EDU NEWS

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KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

GROWING KWAZULU-NATAL TOGETHER

TABLE OF CONTENTS

02 MEC Mshengu in a bid to ensure safety in Phoenix Schools

04 KZN MEC Mshengu assess vandalized schools

06 Official opening of Mkhamba Gardens Primary School

08 ICT roll-out at Amajuba District

11 Massive Vaccination Drive for KZN Educators

13 Cosmo Primary School, Modernised Method of Governance

15 Ugu District - Thanksgiving & Awards Ceremony

16 Umlazi District Leadership & Reflection Session

18 KZN SACE & Umgungundlovu District Collaboration Programme

20 Placement of Surplus Educators & HR Related Matters

22 Nelson Mandela Day

EDITORIAL STAFF & CONTRIBUTORS

Editor: Sihle Mlotshwa

Managing Editor: Nompumelelo Gasa

Writers: Nomfundo Malinga | Mbali Zulu | Qini Mkhize | Aphelele Dladla | Nomzamo Madide | Bongiswa Xulu | Nompilo Sibeko | Thobeka Mhlongo

Photographers: Sibani Ngobese | Xolane Bucibo | Xolani Makhathini | Tumelo Machabe

Designer: Xolane Bucibo

kzndoe @kzn_education

@dbe_kzn kzndoe

HEAD OFFICE: 247 Anton Lembede Building, Burger Street, Pietermaritzburg, 3201

T: 033 341 4830

W: www.kzndoe.gov.za

NOTES FROM THE EDITOR

This edition of **Edu-News** is published two weeks after our learners went back to school after a long break due to winter holidays and the level 4 lockdown restrictions. As if the disturbance in teaching and learning caused by Covid 19 was not enough, the recent unrest saw 144 schools being vandalised by looters, something that takes us back and derail our pursuit for the provision of quality infrastructure to our schools.
As people of South Africa, we are not new to difficulties and challenges - it is therefore our firm belief that in spite of the current difficulties, we are going to emerge victorious.

The Class of 2020 did show us that nothing is impossible for a determined and fervent spirit. Despite the Covid 19 challenges which saw a slight drop in the 2020 National Senior Certificate results, they managed to move the province a step higher in the provincial rankings and that is no mean feat. The Class of 2021 is no different, they are also going to succeed against the current turbulence.

With the leadership of this department, the officials in their different capacities and our ever determined educators, we are convinced that the Class of 2021 is going to triumph and raise the flag of the Province of KwaZulu-Natal.

In this edition of **Edu-News,** we continue to bring inspirational stories of the forward march by this department in the ICT provision and the provision of world class infrastructure.

The official opening of Cosmo Primary School under Umgungundlovu District and Umkamba Primary School under Amajuba District are the case in point. It was with profound sadness that we learnt that the principal of Cosmo Primary School, who was very animated, jovial and energetic during the official opening of the school, has departed from the land of the living. Our condolences goes to his family and the families of all educators and officials who succumbed to the Covid 19 pandemic. We are poorer without their valued contribution.

The paperless Cosmo Primary School which was officially opened in the presence of the Deputy Minister, the state-of-the-art Umkamba Primary and the ICT roll out in many schools in Amajuba District, are clear indications the MEC does not pay lip-service when he outlines the vision of the department as: ***an innovative hub for quality teaching and learning that produces learners developed to exploit opportunities for lifelong success.***

In this edition of **Edu-News** you will read about these and many other stories which include the successful Vaccination Programme which was launched by MEC Mshengu and MEC Simelane-Zulu of the Department of Health.

Do enjoy the stories contained in this e-publication and we always welcome your suggestions and information about good stories happening in your districts and stories of educators and officials who are doing wonderful things for this department.

We want to be your mouthpiece, your canvass on which the beautiful portrait of this department can be painted. **USE US**.

Enjoy the newsletter!

Mr. SIHLE MLOTSHWA

MEC MSHENGU IN A BID TO ENSURE SAFETY IN PHOENIX SCHOOLS

In his capacity as both the Operation Sukuma Sakhe Ethekwini Champion and the MEC for the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education, MEC Kwazi Mshengu visited the Phoenix area, North of Durban, to restore order and peace, following the unrest which resulted in????? the of killing many people in the area. MEC Mshengu was accompanied by the South African Police Services (SAPS) and South African Defense Force (SANDF). MEC expressed gratitude to the SAPS and SANDF officials: "On behalf of Government, we would like to thank all of you for being here today. We feel safe knowing that you are patrolling the area of Phoenix."

MEC also visited three schools in the Phoenix area, as the schools were re-opening for the third term. The three schools that were visited were Earlington Secondary, Greenbury Secondary and Hopeville Primary School. The MEC was accompanied by the Acting Head of Department, Dr Barney Mthembu, the Chief Director for Special Needs Education Services (SNES), Ms Jabu Khoza; the Head of Communications, Mr Muzi Mahlambi; the Director for the Pinetown District, Ms Khayelihle Hadebe, the Chief Education Specialist for Governance and Management, Mr Member Zungu; officials from the Ministry and other Education Stakeholders such as Organised Labour, School Governing Body and Religious Leaders. .

Another reason for the MEC to visit the three schools was to monitor the state of readiness, since the Minister of DBE, Ms Angie Motshekga announced that all the Intermediate Phase, learners from Grade R to 7 were to return to school without rotation by the 2nd of August 2021. The MEC also conducted school functionality and checked whether the COVID-19 school regulations were still being adhered to. "As the Department, we are here to monitor the re-opening of schools so that we are satisfied that there is continued effective teaching and learning. We know that there is fear for some of you, but we are here to assure the members of the community that they are in good hands. We are working with SAPS and SANDF to normalize the situation and to ensure the safety of everyone," said Mshengu.

During his visit, the MEC also motivated learners, "You as learners have a responsibility to stand up against racism. You are not too young to take responsibility. We need our schools to be a safe environment for everyone. We will also offer a psycho-social support to the learners of Phoenix, including other neighboring townships such as Inanda, Amawoti, Umlazi, Lamontville and in the area of Northdale in Umgungundlovu."

The MEC and stakeholders, released white balloons, as a gesture to bring peace in schools and in the area of Phoenix as a whole.

















MEC MSHENGU ASSESS VANDALISED SCHOOLS

The MEC visited some schools in Umlazi District in order to assess the damage caused during the recent unrest. The vandalized schools that were visited by the MEC were Bavumile Primary School and Mziwamandla Secondary School.

"These criminals had more information about the school, which allowed them to drill a hole behind the wall and take eighteen laptops," said MEC Mshengu after assessing the damage at Bavumile Primary School., He further urged the Umlazi community members not to purchase the stolen laptops, but to give authorities information so that these, "criminals can be caught."

A second meeting was held at Mziwamandla Secondary School where the school principal gave an account of the damage. The MEC stated that the plan going forward is to deliver mobile classrooms in order to ensure that teaching and learning is not affected. In closing, he implored the community to "protect schools just as they protect shops because that is where the future of the nation is built."


MZIWAMANDLA
M H S
STRIVE FOR SUCCESS









OFFICIAL OPENING

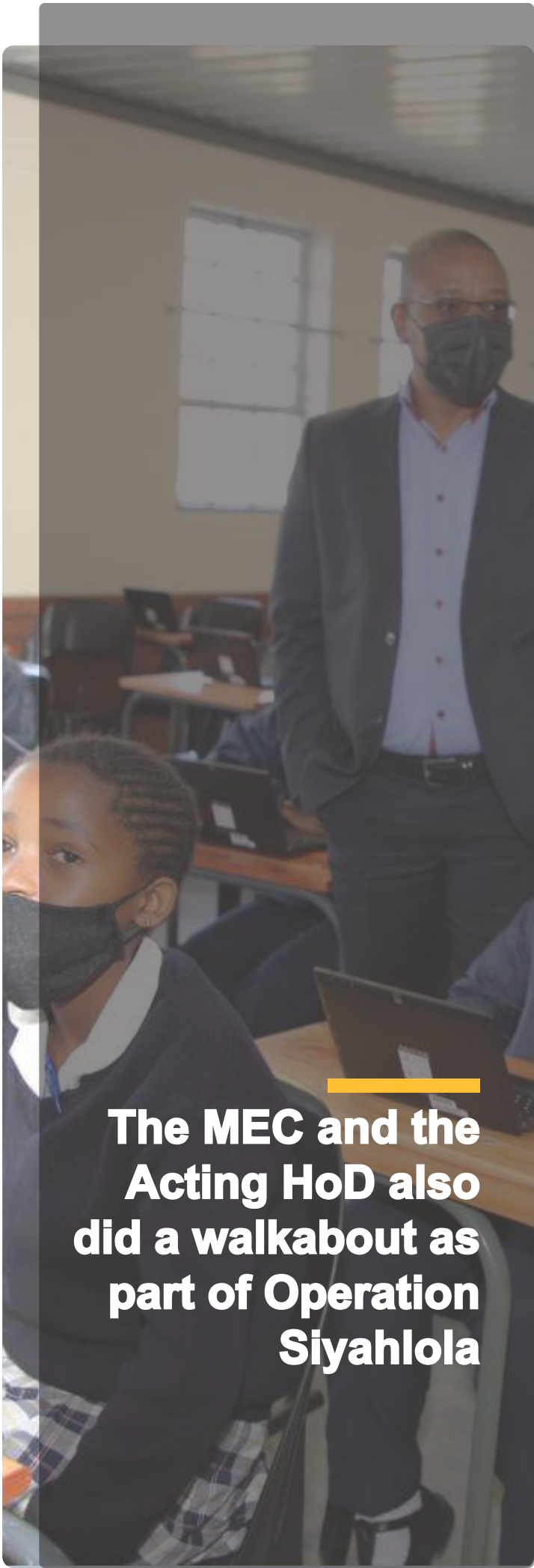
MKHAMBA GARDENS PRIMARY SCHOOL

The MEC together with the Acting Head of Department, Dr Barney Mthembu, presided over the official opening of Mkhamba Gardens Primary School, under Othukela District.

The MEC and the Acting HoD also did a walkabout as part of Operation Siyahlola, which seeks to monitor teaching, learning and functionality in schools.

The Principal, Ms Susan Marais expressed her gratitude to the MEC for building such a state-of-the-art school. She also promised the MEC to deliver good results and ensured that the school is taken care of.

The MEC complimented the work done at the school, stressing that this is the kind of school that government will be building going forward. "This school is equipped with modern technology so that it keeps up with the demands of the Forth Industrial Revolution (4IR). We are in the process of building schools of this standard in all places, including rural areas and we wish to close the gap between schools in the urban areas and those in rural areas. Some of the schools will be renovated, as modernised teaching accessories will be introduced," said the MEC.



The MEC and the Acting HoD also did a walkabout as part of Operation Siyahlola



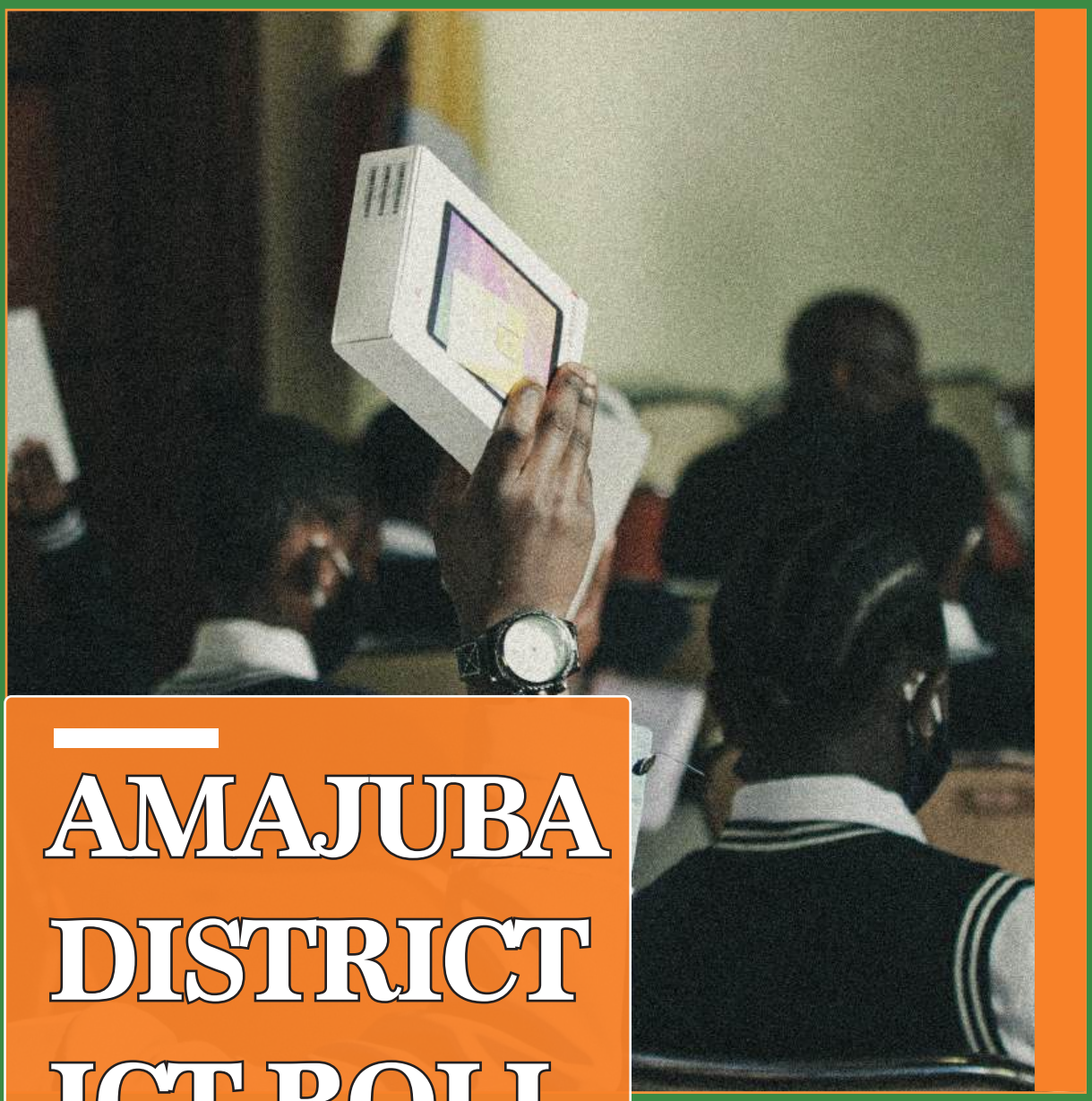
- The MEC for Education in KwaZulu- Natal Mr Kwazi Mshengu together with the Acting Head of Department Dr Barney Mthembu presided over the opening of the Mkhamba Gardens Primary School under Uthukela District.
- Modern technology was presented to the teachers as well as learners to improve the way of learning & teaching as part of the 4th Industrial Revolution.











AMAJUBA DISTRICT ICT ROLL OUT

"We are happy to see our government responding to challenges affecting the future of our learners particularly in rural areas"

The Department of Education in KZN, in its quest to improve the quality of education received by learners in the province, is making strides in the provision of ICT to schools in rural areas. The Department has continued with the ICT-roll out which started in Zululand where principals received tablets, this time 100 learners in Amajuba district from four schools were the proud beneficiaries of the tablets.

The handover took place on 13 May 2021 in Newcastle. Welcoming guests to this auspicious event was His Worship the Mayor, Dr Ntuthuko Mahlaba who said, "The ICT roll out program is proving to be a much needed benefit for our learners in rural areas. We are happy to see our government responding to challenges affecting the future of our learners particularly in rural areas," in the words of Oliver Tambo "a nation that does not invest in its youth does not deserve a future."

You should be very proud of yourselves that you are the first cohort of learners to receive the gadgets, with these few words you are welcome.

Taking to the podium, the MEC for Education in KZN, Mr Kwazi Mshengu had these words to share,

"Today MTN has helped us to be able to donate tablets to our learners. The Department took a decision to improve teaching and learning to align with the times we are living in. For us to achieve this we have to empower our educators and learners"

Learners together with their school principals were very happy to receive the tablets and the MEC admonished them to take good care of them so that other learners will benefit from the same gadgets.

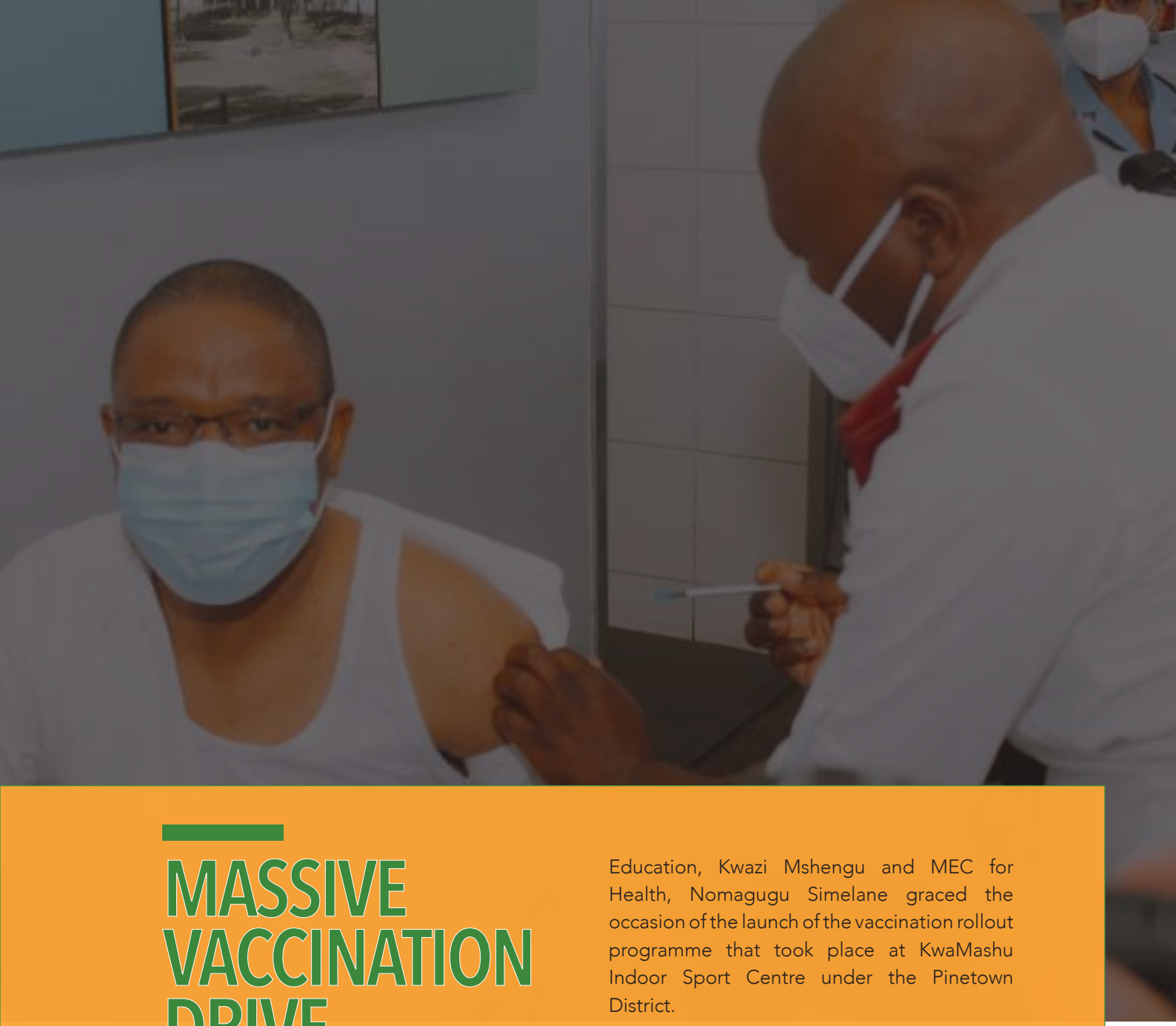





education







MASSIVE VACCINATION DRIVE FOR KZN EDUCATORS

It was a sight of jubilation and palpable sigh of relief as educators came in numbers to vaccination sites as the programme was launched in the province. Both MEC for Education, Kwazi Mshengu and MEC for Health, Nomagugu Simelane graced the occasion of the launch of the vaccination rollout programme that took place at KwaMashu Indoor Sport Centre under the Pinetown District.

Provincial leaders of teacher unions used the occasion to confirm their unwavering support and encourage teachers to take advantage of the rollout programme. MEC Mshengu said teachers are frontline workers and are exposed to Covid-19 as they interact with learners and the rest of the community on a frequent basis. "We would like to thank all educators and support staff who came in numbers today. We are very much confident that these numbers will also grow as we continue with the programme," said the MEC.



A. MEC for Education in KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Kwazi Mshengu with unions leaders at the launch of vaccination of the school teachers & the supporting staff.
B. Director General of Basic Education Mr Mathanzima Mweli arrives at the Royal Show Grounds in KwaZulu-Natal for his vaccination.
C. DG Mweli getting his jab.
D. MEC Mshengu with Officials from his office monitoring vaccination sites.
E. SADTU's Nomarashiya Caluza getting her jab.



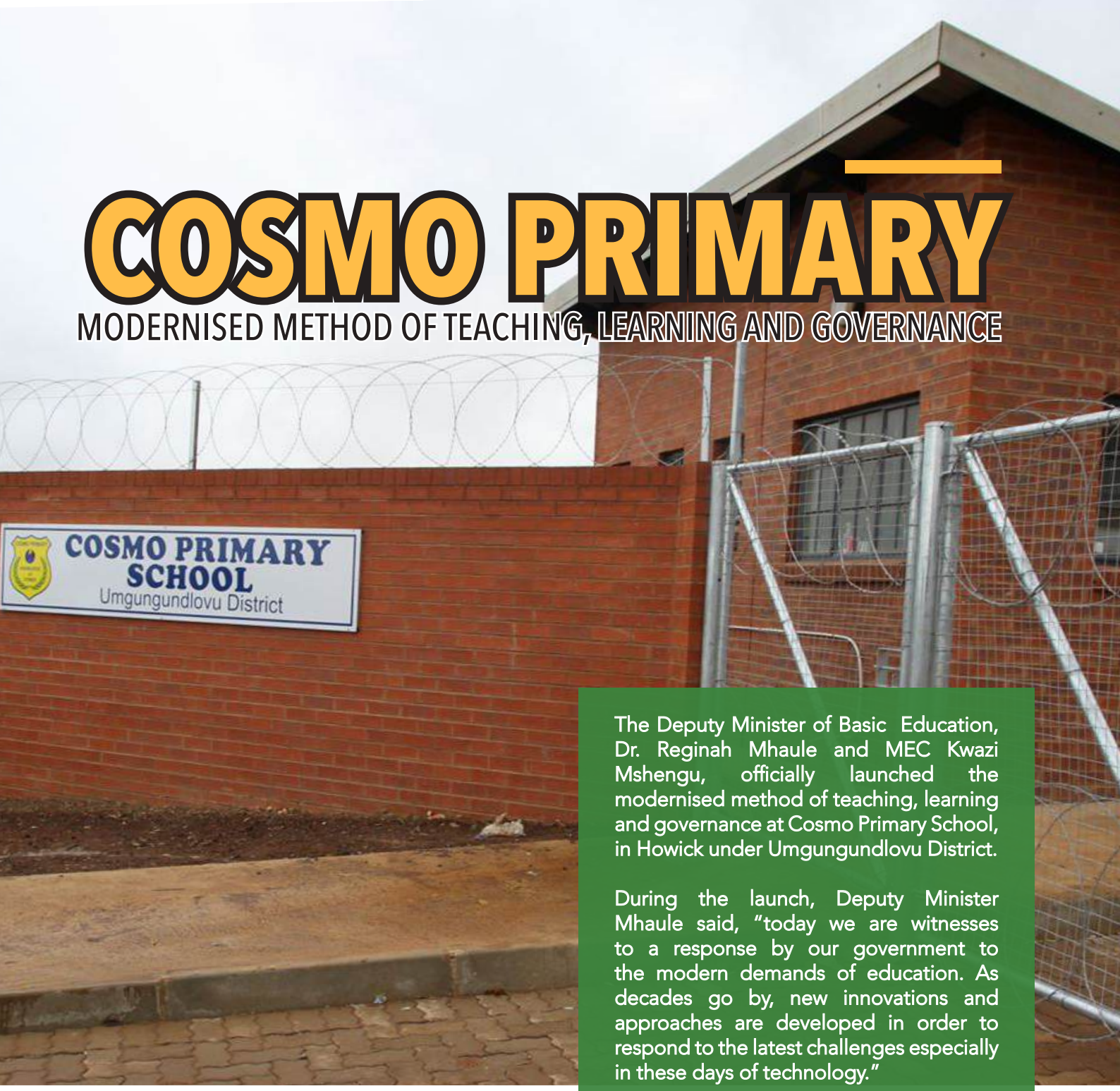






COSMO PRIMARY

MODERNISED METHOD OF TEACHING, LEARNING AND GOVERNANCE



The Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Dr. Reginah Mhaule and MEC Kwazi Mshengu, officially launched the modernised method of teaching, learning and governance at Cosmo Primary School, in Howick under Umgungundlovu District.

During the launch, Deputy Minister Mhaule said, "today we are witnesses to a response by our government to the modern demands of education. As decades go by, new innovations and approaches are developed in order to respond to the latest challenges especially in these days of technology."

MEC Mshengu announced that 54 schools in this province are set to benefit in the ICT roll our programme in this financial year. He further stated that, "all teacher's at Cosmo Primary have been given laptops to change ways of teaching, learning and of governing the schools into a modern way of doing things."

> "all teacher's at Cosmo Primary have been given laptops to change ways of teaching, learning and of governing the schools into a modern way of doing things."

LAUNCHING MODERNISED METHOD OF TEACHING, LEARNING & GOVERNANCE

COSMO PRIMARY SCHOOL - HOWICK



A

A. Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Dr Reginah Mhaule with MEC for Education in KwaZulu-Natal Mr Kwazi Mshengu officially open Cosmo Primary School under Umgungundlovu District.

B. Deputy Minister, Dr Reginah Mhaule addressing the gathering.

C. A new method of learning, teaching & governance is shown with the latest technology.



B



C



UGU DISTRICT

THANKS GIVING AND AWARDS CEREMONY FOR 2020 NSC RESULTS

Ugu District held their annual thanksgiving and awards ceremony whose slogan was "Celebrating Freedom Day Through Excellence." The event was held at Marburg Secondary School and its purpose was for the district to award excellence to the best performing 2020 NSC learners and to show appreciation to all educators and officials for going beyond the call of duty to ensure outstanding results.

The ceremony was structured on the following categories : Awarding Subject Advisors for good performance, awarding teachers who obtained 100% in their subjects, awarding schools who obtained 100%, awarding schools with most bachelors and awarding a school who obtained 100% for four consecutive years.

The District Director, Mr Mfundi Sibiya concluded the event by thanking the Class of 2020 for their achievements and also conveyed his sincere gratitude to all employees who contributed towards the excellent performance of the Class of 2020.







UMLAZI DISTRICT LEADERSHIP AND REFLECTION SESSION

The department, in collaboration with the South African Council for Educators (SACE) and Jika iMfundo – Programme for Improvement of Learning Outcomes (PILO), recently held a two day workshop for Umlazi District.

This Leadership and Reflection Session was aimed at discussing the Umlazi District's Academic Improvement Plan for the 2021 National Senior Certificate (NSC) results and also to monitor and develop the strategic plan for the current academic year. Umlazi District obtained a second position in the province in the 2020 NSC results. Their plan is to move from 2nd to the first position and move the district to greater heights!

During the workshop, Mrs Thembelihle Charma, the Coordinator of Jika IMFUNDO – PILO, demonstrated the need of having a workshop of this caliber, "Every organization has to undergo an improvement journey and reflect. We need to know where we have been, where we are and where we are going."

The District Director, Mr Ntokozo Cele, in his address stated,

> *"As the district, we need to develop an inquisitive mindset and ensure that we are a leading organization. When we sit and reflect, it simply means that we are accountable, transparent and responsible. Planning, monitoring and reporting will assist us to achieve our objectives in our schools."*

In his concluding remarks, Mr Cele also expressed his appreciation to all the educators, Subject Advisors and Chief Education Specialists, who support the vision and mission of the District and the entire department.

“Every organization has to undergo an improvement journey and reflect. We need to know where we have been, where we are and where we are going”











KZN SACE AND UMGUNGUNDLOVU DISTRICT COLLABORATION PROGRAMME

Umgungundlovu District together with KZN SACE held a collaboration meeting aimed at improving learning outcome across all sub-directorates. MANCO and extended MANCO members of Umgungundlovu District were part of the meeting. Day one of the meeting kick started with a riveting presentation by Ms Ella Mokgalane who is the SACE CEO. She went into great detail on the sectors that are regulated by SACE and further stated that,

> *"SACE is the voice of the teaching profession."*

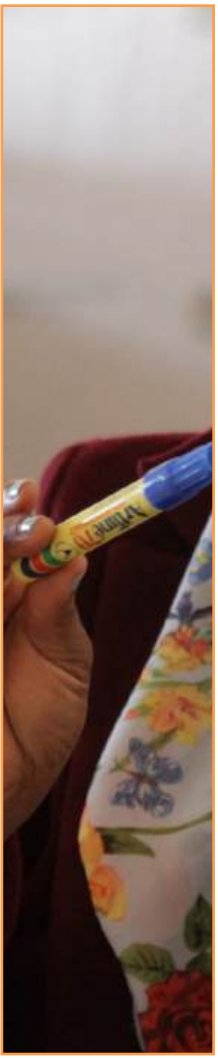
The programme was informative in that it was able to identify challenges of the teaching profession, such as media portraying teachers badly and violation of educator's rights.

On the second day, the District Director, Mr Siqhamo Mabinza shared a few words on how Umgungundlovu District school principals have to work together with the district in order to achieve excellent results. The meeting ended with Mrs Sithabile Mncwangi (SACE KZN Provincial Coordinator) demonstrating the SACE self-service portal, Q and A session which followed with the step-by-step discussion on the Umngungundlovu District Charter.










DISTRICT CHARTER




SACE
SACE
SACE
SACE
SACE





> “Let us continue to work as one team with our districts so that we are able to give a status report regarding these matters.”



PLACEMENT OF SURPLUS EDUCATORS AND HR RELATED MATTERS

The Head of Department, Dr Enock Nzama held a consultation meeting with the District Directors and Unions at the Provincial Teacher Training Academy (ex-Dokkies). The purpose of the meeting was to discuss the status of the placement of surplus educators in schools and also look at other human resources related matters such as staffing and stability in schools.

In his concluding remarks, Dr Nzama said to the District Directors, “We as management are here to ensure that these matters are solved. We need to put systems in place to be effective. Let us continue to work as one team with our districts so that we are able to give a status report regarding these matters.”





1. The Head of Department, Dr Enock Nzama engaging the District Directors as well as the union representatives.

2. Engagements in progress as one of the participants take the mic.

3. Attendents are seen taking notes in the meeting.





NELSON MANDELA DAY

The Education Resource Planning Directorate took the initiative to play part in the 67 minutes of Mandela Day at the Sibongumbomvu Combined School under Umgungundlovu District







