Hails Umlazi District For Significant Improvement In 2023 Nsc Exam Results

Umlazi District hosted NSC Excellents Awards Ceremony on the 02 November 2024 at Northwood Boys High School to honour and celebrate the significant improvement in the NSC results of the Class of 2023. Umlazi District obtained 80.0% in 2021 and 82.8% in 2022. The district has improved with a significant increase of 3.3% in 2023 and achieved 86.1% pass rate.

Out of 21 370 NSC candidates, an impressive 9 636 achieved bachelor passes, making Umlazi the leading district in bachelor passes in KwaZulu-Natal.

Umlazi is the leading district in Mathematics and Physics in the whole country. In the 2023 NSC exams, Umlazi increased the number of schools that achieved a 100% pass rate from 17 to 20, and those that performed at 80% and above rose from 86 to 101.

The District Director, Ms Busi Mahlambi, the first female director in the history of Umlazi, quoted the great philosophy, Aristotle who once said “Excellence is never an accident, it is always the result of high intention, sincere effort and intelligent execution. It represents the wise choice of many alternatives – choice, not chance, determines your destiny.”

MEC Frazer congratulated Umlazi District for a significant improvement in the 2023 NSC exam results and the top achievers for their sterling performance. “As the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education, we no longer aim for excellence. However, to achieve our objectives, we need Umlazi to unleash its true potential”, said MEC Frazer.

-Amanda Memela







MEC Frazer Hails Umlazi District For Significant Improvement In 2023 Nsc Exam Results Gallery



















MEC Frazer Congratulates Harry Gwala District for their Sterling Performance in 2023 NSC Examinations

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, Ms Mbali Frazer congratulated officials, educators and learners in the Harry Gwala District for their sterling performance in the 2023 National Senior Certificate Examinations.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education's Harry Gwala District improved significantly by an increase of 4.6% from 82.5% in 2022 NSC Results and achieved 87.1% in the 2023 NSC Examinations.

MEC Frazer advised learners to choose their careers wisely and to enrol in careers that have employment opportunities.

"We currently have a challenge of graduates who are sitting at home, including qualified teachers, because they chose to specialise in subjects that already have a surplus of educators", said MEC Frazer.

She added that, "If you chose to pursue your studies in education, it must be in Mathematics and Science, because these subjects have a shortage of educators".

MEC Frazer together with Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, Local Municipality Mayor, Councillor Sindy Msomi, Deputy Mayor, Councillor Kholeka Hadebe, and Speaker, Councillor Sifiso Phoswa handed over Awards to the 2023 NSC Examinations Top Achievers in the District.

- Lindokuhle Mncube











UMgungundlovu District 2023 NSC Excellence Awards Gallery



















UMgungundlovu District Awards

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education UMgungundlovu District in partnership with uMgungundlovu District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal Christian Council and the South African Youth Council, hosted the Ceremony to honor learners and educators who performed well in the 2023 NSC Examinations.

The efforts and dedication of all district officials, teachers and learners ensured that the District obtained a 85,01% pass rate.

Present at this auspicious ceremony were, Inkosi Khethokuhle Zondi, Deputy Chairperson of uMgungundlovu District Traditional House of Leaders, Mr Muziwokuthula Zuma, District Mayor of uMgungundlovu District, Mr Thami Mbanjwa, Chief Director: Office of the HoD, Mrs Thembelihle Gumede, Chief Director: District Operations Management, Dr Ntokozo Hlongwane, author and motivational speaker, Bishop Nkosinathi Myaka, Chairperson of the KZN Christian Council, Mr Thabo Seme, Chairperson of South African Youth Council, Professor Precious Sibanda, UKZN Professor, School of Mathematics, Statistics and Computer Science, Mr Themba Ndhlovu, CEO: SBD Systems and Mr Pratish Ramdas, CEO: EST Sourcing, who also generously donated towards the event.

Mr Sqhamo Mabinza, District Director: uMgungundlovu, said "to the Class of 2023, thank you for the good work done even though there were difficult times. 2023 provided us with great quality in terms of bachelors and distinctions."

Mr Thami Mbanjwa who represented the Head of Department said, "As a Province we saw it coming because we had plans to ensure that we get positive results". This year KZN has set a minimum target of 90%.

The District Mayor, Mr Muziwokuthula Zuma, shared these words with the esteemed guests, "Congratulations to the Class of 2023 we are walking tall as the district leadership because of your hard work. You need to sustain this momentum, remain one of the best performing provinces in the country".

UMgungundlovu District has committed to a target of no less than 90%.

- Qinisile Mkhize

UMgungundlovu District Awards Gallery




















Matric Awards Ceremony under Mkhambathini Circuit

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education under UMgungundlovu District, in partnership with UMkhambathini Municipality, hosted 2023 Matric Awards Ceremony, 09 February 2024 at Camperdown Town Hall. These awards were to celebrate the hard work and excellent performance in the 2023 National Senior Certificate examination for Mid-illovo and Mkhambathini Circuit.

UMkhambathini Circuit obtained 84% and Mid-illovo got 69% in the 2023 National Senior Certificate results.

Mr Mxolisi Mcwabe, Chief Education Specialist responsible for Mid-illovo Circuit outlined the purpose of the day. In his address he said, " Today we are here to celebrate the hardwork and excellents of our learners, educators and parents. We would like to thank everyone who was involved. You have made us as the Department of Education proud so you are responsible for your own future, we wish you all the best "said Mcwabe

The event concluded by top achievers and educators receiving their certificate

- Mbali Zulu















MEC Frazer Applauds Inmates' Academic Excellence

The MEC for Education in KwaZulu-Natal Natal, Ms Mbali Frazer, joined the Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Mr Ronald Lamola and Deputy Minister INkosi Phathekile Holomisa, during the 2023 National Senior Certificate(NSC) examinations awards ceremony at Durban Westville Correctional Facility on 23 January 2024.

The pass rate for full-time inmates was 93.2% of the 147 full-time candidates. Usethubeni Youth Centre in Pinetown District and Qalakabusha Secondary in King Cetshwayo District obtained 100% pass rate in the past 3 years. Sicebengolwazi Secondary in Uthukela District maintained its 100% pass rate from their first cohort to sit for the NSC examination in 2022.

"This outstanding achievement is more than just a statistic, it reflects the dedication, hard work, and perseverance demonstrated by inmates who refused to let adversity and past mistakes define the rest of their lives," said MEC Frazer. She congratulated all the 2023 NSC candidates, saying they triumphed over adversity and also thanked the educators who tirelessly supported these matriculants during their journey.

Minister Lamola encouraged learners in the Correctional Services Centre to take advantage of opportunities in vocational training in order to have a skill that they can contribute when they get back to the community.

"There are opportunities available in vocational training which can provide you with very useful skills you need to succeed in life" said the Minister.

Top achievers for the 2023 NSC examinations received awards for their sterling performance, with the KZN recognised as the top performing province.

- Amanda Memela



MEC Frazer Applauds Inmates' Academic Excellence Gallery




























Umshwathi Municipality Excellence Awards

UMshwathi Municipality under uMgungundlovu District held a ceremony to award learners who performed exceptionally well in the 2023 NSC results and to expressing gratitude to educators who worked diligently to support learners.

UMshwati Municipality had four schools that obtained 100% and learners who obtained distinctions in all the subjects. learners were awarded with laptops and tablets from uMshwathi Municipality and from other stakeholders. The Office of the Mayor also assists learners who have been accepted to universities with registration money.

“Children must not stay home because they do not have registration money, “said the Mayor, Cllr Zondi. He encouraged learners to choose what they have capacity to do and what they like, when it comes to career choices. Mayor Zondi also proposed that each councillor under Umshwathi must at least have one school to adopt with a aim of helping schools that have dropped in the 2023 NSC results.

- Sifunokuhle Gumede















Umshwathi Municipality Excellence Awards Gallery



















Pinetown District Cebrate 2023 Matric Excellence

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education in Pinetown celebrated both 2023 Matric Awards and Teaching Awards on Friday, 23 February 2024 ...at Westville Girls High. These awards were to celebrate the hard work and excellent performance in the 2023 National Senior Certificate Examinations and hard work and best performance done by educators.

Pinetown District is one of the most improved districts in the province as they obtained the pass rate 85.6%

Speaking to awardees, Mr Sbu Kheswa, Pinetown District Director, said, “Today we are celebrating your excellence. You have made us as the Department of Education proud. As you embark on the new chapter of your own future, we wish you all the best. The future is in your hands, and we have no doubt that you will work hard to change the lives of your families through education. The event concluded by top achievers and educators receiving their certificates of excellence.

- Nompumelelo Gasa

















MEC Frazer Applauds Velabahleke High School's Matric Class Of 2023

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, Ms Mbali Frazer celebrated Velabahleke's 10th Annual Top Achievers Awards for the matric Class of 2023 on the 27th of January 2024, at Durban ICC. Velabahleke obtained 100% pass rate in 2021 and 2022 academic year. In 2023, the school improved the quality of the matric results and obtained 213 Bachelor passes in a matric class of 254 candidates.

The principal of the school, Mr Bheki Mhlongo extended his gratitude to the SGB, SMTs and the dedicated educators. "You have modified the narrative that says quality education and academic excellence can only be found in former model c schools, you have put an end to the influx of our children to former Model C schools - you have given hope to the poor and the middle class by providing quality education in their door steps," said the principal.

MEC Frazer congratulated the Velabahleke's Class of 2023 for their sterling performance in their studies. She further advised them to never give up regardless of the challenges they might face ahead. "There will be challenges and there will be mistakes along the way, but please never give up on your education and your dreams", remarked MEC Frazer. She further applauded the work done by the educators and school management team. "I commend all of you for going above and beyond to support our learners, even after hours and on weekends, ensuring that no child is left behind", said MEC Frazer.

- Amanda Memela







MEC Frazer Applauds Velabahleke High School's Matric Class Of 2023 Gallery



















2023 Matric Excellence Awards at the Klipriver Circuit.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education's Klipriver Circuit alongside trade union representatives, educators, SGB and community members of Klipriver, displayed pride in the Klipriver Circuit's Matric Class of 2023 during an awards ceremony celebrating their hard-work in the 2023 NSC examinations. This uplifting celebration was held at M.L Sultan Primary School, Ladysmith, under Uthukela District on the 1st of February 2024.

Klipriver Circuit Manager, Dr. Molefe in her welcoming address said, "Our purpose today is not only to recognize academic excellence, but also to applaud resilience, dedication, and the pursuit of knowledge that has defined the journey of each one today."

The supportive structures of the CMC, trade union leaders, school principals and SGB expelled messages of support fueling the young achievers with a hope for a bright future.

- Lindokuhle Mncube









MEC Frazer Applauds Velabahleke High School's Matric Class Of 2023 Gallery



















2024 Academic Year Prayer Service

Soon after the 2024 Academic year started on the 19 February 2024, The Deputy Minister for Basic Education, Dr Reginah Mhaule together with the KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education Ms Mbali Frazer presided over the 2024 Academic Year Prayer Session which took place in the local church of Anglican Church, Osizweni, in the Amajuba District.

Amongst the attendees present were Mrs Busi Mahlambi uMlazi District Director, Dr GUGU Masondo Osizweni Circuit Manager, Mr Muzi Mahlambi Communication and Publications Manager and learners of the schools around Amajuba District.

During the service, MEC for Education in KwaZulu-Natal, Ms Mbali Frazer introduced the Deputy Minister for Basic Education, Dr Reginah Mhaule as the guest speaker in her remarks she said " Last year we were here at Amajuba District attending the prayer service for the matriculants and today we are here to thank God that he was with us all the way that is why we had a smooth examination period. We thank God for that again". said MEC

The Deputy Minister for Basic Education Dr Reginah Mhaule delivered a Keynote address in her address she congratulated the KwaZulu-Natal province for the sterling performance in the 2023 National Senior Certificate results.

"Thank you Pastor Mlu Hadebe the father of the house for allowing us to gather here and worship the Lord together because we were here at Amajuba District and God was faithful to us the Province of KwaZulu-Natal achieved the amazing results because of God, the KZN province obtained the highest percentage in the history of the country.

She added that " To 2024 matriculants you are going to make it again just believe in God, you can succeed wherever you are. I can assure you that look at uMkhanyakude District they obtained wonderful results managed to secure 1st place in the province no matter where you are. This year we want to see KZN obtaining position 1" said Deputy Minister

She further bless the congregation by giving the word of God

A special prayer was rendered to all officials and 2024 matriculants

- Mbali Zulu

2024 Academic Year Prayer Service Gallery



















MEC Frazer Introduces a Professional Team for Infrastructure Upgrades at Adams College

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, Ms Mbali Frazer on 20 February 2024, introduced a professional team for the infrastructure upgrade at Adams College, in Umlazi District.

MEC Frazer announced that the Independent Development Trust (IDT) will be the Implementing Agent for the Adams College infrastructure upgrade.

The scope of work comprises the major refurbishment and rehabilitation of the Administration Block, standard classrooms, Multi-purpose rooms, computer rooms, and hostels for boys and girls.

The project will also include the construction of new fencing, relocation of sports fields and change rooms, and reticulation of water, sewer, and stormwater drainage.

This development will also include internal road and walkway reticulation, smart classrooms, decommissioning and installation of new mechanical equipment, upgrading electrical installation and connections, upgrading firefighting equipment, compliances and all other building regulation compliances, inclusive access to all buildings and facilities as well as rehabilitation of heritage buildings.

The project will be implemented in terms of the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), and job opportunities will be prioritized for the youth, women, military veterans as well as LGBTQIA+.

SMMEs from the local community will benefit from this project. The project will provide skills development opportunities by training unskilled and semi-skilled workers throughout the project.

“This is in line with our goals as the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education, which is to create a safe, modern, vibrant, and technologically advanced learning environment for the delivery of quality education for generations to come,” said MEC Frazer.

The principal of Adams College, Mr Zulu, expressed gratitude for the development. He further committed that Adams College will continue to work hard to maintain the 100% pass rate and improve their results to a quality 100%.

- Amanda Memela

MEC Frazer Introduces a Professional Team for Infrastructure Upgrades at Adams College Gallery



















MEC Frazer Introduces building contractor for Ohlange High School.

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, Ms Mbali Frazer officially introduced a building contractor for an upgrade of soon to be the State-of-the-art Historical Institution of Ohlange High School, Pinetown District.

The construction project of Ohlanga High School will cost the department R 127,8 million, The construction is scheduled to run over a period of 10 months. The project will provide job creation and priority will be given to local sub-contractors owned by women, youth, disabled persons, military veterans and LGBTQ

The scope of work includes a new mechanical workshop, a multi-purpose classroom, a computer room, a team-teaching area, and new ablution facilities for both boys and girls. It also includes double-story classrooms and conduct repairs on all existing classrooms. Additionally, there will be extensive repairs and additions to the admin block, install perimeter fencing, and create new parking bays, an assembly area, and a combi court.

MEC Frazer announced that during the budget speech in April 2023, she declared that the Department will be prioritising the renovation and upgrades of Ohlange High School in the 2023/24 financial year. “We are here to fulfil that commitment” She further stated that the construction of the new state-of-the-art Ohlange High School site establishment has already commenced and want to see this project completed by 31 October 2025.

- Nonhle Zama









MEC Frazer Introduces building contractor for Ohlanga High School Gallery

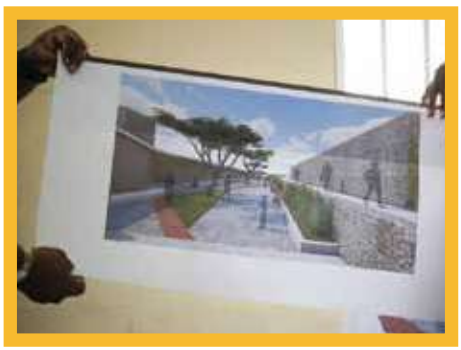


















Matric Class of 2023 Celebrating SASSA 2023 Matric Top Achivers Awards in the uMlazi District.

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, Ms Mbali Frazer, expressed gratitude and applauded SASSA for the support they give to learners who come from disadvantaged backgrounds.

She expressed this when she spoke at the celebration for social grants beneficiaries - 2023 National Senior Certificate (NSC) top achievers, hosted by the Department of Social Development today, 23 February 2024, in Umlazi District.

SASSA beneficiaries had the opportunity to motivate the youth and the matric Class of 2023 as they pursue their next level of education.

SASSA works hand in hand with parents and caregivers to assist learners throughout their studies. MEC Frazer applauded SASSA for helping learners even when they go to universities.

"We are happy that SASSA has been there for our children, and I want to remind all parents and caregivers that all SASSA beneficiaries automatically qualify for NSFAS when they go to university," said MEC Frazer.

The Minister of Social Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu, delivered a keynote address at the ceremony and outlined various interventions made by the Department of Social Development and particularly SASSA to the needy people of South Africa.

Minister Zulu cautioned learners to use the NSFAS allowances wisely and refuse to use them to buy alcohol. She expressed her pain about what she usually observes in students' accommodations during weekends.

"The money given to students through NSFAS is taxpayers money, taken by the government from all employees so that those who cannot afford basic means for a living can benefit, including the learners who cannot pay for their university studies," said Minister Zulu.

- Amanda Memela







HOD Ngcobo Congratulates Dr J.L. Dube High School

On the 22nd of January 2024, the Head of Department, Mr Nkosinathi Ngcobo, visited Dr J.L. Dube High School, KwaMashu, Pinetown District, to congratulate the school for obtaining a 100% pass rate and 75% of bachelor's pass in the 2023 National Senior Certificate examinations.

HOD Ngcobo also inspected the on-going construction and refurbishment of other parts of the school, as new classrooms hall, toilets and kitchen havoe been completed and utilized. HOD Ngcobo said that the school's facelift has been drastically improved into a state of the art through the sponsorship from the Cotton-On Foundation. Encouraging more investment in education through collaboration by the government and the business sector he said, "what we see here is a clear example of that collaboration. The investment has met excellent performance by the school."

HOD Ngcobo provided the school with a Mathematics educator, to boost the school's performance in Mathematics and increase the number of learners taking up the subject. HOD Ngcobo urged the school to cultivate the love for Mathematics in the learners as per the vision of National Development Plan-2030.

- Mncedisi Ntombela











MEC Monitered The First Day Of The Academic Year

The MEC, Ms Mbali Frazer monitored the beginning of the 2024 academic year at Lalelani Primary School, in Ntshongweni, under the Pinetown District.

She said that she was very animated and elated to note that it was all systems go and all systems were in place to ensure the smooth start of the 2024 academic year.

“Before the end of 2023 academic year, we ensured that Learner Teacher Support Material (LTSM) was delivered to all all our schools in the province; and we are happy that even in this school, learners have received all their textbooks and stationary,” said the MEC.

The MEC said she was equally happy that learners at Lalelani Primary School were also receiving the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP). She said the identification of Lalelani Primary School as the school to visit on the first day of the 2024 academic year, was an indication of the seriousness with which the Department takes the foundation phase.

“The upward trajectory that we are experiencing as a Department is as a result of the good work done by our educators at the foundation phases and we are here because we recognise the good work that our primary schools educators do,” she asserted.

After getting satisfactory report from the district leadership and the School Governing Body, the MEC addressed the young ones and impressed upon them the importance of education as a foundation of every thriving society.

- Sihle Mlotshwa









Umgungundlovu District Principals Meeting

On 30 January 2024, Umgungudlovu District held a principals meeting to give marching orders for the 2024 academic year. Having obtained 85,1% in the 2023 NSC results, the Dstrict Director, Mr Sqhamo Mabinza, wants to ensure that all principals in the district are working towards the same goal of achieving a minimum target of 90% in the 2024 NSC examinations.

Welcoming principals of all schools in the district, Mr Mabinza said, “thank you for the work done in 2023. We are now operating in the super league. I believe there is still more we can do inspite of the challenges we face every day in our schools. We would like to present a detailed report of the 2023 NSC results, give direction for the 2024 academic year in respect of non-negotiables and ensure that the district does not lose momentum in its drive to improve learning outcomes.

Mrs Thembelihle Gumede, Chief Director, District Operations Management, congratulated the district for for their performance. She said all districts were expected to perform at no less than 80% and they performed at 85,06% slightly below the provincial pass rate of 86,4. “The performance of the Class of 2023 is water under the bridge the now, - we are starting on a new page. We need to reflect on what we can improve. I want us to strive for 100%,” said Mrs Gumede.

- Qinisile Mkhize













MEC Frazer Handsover Schools Uniforms In UThukela District

It was all smiles for parents and identified learners of Estcourt when they received school uniforms from the MEC, Ms Mbali Frazer. Beneficiaries of this great initiative were from Bambe Primary School, Mhlungwini Primary School, Mabaso Primary School, Wembezi High School and Phumelelani Primary Schools.

Through the Department of Social Development and SASSA, the KZN government is assisting families that cannot afford uniforms for their children. Learners who cannot afford school uniforms are identified from various schools across the province and SASSA buys uniforms for them.

MEC Frazer handed over uniforms to 30 identified learners to ensure that all learners feel and look the same when they are at school. "Family conditions and challenges must never determine how a learner looks like at school because learners must be equal, regardless of their economic background", said MEC Frazer. The MEC further stated that learners are very important. "We want them to have a bright future," she said. She also urged recipients to take care of the uniforms as a sign of appreciation.

- Mbali Zulu









MEC Frazer Handsover Schools Uniforms In UThukela District Gallery









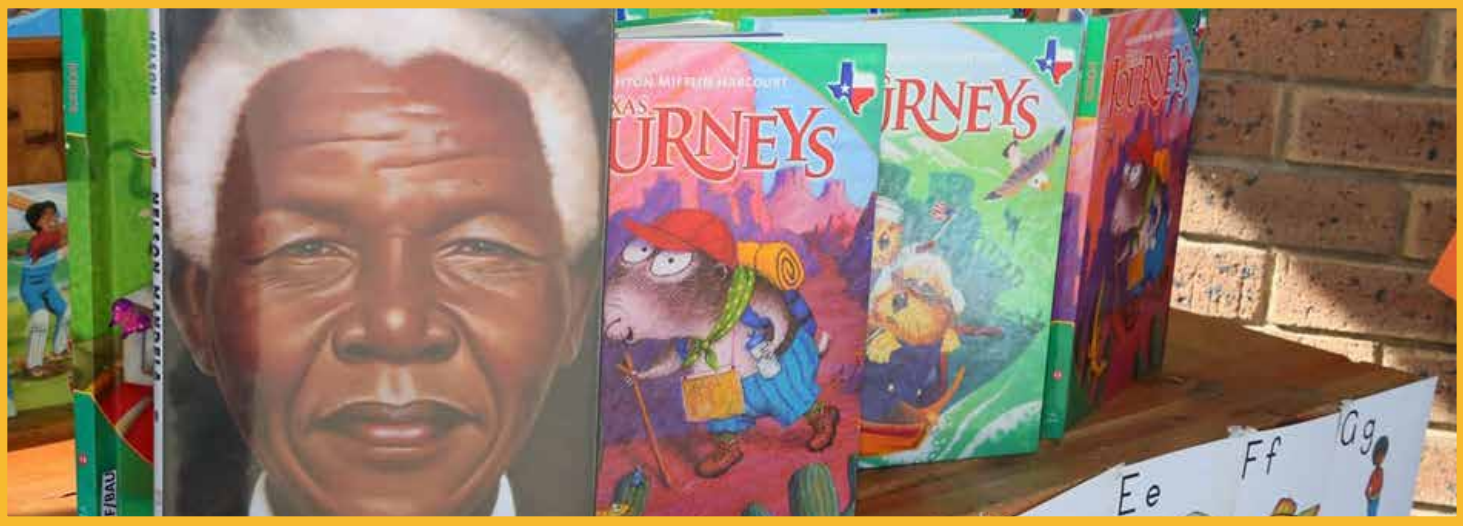












2024 World Read Aloud Day

The Department of Education in KwaZulu-Natal hosted the World Read Aloud Day celebration held at Muntuza Full Service School, Escourt in the uThukela District, on the 07 February 2024.

During her address to an august assembly, MEC Frazer said, “The plan is to roll out this programme to district and schools until we have book clubs in every community. I envision our book clubs as inclusive spaces welcoming readers of all ages and backgrounds. It’s important to invest in libraries that must be packed with variety of books both young and old can go to any library and borrow books of their choice free of charge. “

- Mbali Zulu



















School Functionality Monitoring

On the 26th of January 2024, The Education Portfolio Committee members together with KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, Ms Mbali Frazer, HOD Mr Nkosinathi Ngcobo and members of senior management, conducted an oversight visit and monitored school functionality and inspection of infrastructure at Sihayo Technical school.

During the de-briefing meeting, The MEC and HOD briefed the portfolio committee members on school functionality and school readiness in KwaZulu Natal. Talking about the Learner, Teacher Support Material readiness for 2024, they said the department archived a 100% LTSM compliance.

The MEC said there will be a development and construction at the school which includes, civil technology, classrooms attached to each workshop and ECD studio.

"It is recommended that the portfolio committee on basic education note the report on school functionality in KwaZulu-Natal and progress made on programmes implemented," said the HoD concluding his presentation.

Portfolio committee's main focus was on floods damaged schools.

- Mfundo Msomi









The Portfolio Committee On Basic Education Gallery



















Chief Directorate: District Operations Management Planning Session

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education's Branch: Institutional Development and Support, held a planning session with the aim of chatting a way foward as the 2024 academic year begins.

The planning session was attended by members of Top Management, Head Office SMS Members, all the 12 District Directors and three CESs per district(GET,FET, CMC, Head Office.)

During the presentations, there were discussions on the challenges and critical issues affecting the operations and functionality of districts as the new academic year begins.

The purpose of the two day planning session was outlined by the DDG: IDS, Mrs Weziwe Hadebe.

"This is a new academic year that should be characterized by renewed vigor, hard work, dedication and enthusiasm that will ensure that KwaZulu-Natal continues to ride on the wave of success that will set KZN apart from all other provinces," she said.

The Programme Director, in her remarks said," please allow me to delve into why we all had to gather here today and tomorrow. Firstly, it is a no brainer that as professionals, we ought to strategically plan before we embark on any task. It is our view that to be able to start the year on a positive note, we need to plan in advance, before we even start doing that which we are supposed to do."

The HoD, Mr Nkosinathi Ngcobo, in his remarks appreciated the invite that was accorded to him as it provides him with a good chance to meet all the District Directors in one place.

He then asserted that this planning session should reflect on how the Department is managing the operations of its districts. He succinctly articulated things he wanted the districts to hear from him as an Accounting Officer.

He further stated that this strategic planning created a platform for reflecting and hitting the ground running and keeping the eyes firmly on the prize, which is the provision of quality and accessible education and putting a learner in the centre of all the Department's activities.

- Xoli Thomson

Chief Directorate: District Operations Management Planning Session Gallery



















Umlazi District Strategic Planning Session

Umlazi District hosted a 3-Days Strategic Planning Session at Northlands Primary School on the 8th - 10th January 2024 to tackle and develop new strategies and plans for the 2024 academic year.

The purpose of the Strategic Session was for uMlazi District team to put together proper plans, assign tasks accordingly and take important decisions. The planning session also focused on the district's goals - Setting timelines for the new Academic Year, 2024. The session was also to assess and evaluate goals that were set in the previous year and to plan, strategize and bring in new perspectives for the current academic year.

'Setting goals is the first step in turning what is invisible to be visible' by Tony Robins," said Mrs Mahlambi, the District Director for uMlazi in her welcome address. She also emphasized the importance of setting goals that needs to be achieved.

On the second day the session had 4 commissions were four topics were discussed, mainly, Planning, Leadership Management & Governance, Curriculum Delivery Management, Provision and Management of Resources and School Functionality Monitoring and Adjustment and Alignment of tools.

The Head of Department, Mr Nkosinathi Ngcobo, remarked by appreciating the leadership of Umlazi on a good head start, hitting the ground running and keeping the eyes firmly to the prize.

- Amanda Memela







Umlazi District Strategic Planning Session Gallery



















Amajuba District Traditional Function

On the 16 February 2024, The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education under Amajuba District hosted the traditional event celebrating the 2023 National Senior Certificate results. This historic event took place in the Amajuba District offices. Amajuba District obtained 87% pass rate which is a great achievement.

It was a dancing and joyful moment in the premises of Amajuba District offices during the celebration of 2023 NSC results.

The Amajuba District Director Mr RTT Nzama outlined the purpose of the day and welcomed all guest present. Amongst the attendees were Advocate Bheki Masuku: DDG Cooperate Management, Mr Thami Mbanjwa, Chief Director in the Office of the Head of Departmet, Dr David Chonco: Chief Director, District Operations, Mr Bafana Zwane: Director Performance Management and principals of the schools around Amajuba District. Speaking to the audience, the District Director said “We are celebrating the sterling performance of our dedicated learners and educators. I would like to thank everyone who made this day possible, especially our educators, you have worked so hard and your commitment today is a true reflection of what is happening here. we are celebrating in style today TRADITIONALLY. Keep up the good work, indeed our district achieved results of a very high standard, “ said Mr Nzama.

- Mbali Zulu











3- Days Extended Branch Meeting and Workshop Gallery



















Launch Of Umkhanyakude District Acadamic Improvent Plan

Under the Theme : "Working towards better learner performance"

Mr Thanduyise Motha, District Director of uMkhanyakude spoke briefly about the academic improvement plan. The main purpose for the district academic improvement plan is to maintain a proactive strategy to keep the districts in an improvement path to reach the top position in the province. There are 6 broad focus areas of the plan aimed at ensuring a smooth flow of delivery of curriculum in the Hlabisa, Ingwavuma, Ubombo and Umhlabuyalingana CMC's. The focus areas are as follow: 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.

HOD Mr Nkosinathi Ngcobo began his presentation by congratulating and thanking the school principals under Umkhanyakude District for achieving outstanding results, "even through difficult circumstances you still managed to produce exceptional results" said HOD. He also extended words of gratitude to the District Director for making the province of KwaZulu - Natal proud

- Xoli Thomson















3- Days Extended Branch Meeting and Workshop

The Curriculum Management and Delivery Branch held an extended meeting and workshop to deliberate on strategic focus areas. This will include operational, management plans strategic interventions in support of curriculum implementation.

On day 2 the following presentations were done:

Reflection on the observations on Curriculum Implementation in the Province.

Presentations on District's Academic Improvement plans

Presentation on the integrated District Improvement Programme (IDIP) and proposed support to the province. Presentation on the strategy to improve Maths, Leadership in Education and Curriculum Management

Presentation of Workshop overview strategy and commissions outline.

- Amanda Memela











3- Days Extended Branch Meeting and Workshop Gallery



















Pinetown District Teacher Well-being Seminar

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education together with the Pinetown District hosted a Teacher Well-being Seminar today.

The theme of the seminar was, “Educator Well-being to ensure Quality Teaching and Learning in the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education.”























Ilembe District Teacher Well-being Seminar

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Embracing Learning Through Play For ECD With VVOB

- Amanda Memela

VVOB- Education for development partners, the Department of Basic Education (DBE), the South African Council for Educators (SACE), and the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Department of Education (KZNDoE) aims to improve Early Grade Reading Instruction for Home Language in the Foundation Phase. Together they held a five days seminar on 12-16 February 2024 at Riverside Hotel, Durban. VVOB is introducing two programmes that are aimed at empowering ECD educators and ECD learners to have fun learning while playing.

The EGRI Programme aims to improve the quality of early grade reading instruction in South Africa. The programme focuses on providing Continuous Professional Development (CPD) courses and resources for teachers who teach reading in the Foundation Phase, specifically Grade R-3. By offering accessible and practical learning materials, the EGRI Programme aims to enhance teachers' instructional practices and ultimately improve learners' reading outcomes.

The second one is Funda Udlale Nathi, translated as "Learn and play with us" from IsiZulu, which aims to strengthen the ability of ECD practitioners at national and provincial level to understand and apply play based pedagogies.

The (F.U.N.) project is an initiative aimed at making learning fun and interactive for children using blended learning professional development approach. The project focuses on introducing playful teaching methods in schools, where educators incorporate games, activities and creative approaches to engage children in their learning processes.

VVOB is inviting all ECD educators to enrol on the free courses that have been developed by the Department of Basic Education and the South African Council for Educators, with support of VVOB in South Africa. Some of the courses are endorsed by SACE attracting CPTD points.









Embracing Learning Through Play For ECD With VVOBGallery

















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