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**TO: DEPUTY DIRECTORS-GENERAL  
CHIEF DIRECTORS  
DIRECTORS  
DISTRICT DIRECTORS**

**KZN CIRCULAR NO. 90 OF 2025**

**RECRUITMENT OF LEARNERS FOR THE TWO NEW FOCUS SCHOOLS TO OPEN DOORS IN 2026 (MARITIME SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE IN UMLAZI DISTRICT AND MBUSO KUBHEKA SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE IN AMAJUBA DISTRICT).**

1. The Department of Education has completed the building of a new Focus school in the Umlazi District and acquisition of another Focus School in Amajuba District.
2. The two schools will transform teaching and learning using innovation as a new or creative alternative to the existing instructional and administrative practices. They are intended to improve academic performance and learning for all learners.
3. Mbuso Kubheka School of Excellence will be structured as **ICT, Engineering and Technology** with key subjects like Civil/Electrical/Mechanical Technology; Engineering Graphics and Design; Technical Mathematics; Technical Science and Coding and Robotics.
4. The Maritime School of Excellence will focus on **Maritime studies** with the main subjects to include Marine Sciences, Maritime Economics and Nautical Science and Coding and Robotics.
5. The schools will open doors for learning for the first time in 2026 academic year and will admit eighty (80) learners for enrolment into Grade 08 in each school. All learners admitted will be full-time boarders.
6. Using the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Term results, Districts are therefore requested to identify **six (06) top performing** learners doing Grade 07 in 2025. The selected group must **ONLY** consist of learners from Quintile 1- 3 schools, with a balance between boys and girls.
7. All learners will be expected to write an aptitude test for admission into the schools of excellence.

**KWAZULU-NATAL PROVINCE**EDUCATION  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA**RECRUITMENT OF LEARNERS FOR THE TWO NEW FOCUS SCHOOLS TO OPEN DOORS IN 2026  
(MARITIME SCHOOL OF EXCELLENCE IN UMLAZI DISTRICT AND THE MBUSO KUBHEKA SCHOOL OF  
EXCELLENCE IN AMAJUBA DISTRICT).****Below are the numbers allocated to each District**

<b>District</b>	<b>Maritime School (Umlazi)</b>	<b>Mbuso Kubheka (Amajuba)</b>
Amajuba	03	03
Harry Gwala	03	03
Ilembe	03	03
King Cetshwayo	03	03
Pinetown	03	03
Ugu	03	03
Umgungundlovu	03	03
Umkhanyakude	03	03
Umlazi	03	03
Umzinyathi	03	03
Uthukela	03	03
Zululand	03	03
<b>TOTAL</b>	<b>36 out 80</b>	<b>36 out of 80</b>

8. The remaining spaces will be open for other learners whose parents will be interested in applying for admission into the two schools.
9. The details of learners must be sent by email to Mr M Shangase [Mandla.Shangase@kzndoe.gov.za](mailto:Mandla.Shangase@kzndoe.gov.za) by Friday 03 October 2025 for further processing.
10. The results of the 1<sup>st</sup> and 2<sup>nd</sup> Term must be attached for each of the learners identified by the Districts.
11. The other prospective learners may apply for admission during the period **01 October 2025 to 31 October 2025** using the Online Learner Admissions System on: [www.kznadmissions.kzndoe.gov.za](http://www.kznadmissions.kzndoe.gov.za)
12. As a follow-up, the Department will communicate further details regarding the open day for each of the two schools to be held in November 2025.

Yours sincerely

**MR GN NGCOBO  
HEAD OF DEPARTMENT****DATE:** 09/09/2025