

Gloomy matric pass rate forecast

Wiseman Mthiyane

DESPITE the examination readiness of the Department of Education in uThungulu District, there is little hope of expecting any major improvements in the district's matric results.

This was the opinion of the KZN Legislature's Education Portfolio Committee Chairperson, Linda Hlongwa-Madlala.

Speaking to the Zululand Observer after the conclusion of a two-day School Opening Functionality Monitoring Programme, Hlongwa-Madlala said, 'We have seen teaching and learning taking place in most of the schools in this district, including Saturday and winter classes. However, teenage pregnancy, drug abuse and late coming of teachers do not bode well for a convincing bounce back strategy.'

'If I were to guess, I would give this district a 10% increase. I don't see them getting a 70% improvement in matric pass rates.'

The monitoring programme targeted schools such as Manxele, Siphosethu and Manqandi high schools.

These schools were identified by the department as the worst performing in the uThungulu district.

Hlongwa-Madlala was accompanied by other members of the provincial Legislature. Their visit was part of a programme to assess the district schools' readiness as the second half of the academic year resumed last month.

'We were here at Manxele High

'The turnaround strategy plan they presented to us has already failed to bring about positive change....'



Assessing at schools performance were Ann McDonell, Sifiso Sonjica and KZN Chairperson of the Education Portfolio Committee, Linda Hlongwa-Madlala

School early this year and things were not in a desirable state. This is a school that scored a 0% pass rate in last year's matric results.

'Today we are here again to check if there has been any improvement, but what we see presented by the school management is not good at all.'

'Our view is that the turnaround strategy plan they presented to us has already failed to bring about positive change in the academic performance of the pupils. This is cause for concern.'

'We have made further

recommendations which include teacher development programmes and more individual student-focused intervention plans.

'Siphesihle High School, however, has made significant progress since our last visit in January.'

'This is owing to its impressive turnaround strategy, which included help from outsourced teachers, subject advisors, having one-on-one meetings with teachers, replacing all unqualified educators with qualified

ones and holding teacher empowerment workshops.'

'This school scored a 32% matric pass rate last year and there is the potential to push this up to 85% this year.'

'The situation at Manqandi High School is also disappointing. In fact this school has no strategy in place.'

'More intervention is needed. We will recommend that the district continue offering support to this school,' said Hlongwa-Madlala.

Call on parents to register children

Wiseman Mthiyane

TO ensure effective teaching and learning from the first day of school, KZN MEC for Education Mthandeni Dlungwana has appealed to all parents to register their children for admission in public schools for the 2017 academic year.

Dlungwana said parents should go to a school closest to where they reside or work to pick up application forms which are now available. The forms should be returned to the school before the closing date of 31 October.

Dlungwana said the campaign served as a tool for the department, school governing bodies and school management teams to assist schools with the identification of adequate resources and other needs before the start of the new academic year.

'This is part of the Learner Admission Campaign, aimed at the provision of quality education in public schools,' said Dlungwana.

Compliance

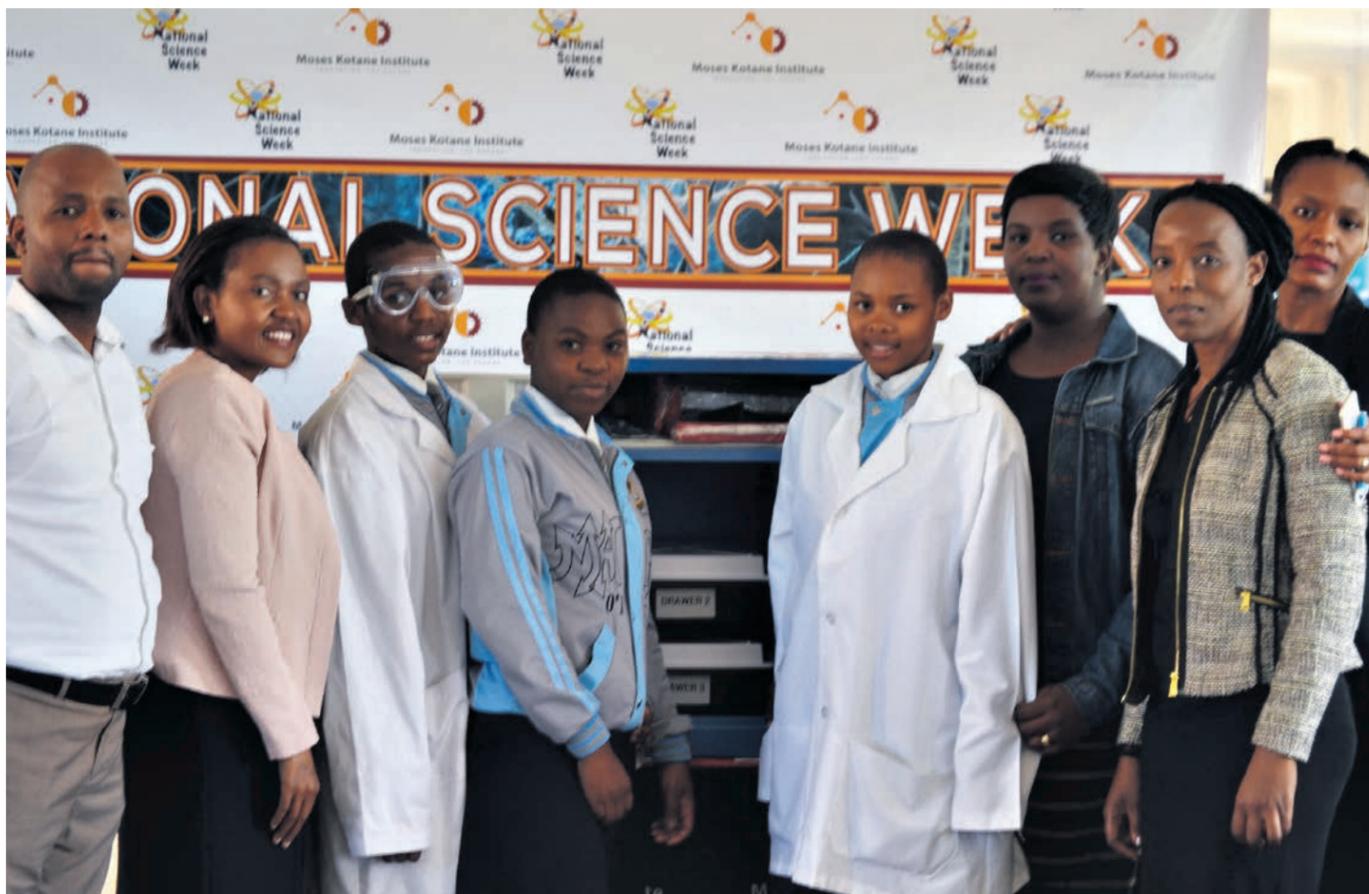
'It also ensures compliance of schools with the legislative provisions in relation to learner admission. We wish to appeal to principals to ensure that schools comply with the national and provincial policies when they develop their own admission policies.'

'This is very important as we want the first day of the 2017 academic year to be about teaching and learning and nothing else. We cannot afford to entertain issues such as additional teachers, text books and furniture on the first day of school.'

'I have no doubt that this campaign will contribute to the provision of quality education in the sense that contact time is protected.'

'I also want to urge all our stakeholders, including parents, unions, governing bodies, churches, traditional leadership and communities at large to involve themselves actively and support schools in the education of children,' he said.

Those wishing to register their children at public schools should produce birth certificates, immunisation cards, transfer cards or last school report cards for pupils who have been to school, study permits or proof of temporary or permanent residence for non-South African learners.



At the women in science event were Bheki Gumede (electrical technology and maritime economics teacher), Sphelele Sangweni (MKI Board member) with Dlangezwa pupils Lethintokozo Gumede, Sonto Ngwenya and Mathe Nokwethemba, Xoli Mkhwanazi (physical sciences teacher), Professor Sibusiso Moyo (DUT) and Sbahle Simelane (MKI)

Girls exposed to science opportunities

Conelia Harry

THE Moses Kotane Institute (MKI) dedicated Women's Day to promoting science to Zululand girls.

MKI held a 'women in science' celebration at KwaDlangezwa High School where 300 female pupils networked with women scientists and were left inspired about possible new career

opportunities.

The young girls experienced the fascinating world of science through practical demonstrations.

The institute also handed a science kit donated by Women

Investment Portfolio Holdings

Limited (WIPHOLD) and Southern African Shipyards to the school, to help towards producing better results in maths and science.

Notice

Witness the SAMBA National Championships

THE South African Concert and Marching Band Association (SAMBA) National Championships will be held at Empangeni High School on Saturday, 1 October.

A R20 entrance fee will be charged for access to the day-long event.

For more information as well as to register a band, contact Renier de Bruin at renier.debruin@ehs.org.za or Rene Pretorius at rene.pretorius@ehs.org.za

