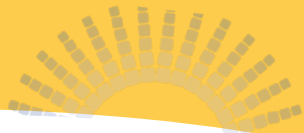




Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
EDUCATION



Newsletter **COMMUNIQUE**

SEPTEMBER 2022



Editor's Note

As the spring is knocking on our door, with only four months until the year is over, colleagues, Please find yet another issue of our internal communications, the Communique.

We hope you'll find time take advantage of this good read with our stories. These stories are meant to inspire you, narrate the wonderful work we do in our little small corners, that contribute in making the department achieve its objectives.

We have blended these stories enough to meet your needs, but, you know us, we're still open to suggestions should you guys wish to feature something new here.

Shout out to our Matrics who recently started with the Trial Examinations. We urge all of you colleagues to support our kids during this period.

Apart from that, to keep healthy, preserving our energy for work and to maintain summer bodies to those youthful ones, gym is still the option. No need to be a fanatic, few push ups and (bench) presses should be enough to keep us in a good shape.

Before I drift away and expose what's inside, take time and indulge yourselves on this copy!

Enjoy



ECDoE Provincial Cross Country Championships

By: Siphosethu Zimba

The Eastern Cape Department of Education in collaboration with Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and Department of Basic Education hosted a two day Provincial Cross Country Marathon at the Walter Sisulu University, in Berlin, Buffalo City Metro District.

The competition catered for 1200 learners from 10 to 19 years, from public ordinary schools and special schools from the 12 Education Districts.

The Chairperson of the EC Schools Athletics Dalindyabo Nqadini expressed his happiness to see that all 12 districts were participating. "We are very proud of our learners for being part of such positive associations. This event will enhance their own development and growth" said Nqadini. He mentioned that the sport is dominated by rural schools and prominent districts in cross country are Alfred Nzo, Amatole East, OR Tambo and Chris Hani.

Nqadini said that he was grateful to the parents that were present and showed up to support their children. He also encouraged teachers to push learners to participate in extramural activities and stop roaming around in the streets looking for other non-educational interests or entertainment.

A Grade 8 learner, Kwazi Ntala, from Zwelitsha Primary School in Mount Ayliff, Alfred Nzo East District, who is a 4km medalist said, "I hope and believe that I will perform well today and go home with a gold medal. My wish is to have a bright future and build my family a beautiful home." He also left an inspiring message for his peers and said, "If it is evident that academics are not exactly your strong suit, I would advise that you participate in other school activities like sports, one can learn a lot from sports and may realise hidden skills that they were not aware of."

A Grade 12 learner Linamandla Phalezweni from St Matthews High School who is also a 1.5km gold medalist said that she was grateful for the opportunity to participate at the Provincial Championships. "Running is one of my hobbies so I'm very excited to be competing against other learners from different districts". "My aim is to take home more medals and hopefully be selected as one of the athletes that will win a sponsorship and a bursary for my tertiary education" said a hopeful Phalezweni.

Violet Lewis an educator from Baysville School of Skills said that the programme was an excellent platform for learners to showcase their talents. "I am confident that the Eastern Cape is bringing home some medals from the SA National Championships this year" added Lewis.

180 learners will represent the EC in the South African National Cross County Championships in September.



EASTERN CAPE DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION CONDUCTS DRUG SEARCH IN SCHOOLS

By Thando Ngcume

The Eastern Cape Department of Education in partnership with the Department of Community and Safety, South African Police Services and Let Us Find Them Organization held a school safety intervention search operation in the Buffalo City Metro Education District.

The operation was a success as learners were found in possession of illegal substances like marijuana, crystal meth, cigarettes and needles in the schools visited.

Speaking on behalf of the ECDoe the BCM Circuit Manager, Koko Dziba said that the operation seeks to ensure that the school environment is safe and healthy for teaching and learning.

"We are obligated as a Department to eradicate all social ills that hinder education and by partnering with several departments as well as NPOs; we are able to achieve such noble goal" said Dziba.

Let Us Find Them Communications Officer, Andile Tsako said that they received complaints from the teachers about suspected drug usage in school. "We then invited other

stakeholders that we usually work with, to come and form part of the operation" added Tsako.

Provincial Coordinator of the Social Crime Prevention Unit, Sergeant Xhanti Mjikeliso applauded the operation and also deemed it as a success adding that operations like these instil a sense of discipline in learners not to do drugs not only in school but in general.

"Operations of this kind need consistenceyand more involvement of the community in conducting these searches and a thorough education on the dangers of using alcohol and drugs" said Mjikeliso.

A grade 12 learner from Nompumelelo SSS Sibusiso Apleni; thanked the efforts made by the Department and other stakeholders for the intervention. "We have been crying to our teachers on the issue of use of illegal substances in our schools, this is the first time that operations of this nature have been conducted in our school and we hope that it will be continuous until we get a drug free school" concluded Apleni.





EASTERN CAPE DOE HOSTS 'AGRICULTURE IS COOL' THEMED CAREER EXPO

By: Siphosethu Zimba

Ndlambe local Municipality learners and surrounding areas braved the chilly morning temperatures to attend a two-day Agricultural-Teen Symposium organised by the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform in partnership with the Eastern Cape Education Department.

Thousands of learners from 19 schools across Ndlambe and surrounding areas took part in the Agricultural Symposium/Career Expo which aimed to empower and encourage young people to participate and learn more about the economic development of the province and entice them to choose agriculture as a subject of choice and pursue careers in agriculture.

The career expo also aimed at educating young people and expose them on what is on offer relating to the agricultural economy and agriculture science and the different career paths in agriculture.

School Landscape Management, Revitalisation and Rural Education Director, Rev Amos Fetsha welcomed this initiative and thanked partners for their selfless support.

Fetsha explained the theme "Agriculture is Cool" stating that the intention is to make agriculture fashionable and a career of choice for the youth. He indicated that ECDoE has a Memorandum of Understanding with DRDAR. "This is a programme that we felt could be jointly held so that it actually addresses learners from Grade 10 and 11 from the various 16 agricultural schools and 3 schools from Port Alfred surrounding areas that have been adopted by the MEC for agriculture and who were part of and attended the Agri-Teen Symposium. This is done in order to expose them to diverse careers in the agricultural space and as such we have invited various institutions like Fort Hare, AgriSeta, Fort Cox College and many others."

He added that the career expo will add to the learner's wider choice of career and expose them to various aspects of agriculture and most importantly the programme will allow young people to be self-employed – considering the high rate of unemployment in the country.

Vodacom Marketing Manager Mzinawa Peter said that Vodacom offers a Internet Of Things solutions for "Smart Farming". "As a farmer for both crop or live stock you are enabled to mitigate losses for example we have tracking tools for livestock through collars or ear-tags. Another important aspect is precision farming solution which empowers the farmer to forecast potential yield, monitor pest, understand soil moisture status etc."

Vodacom also offers Security and connectivity through an integrated dashboard which you can access using a mobile device. He added that educating learners how IOT will give better control over the process of growing crops, making it more predictable and improving efficiency.

Tsolo Agriculture and Rural Development Institute (TARDI) and Afrivet Training Services Facilitator; Fezile November explained the importance of Agri Teen Symposium 2022 as a tool to expose high school learners on the available wide range of Agricultural courses, skills needed, and available agri business opportunities.

He further mentioned that many of their students are fully funded and explained what programmes/courses TARDI offers, including how to apply at their institute. November urged learners to apply for an Animal health course offered at TARDI and to partake in the farming industry and make use of Afrivet Veterinary services to ensure that their generation participates in local economic development.

Owen Munemo from Kuyasa High School in Port Alfred expressed her appreciation for the Department's initiative and other stakeholders involved. He stated that he was enlightened and has learned so much from the career expo. "I now have a different perspective about agriculture and might consider a career in it for the future" concluded Munemo.

