

to the core business of the schooling system which is quality learning. Go forth and conquer the world and keep up your excellent work.” The Department of Basic Education report published on 8 January indicated that Menzi High School was amongst the 104 schools in South Africa to achieve a 100% pass rate consistently for a period of five years – of which only 16 are in KwaZulu-Natal. This was out of a total of 25,154 schools that wrote the National Senior Certificate examinations in 2019.

In 2019, Menzi High School had a total of 151 learners writing the NSC exam, with 141 achieving Bachelor passes, 8 achieving Diploma passes and 2 achieving

Higher Certificate passes. The class of 2019 praised their teachers for working hard in preparing them for the exams, and were also proud to uphold the school’s reputation. Principal Ntombela said, “It is all a team effort. I am very proud of the many sacrifices by the teachers and the entire staff of Menzi High who sacrifice their family time making sure that all learners, including those that are weaker than others, receive good quality marks. These teachers do not have weekends and school holidays. They are at school teaching as if it was a normal school day. To the staff, I am very thankful and appreciate your dedication, respect and support to the management of the school.”

Double honours for top Umlazi school

As the saying goes, there is no rest for the weary. This was the case for Muntu Ntombela, principal of Menzi High School, who had to travel from the National Education Excellence Awards in Pretoria straight to the Hilton Hotel in Durban to attend the MUT Circle of Excellence Awards on the same day. The theme for the COE awards was “quality education”, and that certainly resonated with Menzi High School, which left with a huge collection of awards on the evening of 13 March 2020: five trophies, cash sponsorship to the value of R15 000 as well as other educational and individual prizes.

Menzi High School was once again celebrated as the top performer in Umlazi Township, as they have been for the past seven years of the Circle of Excellence awards. The school was also rewarded for achieving a 100% pass rate in Accounting, Physical Sciences and English; a 98% pass rate in Mathematics; and an overall pass rate of 100%, with a total of 280 distinctions and 141 bachelor passes.

The outstanding work of the leadership, teachers, and learners of Menzi High School was lauded by the KZN MEC for education, Mr Kwazi Mshengu during the Menzi High school matric excellence awards early in the year at the Durban ICC. “I want to especially thank the principal and the school management team for the sound leadership of the school. When Ms Ntombela took leadership after the untimely passing of Mr Mshololo, there were a lot of sceptics considering the nature of patriarchy in our society. Please continue with your good work, I am extremely impressed with what is taking place at Menzi. We need Menzi High School



“We compete with ourselves,” Muntu Ntombela, Menzi High School Principal

learners to help our country in fighting epidemics and finding solutions to fight climate change,” said MEC Mshengu.

The MEC’s wishes are already being realised as six learners from the class of 2019 have been accepted at Nelson Mandela University (NMU) to do medicine. Four from the class of 2014 have completed their medical degree at NMU, and one in Cuba, while another four are due to complete their studies this year at UKZN’s Nelson R. Mandela School of Medicine.

MUT views its relationship with schools in the immediate surrounding as a bold step towards the revitalisation of Umlazi Township. The many pockets of excellence that exist amongst the schools in Umlazi are a good indication that the efforts of MUT, together with its partners, are bearing fruit towards creating an education ecosystem in the township.