education
Department
Education
PROVINCE OF KWAZULU-NATAL

EDU-NEWS

FEB - 2020 VOLUME - 34

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QLTC LAUNCH



Editorial Team

Editor: Sihle Mlotshwa

Sub Editor: Nompumelelo Gasa

Designer: Nkosingiphile Makhanya

Photographers: Sibani Ngobese, Sphamandla Cele, Ntando Nsusha

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MUZI MAHLAMBI

THE MESSAGE FROM THE HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS

OUR SCHOOLS ENGULFED BY BULLYING

Much as we have started the year on a high and positive note, having obtained 81.3 % in matric pass rate, our system continues to be engulfed by learner to learner violence which occurs in many forms, with bullying being the chief element. Bullying is the use of force, coercion or threat, to abuse, aggressively dominate or intimidate. The behaviour is often repeated and habitual. One essential prerequisite is the perception (by the bully or by others) of an imbalance of physical or social power. This imbalance distinguishes bullying from conflict. Bullying is a subcategory of aggressive behaviour characterized by the following three minimum criteria (1) hostile intent (2) imbalance of power, and (3) repetition over a period of time. Bullying is the activity of repeated, aggressive behaviour intended to hurt another individual, physically, mentally, or emotionally.

Bullying ranges from one-on-one, individual bullying through to group, called mobbing, in which the bully may have one or more “lieutenants” who are willing to assist the primary bully in their bullying activities .Bullying in schools and the workplace is also referred to as “peer abuse”. Robert W. Fuller analyazed bullying in the context of rankism.
The Swedish-Norwegian researcher Dan Olweus, says bullying occurs when a person is exposed repeatedly and over time, to negative actions on the part of one or more other persons, and those negative actions occur when a person intentionally inflicts injury or discomfort upon another person, through words or in other ways. Individual bullying is usually characterised by a person behaving in a certain way to gain power over another person. Bullying culture can occur in any context where in which humans interact with each other.

I think this definition will help us understand and be on the alert if any form of bullying were to occur in our schools, or workplace for it is not only our learners that are bullied but also our educators. This will further help us not to look away or to ignore but to take action if any form of bullying is observed. To this end we are not only imploring our educators and learners only but the school community at large to be sensitive and help the helpless.
We urge our parents to take note of any behaviour changes in their children. Mona O ‘Moore of the Anti-Bullying Centre at Trinity College in Dublin, states that there is a growing body of research which indicates that individuals, whether child or adult, who are persistently subjected to abusive behaviour are at risk of stress related illness which can lead to suicide. Bullying can cause loneliness, depression, anxiety, lead to low self-esteem and increased susceptibility to illness.
Like Mona O’ Moore asserts that bullying leads to stress, we have observed this as the department of education that when the bully is suspended or expelled, this normally leads to stress not only the person that is being sanctioned but also those that are related. In cases of learners we have seen parents having to take leave from work to attend disciplinary hearings. There are cases where the learner is expelled, all of a sudden the parent now has to look for the new school, this causes maladjustment that now affect the bully and the parents .
We urge our learners and educators to learn from the vicarious experience of others that have been dealt with in terms of the disciplinary actions, and sanctions are real which have serious effects on someone that bullies other.
People will wonder as to why I have chosen to engage with the subject of bullying. This is informed by the number of cases that we have had to deal with as the KwaZulu Natal Department of Education since the beginning of the 2020 academic year, in some instances learners and educators have lost their lives.
The MEC last year in a bid to curb this scourge, launched the School Safety Programme. This enables schools to establish School Safety Committees. To broaden the base for participation by the broader society in the matters of education, he has further recently launched the Quality Teaching and Learning Campaign (QLTC), which is one of the programmes that is written about extensively in this edition .

Muzi Mahlambi
HEAD OF COMMUNICATIONS

REVIVAL OF QUALITY LEARNING AND TEACHING CAMPAIGN

IN the quest to re-ignite and champion the concept of Quality Learning and Teaching Campaign (QLTC), the department led by the MEC, re-launched the QLTC campaign, on February 24, at Sibusisiwe Hall, Mandeni.
The launch was graced by the presence of the Ilembe District Mayor; Mandeni Local Mayor; Mandeni Municipality Councillors, senior management of the department; teacher unions, SGB Associations; religious formations, teachers, learners and all stakeholders. The HoD, who was the programme director, expressed his satisfaction by the attendance of all important stakeholders structures and that he was hopeful the re-launch of QLTC was the beginning of greater things for the department.
The MEC gave a keynote address where he mentioned that he is ecstatic that the day of the re-launch of the QLTC, which was first launched in 2009, had finally arrived. He then said that the resuscitation of the campaign gives new hope that the Province will reach this year's 86% target for 2020 National Senior Certificate examinations.
He further mentioned that the reason for the meeting was to make everyone understand that "we shall live education, speak education, and promote education collectively, so the learners will have a brighter future". "We've called this meeting today to remind each other about our roles in the education system, because quite correctly; education is, and should be understood as a societal matter," he continued.
The MEC encouraged everyone to ensure that QLTC structure are re-launched and are active. All stakeholders signed the pledge, committing themselves to the Code for Quality Education.

- BY: SANDILE NTOMBELA

















CANAAN COLLEGE OFFICIAL OPENING

CANAAN College held its Official School Opening Function on the 19 February at the school's premises under Umlazi District. The KZN Education MEC Mr Kwazi Mshengu was the key-note speaker during this event aimed at celebrating the introduction of subjects that are in line with the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The school offers subjects such as: Coding; Robotics; Information Technology; Emotional Intelligence; Computer Application Technology; Entrepreneurship; Innovating; and Critical Thinking.

In his Keynote address, the MEC praised Mr. Nhlanhla Khambule (the founder of the School) for managing to bring such prestigious school into the area labelled as a 'disadvantage area'. He also thank the Old Mutual Insurance Company for partnering with Mr Khambule, and ensuring that his dream becomes a reality. He then stated that since the government of the past only thought that best schools are only built in urban areas; the current democratic government has embarked on changing that, by making sure that the learners from townships and rural areas in particular; are not being forced to flock to the cities to get better schools. Schools of this nature [as Canaan College] should be brought into our communities. He then pleaded with the Umlazi community to make sure that they treasure this school, and protect the school from vandalism. He requested that the community shall be always on guard of any criminal activity, and preventing schools from becoming the hooligan's den. The school begins at Grade R – Grade 10. Initially, the school resumed its classes with a mere 200 learners last year; but this year the enrolment has risen to 700 learners.

- BY: SANDILE NTOMBELA

















FANFARE AS ADAMS COLLEGE RECEIVE COMPUTER LAB

IT was joy all round during the event of the handing over of the computer laboratory by Samsung at Adams College, on Friday, February 14. This event was attended by The Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma (who persuaded Samsung to donate), Premier Sihle Zikalala, MEC Kwazi Mshengu and the Chief Whip of Ethekwini Municipality, Cllr Mkhize. The principal of Adams College, Mr Thulani Khumalo welcomed the guests and thanked Dr Dlamini-Zuma for always being with the school. He also thanked Adams College educators for their good work. The MEC thanked Samsung for partnering with the department and asked the community to take care of the computer lab. "You did well by obtaining 96% in the 2019 NSC exams, this year we want 100%," said the MEC.

Introducing Damimi-Zuma, the Premier also thanked Samsung and asked learners to make full use of the computer laboratory. Dr Dlamini Zuma, while giving her key-note address, gave a brief history of the school and spoke about the great leaders the school has produced. Dlamini-Zuma also thanked the alumni of the school for the significant role they play in developing the school. "On this day, we commit to invest in technology savvy people. Adams College and her children will rise, shine and take their rightful place among leaders and innovators in the Fourth Industrial Revolution," said Dlamini Zuma.

- BY: SIHLE MLOTSHWA



















IBISI SECONDARY SCHOOL AWARDS

IBISI alumni together with the Ibisi Secondary held an awards ceremony on Friday, January 31. This event was aimed at awarding excellency and encourage the improvement of matric results as the school had been dubbed as a yoyo school due to a fluctuation of results. Amongst the attendees was, Deputy Speaker of the Provincial Legislature, Hon Mluleki Ndobe, DDG for Corporate Services, Adv Bheki Masuku. The Deputy Speaker highlighted the concern of the school's fluctuating results.

In his remarks he said "as a local of the area and a former student of this school, seeing results doing a yoyo is really alarming and it is sending red flags showing that the school needs intervention."

Making his remarks, Advocate Bheki Masuku commended the alumni's efforts in reviving the school. "In the begging of the year the MEC sent out a clarion call to all SMS members that they should adopt schools which they will assist. I am standing here cascading a similar message to all officials, community members and alumni to adopt schools and provide necessary support. According to the National Development Plan, education is ranked as one of to the top priorities of this country, therefore it is really important that we support schools since we are making a shift to the 4th Industrial Revolution," asserted Advocate Masuku.

- BY: SIBANI NGOBESE









MEC MSHENGU DINES WITH MOOT COURT COMPETITION WINNERS

THE MEC and the HoD hosted a dinner with learners who won the International Moot Court Competition that was held in Gdynia Poland from 30-31 January 2020. The aim of the dinner banquet which was attended by learners, educators, parents and districts representatives, was to honor and show appreciation to learners and their mentors for their jaw-dropping feat during the competition. During the banquet, all four learners shared their interesting anectodes on how the competition and international travelling changed their outlook on life. All learners expressed their gratitude and admiration to their mentor, Sthoko Shange, whom all referred to as their pillar of strength. "We just want to show you how much we appreciate you for what you achieved for the country and the province." said the MEC, who offered bursaries to all the four learners who are currently doing grade 12 at Mathubesizwe High under Ilembe District and Eden College respectively. "I was particularly happy that you beat USA," said the MEC tongue in check.

- BY: SIHLE MLOTSHWA



















A GROUNDBREAKING HR APP LAUNCHED

ON February 12, the MEC and HoD officially launched the Human Resources (HR) App which is aimed at facilitating the recruitment of unemployed educators. This launch was held at Westville Boys' High School, in Durban. The MEC remarked that the day of the launch was one of the important days in the department's calendar. The MEC said, "We are excited that we are taking a giant step that will see throngs of qualified but unemployed educators getting an opportunity of a lifetime that will see them applying using their cell phones wherever they are in the province." The MEC remarked that he knows that many educators are still very anxious about how exactly this mobile HR application will work. He also revealed that the APP will allow principals to indicate if their schools are in need of educators before the system pulls a certain number of teachers meeting a specified criteria and provide that list of teachers to a school concerned. "We wish all the qualified educators that are yet to get employment the very best of luck and we believe that the launch of this mobile HR App will go a long way in making their lives easier" said the MEC.

- BY: NOMBULELO SHEZI



READING FOR MEANING SEMINAR





THE department held the reading for meaning seminar whose aim was to consult and advocate for the provincial reading strategies, and create a comprehensive and inclusive framework for all reading activities within the department. The event was attended by senior officials of the department, including the leadership of the union.
The MEC gave a keynote address during the seminar which was held at Dokkies, on February 12. During his address, the MEC stated that for more than a decade International studies have been ringing alarm bells that there is a problem regarding reading in South Africa. He said that reading shall not only focus on the young ones, because even parents should be encouraged to read more.
Research indicates that the youth literacy levels have declined. "They are probably spending more time on social media platfroms," said the MEC. In his closing remarks, the MEC mentioned that we need to take lessons from Cuba. "When the revolution forces, led by Fidel Castro inherited Cuba, the country's literacy rate was less than 60% literacy, but by 1961, literacy rate had risen to 96%."

- BY: SANDILE NTOMBELA

UMKHANYAKUDE ACADEMIC IMPROVEMENT PLAN LAUNCHED

ON February 6, Umkhanyakude District held their 2020 Academic Improvement Plan at Khulani Special School.
The function was graced by the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry; the Honourable Nomalungelo Gina, HOD Dr. EV Nzama, MPL Mr S.C.Nkosi, motivational speaker, Dr. David Molapo, District Director Mr TJ Motha and district officials.
The HOD gave the message of support to Umkhanyakude District. He expressed his satisfaction with the academic improvement plan and congratulated the district for their overall performance. His closing plea was that the district should continue excelling with quality results and increase the number of bachelor's passes.
The Deputy Minister thanked the District for being consistent on the rise with their matric results as well as the district management team for their commitment and dedication.

- BY: XOLI THOMPSON






WORLD READ ALOUD DAY

AS part of the World Read Aloud Day, on 05 February, the MEC and he HOD visited Granje Primary School and Nichols J.P School respectively to read a short story titled: **A Day to Remember** and to encourage learners to cultivate a culture of reading. The MEC also donated books to The Grange Primary School learners.

















BRAEMER CIRCUIT 4TH ANNUAL PRAYER AND MATRIC AWARDS

AS part of celebrating excellence, Braemer Circuit in Ugu District held its 4th Annual Prayer and Matric Awards on 5 March. Ms Smangele Dlamini: Braemer Circuit Manager said, “we thank the Lord that we have been able to deliver on our mandate. We extend gratitude to teachers, principals and officials for shaping values of learners so they can contribute towards the society.” Ms Dlamini stressed that no school is to perform below 70%. The guest speaker, Dr Thobile Sifunda: HOD for the Department of Sports and Recreation said, “We are here to celebrate. Ugu is currently sitting at 91.8 and we are essentially above the national average. Education is fundamentally about transferring knowledge to the young generation to understand the depth of success. We should work together to translate this 91.8% to quality,” she concluded.

On behalf of Mr Mfundi Sibiya: UGU District Director, Omesh Maharaj: CES FET- TLS said, “I feel privileged today. The success of UGU is through the good work done by our schools. Setting higher targets motivates us as a district to do better. The rural schools have a different set of challenges, but they beat the odds and thrive for excellence. We are very pleased to be ranked number one, gratitude is in order”

- BY: THEMBEKA MCHUNU



























UMZINYATHI DISTRICT MATRIC EXCELLENCE AWARDS

ON March 7, the Umzinyathi District held its Matric Excellence Awards at Majuba TVET College. “The awards are a critical initiative to acknowledge the excellent work done by our own district officials to guide schools to stick to the core business of the schooling system, which is to deliver quality learning and teaching,” said the jubilant District Director, Sphiwe Kheswa, who also thanked educators for their sterling work. Moses Ziqubu, who is the SGB Chairperson said, “we are proud of the tremendous work the class of 2019 has done. We will work together as a collective with the teachers to ensure that we raise the bar higher for our district this year.” The DDG for Institutional Development, Ms Judy Dlamini expressed how honoured she is to be part of the celebration as she called upon Hon. Ntuthuko Sibiya: Chairperson of the Education Portfolio Committee who said, “It is about time we celebrated good results for Umzinyathi, we never saw it coming.”

- BY: THEMBEKA MCHUNU











THE MEC ADOPTS SCHOOLS

ON February 11, the MEC Kwazi Mshengu was accompanied by the Mayor, Xolani Duma, and Umgungundlovu District officials where he paid a visit to Emyezaneni High School, which is one out of five schools adopted by the MEC in the Mooi Mpofana Circuit. The main reason for the MEC's visit was to check on the progress of school functionality, monitoring on infrastructure, 2019 pass rates, enrolment, floor spacing, late coming, LTSM delivery, and vandalism. This follows the visit by the MEC in 2019, where he found that the school was dysfunctional. "The visit was encouraging as we saw improvement in many of the areas that we were worried about," said the MEC.

- BY: XOLI THOMPSON



KWAVULISAKA COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT

THE community of Vulisaka closed the gate of Emzaweni High School to pressure the department to take action against twelve educators that disrupted teaching and learning. The MEC and the leadership of Msunduzi Municipality engaged the district officials, principal, SMTs and SGB on the matter. They urged the community to safeguard the school and work together to improve the lives of the learners. The MEC expressed his happiness with the behavior of learners and promised the community that he will attend to the issues raised and come up with a solution. He urged the Deputy Mayor, Sibongile Dlamini, to adopt the school and pay regular visits to sustain them in the midst of these challenges.

- BY: XOLI THOMPSON



ILEMBE DISTRICT AWARDS

"Today we are gathered here to celebrate hard work, dedication and a collaborative spirit of the teachers who worked tirelessly to improve the Ilembe District results," said the District Director: Dr Musa Madondo at the Ilembe District Awards Ceremony, on February 7, held at Stanger High School. The district received an award for the most improved district in the province at National Senior Certificate release of results in January.

In his address, Dr Madondo stated that in 2019, the district had 20 of the most under-performing schools in KwaZulu-Natal. "To date there's less than 10 under-performing schools in the district," he said beaming with pride. Madondo mentioned that out of 121 high schools the district, only three had a 100% in 2018. "This time around we have 11 schools with a 100% pass rate," he asserted. "For all our achievements, credit goes to our teachers more than to our officials. To the class of 2020, remember we are in no competition. Our achievement becomes our baseline," concluded Madondo.

On behalf of the principals, Dr David Singh: CES District planning said that one only fails the moment they give up. "To the learners, teachers and officials, we would like to extend our gratitude," he said. Among those attended the awards, were the Moot Court Competition winners. Nozipho Dube and Nondumiso Ntshangase from Mathubesizwe High School. They expressed how elated they were to have contributed towards the success of their district, hence the theme "ACTION NOW; FOR GREATER HEIGHTS."

- BY: THEMBEKA MCHUNU



















HARRY GWALA DISTRICT AWARDS

ITS awards season in the department. Districts, circuits and schools are celebrating their hard work and good results. While acknowledging the strides made to improve the results, officials have not forgotten that they need to work even harder to sustain their performance.
Having obtained 77, 3% in 2019, Harry Gwala District has set a minimum target of 82% for the NSC 2020.
Ms Sindi Zakuza-Njakazi, District Director of Harry Gwala said, “Thank you for flying high the flag of this district. While at the Greater Kokstad circuit awards, Prof Patrick Lumumba shared with us the importance of praising people in public. He said when we praise people in public we encourage them to do more and motivate those who have not ascended the stage to do their best, with these words colleagues we are pleased with the performance of 2019.”
Ms Thembelihle Gumede, Chief Director: District Operations, introduced the guest speaker of the day, Dr Vusi Chuta, District Director of Fezile Dabi in the Free State, which in the past has been the best performing district in the country. Dr Chuta had these words to share, “we meet at a time when our country is in a technical recession. I asked myself what role do I play to re-verse this as a leader. Friends, we must continue to highlight the need for radical change in our education system, which will bring about hope to the hopeless, joy to the destitute, encouragement to the weak. We should no longer settle for less. Principals wherever you are, as we celebrate, you must rise and say no matter what challenges my school may face, the school is in good hands.”

- BY: QINISILE MKHIZE





GREATER KOKSTAD AWARDS

WHEN you walk into the gates of Kokstad College, you are greeted by a red carpet with a backdrop where pictures can be taken before you are ushered into a well decorated hall. Teachers cannot contain their excitement, the day of the awards is finally here. It's the 12th Greater Kokstad Circuit Schools Excellence Awards.

The awards recognize the work done by educators in schools to improve the quality of education. Ms Sindi Zakuza-Njakazi, the District Director of the Harry Gwala District, speaking to the guests who adhered to the traditional dress code of the day said, "Allow me to say today we mark yet another year of celebrating our teachers.

Greater Kokstad is one of the best performing circuits in the district. The circuit has improved from 68.65% in 2017, 84% in 2018 and slightly dropped in 2019 to 83%. I must indicate that the performance of the previous year does not count because the learners who gave us that percentage are gone. We encourage our schools not to drop from where they are." Professor Patrick Lumumba, in his much anticipated address said, "when you listened to African leaders, all of them always identified 3 enemies, poverty, disease and ignorance. It was never lost on them that the only oracles who could exorcise the ghost of ignorance were teachers. That is why in many countries some of the leading freedom fighters were teachers. I remember as a young person in rural Kenya, when the teacher said something, it was the gospel truth. Those were the golden days when teachers occupied their pridal place."

- BY: QINISILE MKHIZE

















ACTION GALORE AS INTERPROVINCIAL HIGH SCHOOLS ATHLETICS

THE atmosphere was electrifying when the 3-day Secondary School athletics championship took place at the Kings Park Athletics Stadium in Durban from 5-7 March. Top secondary schools athletes went head to head with the aim of being selected to represent the province at SA Schools Championship in June. The tournament will be held in the Western Cape. The MEC, presided over the championship which saw more than 1 000 participants from all the districts. In his remarks on the last day of the tournament, the MEC said it is important for people to partake in sporting activities because a healthy mind resides in a healthy body. The MEC concluded by saying that sports also teach the value of team spirit and working together.

- BY: SIBANI NGOBESE



















IDS branch consultative Transformation Schooling System meeting with four districts: uThukela, Harry Gwala, uMzinyathi and Amajuba at Mkhamba primary school in Ladysmith.








Gallery

OPENING OF THE KZN LEGISLATURE







































KZN YOUTH DEVELOPMENT ROADSHOW

















