

VOICE OF UKUBALA

January 2020





Inside the Issue

FOREWORD

As 2019 draws to a close, we look back at the year. We celebrate the schools and young minds who have made their mark on the landscape that is mathematics for the future. pg. 02

2019 IN REVIEW

Each year the SAMF co-ordinates various programmes and events that range from conferences, teacher development, learner training camps, and several mathematics competitions. pg. 02

2020 CALENDAR

All the important dates for next year Registration deadlines, programme dates, and more. pg. 05

SOUTH AFRICA'S BIG MATRIC MATHS PROBLEM

by Bradley Prior

Professor John Webb of the University of Cape Town's (UCT) Department of Mathematics and Applied Mathematics believes that the standard of matric mathematics has dropped substantially. He spoke to journalist Bradley Prior about this problem. Read the full article here.

https://mybroadband.co.za/news/government/326215-south-africasbig-matric-maths-problem.html





FOREWORD by Professor Kerstin Jordaan

At the start of the New Year we are thankful for the year that was. We look back at 2019 and celebrate the schools and young minds who have made their mark on the landscape that is mathematics for the future. While doing it is essential to understand what came before so that we can have an appreciation of where we are today and where we are going.

The programmes we run at the SAMF are so much more than competitions with top achievers. Our programmes touch the lives of thousands. It stimulates interest in the subject and identifies and develops mathematical potential. It expands the mathematical skills and knowledge of individuals that will last way beyond the sparkle of the trophy, medal or certificate. It makes a difference in the real lives of real people living in the real world.

Where we are going

However, to make a difference in the lives of others, we need partners on both sides of the equation. We need partners with passion. A passion that will make it happen.

We need teachers with knowledge, skills, and resources. Moreover, teachers need to be empowered to generate interest in mathematics and to promote a broader perspective on the nature of the mathematical activity.

2019 IN REVIEW

Each year the SAMF co-ordinates various programmes and events that range from conferences, teacher development, learner training camps, and several mathematics competitions. The highlights of 2019 were:

The South African Mathematics Olympiad (SAMO)

The SAMO is the first mathematics competition of the year. More than 91,000 high school learners took part in the first round which took place on 12 March. Almost 19,000 learners completed the second round on 15 May. After that 214 learners took part in the final round on 25 July. Aaron Naidu (Eden College) and Emmanuel Rassou (South African College High School) were crowned mathematics champions in the senior and junior divisions respectively.

Pan African Mathematics Olympiad (PAMO)

Fifty-seven contestants from 11 African countries took part in the PAMO which ran from 31 March to 6 April. Youssef Chaabouni (Tunisia) was crowned individual champion, with Morocco the winners in this year's team challenge. South Africa's Kgaogelo Bopape and Danielle Kleyn both earned gold medals.

NESTLÉ NESPRAY South African Mathematics Challenge

This year the Challenge's first round on 13-17 May had more than 83,000 primary school learners from 1,002 schools participating. Of these, about 400 took part in the final round on 18 July. Youkyum Kim (Kenridge Primary School), Marieke Louw (Laerskool Lynnwood) and Simon Oostuizen (Sweet Valley Primary School) achieved first place in the senior division. The winners of the junior division were Jan Karsten (Laerskool Jan van Riebeeck) and Erik Senekal (Laerskool Lynnwood).

International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO)

From 10 to 22 July more than 600 high school learners from 112 countries participated in the 60th IMO. South Africa won four bronze medals and ranked 46th. The top-ranking countries were the People's Republic of China, the United States of America, the Republic of Korea, the Democratic People's Republic of Korea, and Thailand.

ASSA South African Mathematics Team Competition

On 7 September 102 teams from 25 centres across the country participated in the annual Mathematics Team Competition. This year the Wits teams walked away victorious in the senior and junior divisions of the competition.

FOREWORD

(continued from pg.2)

We also need businesses to partner with us. The reality is that most of what we do costs money, and we all know that the income sources of government have enormous demands placed on them. That is why we are so incredibly thankful for our sponsors each year.

Are we there yet?

Despite all our efforts, the reality is still far from rosy. The 2016 report from Trends in International Mathematics and Science Study (TIMSS) showed South Africa's grade nines were ranked second-last out of 39 countries in mathematics and placed at the bottom of the global pile in science.

Only a fraction of grade five and grade nine learners at no-fee schools performed exceptionally well in mathematics. The country's average grade nine mathematics score was 372, and the science score was 358. The study classifies 400 points as the minimum level of competence.

So no, we are not there yet, but we are also not still where we were. Not all of us are Mathematicians or even teachers. Still, we can all add our effort, our support, and our enthusiasm to those who can take our contributions and use them to multiply the depth and skill of the next generation of mathematical leaders.

How to make a difference

The time to act to improve mathematics education is now. Become a Mathematics Guardian by committing R100 per month. Donating is quick, safe, and easy through PayFast.

https://www.payfast.co.za/donate/go/southafricanmathematicsfoundation

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by Staff Writer

Many countries write 14 March as 3/14, and as such, it is marked as Pi Day because the mathematical constant Pi is approximately 3.14. Prof. Helge Holden, Secretary-General of the International Mathematical Union (IMU), said in an announcement on 26 November 2019: "For the last years, IMU has led the project to have UNESCO proclaim 14 March as the International Day of Mathematics (IDM). The IMU is pleased to announce that today the 40th General Conference of UNESCO approved the Proclamation by UNESCO of 14 March as the International Day of Mathematics."

The official international launch of the IDM will be taking place on Friday, 13 March 2020. There will be two parallel international events: the first one in Paris at the UNESCO Headquarters, and the second one, an African launch, as a plenary event at the Next Einstein Forum 2020 (10-13 March) in Nairobi, Kenya.

Every year the organisers announce a new topic to inspire the celebration, stimulate creativity, and reveal connections between mathematics and all sorts of disciplines, theories, and thoughts. This year's theme is Mathematics is Everywhere.

The SAMF will be supporting the celebrations around IDM through activities in the first quarter of the new year to demonstrate that:

- Mathematics is universal in science and technology;
- Mathematics is omnipresent in the systems of civilizations;
- Mathematics is fundamental to meet the UN Sustainable Development Goals; and
- Mathematics is everywhere in whatever you do.

Find more information about IDM 2020 go to https://www.idm314.org

AMESA REGIONAL ACTIVITIES Planned for 14 March 2020

Eastern Cape - Seminar Free State - Seminar Gauteng - To be announced KZN - Regional Conference Limpopo - Seminar Northern Cape - Mini-conference North-West - Regional Conference Western Cape - Seminar Mpumalanga - Mini-conference

For more information contact the AMESA office on 011 484 8917.

THE FIRST ROUNDS OF THE SOUTH AFRICAN MATHEMATICS OLYMPIAD AND THE NESTLE NESPRAY SOUTH AFRICAN MATHEMATICS CHALLENGE WILL ALSO BE TAKING PLACE IN THE SAME WEEK.

IMPORTANT DATES For Next Year

South African Mathematics Olympiad (SAMO)

Closing date: 31 January Round 1: 12 March Round 2: 14 May Round 3: 23 July

Pan African Mathematics Olympiad (PAMO) 23 to 30 March (Tunisia)

NESTLÉ NESPRAY South African Mathematics Challenge Round 1: 9 to 13 March Round 2: 14 May Round 3: 28 July

International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) 8 to 18 July (Russia)

ASSA South African Mathematics Team Competition 5 September

For more events, visit http://www.samf.ac.za

FROM THE SAMF OFFICE

by Staff Writer



Patrick Rasehwete joined the SAMF team in April 2009. Fast forward 10 years and he is still here, contributing to making a difference in mathematics education. Patrick holds a B.Sc (Ed) from the North-West University and a B.Ed (Hons) from the University of Johannesburg. He is responsible for the implementation and management of teacher and learner projects at the SAMF.

Thank you, Patrick, for being a valuable member of our team for the past decade.



Youth Day - 16 June 2019



Heritage Day - 24 September 2019



TOP MATHEMATICS BOFFINS Honoured

by Staff Writer

Aaron Naidu (Eden College) and Emmanuel Rassou (South African College High School) were honoured for their performance in the South African Mathematics Olympiad (SAMO). The 2 learners beat more than 91 000 learners nationwide to be crowned as the overall winners of the South African Mathematics Olympiad (SAMO).

Aaron Naidu, a grade 12 learner from Eden College in Durban won the prestigious Dirk van Rooy gold medal for the senior division of the SAMO. He has been taking part in the South African Mathematics Foundation (SAMF) Olympiad programmes since he was in grade 6. Aside from mathematics he enjoys playing chess, gaming and watching sci-fi and superhero movies and series. Aaron won the junior division of the South African Mathematics Olympiad in 2015 and 2016 and was a top 10 senior medallists in 2017 and 2018. He represented South Africa at the International Mathematical Olympiad (IMO) in 2017 and 2019. In 2017 he obtained an honourable mention and in 2019 he earned a bronze medal.

Emmanuel Rassou won a silver medal at the 2017 SAMO when he was still in primary school. This year he has walked away with the Dawie du Toit gold medal for winning the junior division for thesecond time in a row. He enjoys athletics and has represented Western Province at hurdles. He was also part of the 2019 South African Pan African Mathematics Olympiad (PAMO) team.

The South African Mathematics Foundation (SAMF) awarded these and other prizes at their annual awards function hosted on the 14th of September 2019 in Gordon's Bay. The first round of the SAMO took place in March with more than 91 000 learners from 1 320 schools participating. A total of 18 858 learners wrote the second round in May and the best 214 learners from the second round qualified for the final round in July.

WE WELCOME OLD MUTUAL AS NEW HEADLINE SPONSOR FOR THE OLD MUTUAL SOUTH AFRICAN MATHEMATICS OLYMPIAD (SAMO)

The extended sponsorship would allow SAMF to conduct substantial teacher development in partnership with the African Institute for Mathematical Sciences.

The poor state of mathematics education in South Africa is well documented and can be attributed to a number of reasons, amongst others, unqualified and underqualified mathematics teachers. A good pass in Mathematics is required for many careers and it is therefore important that the teaching and learning of mathematics should be improved.

Entries for the 2020 Olympiad are open http://www.samf.ac.za/en/sa-mathematicsolympiad. The closing date for registration is on 31 January 2020.





develop.influence.lead.

TOP MATHEMATICS BOFFINS HONOURED

(continued from pg. 6)

Other winners were Kgaogelo Bopape, who won the award for best performing South African Black learner for the third time in a row. He was also part of the IMO and PAMO team this year. The grade 12 learner from Soweto received a gold medal at the PAMO and earned an honourable mention at the IMO.

Rondebosch Boys' High School in Cape Town came out tops with three awards namely, top performing school in Western Cape, top performing quintile five school and national top performing school.

The Mathematics, Science and Technology (MST) grant is utilised by the provincial education departments to pay the entry fee for learners participating in the SAMO. Sibonokuhle High School in Nseleni, Kwazulu-Natal triumphed as top performing MST school. Samuel Tucker (Pinelands High School in Cape Town) received the best senior MST learner award and Edwin Batsietseng (Vaal Reefs Technical High School in Orkney, North West) was honoured with the best junior MST learner award.

Liberty's Lead Specialist for Corporate Social Investment, Nomaxabiso Matjila is very proud of all the learners. "As the main sponsor of SAMO, Liberty would like to extend its congratulations to the winners. You truly are an inspiration to all learners in the country and are setting a strong example for others to follow. Well done, these achievements are the result of hard work and dedication to your educational journey," she said.

The SAMF programmes such as the SAMO are used to select and train learners for international competitions. Some of the best young mathematicians in the country attended the annual SAMF Olympiad camp in December 2019 hosted by the University of Stellenbosch. From this training squad the South African teams for the PAMO and the IMO will be selected.



CONGRATULATIONS!

Congratulations to Aaron Naidu (Grade 12) from Eden College for his exceptional achievement this past year. He was part of the International Mathematical Olympiad where he obtained a bronze medal. He also won the Tertiary Olympiad and is the overall winner of the Senior Division of the South African Mathematics Olympiad.

BECOME A MATHEMATICS GUARDIAN

by Staff Writer

The SAMF is a non-profit organisation that acts as the parent body for the Association for Mathematics Education of South Africa (AMESA) and the South African Mathematical Society (SAMS). It aims to advance the mathematical skills of learners and improve public awareness of the importance of mathematics in society. Teachers and academics from all over the country volunteer their time.



In 2019 more than 90,000 high school learners registered for the SA Mathematics Olympiad. Almost 800 disadvantaged learners attended the Siyanqoba training camp, and more than 80,000 primary school

learners took part in the SA Mathematics Challenge. Furthermore, Teacher Problem Solving courses took place at schools across the country.

The mathematics crisis in the country is dire, with South Africa's fifth-grade learners ranked last when benchmarked against 39 other countries. The government, on its own, cannot solve the problem. We need you to get involved.

The 14th of March 2020 is π day and recognised as the International Day of Mathematics. We aim to sign up 2,000 Mathematics Guardians by that date. People like you, who commit to safeguarding mathematics. If mathematics education is close to your heart, commit today by becoming a Mathematics Guardian and donate R100 per month to the Mathematics Guardian Fund. Become a champion of Mathematics today!

Donating is quick, safe, and easy through PayFast.

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Prof Johann Engelbrecht, Prof Nouzha el Yacoubi (President of the African Mathematical Union) and Prof Kerstin Jordaan at the PME43 Conference.

SOUTH AFRICA HOSTED THE BIGGEST MATHEMATICS EDUCATION CONFERENCE IN JULY 2019

by Staff Writer

The University of Pretoria (UP) in association with the International Group for the Psychology of Mathematics Education (IGPME), hosted an international conference themed Improving Access to the Power of Mathematics (PME 43), from 7 -12 July 2019 at UP's Groenkloof Campus.

The event aimed to make significant strides towards achieving the targets set out in the National Development Plan 2030 (NDP), by strengthening the focus, facilitated access and investment in foundational mathematics education. This area of research underpins the NDP's priority area: Building a Future for South Africa's Youth, which focuses on improving the school system, by increasing the number of students achieving above 50% in literacy and mathematics, increasing learner retention rates to 90% and bolstering teacher training. (continued on next page)



Teams at the PAMO Opening Ceremony

SOUTH AFRICA HOSTED THE 2019 PAN-AFRICAN MATHEMATICS OLYMPIAD (PAMO)

The PAMO is an event of the African Mathematics Union (AMU) organised each year in an African Country where the best pupils in Mathematics at Secondary level who are less than twenty (20) years old, are invited to compete. It aims to encourage development of mathematically talented learners and exchange of information on curricula and good teaching practice in mathematics across the African continent. Contestants write two tests consisting of three Olympiad problems each: tough questions requiring insight, ingenuity and logical rigorous proofs.

Countries are ranked by taking the total of the scores of their team members. Morocco was ranked the top team; South Africa was second, followed by Tunisia. South Africa won two gold medals as both Kgaogelo Bopape and Danielle Kleyn won gold medals. Andi Qu was joint 6th (Silver medal), Emmanuel Rassou joint 16th, Juliette Roux joint 18th (both Bronze) and Alex Sinclair-Smith joint 29th. In PAMO-G, the parallel competition only for girls, Danielle Kleyn won a gold medal and was crowned the Queen of Mathematics for the second year in a row while Juliette Roux won a silver and Alex Sinclair-Smith a bronze medal.

Dylan Nelson, team leader of the South African team congratulates the South African team for a job well done. "The team did exceptionally well and placed second overall, just four points behind the team from Morocco. Kgaugelo Bopape and Danielle Kleyn maintained their strong performance from last year, and were placed third and fourth overall and respectively awarded a gold medal. South Africa was awarded 2 gold medals, 1 silver and 2 bronze medals. The new members of the team performed reasonably well and I have no doubt that they will continue to excel in Mathematics," said Mr Nelson.

Old Mutual was the main sponsor of the 2019 Pan African Mathematics Olympiad with Swiss Re as cosponsor.

SOUTH AFRICA HOSTED THE BIGGEST Mathematics Education Conference In July 2019

(continued from pg. 9)

It was organised by the South African Mathematics Foundation (SAMF), in collaboration with the IGPME and the African Mathematical Union (AMU). It attracted around 400 delegates from 51 countries. Delegates included early career researchers, postgraduate students, researchers and educators from historically disadvantaged research institutions in South Africa, researchers and educators from underrepresented countries, researchers, educators and students with disabilities, and government officials and journalists internationally.

This prestigious conference took place for the first time in South Africa in 1998. According to Professor Kerstin Jordaan, Executive Director of SAMF. "It was an honour for the country and the African continent to play host to such a highly reputed event, for the second time in 2019. This conference is the most prestigious in the field of Mathematics Education in the world. The PME is an international group of mathematics educators and researchers who gather once a year to share work experiences and interests at the Annual Conference."

"The hosting of such a renowned conference in South Africa facilitated and broadened South African and African participation and contribution towards the global discussion on mathematical education", says Dr Molapo Qhobela, CEO of the National Research Foundation (NRF). The conference provided a platform for South African and African scholars, educators, students and emerging academics to share their perspectives as well as interact, mingle and network with international leaders in the global mathematics education community. An Early Researchers' Day preceded the official programme of the conference, with a particular focus on the inclusion of expert researchers giving scholarly assistance and academic guidance emerging researchers.

Professor Tawana Kupe, Vice-Chancellor and Principal of UP, is excited about many vital stakeholders that came together and supported this initiative. Professor Stephanie Burton, the Vice-Principal: Research and Postgraduate Education at UP, said: "It gives the mathematics education community of South Africa, the NRF and the DST tremendous pride and excitement to have welcome esteemed dignities, global leaders, scholars, educators, researchers, journalists and other participants in this area of research, to the Jacaranda City of South Africa where the 43rd International Conference on PME was held at the Groenkloof Campus of the University of Pretoria".



PME43 Opening Ceremony at the University of Pretoria's Groenkloof Campus.

NESTLE NESPRAY PARTNERS WITH SAMF TO FIND SA'S BEST IN MATHEMATICS

by Staff Writer

As a result of the new sponsorship from Nestlé through the NESTLÉ NESPRAY brand, administration and quality of the South African Mathematics Challenge (SAMC) for grades 4-7 learners have improved. A further exciting aspect of the SAMC is the learner and teacher workshops that took place.

Furthermore, the sponsorship by NESTLÉ NESPRAY has made the addition of a Third Round possible. The Challenge now achieves the objectives of popularising mathematics and encouraging mass participation in Round 1. During Round 2, it is awarding the achievement of many learners with Certificates, and in Round 3 it identifies, supports and develops exceptional talent. The overall winner of the Junior and Senior division is crowned as the #1 National Nestle Nespray Mathematics Champion and receives a gold medal and cash prize.

With decades of expertise in child development, NESTLÉ NESPRAY understands that nutrition plays an important role in cognitive development and overall growth of children. We also believe that Mathematics is not just a school subject, but it is a thinking tool that we use and apply daily. When it comes to Mathematics, it is unfortunate to say that South Africa's performance is among the lowest in the world. NESTLÉ NESPRAY aims to give learners the support and opportunity to unlock their potential by strengthening and enhancing their Mathematical skills, knowledge and overall performance," said Adedoja Ekeruche, Business Executive Officer of Nestlé Dairy South Africa.

The NESTLÉ NESPRAY South African Mathematics Challenge aims to improve conceptual knowledge of mathematics, the application of knowledge in new situations, problem-solving, logical reasoning, communication and analytical thinking skills. It promotes teamwork, enthusiasm and helps to develop future leaders and influencers in STEMI, financial and management sciences. The Department of Basic Education endorses the SAMC, which is a national competition for primary school learners.

This year the Challenge's first round on 13-17 May had more than 83,000 primary school learners from 1,002 schools participating. Of these, about 400 took part in the second round on 18 July. Youkyum Kim (Kenridge Primary School), Marieke Louw (Laerskool Lynnwood) and Simon Oostuizen (Sweet Valley Primary School) achieved first place in the senior division. The winners of the junior division were Jan Karsten (Laerskool Jan van Riebeeck) and Erik Senekal (Laerskool Lynnwood).

HISTORY OF THE Sa Mathematics Challenge

In 1977 Mona Leeuwenburg organised and ran a "minimathematics" competition for Grade 7 learners in the Cape Peninsula. It proved to be popular with both learners and teachers. It became an annual event, now known as the South African Mathematics Challenge with approximately 80,000 learners from more than 700 schools countrywide participating annually.



2019 national winners of the NESTLE NESPRAY South African Mathematics Challenge.



WITS SIYANQOBA TEAMS CROWNED AS WINNERS OF THE 2019 ASSA MATHEMATICS TEAM COMPETITION

Siyanqoba Wits Junior Team A team retained their ASSA Mathematics Team Competition crown on Saturday the 7th of September. The Siyanqoba Wits Senior Team A won the competition for the first time this year. One hundred and two teams from 25 centres participated in the competition organised by the South African Mathematics Foundation (SAMF).

The annual Mathematics Team Competition, sponsored by the Actuarial Society of South Africa, aims to develop mathematical skills of talented learners were identified through the South African Mathematics Olympiad (SAMO) and other SAMF Olympiad programmes, such as the Siyanqoba Regional Olympiad Training Programme. Sponsored by the Department of Science and Innovation the schedule consists of biweekly classes at eleven centres across the country concentrating on developing mathematical problem-solving skills. This year, six Siyanqoba centres participated in the ASSA South African Mathematics Team Competition, namely the Algoa College of Education in Port Elizabeth, University of Pretoria, University of Venda, Centre of Excellence in Mathematical and Statistical Sciences (WITS), Tshwane University of Technology and University of KwaZulu-Natal.

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Every swipe counts!

For more information go to http://www.samf.ac.za/en/myschool-my-village-card

WITS SIYANQOBA TEAMS CROWNED AS WINNERS OF THE 2019 ASSA MATHEMATICS TEAM COMPETITION

(continued from pg. 12)

Each team enters two teams of ten: Junior (grades 8 and 9), Senior (grades 10 to 12) and may also join further teams at each level. The first part of the competition is a one-hour individual paper, consisting of 15 problems in multiple-choice format. The second paper consists of ten problems, and the teams work together and submit one set of answers.

Prof Kerstin Jordaan, Executive Director of SAMF, congratulates the teams. "The teams' hard work and persistence have paid off. Winning the ASSA Mathematics Team Competition is a great achievement," she said.

Mike McDougall, Chief Executive, Actuarial Society of South Africa is honoured to help in advancing Mathematics education. "The Actuarial Society is proud of our long-standing involvement with the Maths Olympiad. While being equally proud of our broad-based promotion of mathematics through our partnership with Paper Video, we strongly support the work of SAMF in enhancing problem-solving skills and fostering enthusiasm for mathematics through the Olympiad", he said.

Members of the two winning teams received their ASSA trophy and sponsored Casio watches at the SAMF annual award function that took place on the 14th of September in Gordon's Bay.

The full results are available on our website - http://www.samf.ac.za/en/assa-team-results



SIYANQOBA - HELPING MATHEMATICS Learners to become winners

By Julian Leshilo-Sebake

Fewer than half of South Africa's learners chose to take mathematics for matric in 2018. Of these, only 37% obtained a pass mark of 40% or more. The unstoppable fourth industrial revolution is likely to leave most South Africans in poverty if nothing is done to turn around this lack of interest and ability.

This is an enormous task, but some progress is being made. Since 2011, the Department of Science and Innovation and the South African Mathematics Foundation (SAMF) have partnered on the Siyanqoba Regional Olympiad Training Programme to make a difference by supporting talented high school students throughout the country.

The SAMF hosts the annual South African Mathematics Olympiad (SAMO), which leads to the country's participation in the Pan African Mathematics Olympiad and the International Mathematics Olympiad.

The Siyanqoba programme emphasises problem-solving skills and understanding of mathematical concepts, offering enrichment material that is not in the school curriculum, to help learners with potential participate in the SAMO.

The partnership also looks at improving the representation of girls and learners from different socio-economic groups in the country's mathematics Olympiads which, before 2011, were dominated by boys from privileged schooling environments.

In 2018, 840 learners benefitted from the Siyanqoba programme. Of the participants, 63,9% were black African learners and 47,5% were girls. In the same year, 60 participants from non-fee-paying schools (45 from quintile 2 and 15 from quintile 3) qualified for the second round of the SAMO, in which approximately 54% of Siyanqoba junior participants scored more than 50%. Four of the top 10 learners at the SAMO were from the Siyanqoba programme.

Clearly, Siyanqoba is making a difference. The programme has 10 centres around the country (Makhanda, Port Elizabeth, Bloemfontein, Pretoria, Johannesburg, Durban/Pietermaritzburg, Potchefstroom, Kimberley, Polokwane and Thohoyandou), where identified learners from Grade 7 to 12 receive intensive coaching on problem-solving using mathematics. The learners gather for two-hour sessions three to four times during the school term to be trained by experienced coaches. The learners are also given assignments and challenged to submit solutions at their next session.

Emeritus Professor Poobhal Pillay of the University of KwaZulu-Natal (UKZN) is the academic coordinator of the programme, compiling problems and suggested solutions for the coaches.

The coordinator for the programme at the University of Pretoria, Dr Ruaan Kellerman, says that his team aims to nurture talent and improve mathematical skills, ensuring that at least 60% of the Siyanqoba learners are black Africans. Their centre currently has a total of 80 junior (Grades 8-9) and senior (Grades 10-12) learners.

"We email invitations to various schools in the area and also rely on referrals to schools that are keen to have their learners in the programme," said Dr Kellerman.

Dr Harry Wiggins, who participated in Olympiads during his school days, works as a coach for the programme at the University of Pretoria. This year he conducted a short online survey to find out what happens to Siyanqoba participants after matriculating and to see how the programme influences the learners' career choices. Of the 45 learners from the 2014-2018 groups who responded to the survey, all were at university, with 16 in engineering, eight in actuarial sciences, four in medicine and three in computer sciences. The remainder were studying in fields including mathematics, accounting, physics, law and music.

The Siyanqoba centre hosted at the University of the Witwatersrand (Wits) produced excellent results in the past year. Karabo Buthelezi, from a quintile 2 public school in Krugersdorp, scored 80% in Round 2 of the 2018 SAMO. (The mark needed to go through to the final round was 64%.)

Kgaogelo Bopape and Malwande Nkonyane, also from the Wits Siyanqoba centre, were selected to represent South Africa at the 2018 Pan African Mathematics Olympiad in Nairobi, Kenya. South African won the competition. Bopape was awarded an individual gold medal, and Nkonyane a silver medal.

Very recently, Aaron Naidu, from the UKZN centre, won the South African Tertiary Mathematics Olympiad. Although only in Grade 12, Naidu beat his undergraduate competitors. Naidu joined the Siyanqoba programme in 2013 while in Grade 6 and is now in Grade 12. He represented the country at the International Mathematics Olympiad and intends to study computer science or actuarial science next year.

Siyanqoba is proud of its results, and of its superb team of professionals who work with government, schools and other stakeholders to empower individuals and build the skills that will enable South Africa to flourish.



OUR SPONSORS

MATRIC MATHS - PUBLIC VS PRIVATE SCHOOLS

by Bradley Prior

Head of Department of the Wits School of Mathematics Betsie Jonck previously told journalist Bradley Prior that students are entering university under-prepared in the field of mathematics. Read more here.

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https://mybroadband.co.za/news/government/326193-matric-maths-public-vs-private-schools.html

South African Mathematics Foundation

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