EDU NEWS
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OFFICIAL OPENING OF THE HIGH-TECH SCHOOLS



DR JL DUBE HIGH SCHOOL



BATTLEFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE
EDUCATION
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

GROWING KWAZULU-NATAL TOGETHER

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EDITORIAL TEAM

EDITORIAL MANAGEMENT

HEAD OF COMMUNICATION:
Muzi Mahlambi

CHIEF EDITOR:
Sihle Mlotshwa

NEWS EDITOR:
Hlengiwe Mncibi

CONTENT CONTRIBUTORS

Mbali Zulu

Qinisile Mkhize

Xoli Tompson

Philakahle Ngubane

Noluthando Zitha

Thabile Dlamini

Kholeka Kheswa

Siphelele Madlala

Mbali Magwaza

Carol Ngcobo

Khwezi Mbense

Nokukhanya Mthembu

PHOTOGRAPHERS

Sbani Ngobese

Mhlengi Ngubane

Bongeka Mncube

Nongcebo Khuzwayo

Thabiso Mjwara

Carol Ngcobo

Sandile Ngcobo

GRAPHIC DESIGNER

Philasande Mbhele

PROOF-READER

Zingisa Kapu

DESIGN COORDINATOR

Carol Ngcobo

MESSAGE FROM THE MEC



As a Department, we are focusing on reviving our schools' sports programme and targeting all sporting codes.

As part of our programme to see the revival of in-school sports, we have recently introduced Siyadlala Thursdays to encourage schools to dedicate time to sports every Thursday; and this programme is gaining traction throughout the province.

We urge district, circuit, and school leadership to ensure that every school in our close to 6000 schools participates in school sports.

We are also interested in introducing those sporting codes that are not popular among the majority of our learners. This is important because we know that gifts and talents knows no race and knows no gender.

We understand that it is through financial injection, that our mission to revive school sports can see the light of day, hence we are mobilising big business to come on board.

Other than that, we need to be very creative to see our way through.

We cannot let financial challenges deter us in our resolve.

We do this because we understand acutely that not all our learners will make it in life through academic means - that some will thrive only if they are given an opportunity to display their God-given talent.

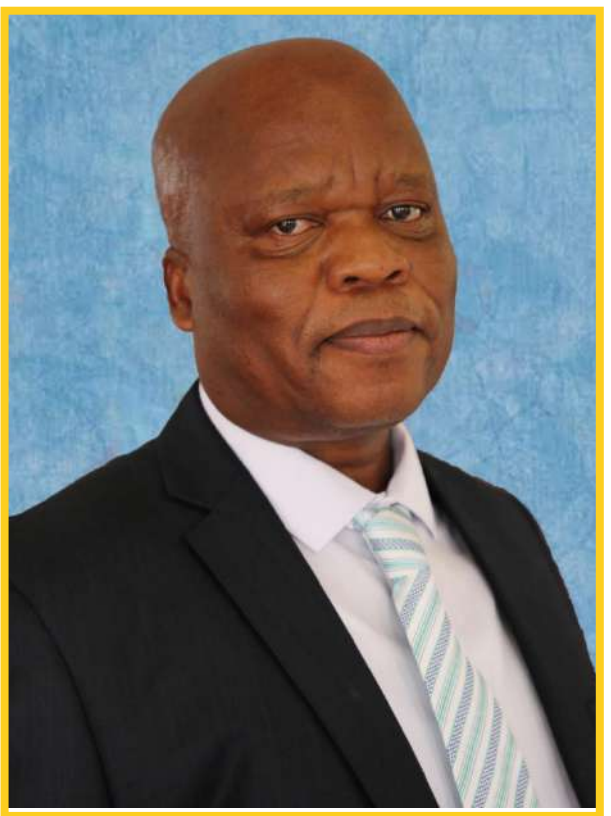
I urge everyone not to pay lip service to this undertaking.

Let us all work together to see all our children learn and play.

The old adage that a healthy mind goes with a healthy body must be our collective anchor.

ASIDLALE!!!

MESSAGE FROM THE HOD.



It is great pleasure and honour once again to come to you through this platform.

As the Department of Education in KZN we continue to serve the people of KwaZulu-Natal with dignity and pride by providing quality education in our schools.

As the Department, we would like to congratulate the MEC for Education, Mr Sipho Hlomuka, for reaching the 100 Days in the office.

During these 100 days, a lot has been happening in the office. Indeed the MEC is a dedicated leader; and he is leading by example.

We are humbled to be led by a hardworking leader like MEC Hlomuka.

As we know this is the important season in the education sector, where we are preparing for the end of the year examinations, not only for matriculants, but for the Intermediate and foundation phases.

We take this opportunity to wish all our learners the best of luck in the coming examinations.

Remember, October is the transport month,let us drive with caution and be safe.

Asiphephe!!







KZN EDUCATION MEC HLOMUKA'S 100 DAYS IN OFFICE

The KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, Mr Sipho Hlomuka, has made significant progress in his first 100 days in office.

Demonstrating immediate action, MEC Hlomuka has addressed critical issues within KwaZulu-Natal's education system.

His achievements include tackling school violence, improving school infrastructure, addressing educator unemployment, and approving the 2025 Post Provisioning Norm (PPN) in collaboration with teacher unions and School Governing Bodies (SGBs).

Notably, he visited schools affected by crime, such as Mukelani Primary School and Phikiswayo Primary School, to engage with stakeholders directly.

Additionally, MEC Hlomuka interacted with learners at Verulam High School to address the growing concern of bullying.

Key Achievements:

- Addressing School Violence: MEC Hlomuka prioritized school safety, demonstrating his commitment to creating secure learning environments for learners.

- Infrastructure Development: Under his leadership, the maintenance and upgrading of school facilities have been prioritized to ensure conducive spaces for quality education. This includes the official opening of Battlefield Primary School and Dr JL Dube High School, a testament to MEC Hlomuka's dedication to improving educational infrastructure.

- Employment Initiatives : MEC Hlomuka has addressed educator unemployment by advertising PL1 and promotional posts, providing opportunities for qualified educators.

"It's impressive to witness MEC Hlomuka's hands-on approach in addressing critical educational matters and overcoming challenges while driving long-term strategic improvements in the administration of KwaZulu-Natal's education system.

As a Department, we are privileged to have a visionary and strategic leader like MEC Sipho Hlomuka guiding the future of education," said the Head of Department, Mr Nkosinathi Ngcobo.









GALLERY





















OFFICIAL OPENING OF BATTLEFIELDS PRIMARY SCHOOL

BY: PHILAKAHLE NGUBANE

The MEC for Education, Mr Sipho Hlomuka, officially handed over Battlefields Primary School, located in the Dundee area within the Endumeni Local Municipality under uMzinyathi District. The handover of the smart school follows the 100% completion of the project in 2022, with a monetary value of R46,578,776.42. The programme director, DDG Advocate Masuku, welcomed all distinguished guests and the community at large, who came out in numbers to witness the official handover of Battlefields Primary School.

The DDG for Institutional Development Support, Ms Weziwe Hadebe, outlined the infrastructural development of the school and detailed the purpose of the day. DDG Mbongiseni Mazibuko declared that the school being handed over is a smart school, the 1st of its kind under uMzinyathi District. It is a digitized school where all teachers have been equipped with laptops, and the school offers free Wi-Fi for the benefit of both teachers and learners.

During the delivery of messages of support, organized labour members and the School Governing Body Chairperson thanked the Department for listening to the public's concerns by delivering on their promises and exceeding expectations. They also cautioned the community against vandalism and negligence.

Ms Fiona Tooray, the Principal of Battlefields Primary School, shared the history of the school, noting that it was previously known as Dundee Junior Primary School, which was in a dilapidated state. She extended her appreciation to the MEC for elevating public schools to the highest standards. The District Director for uMzinyathi, Mr S. Kheswa, echoed the principal's sentiments and expressed his gratitude to the MEC, promising to advocate against the vandalism of infrastructure.

Introducing the MEC for Education, the Deputy Mayor for uMzinyathi, Ms Mchunu, expressed her satisfaction with the school infrastructure. She remarked that the MEC for Education has indeed delivered on the government's mandate to grow KwaZulu-Natal together. When the MEC for Education took to the podium, he noted and appreciated that the uMzinyathi District is the most improved district in terms of the 2023 NSC Examination Results.

"I am honoured to be part of the official opening of Battlefields Primary School as we mark 30 years of democracy," said MEC Hlomuka. He further stated that education is of utmost importance, and opening of the school is evidence that the government cares for the people of KwaZulu-Natal.

In conclusion, MEC Hlomuka emphasized the importance of maintaining the school property and ensuring that it remains in good condition for the benefit of future generations.

Venue: Battlefields Primary









GALLERY




















OFFICIAL OPENING OF DR JL DUBE HIGH SCHOOL

BY: QINISILE MKHIZE

Dr JL Dube High School is a beacon of hope for the youth of KwaMashu. A township riddled with high crime statistics; education is the only chance for many youths to have a bright future. This state of the arts school was officially opened by MEC, Mr Sipho Hlomuka on the 19 September 2024 in Pinetown District. A completely refurbished Dr JL Dube boasts 32 standard classrooms, media centre, a computer room, a science laboratory, a kitchen, and an impressive administration block.

Cotton On, a company based in Australia, made this substantial donation. All speakers that ascended the podium including stakeholders, expressed gratitude and pledged their support to the school. Mr. Nkosinathi Ngcobo, Head of Department, who directed the program said, "We are grateful to Cotton On and Departmental officials for the state-of-the-art school that will see learners from Kwamashu receive a quality education".

Hlomuka during his keynote address said, "We are grateful to Cotton On for demonstrating that indeed education is a societal issue". He congratulated the community, principal, SMT, and the district, for being recipients of this generous and meaningful donation.





















GALLERY































MINISTER FOR BASIC EDUCATION, SIVIWE GWARUBE VISITS KWAZULU-NATAL

BY: PHILAKAHLE NGUBANE

The Minister of Basic Education, Siviwe Gwarube, the Deputy Minister, Dr Reginah Mhaule and the Top Management of DBE visited the province of KwaZulu-Lu-Natal on Thursday, 03 October, 2024.

Deputy Minister, Dr Reginah Mhaule, in her role as the Programme Drector, delivered opening remarks and extended her pleasure in being part of the much anticipated visit to KwaZulu-Natal.

She called upon Mr. Dumisani Sibaya, the Principal of Anton Lembede MST Academy, to come and extend welcoming remarks.

The Principal proudly elaborated on the school's profile and it's magnificent state of the art infrastructure.

The host of the event, MEC for Education, Mr Sipho Hlomuka welcomed all attendees and expressed his delight to the delegation from the Department of Basic Education. He expressed his most sincere appreciation to the Minister for taking her time to offer support to the Province.

"Thank you for lending us an ear and physically availing yourself to this important engagement. Everything we do in the Province, we do it on behalf of national government," said MEC Hlomuka.

He spoke at length about the good working relations between him and the Ministry of Basic Education, singling out events where they have engaged on pressing matters of the education sector.

Minister Gwarube took to the podium to deliver the key-note address which highlighted her willingness to learn about issues faced by the sector and collectively find amicable resolutions. "The work that you do is recognized and appreciated . I am pleased to see District Directors whom I know bear the brunt of our schools hardships. May you continue to do good even after my time as the Minister" said Minister Gwarube.

The presentations led by senior officials of the Department proceeded, tabling out relevant areas of concern and achievements.

The event was concluded by a walkabout exercise on school premises where the Minister engaged with learners and saw their impressive activity programs.

Date: 03 October 2024













GALLERY

















DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION TOP MANAGEMENT MEETING

BY: KHWEZI MBENSE

September 27, 2024, marked a pivotal day for the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education as senior management gathered at Dokkies Hall in Durban. The Top Management Meeting, chaired by Head of Department (HOD) Mr Nkosinathi Ngcobo, aimed to tackle key departmental priorities.

MEC Sipho Hlomuka set the tone, emphasizing the importance of respect and teamwork in the workplace. “We must work together to achieve our goals,” he urged.

Following MEC Hlomuka’s address, Acting CFO Ms Ntokozo Mlaba presented the department’s current fiscal position, providing clarity on financial matters.

Deputy Director-General (DDG) Mr Mbongiseni Mazibuko, requested managers report on the state of readiness for the NSC 2024 Examinations and internal examinations, as well as the updated status of Learning and Teaching Support Materials (LTSM) for 2025.

DDG Ms Weziwe Hadebe and her delegates presented reports on:
- Spring Camps.
- June storm damage.
- School visitation by the Public Protector in Zululand District.
- National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP) and audit strategy.
- Payment of service providers.

DDG Ms Weziwe Hadebe concluded the presentations with a report on the department’s annual performance plan implementation.

The meeting wrapped up with clear action items and departmental priorities outlined. Senior management left the meeting equipped to drive progress and improve education in KwaZulu-Natal.








GALLERY
















PINETOWN DISTRICT LAUNCHES 30-DAY COUNTDOWN TO 2024 NSC EXAMINATIONS

BY: QINI MKHIZE

The Pinetown District officially launched the 30-day countdown to the 2024 National Senior Certificate (NSC) Final Examination at JG Zuma High School in KwaMashu.

District Director, Ms Sbongile Nkosi-Tembe welcomed attendees, stating, “Learners, you possess the discipline and potential to achieve outstanding results.” She expressed gratitude to the stakeholders who contributed to the success of the Class of 2024.

Learners representing over 18,685 full-time and 2,242 part-time candidates in the Pinetown took to the podium and committed to ensuring that the district achieves quality results in the 2024 NSC.

Acting Chief Director for Curriculum, Mr David Manganye, representing Mr Mbongiseni Mazibuko, DDG: Curriculum Management Delivery, urged learners to prioritize their studies: “To succeed, make temporary sacrifices and stay focused. Your hard work will yield rewarding results.” He also expressed his gratitude to teachers for their tireless support and dedication.

Date: 20 September 2024













GALLERY





























UMGUNGUNDLOVU INDIGENOUS MUSIC AND DANCE COMPETITION

BY: MBALI MAGWAZA

The uMgungundlovu District hosted the Indigenous Music and Dance competition at Poyinandi Hall in Edendale, from September 4th to 6th, 2024. Learners performed cultural music and dance during this event, showcasing their talents. They sang songs addressing racism and bullying, with the prescribed songs designed to teach that racism and bullying are unacceptable and must end.

Ms Thembi Mavundla, Senior Education Specialist (SES), emphasized the importance of respecting the National Anthem and reciting the Preamble of the Constitution. The Department of Basic Education issued a circular instructing schools to sing the National Anthem and recite the Preamble of the Constitution at least once a term to instill pride in learners. The uMgungundlovu District decided that schools should adhere to this circular during the first week of the term.

Mr Musa Ndlovu, Founder and CEO of Usiko Entertainment, who was part of the adjudicating team, shared insights with learners on how to care for their voices and choreography during performances. He also emphasized the importance of confidence when performing. Ndlovu cautioned educators to ensure they do not exceed the allocated time for each performance.

The competition was a remarkable success, featuring an impressive array of captivating performances from schools. These performances not only showcased the rich cultural heritage and diversity of indigenous music and dance, but also demonstrated the exceptional talents and dedication of the learners and educators. Winners will represent the district at the Provincial competition.

Date: 4-6 September 2024








GALLERY





















UMLAZI DISTRICT CULTURAL AND HERITAGE DAY CELEBRATION

BY: THABILE DLAMINI

"Umuntu Ngumuntu Ngabantu"

The Umlazi District officials, dressed in African attire such as beads, Zulu beaded skirts, and traditional printed dresses, gathered in numbers to braai, eat, and celebrate Heritage Cultural Day. All MANCO members and directorates from Governance, Phumelela CMC, HRSS, Finance, HRM, Teacher Development, Nutrition, Durban Central Co-Curricular, and TLS-GET came together to sing and perform.

The Programme Directors, Ms T. Ndlovu and Ms N. Mhlongo, ensured the event ran smoothly and created a fun atmosphere filled with singing and dancing.

Ms B.N. Mahlambi, District Director, welcomed all MANCO members and explained why Heritage Day is significant. She emphasized that Heritage Day honours our rich cultural heritage and diversity and encouraged everyone to embrace their heritage as Africans. Among the guests, she invited Inyosi Yesizwe to speak about the importance of knowing one's clan name and the art of praise-singing.

Mr J.N. Ndlovu introduced the key guest speaker, Inyosi Yesizwe Mr Buze Mdletshe, who was a praise singer for the late King Goodwill Zwelithini kaBhekuzulu. Inyosi plays a crucial role in the Zulu Kingdom, leading traditional prayers through praise-singing, especially when the king arrives at public events. Mr Mdletshe encouraged all Africans to know their history and understand the significance of their clan names.

Date: 20 September 2024











GALLERY



















AMAJUBA DISTRICT UNITES ON HERITAGE MONTH

BY: MBALI ZULU

On 20th September 2024, the Department of Education's Amajuba District celebrated Heritage Day at the Amajuba District Offices, Newcastle.

This historic event brought together officials from Amajuba District, Dannhauser, and Newcastle Circuit offices.

Heritage Day was declared a public holiday in 1996, and since then, the 24th of September has been a day that encourages us to celebrate our cultural traditions, communities, and heritage.

Amajuba District Director, Mr Themi Nzama, delivered a keynote address. In his remarks, he said, "Each and every year in early spring, people across the nation get together to eat, drink, and be merry, celebrating what makes us all uniquely South African. Heritage Day is a public holiday that recognizes and celebrates the cultural diversity of the country. The day embraces and celebrates the true meaning of why we call ourselves the Rainbow Nation," said Mr Nzama.

Furthermore, he mentioned that each year, thousands of people gather at King Shaka's grave to pay tribute to him and honour his memory.

In conclusion, he extended his warm gratitude to all guests, along with the planning committee for the wonderful work that made this day a success.







GALLERY











NATIONAL SCHOOL NUTRITION PROGRAMME
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UGU DISTRICT HONOURS HERITAGE MONTH

BY: XOLI THOMPSON

The uGu District, along with its three CMCs — Umzumbe, Sayidi, and Scottburgh CMCs, and their education centres — hosted a wonderful Heritage Day celebration. The event emphasized cultural diversity and social cohesion and was graced by Mr. Mlingani Zinya, who highlighted the importance of preserving one's culture in a unique way.

The celebration was attended by uGu District's education community, including staff members from auxiliary services, NSNP, HR, Finance, and District Planning. Mr. Mlingani Zinya and Ms. T.A. Gumede delivered key messages of unity and cultural pride.

The event began with performances from auxiliary services, including a cultural showcase led by Scottburgh CMC. Colleagues entertained each other with traditional dances and songs, and shared important cultural teachings, especially related to the growth and rites of passage for young women. Mr. Sibusiso Mpanza, Acting Deputy Chief Education Specialist (A/DCES) from Braemar Circuit, elaborated on family ties and traditional customs.

Sayidi CMC also performed a traditional dance, while other departments re-enacted a traditional wedding ceremony, adding to the vibrancy of the occasion.

The event took place during South Africa's annual Heritage Day celebrations, and participants from eMzumbe, Sayidi, and Scottburgh CMCs, as well as various educational centres across the region, attended.

The purpose of the event was to celebrate unity in diversity and encourage South Africans to take pride in their cultural backgrounds while promoting social cohesion in the education sector. It also served as a platform to reflect on the importance of cultural knowledge and traditions in shaping society's values and identity.

Participants embraced their individual cultures while reflecting on the role of education in uniting communities. Ms. Thembelihle Gumede, Chief Director in District Operations Management and acting uGu District Director, praised the event as a reflection of South Africa's heritage. She commended the efforts of schools in rural areas for excelling in their educational achievements.

Despite the cold and rainy weather, attendees dressed in their cultural attire, exemplifying their pride in their heritage. The day was filled with music, laughter, and an overwhelming sense of unity as the staff celebrated the significance of the day.

As the day came to a close, Ms. Thembelihle Gumede reminded everyone that Heritage Day is not just a celebration but also a reflection of the ongoing journey toward unity and transformation in education. She encouraged everyone to continue embracing their culture while striving for excellence in their professional and personal lives.
Omesh Maharaj, CES: TLS-FET, delivered the vote of thanks.

Date: 30 September 2024







GALLERY

























2024 PROVINCIAL INDIGENOUS MUSIC AND DANCE COMPETITION/FESTIVAL

BY : CAROL NGCOBO

Day one kickoff and competition, The Department of Education launched the 2024 Provincial Indigenous Dance and Music Festival Competition at Amanzimtoti Civic Hall in Durban on September 18, 2024, during Heritage Month Learners from various Districts gathered to showcase their talents in music and dance.

The competition continued on day two with participants showcasing their cultural heritage through music and dance performances. This event promoted the value and importance of cultural activities, embracing the diversity of South African heritage.

The final day concluded with an awards ceremony, where trophies and certificates of appreciation were handed over to participating schools. The Chief Education Specialist, Mr. Sibusiso Buthelezi, district coordinators, educators, and key stakeholders attended the event.

This three-day festival celebrated the rich cultural diversity of South Africa, providing a platform for young talents to shine!









GALLERY





































UMGUNGUNDLOVU DISTRICT CELEBRATES HERITAGE MONTH

BY: NOKUKHANYA MTHEMBU

On 27 September 2024, the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education, under the uMgungundlovu District, hosted a vibrant Heritage Day celebration at Alexandra High School.

The warm spring day set the perfect stage as Alexandra High School transformed into a hub of cultural expression, filled with vibrant colors, rhythmic music, and a shared spirit of unity. This event was dedicated to celebrating the district's rich cultural heritage, honoring the diverse traditions, customs, and history that define its people. The school grounds became a lively display of South African culture, where traditional attire, dances, music, and poetry brought the stories of the past to life.

Mr Mbongeni Mtolo, Acting Chief Education Specialist, proudly represented the District Director, Mr Sqhamo Mabinza, as he took the stage in a beautifully embroidered traditional outfit. His address resonated with the audience, emphasizing the importance of embracing one's cultural roots as a source of strength and identity in a constantly evolving world. He reminded everyone that traditions passed down through generations are not mere relics of the past, but living aspects of who we are today.

As the day unfolded, a series of captivating performances graced the stage. The powerful beat of drums echoed across the grounds as traditional dancers performed with precision and grace, telling tales of bravery, love, and community. The audience watched in awe, captivated by the energetic Zulu dances and elegant steps—each performance a tribute to the district's cultural wealth. Musicians filled the air with the soulful sounds of traditional instruments, their melodies bridging the gap between past and present.

The Heritage Day celebration at Alexandra High School was not just a tribute to the past but a promise for the future. It was a reaffirmation that the rich cultural heritage of the uMgungundlovu District will continue to thrive, uniting its people in a shared journey of honoring their roots and embracing their diverse identities.













GALLERY























PINETOWN DISTRICT HERITAGE MONTH 2024 CELEBRATIONS

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education's Pinetown District Officials celebrated Heritage Day in style.

Enjoy the collage of photos highlighting Heritage Day.

The theme for World Heritage Day 2024 is 'Discover and Experience Diversity.

Venue: Pinetown District, Voortrekker Office.

Date: 13 September 2024.











GALLERY

















THE STATE OF READINESS FOR THE MARITIME SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE

BY: NOLUTHANDO ZITHA

The KwaZulu-Natal Deputy Director General of Curriculum Management and Delivery, Mr. Mbongiseni Mazibuko, successfully hosted a follow-up meeting with the uMlazi District and the department's directorates to discuss the progress on the new focus school, Maritime School of Excellence. DDG Mazibuko stated that the purpose of the meeting was to thoroughly assess the state of readiness within all work streams, including infrastructure facilities, services, human resource staffing, and curriculum resources.

Ms. Sne Ngidi from the Infrastructure Planning and Delivery Directorate, accompanied by Ms. Jabu Mcineka from Administrative Management Services, delivered a comprehensive progress report on the Infrastructure facilities and ICT & IT. The report highlighted substantial progress on various facilities, including the school hall, simulation rooms, sewage line, slip lane, and laboratories.

During the meeting, the Chief Director of Curriculum, Ms. Sindi Zakuza-Njakazi, and Ms. Sthe Tshabalala, presented a robust plan for curriculum resources, subject packaging, and LTSM, emphasizing the strong collaboration between the DOE and industry stakeholders such as the Ethekwini Maritime Cluster, Transnet Durban Harbour, and Ethekwini Maritime Industry. Mr. Muzi Mahlambi, the department's Head of Communication, presented a communication plan, advocacy, and publicity report, outlining the communication strategy for the online learner's admissions program.













GALLERY

































THE MBUSO KUBHEKA TRANSVERSAL TEAM MEETING





BY: THABILE DLAMINI

DDG, Mr Mbongiseni Mazibuko, Advocate Bheki Masuku, and Chairpersons of work streams, held a meeting to provide progress updates, on the scope of work coverage, progress, and challenges that have delayed the processes of implementation of tasks assigned.

DDG outlined the purpose of the meeting which was to check the progress made thus far regarding the opening of the school.

He emphasizes the importance of ticking the boxes where there has been progress on matters like infrastructure, IT, human resource and staffing, finance, learner admissions, curriculum, and communication plan.

Date: 05 September 2024








GALLERY

















MANAGING PERFORMANCE INFORMATION

SPHELELE MADLALA

The KZN Department of Education, under the Directorate of Strategic Planning, Monitoring, and Evaluation, hosted the third District Support Workshop for Managing Performance Information.

The host District Director, Ms Welile Nzama of King Cetshwayo District, opened by offering a warm welcome and expressed her pleasure in hosting the two sister districts, namely Zululand District and uMkhanyakude District.

The Programme Director, Thobelani Hlongwane from SMME, stated during his delivery of the purpose of the event that the workshop was necessitated by the ambition of consistently achieving a great audit opinion.

The three districts in attendance, led by their respective District Directors, were accompanied by Chief Education Specialists for Circuit Management Centres and Circuit Managers, among other officials at the district level.

Informative presentations made by SMME officials were received with enthusiasm and positive engagement from all attendees.

During the presentation, districts were informed that SMME randomly samples schools to cross-reference South African School Administration and Management System (SA-SAMS) information to ensure accuracy and timely updating of statistics, hence the emphasis on the correct implementation of strategic plans.

Date: 16 September 2024











GALLERY

















CAPITEC CSI EDUCATION SUPPORT PROGRAMME

BY: XOLI THOMPSON

The Deputy Director-General (DDG) for Curriculum Management and Delivery, Mr Mbongiseni Mazibuko, and the Circuit Manager of Masakhane Circuit in Madadeni (Newcastle), Mr Regie Ngcobo, welcomed the Capitec Team to the Capitec CSI Education Support Programme. The programme was aimed to demonstrate Proof of Concept (POC) initiatives before rolling them out across the province.

Led by Mr Craig Williams, the Capitec Team, comprising of regional and branch management from Newcastle, visited two schools in the area.

At Spheni Primary School, the Capitec Team, together with the School's Management Team (SMT), showcased "Budget Champs," an educational game designed to support financial literacy topics covered in the Grade 7 Economic and Management Sciences curriculum. The game was demonstrated to Grade 7 learners, who were also participating in their entrepreneur market day. The learners confidently answered questions related to budgeting and expressed their excitement, describing the experience as "super crazy."

The DDG responded positively to the program, stating, "The Department welcomes this initiative, and our Head Office will formalize processes going forward."





GALLERY
















PREMIER'S SERVICE DELIVERY IMBIZO WITH DEPARTMENT STAKEHOLDERS

SPHELELE MADLALA

The Department of Education, accompanied by the Department of Public Works recently participated in the Premier's Service Delivery Imbizo at Henryville Primary School in the uMgungundlovu District. The event engaged key stakeholders from both departments to address the infrastructure challenges faced by schools.

Mr Nkosinathi Ngcobo, the Head of Department, opened the meeting by emphasizing the purpose of the gathering: to assess the school's well-being and ensure alignment with the Department's mission of enhancing teaching and learning.

Mr Zondi, representing the SGB, expressed deep gratitude to the Department of Education for its ongoing support. He shared a heartfelt reflection, noting that the school had significantly improved from the poor condition it was in during his youth. "Thanks to the Department of Education, Henryville Primary School has transformed into the impressive institution it is today," he remarked.

The Henryville Primary School principal, Mr David Dlamini, shared updates on the school's infrastructure, reporting that it currently has 24 operational classrooms, a computer rooms, and a multipurpose classroom. The principle raised infrustructure challenges.

Mr Tholang Chakana from the Department of Public Works acknowledged the concerns raised.

The meeting then proceeded to a nearby school, Sanzwile Primary School, also located in KwaDambuza, where additional challenges that had not been pinpointed were addressed in the presence of the school principal, Ms Gugulethu Ndlela.

Date: 10 September 2024

















GALLERY































2024 NATIONAL SCHOOLS MOOT COURT ORAL ROUNDS GRAND FINALE

BY: MBALI ZULU

On 29 September 2024, the 2024 National Moot Court Oral rounds came to a close after being held at the University of Pretoria from 25 to 29 September 2024. The grand finale took place at the Constitutional Court in Johannesburg.

As part of the programme, the finalists presented their arguments before the Constitutional Court Judges, assisted by other experts from the legal fraternity, led by Judge Rammaka Steven Mathapo of the Constitutional Court. The panel also included judges from the Gauteng Division of the High Court Pretoria, Johannesburg, Western Cape Division, and Mpumalanga Division of the High Court.

The 13th annual South African National Schools Moot Court programme finals, held at the Constitutional Court, were a tremendous success.

KwaZulu-Natal Province was spotlighted in three categories: the Best Coordinated Province Award, the Best Overall Essay Award, and the Best Respondent Essay Award, which was received by Empangeni High School.

“Well done to all the participants; stay focused—the future is bright,” remarked the judges.













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GRADE R-3 CODING AND ROBOTICS ORIENTATION PROGRAMME

BY: AMANDA MEMELA

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education's Teacher Development Directorate coordinated a three-day workshop at The Edward Hotel, Durban, from September 3-5, 2024. The purpose of the workshop was to familiarize all district officials with the approved Coding and Robotics CAPS document for the Foundation Phase, to equip them in preparation for training teachers within their districts, to ensure uniformity of training across districts, and to develop a plan for the training of Foundation Phase teachers.

The Department of Basic Education (DBE) is embarking on preparing a system for implementation of the Foundation Phase Coding and Robotics CAPS in 2025 for Grades R-3. Coding and Robotics will be introduced as a subject in the Foundation Phase in 2025. This subject aims to ensure learners acquire essential knowledge and skills, preparing them for real life and fostering lifelong learning. It supports personal growth by helping learners develop their interests, talents, and character, promoting critical thinking and decision-making, all while having fun.

During the three-day workshop, participants engaged in activities that included coding patterns, building robots and circuits, debugging, and solving a maze through pattern recognition, programming, and navigation. These activities enabled the participants to apply computational thinking skills, design thinking, and the four Cs: Critical Thinking, Creativity, Collaboration, and Communication.

After the workshop, participants left equipped with the knowledge they will pass on to other teachers and are committed to working together as a team to ensure quality education for all.





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EDUCATOR POST ESTABLISHMENT

BY: KHOLEKA KHESWA

The Head of Department, Mr Nkosinathi Ngcobo, held a bilateral meeting with School Governing Bodies (SGBs) and teachers unions to discuss the 2025 educator post-establishment.

"Due to budget cuts, the Department cannot use the same system as last year. Most KZN schools rely heavily on government funding, making them vulnerable to budget constraints," said HOD Mr Ngcobo. He further explained that the budget cuts and provincial austerity measures do not allow for the creation of additional posts.

Advocate Bheki Masuku emphasized the need to adjust the stipends of ECD practitioners due to their living conditions.

Concerns were raised during the meeting about the Department's planning, particularly for Grade R.

The HOD emphasized the importance of collaboration and strategic decision-making, urging stakeholders to work together to support schools. He acknowledged the increasing difficulty in managing finances and expressed hope that the national treasury would provide assistance.

Date: 30 September 2024

















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THE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION PREPARES FOR THE 2025 ACADEMIC YEAR

BY: NOLUTHANDO ZITHA

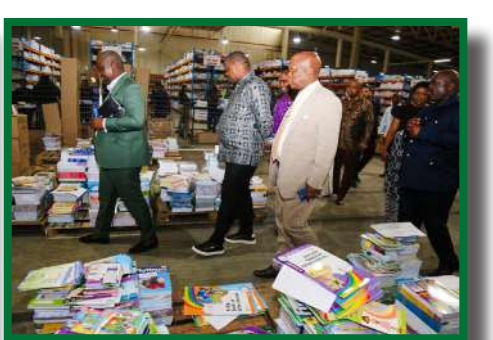
The Department, under the leadership of MEC for Education Sipho Hlomuka, Mr Nkosinathi Ngcobo, the Head of Department, and Mr Mbongiseni Mazibuko, Deputy Director-General for Curriculum Management and Delivery, conducted a visit to the Learner Teacher Support Material (LTSM) warehouse to assess the preparedness for the delievery of the 2025 academic year.

The purpose was to evaluate the state of readiness for the 2025 LTSM. The Department has a contract with Ndabase Printing Solutions to provide high-quality academic literature that aligns with the mission and vision of the Department. The initiative is geared towards supplying textbooks and stationery to 2,993 schools across the province of KwaZulu-Natal.

During the warehouse visit, HOD expressed gratitude to the staff for their dedication and welcomed MEC Hlomuka, who, in turn, extended his appreciation to the Department, the CEO, and the staff of Ndabase. MEC Hlomuka emphasized the significance of their collaborative efforts, underscoring the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education's commitment to providing quality education to learners through the partnership with Ndabase Printing Solutions.








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UNITING UNDER THE VISION OF 'ONE PROVINCE, ONE PLAN, ONE FUTURE'







BY: NOLUTHANDO ZITHA

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education, in collaboration with Telkom-BCX, conducted a comprehensive training session for ICT officials from the participating districts of Amajuba, Umlazi, uMgungundlovu, and Pinetown, along with officials from Teacher Development, Information Technology Officers (ITOs), the Education Management Information System, and Technical Assistants (TAs) from other districts across KwaZulu-Natal.

During the session, Mr Sandile Mkhize, the project manager, delivered an insightful presentation on the project's background, collaboration, and proposed approach. His presentation highlighted the districts involved in the pilot program and introduced the new schools, Mbuso Kubheka in the Amajuba District and the Maritime School of Excellence in the Umlazi District.

Representatives from Telkom-BCX, including Mr Ruan Van der Merwe, Mr Jack Briers, and Mr. Snakho Buthelezi, showcased the parental and departmental web applications. The parental application streamlines the application process for parents, allowing them to select from five schools and filter options based on proximity. Additionally, Mr Lihle Khoza provided an in-depth tutorial on navigating the parental application process.

Mr Van der Merwe further explained the departmental web application, emphasizing its ability to provide the department with accurate information and feedback on learners and guardians while facilitating communication through SMS at each step. The Online Learner Admissions initiative aims to address existing challenges related to learner admissions during registration, including long queues, late applications, travel expenses, and ensuring secure live data, all while providing a more manageable and highly deployable system.







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UMPHATHISWA WEZEMFUNDO UHAMBELE INDAWO YESIGAMEKO

BY: MBALI ZULU

UMphathiswa weZemfundo KwaZulu-Natali, uMnu Sipho Hlomuka uvakeshele indawo yesehlakalo sengozi yebhasi endaweni yase Hlobane, Vryheid kwisifunda sase Zululand.

Lolusuku luqale ngomkhuleko obuholwa umfundisi wendawo uMnu Ngcobo.

Izikole ezithintekayo kuloludaba iSakhikusasa Primary ne Gelekedle High School zombili lezikole zakhele indawo yase Hlobane kwaVilakazi erea.

Osihlalo bamalungu okubhekelelwa kwezikole zombili badlulise amazwi enduduzo kumphakathi wonke wakwaVilakazi naku mhlonishwa weZemfundo, Umqondisi omkhulu wesifunda sase Zululand, UMnu. Dumisani Ndlovu naye udlulise amazwi okududuza emndenini yonke nakumphakathi wonkana

Ethula inkulumo emfushane uNgqongqoshe weZemfundo esifundazweni uthe “ sihlangane namhlanje ngosuku olubuhlungu ngenxa yengozi eyehla kulendawo, siyazwelana kakhulu nani nakumnikazi wamabhasi ngifisa simbonge njalo umdali noma kunje usanguNkulunkulu sibonga ukusinda kweminye imiphefumulo, sizobhonga emsanini namhlanje siduduza wonke

Umnyango weZemfundo ngifisa sethembe umdali ngalesisikhathi esinzima kangaka” kunaba MEC Hlomuka

Umhlonishwa ube esedlulela emindenini ukuyohlanganisa amehlo ngemuva kokuba edlule endaweni yesigameko

Imindeni nayo iphinde yadlulisa ukubonga kumhlonishwa weZemfundo ukuba athathe iskhathi sakhe ukuba azobhonga emswanini nabo.

Date: 05 September 2024








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NSFAS LAUNCHED AT EDENDALE TENCHNICAL HIGH SCHOOL





BY: MBALI ZULU

On the 21 September 2024 Edendale Tenchnical High School, Pietermarutzburg under UMgungundlovu District benefited from the maiden application drive of the 2025 National Student Finincial Aid Scheme. Thus follows the official launch of the 2025 NSFAS funding application by the Minister of Higher Education and Training Dr Nobuhle Nkabinde recently.

Today scores of learners braved the cold and rainy weather conditions some accompanied by parents to be part of the first batch to apply. Applications will close on 30th November 2024, coinciding with the launch of the application season NSFAS dispatched its agent to the high Schools in all the nine Provinces.

During the application drive the NSFAS team assisted learners and out of school youth to apply for NSFAS funding for the 2025 Academic year.

To qualify for NSFAS funding to study at a public Universities and TVET colleges, applicants must meet the following criteria.

* Be a South African citizen
* Register at any public University or TVET college
* Come from a family with a combined annual income of R350, 000 and below and R600, 000 for a person living with disabilities.

NSFAS also offers funding in the firm of loan scheme for the missing middle, individual who came households with combined income between R350 000 to 600.000 may also apply for the NSFAS loan.





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