



Umdibanisi Newsletter

*Implementing appropriate and
relevant educational programs
through quality teaching*



Message from the Editor

Colleagues and friends, please find yet another copy of our beloved Umdibanisi publication. We hope this copy will inspire new perceptions about the department and the work done by all employees of the department to be precise.

Yes, we seek to inform you about new developments within the department, educate you about the new adventures undertaken. This publication we believe, should ultimately assist us in developing ambassadors of this giant organisation, the Eastern Cape Department of Education.

Most importantly, it zooms in on matters key to the department from operations at school level, district and provincial offices developments. Team uMdibanisi would still like to get your views on some of the issues you would like us to feature in the near future.

Apart from that, I wish to remind our readers that we still have the Citizen Care toll free number of the department which has just been upgraded to report issues which may range from corruption, malpractices in our schools, districts and or head offices, crime committed against our learners and school vandalism. This will help ensure the finger of the department is on the pulse on all issues.

Colleagues, hope you'll also help each other as the winter promises to be cold, share the little we have with those less fortunate. The act of kindness will go a long way, as it confirms the existence of Ubuntu amongst us. On that note, enjoy!



Nyameka Mgijima Acting Director:
Communications and Events Management

Table of contents

Message from the Editor.....	3
MEC Message	4-5
Zero learner drop out campaign	6
Sporting kits partnership with Shell.....	7
Handover of ablution facility at Tsolo.....	8
Donation of techno lab at Middledrift.....	9
Sprouting entrepreneurs project launch.....	10
Presidential inter-provincial youth meeting	11
Facts about Cholera.....	12-14
Picture gallery.....	16-18





MEC's MESSAGE

Fundile Gade

The transformation of the education system in the province is pleasing with school's performance displaying significant signs of maturity. As the department we decided to acknowledge and appreciate those who worked so hard to put the department in the map nationally when it comes to school performance.

This approach we believe, will not only instil good spirit of competitiveness amongst educators, but will also serve as a catalyst towards rejuvenating and igniting innovative approaches towards excellence. For that, we have awarded five schools with new cars for their exceptional performance.

The car winners are Toli high school in the OR Tambo Coastal education district, in the Quintile 1 in the inclusive basket category, while Makaula high of Alfred Nzo West also took one home in the Quintile 2 inclusive basket.

Other car winners included Cofimvaba high school from Chris Hani East, they brought home a car for being the best FET performer in Quintile 3, St Johns College took another one for their performance in the Quintile 4 inclusive basket, so is Pearson high of Nelson Mandela in Quintile 5.

Furthermore, if anything to showcase this maturity is worth mentioning, is the first quarter results, wherein our schools outpaced themselves, and performed above 80%. I am aware of the fact that these are primarily school based assessments, not common papers (nationally set) and despite that, those setting these tests are also part of the nationally recognized team that sits to set some of these question papers.

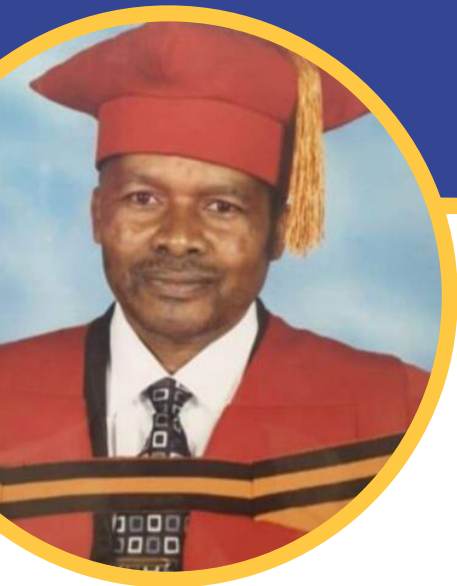
Last week, I had an opportunity of joining a team that hosted a sendoff for three of our learners who are participating and representing the nation in International Championships for learners with disabilities. Those heroes and heroine had a send-off function organised by the department and are from our special schools and included the 17 year old

Sinothando Adonisi from Lonwabo Special school who will compete in the Table Tennis International Championships for learners with disabilities, in Germany. Another champion who will represent the country in Germany is the 19 year old Siphesihle from Mzamomhle Special school, she will compete in the Swimming Championships. The 17 year old Ntando Nokama from Vukuhambe Special school will participate in the Wheelchair Tennis in Japan. All these championships are part of the International Winter Games competitions held across the globe. Another success story worth mentioning apart from the schools doing best, and the department honouring best performers, we have started with the process of empowering districts, these preparations are meant to harness the planned decentralization of powers (delegations) to districts.

This approach we believe will help instil, and act as a base for the District Development Model that government is implementing to ensure proper service delivery to the people.

As I conclude, I would like to appeal to the citizens of this province to assist in keeping the principles espoused by the Quality Teaching and Learning Campaign. The key principles of this campaign are the involvement of parents in the education of their children, children playing a critical role in ensuring smooth implantation of curriculum in class with no disruptions whatsoever, and teachers discharging their responsibility of being in class on time to teach accordingly and to protect teaching time.

Embracing the spirit of the QTLC would help improve and energize the system more as it seeks to ensure that no one is left behind in implementing education transformation principles. Since our schools have just completed their mid-year examinations, I want to take this opportunity to urge parents to look after these youngsters, and for learners to behave well whilst enjoying their academic recess.



HoD'S MESSAGE

Dr. Soyisile Nuku



The Eastern Cape has a long history of carrying the torch in a variety of areas and professions, particularly in leadership. We as a province are renowned as the incubator and springboard for leadership development. Thus, in order to maintain our place in history, I must urge everyone to take leadership seriously.

Colleagues, the time has come for us to take leadership or allow ourselves to be led because there is no middle ground. I apologize if this plea sounds more rhetorical or philosophical. We government officials who are in charge of allocating resources for service delivery undoubtedly feel the effects of the recent economic downturn more than others.

Consequently, the department's top officials had to come up with means of averting hopelessness and despair.

Our activities are guided by the following principles, which your leadership has adopted:

- Enhanced accountability throughout the department, from the directorate to the office of the HOD.
- It is required of leaders to direct subordinates to complete their tasks quickly and well executed.
- Answer information requests from EXCO, the Portfolio Committee on Education, OTP, the Provincial Treasury, DOE, the Hon. MEC, HOD, branch heads, chief directorates, and other directorates as soon as possible.
- We must act as a department when reporting to our political leaders, the public, and other government agencies rather than using a district vs head office silo approach.
- In addition, we should address concerns of legitimacy, dependability, and authenticity in the reports we deliver to our stakeholders.

To produce interdisciplinary and high-quality departmental work, the department's branches should communicate with one another. Deal with poor performance, inaccurate reporting, and missed deadlines within the constraints of the applicable laws. We need to redesign and equip our Citizen Care Units at all levels to as handle all urgent issues raised by local and other department clients. This concentration will cause a substantial paradigm shift in favour of excellence. When serving our clients and stakeholders, working collaboratively, we should be able to address the following questions:





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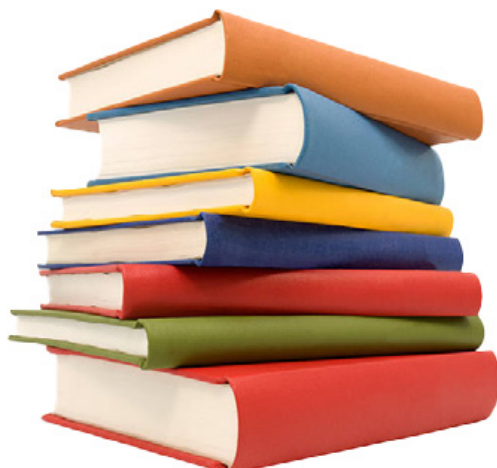
- Is the system prepared to offer all students a high-quality education?
- Have we aligned our administrative obligations with the primary goal of enhancing student outcomes and results?
- Does leadership exercise its influence to promote success—create a regiment ready to respond quickly to alter our system and boost student achievement right away?
- Do you believe the information in our reports, is it credible?

It would be a sign that we now take our responsibility seriously if we were able to respond to these questions. As a result, it would be impossible for us to be persuaded to forsake the underprivileged who depend on the services we provide to exist. We must always keep in mind that we are expected to be able to assess, track, and report on the system's performance in relation to the department's vision and mission as well as the plans we have available.

As a result, we must exercise tact and make sure that every communication we make is grounded in fundamental principles that advances sound governance and better learning outcomes. Therefore, it is imperative that we are all aware with the MEC's annual performance plans, budget, and policy speech. All managers and staff members are expected to have at least signed contracts at this point and produce reports as needed at all times. We believe that this will improve the efficiency of the educational system's governance, administration, teaching, learning, monitoring, support, and assessment processes at all levels—the province, districts, and schools. Additionally, this would enable effective governance every day to urgently meet learner performance goals in all grades and guarantee attainment of 80% and above in grade 12.

Along with all of its duties, the leadership of this department is also expected to constantly fight for labour peace in the workplace in order to strengthen the educational system, foster good governance, and improve student outcomes. Together, we will find and address any inefficiencies in the system in order to achieve our goals. Last but not least, colleagues, we are also required to provide adequate resources for all public school and special schools and districts in order to maximize functionality, promote sound governance, and enhance student outcomes. Friends, as I have stated, the moment has come for us to put all policies into with urgency.

"Akusheshwe"





SPU introduces the new turn-around plan "Shine Qobokazana"

By: Siphosethu Zimba

The Youth and Special Programmes Unit conducted a two-day strategic review session and advocacy for the Zero Learner Dropout campaign with districts at Savoy Hotel in Mthatha, recently.

The objective of the session was to provide a platform for stakeholders to showcase best practices and effective models in mitigating dropout rate of learners from the schooling system. It also aimed at capacitating district officials in the Zero Learner Dropout Campaign.

Furthermore, the planning session focused on numerous projects and campaigns the department has launched and executed to ensure the development of learners through character development campaigns such as "Phakama ntombi, phakama bhutana" which assists in behaviour management and mentorship of boy and girl children.

Youth and Special Programmes, Deputy Director, Lungelo Nonkewuse outlined some of the successful campaigns and projects that were rolled-out by the department in the 2022/2023 academic year which include:

- Women's Forum - which is a programme aimed at protecting women's rights, protect them from sexual harassment and ensures that women are promoted to senior management positions in the workplace.

- Military Veterans - the department awarded bursaries to 18 students during 2022/2023 financial year, 16 new beneficiaries in the current financial year and five (5) returning students from 2022. Youth and Special Programmes, Director, Zukiswa Njotini, presented on the new campaigns that will be launched in 2023 such as the principal's GBV workshops, the new programme "Shine Qobokozana" which will target prevention of adolescent pregnancies and restore the self-esteem of young mothers and equip them with entrepreneurial skills. Other projects include Child Justice Forum, Disability forum and Sanitary Dignity programme.





BCM scholars receive brand new sporting kits

By: Siphosethu Zimba

The Eastern Cape Department of Education in partnership with Shell King William's Town hosted a soccer and netball tournament for Circuit 5 high schools in the Buffalo City Metro (Berlin, Ndevana, Litha, Fort Murray and Phakamisa) at Berlin Primary School sports grounds.

This annual tournament aims at encouraging learners within these communities to participate in extramural activities and to eradicate substance abuse and other social ills. Six high schools participated in the tournament and the winners were awarded with a full sporting kit for each player in the team and a trophy by Shell KWT.

Shell King William's Town Manager, Onesimo Ntsila, said that they noticed a high drug usage in the KWT surrounding areas which then led to them partnering with the Department of Education to minimize drug abuse. "We believe that by creating these educational and healthy extramural programs for learners, children will have something positive to look forward to after school and in their spare time, and move away from drugs and alcohol and eliminate many social issues", said Ntsila. He added that it is their wish and aim to see more schools participate in the next tournament.

Zanempucuko Senior Secondary School, from Ilitha Township took the first place position in soccer and won a full soccer kit, and Nosizwe Senior Secondary from Phakamisa Township took the first prize for netball.

"Our mission is to redirect the huge interest children have in drugs and alcohol and help them make better choices and give them an alternative. We want to give them something better to occupy their minds and time" said Buffalo City Circuit 5 Manager Nomfuneko Dziba. "We will be introducing more sports like rugby and implement this program to primary schools so that children can develop the love for sports at an early age" said Dziba.

Unam Meli who is a grade 12 learner from Berlin High School said he was very grateful to Shell KWT for their sponsor and to the Education Department for the initiative. "I know that substance abuse has been a challenge in my school and in our community and I believe that the tournament will help my peers to stay away from crime, alcohol and drugs and focus more on training and being healthy sportsmen/women. This will also help us in being more aware and productive in school" concluded Meli.





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Official handover of ablution facility at Leppan primary School at Tsolo

By: Thando Ngcume

The Eastern Cape Department of Education, MEC Fundile Gade unveiled the newly built facility that has 6 toilets for female learners, 4 toilets for male learners with urinals, 4 toilets for female teachers and 2 toilets with urinals for male teachers, septic tanks with 500 litre water tanks.

Giving the keynote of the day was the ECDoE MEC Fundile Gade, who said; "People's needs are a huge problem in our societies and people are beginning to lose hope in the government system, hence the department is strengthening Public and Private Partnerships to assist where necessary, therefore the Education sector is very pleased with the donor built, ablution facilities at the school and wish that more investors can come on board to improve the Province."

Gade also launched and appointed a contractor to renovate the school to promote a safe, healthy and conducive teaching and learning environment for the learners and teachers.

Speaking on behalf of the school was the school Head of Department, Nomalizo Baliwe Blayi, she said; "The event was beyond our expectation especially when the MEC revealed the appointment of a contractor to start with our school renovation project. It's a privilege to have former learners (Mxolisi Hoboyi) that are committed to develop

our school. Therefore, we would like to send words of gratitude to Easigas, Mxolisi Hoboyi Foundation and other relevant stakeholders, we feel very honored for having this day."

The Sales Manager Easigas Nolitha Jadezweni, said; "collaboration with the Mxolisi Hoboyi Foundation is our ideal goal, as we are an investing company especially on community development projects to disadvantaged areas of the Province and we hope that more projects of this nature will come."

Mxolisi Hoboyi, Managing Director of Mxolisi Hoboyi Foundation said; "Human dignity begins by having a decent place to relieve yourself, hence I decided to commit myself to this project. It was never an easy road but today I can say that we have made it. All thanks to Easigas company for opening their door when we cried for help and hope that they will continue assisting others as well."

Vote of thanks was done by the School Governing Body member Mazithambe Nodolo, he said; "I won't say much as a lot has been said already by the previous speakers but I can think of few words of thanks to everyone that came on board to make this a success and wishing prosperity to the foundation and the thanked the presence of the Education MEC."



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Donation of Information Communication and Technology lab at Middledrift

By: Thando Ngcume

The Eastern Cape Department of Education held a handover of Techno Lab and books by the Siwa Foundation and Rectron Group at Ntabenkonyana Senior Secondary School, Middledrift, Amathole West Education District. The donation comes as a collaboration between the Siwa Foundation and the Rectron group in trying to uplift education and technology in rural and historically disadvantaged communities in the country.

Speaking on behalf of the donors was the Rectron Chief of the People, Kutlwano Rawana who said that Rectron is donating the R300 000 worth of equipment worth an estimated value of R300 000 and is the first rural project with the aim of changing the lives of the learners.

Former Presiding Bishop of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, Ziphozihle Siwa who is also the former President of the South African Council of Churches and patron of Siwa Foundation said that the donation will give hope to the learners. "

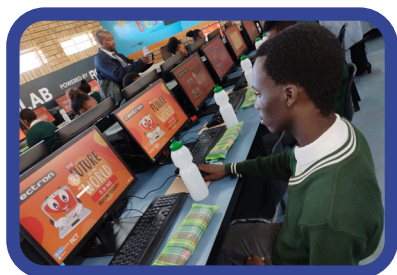
Through the collaboration of hardworking people and people with good hearts who heard the cry for help and came to assist these learners, will gain a lot from the donation" said Siwa.

"Ntabenkonyana SSS is the first school in the province to receive this fully furnished Lab and we hope that the initiative will continue doing good for the future of our kids" added Bhishop Siwa.

The ECDOE Director for E-learning Lutho Kota-Mgwali appreciated the donation and said that it will assist both teachers and learners with digital skills as it will have educational software for Mathematics, Science subjects and Technology subjects. "This investment will add on to the vision to close the digital divide especially for rural schools to benefit from these donations." "The department appreciates all partnerships that add value to the education sector, contributing to improvement of learning outcomes and opening up opportunities for learners in the field of ICT and other fields," said Kota-Mgwali.

Ntabenkonyana SSS School Principal, Charmaine Amanda Nel expressed her excitement as 'this is a life changing initiative' that could make a huge difference in teaching and learning. "It will make learning more accessible to our learners. We are convinced that this will also improve learner interaction and engagement in the classroom and we hope this initiative will help improve our academic performance going forward."

A grade 11 learner Sinovuyo Dyantyi said that she was delighted to be part of the historical event which is new to them. "I hope this will make things easy as we are now in the new era of Modern Technology, we will be able to learn how to use computers so that when we go to higher learning institutions, we won't be using them for the first time. On behalf of the learners, I would like to pledge our commitment to take good care of Lab "concluded Dyantyi.





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EDUCATION



2023 Sprouting entrepreneurs project launch

By: Thando Ngcume

The Eastern Cape Department of Education recently launched the Sprouting Entrepreneurs Project for 20 schools under Joe Gqabi Education District.

Two high schools and 18 primary schools were selected from the poorest of locations around the District to support personal development of learners and enable eradication of poverty in those areas.

The project which is a collaboration between the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research and The ECDoE aims at helping learners to have the ability to navigate their lives in a complex society as well as to expose them to Initial Vocational Education and Training in Agriculture, Nutrition and Entrepreneurship (IVET-ANE) using food gardens as learning vehicles.

The phases of the project will include the intent of the project and implementation of its strategies, 4 month garden based idea development implementation, market day and the Handover of Certificates to the participants at the end.

Speaking at the official launch held in Barkly East High School, the ECDoE School Landscape Management, Revitalization and Rural Education Deputy Chief Education Specialist Keith Chauke highlighted that the project was launching its 4th Circle. "We launching this Circle with a moral obligation to make sure that this project will develop and assist learners to become entrepreneurs as early as possible using Agricultural Skills" said Chauke.

Dr. Matthias Forcher-Mayr from the Austrian Federal Ministry of Education, Science and Research expressed his joy in working with the Department on the 4th cycle of the Project. " This project started in 2017 as

the late ECDoE MEC Mandla Makupula saw the need to encourage learners of the Province on Agricultural Skills to become entrepreneurs and be able to put food on the table from primary level. The Project will not only help learners but also the school principals, teachers and groundskeepers to provide for the delivery and to enhance the quantity and quality of entrepreneurship in particular the IVET-ANE and related subjects according to Caps curriculum" added Forcher-Mayr.

According to Luleka Qhusheka who is the ECDoE Senior Education Specialist for Agricultural science, stated that circle will also bring development and integration of Agriculture and Entrepreneurial skills into the curriculum teaching and learning assessments at the schools. "This is a living legacy and needs to be used for Education and Agricultural improvement of community livelihood as we know that people do not have jobs, so this will assist them a lot" said Qhusheka.

Reflecting on the Sprouting Entrepreneurs Programme, was the principal of Aliwal North Amasango Career School (Sterkspruit), Zoleka Nxawe who said that the Official launch, didactics of the project and implementation strategies session was a very interesting project as the schools will now be able to assist learners, especially learners with special needs, to be entrepreneurs in the future and be able to connect to the market. "Our school is a school for Special Learners in which some of them do not cope at mainstream school with socio-economic problems, therefore this project will be of most assistance to them. The Project will also instill confidence in our learners, will assist on eradicating poverty by adding vegetables to our school food kitchen and sell the veggies to assist in our



Vaccination

CHOLERA! - COVID -19! - FLU!



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ALL OF THESE DESEASES PLUS
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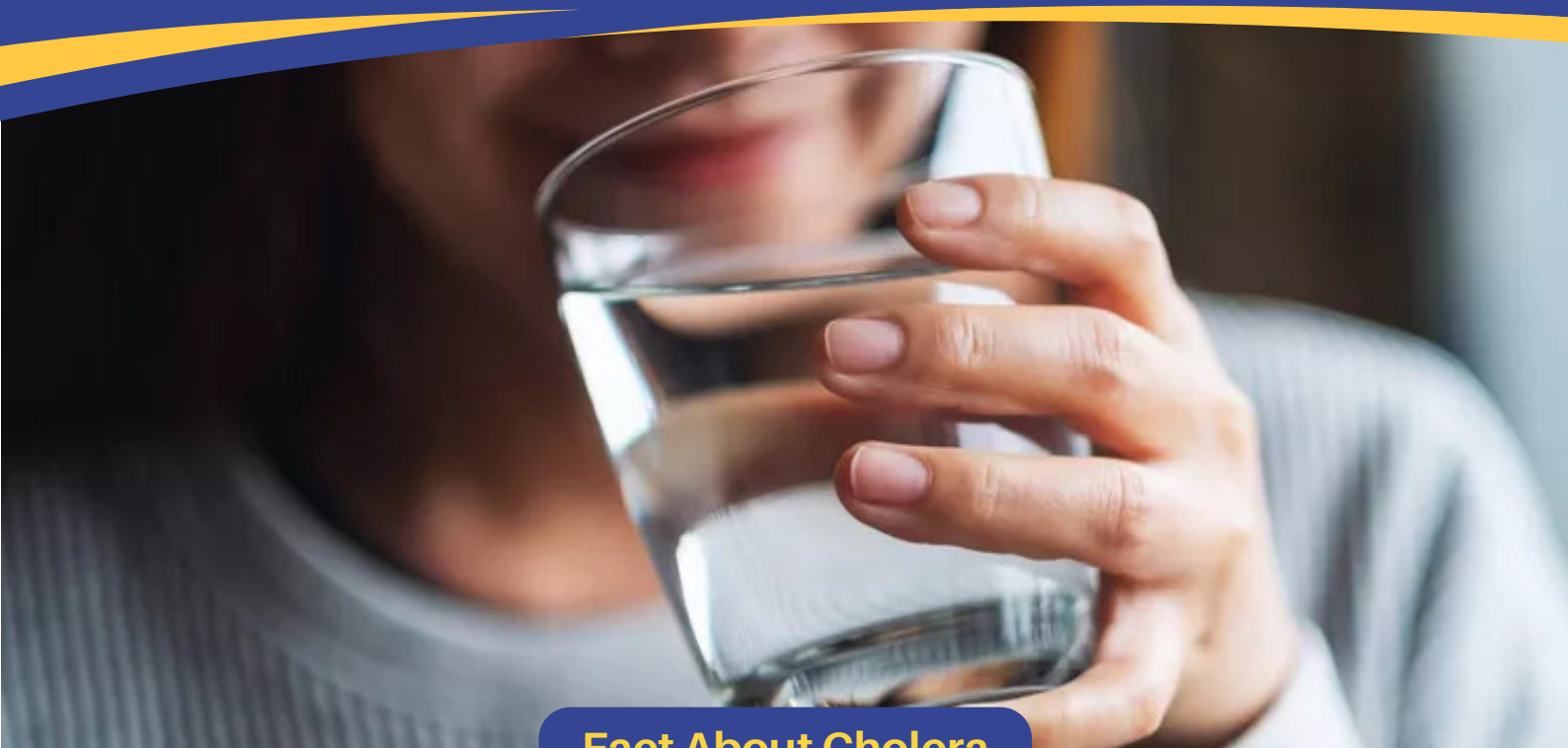
Fact About Cholera

WHO IS AT RISK

PEOPLE USING UNCLEAN WATER FROM ENVIRONMENTAL SOURCES SUCH AS RIVERS, STREAMS, BORE-HOLES, DAMS, WELLS AND THOSE WHO DO NOT HAVE ACCESS TO ADEQUATE AND PROPER SANITATION.

Follow hand hygiene & food safety practices.

Call the COVID -19 Hotline: 0800 029 999 - Visit the website: www.sacoronavirus.co.za
Send "hi" on Whatsapp to COVID -19 Connect: 060 012 3456 * #coronavirusupdate * #COVID-2019



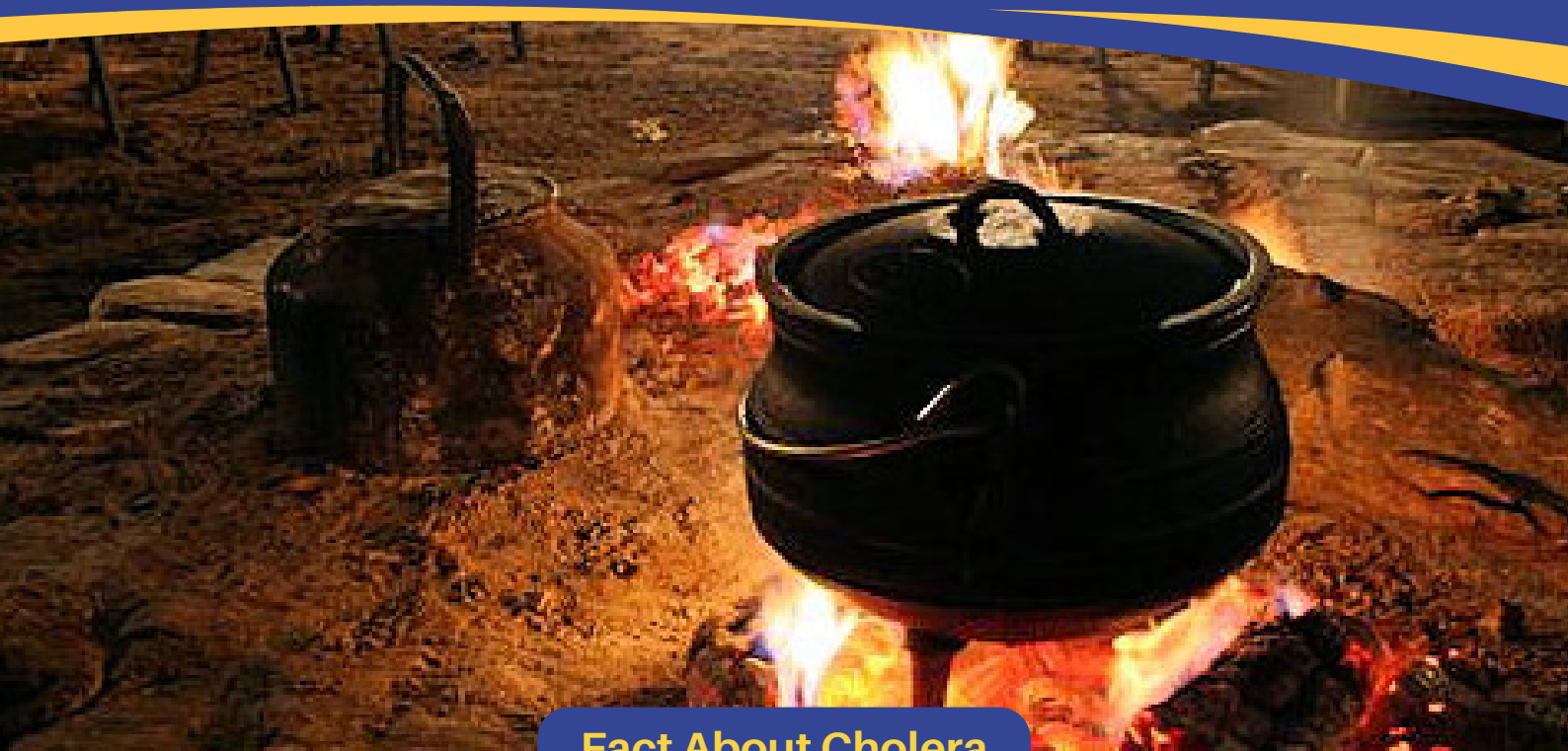
Fact About Cholera

WHAT SHOULD YOU DO IF YOU OR A FAMILY MEMBER HAS DIARRHEA?

DRINKING PLENTY OF CLEAN WATER IS THE MAIN COMPONENT OF TREATMENT AND SAVES LIVES. HOWEVER, PEOPLE WITH MODERATE TO SEVERE ILLNESS MUST BE ADMITTED AT A CLINIC OR HOSPITAL FOR REHYDRATION.

Follow hand hygiene & food safety practices.

Call the COVID -19 Hotline: 0800 029 999 - Visit the website: www.sacoronavirus.co.za
Send "hi" on Whatsapp to COVID -19 Connect: 060 012 3456 * #coronavirusupdate * #COVID-2019



Fact About Cholera



USE CLEAN WATER ONLY



**USE ONLY SAFE OR DISINFECTED WATER FOR PREPARING FOOD,
BEVERAGES AND ICE TO PREVENT POSSIBLE
CHOLERA TRANSMISSION**

Follow hand hygiene & food safety practices.

Call the COVID -19 Hotline: 0800 029 999 - Visit the website: www.sacoronavirus.co.za
Send "hi" on Whatsapp to COVID -19 Connect: 060 012 3456 * #coronavirusupdate * #COVID-2019



Picture gallery









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VISION

To provide learners with opportunities to become productive, responsible and competitive citizens through an inclusive quality basic education system.

MISSION

To achieve the vision, we will implement appropriate and relevant educational programmes through quality teaching and learning; mobilise community and stakeholder support through participation; and institutionalise a strong culture at all levels of the Department.

VALUES

High Performance | Responsiveness | Accountability
Empathy | Access | Equity | Integrity

building blocks for
growth
department of
education



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LOCATION

STEVE VUKILE TSHWETE EDUCATION COMPLEX,
ZONE 6, ZWELITSHA

PRIVATE BAG X0032, BHISHO, 5606

BUSINESS HOURS TO TOP

MONDAY - THURSDAY: 8AM - 16:30PM
FRIDAY: 8:00AM - 16:00PM

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