

**TO : NEWS EDITORS**

**FROM : MPUMALANGA DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION**

**DATE : 28 FEBRUARY 2012**

**SUBJECT : THE NATIONAL TEACHING AWARDS**

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The Mpumalanga Department of Education would like to take this time to congratulate the three outstanding educators who came out tops in the 2011/12 National Teaching Awards. The awards ceremony was held on 23 February 2012 at the Sandton Convention Centre in Johannesburg. The event was graced by the Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe who delivered the keynote address.

The National Teaching Awards are an opportunity for the Department of Basic Education to acknowledge and pay tribute to our dedicated, committed and professional educators and their efforts to develop learners as citizens of a democratic, non-racial and non-sexist South Africa.

*“These are the type of educators we need to improve our education system in the province as well as the country. Their commitment and professionalism are manifest in their remarkable achievements.*

*I therefore, take this time to convey my sincere gratitude to Mr Joseph Mthethwa, Mr Milton Masinga and Mrs Bonakele Nyandeni for their patriotic spirit and making the Mpumalanga province proud.*

*Thank you so much for your dedication and your noble efforts to go beyond the call of duty to instill knowledge and wisdom to our children”.*

These are the profound words of appreciation by Mrs Reginah Mhaule, the MEC for Education.

Mr Mthethwa Dingiswayo Joseph obtained second position in the Lifetime Achievement Award. He has been a Maths and Science teacher since he started teaching in 1975 and currently the Principal of Orhovelani High School. The school is well known for its outstanding performance over the years.

For the past 36 years his love for Mathematics has influenced the choice of the curriculum of the schools he has headed since 1984. The schools are Mhlangana High and Orhovelani High which he is currently heading.

This is what he had to say about his experience as a teacher; *“ Though I am currently of retiring age, I am however at work because the Department of Education has asked me to stay on working until 2015 while still recruiting for a possible substitute who will hopefully maintain the high standards of Orhovelani High School.”*

Mr Masinga Davis obtained second position in the Excellence in Secondary School Leadership. He is a principal at Masana High School and believes in hard work. Since he joined Masana High in 2006, the school has repeatedly obtained position 1 in the Dwarsloop circuit in terms of academic results.

As part of giving service to his learners Mr Masinga is providing counseling to the learners, assist them to develop study timetables, as well as how to apply for tertiary admission and to access study bursaries.

As part of the community, he has established Nhlengele Home Based care centre to offer support to orphans and people affected with HIV/AIDS. The organization provides counseling, food and clothes to vulnerable children and infected people.

Ms Nyandeni Bonakele is a teacher at Umzimvelo Agricultural School. When she joined the school; she realized that the school and the community needed upliftment in a number of areas e.g. financial management, lack of resources and skills. Ms Nyandeni obtained a third position in the Excellence in Secondary School Teaching.

*“I attribute my success to strict adherence to educational policies, strict discipline and passion for the subject I teach (consumer studies). Since 2008 my students have achieved a 100% pass rate,” said Ms Nyandeni.*

She further indicated that the sewing project that she runs with the school has made a difference in the lives of the learners in terms of providing real life experiences and providing them with sustenance when they exit school.

The Department once more takes this opportunity to thank these educators for the hard work and commitment and further urge other educators to follow the fine example set by these educators and others who take the lead in improving the standard of education in the province.

The prizes are as follows;

## **2<sup>nd</sup> Position**

- A trophy
- Certificate
- Oxford dictionary
- R20 000 bursary from ETDP-SETA for further studies
- Accommodation voucher for a weekend at Birchwood Hotel/OR Tambo Conference Centre
- Gift certificate from encyclopedia Britannica
- R5000 prize money to the school

**3<sup>rd</sup> Position**

- A trophy
- Certificate
- Oxford dictionary
- Accommodation voucher for a weekend at Birchwood Hotel/OR Tambo Conference Centre
- Gift certificate from encyclopedia Britannica
- Book on Nelson Mandela: Man of the people
- R3000 Cash cheque