

invited to be a guest speaker at the COE. In his speech, Dr Rakometsi emphasised the centrality of schools as centres whose main duty is “to prepare learners conceptually or emotionally to play a meaningful role in society or the workplace or in the development of the values to function in a responsible and humane way within society”, among other things. He added that “society often has unrealistic and un-educational expectations of what schools are meant to do. Based on this, people simply draw conclusions that schools

have failed. A good school is a site for learning. It is so often the case that schools, rather than being learning organisations, are in fact ‘knowing organisations’.”

The 7th annual COE awards in 2020 acknowledged the schools’ exemplary performance in Accounting, English, Mathematics and Physical Science. Next year this line-up will include Sports excellence within Umlazi Township schools.

COE thriving through generous sponsorships



Mason Lincoln School teacher with one of the sponsors, Ahmed Motala, second from left, from New Africa Education Foundation, and MUT and DoE officials

Generous sponsorships by corporate partners have enabled MUT to provide Umlazi Township’s top-performing schools with educational resources that they can use to both strengthen themselves and share with underperforming peers. MUT’s engagements with surrounding schools in terms of its Anchor Strategy have revealed an impressive culture of hard work among both primary and high schools in Umlazi Township. If only the schools could have an abundance of resources, the quality of education would be unimaginable. This is what has motivated MUT in appealing to corporate sponsors to be a strategic partner in the rollout of MUT’s schools anchor projects.

The impact of MUT’s Circle of Excellence awards is a key example of this partnership in action. Their impact has been vastly amplified by the educational and teaching resources donated by corporate sponsors. One long-standing sponsor is the Willowton Group, a leading FMCG company based in Pietermaritzburg. They have sponsored science laboratory resources and mobile laboratories to the tune of more than R300 000 which we believe has contributed greatly to the excellent performance of the Umlazi Township schools. At the recent 2020 Circle of Excellence awards ceremony on 13 March, Willowton sponsored a Natural Science mobile laboratory for Grades 8 to 10, as well as 110 Oxford dictionaries to enhance the teaching of English.