“Proudly celebrating twenty years of democracy and recognising excellence in providing school meals to more than 9 million learners every school day”
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INTRODUCTION

The Department of Basic Education takes pride in providing nutritious meals to over 9 million learners nationwide through the National School Nutrition Programme (NSNP). These meals improve learner participation in school. The hard work in ensuring daily quality meals are made possible by the education departments, districts and schools needed to be recognised. The Department, in partnership with the Tiger Brands Foundation (TBF) brings you the 2013 NSNP Best Schools Awards to recognise excellence, innovation and dedication in programme implementation. The Awards are further intended to raise awareness of the importance of nourishing young growing minds for learning.

The first NSNP Best School Awards was successfully celebrated in 2010 where the nine Provincial Education Departments selected three schools each that were awarded with prizes. In 2011, TBF generously awarded the winning school with industrial kitchen equipment and breakfast for learners for a period of three years.

Two categories (best school and best district) were identified for the 2013 Awards. All nine (9) provinces submitted their three (3) best schools for national adjudication, bringing the total finalists to twenty seven (27). Four (4) schools were disqualified as entry rules stated that previous winners are not eligible for the competition for a period of three years.

Five (5) nominations for the best district were received from three provinces (Gauteng, North West and Western Cape).

The entry forms were accompanied by the profile/evidence.

THE ADJUDICATION AND SELECTION CRITERIA

- Success in adherence to general NSNP guidelines (e.g. feeding times, provision of utensils, feeding learners in classrooms under supervision, recordkeeping, staff involvement).
- Innovation in programme implementation (e.g. meal tickets, staggering of feeding times, serving palatable meals).
- Stakeholders’ participation (e.g. encourage community members, SGB’s & other partners to participate in school activities).
- Established and promoting food gardens (e.g. planting fruit trees and vegetation to develop an environmentally friendly atmosphere). Hygienic/clean preparation and storage facilities.
- Volunteer food handlers who uphold personal hygiene and are committed to serving learners.
- Promotion of Nutrition Education (e.g. activities encouraging the promotion of healthy lifestyles).
- Establishing working partnerships with other sectors to the benefit of the learners (e.g. Departments of Health, Agriculture, etc.)

THE NATIONAL ADJUDICATION PROCESS

The adjudication was conducted by four independent adjudicators with knowledge and interest in the NSNP, appointed by the Deputy Director-General Ms GT Ndebele in August 2013. They are: Mr Gary Campbell: Trustee, Feed Uplift Educate Love (a Non-Profit Organisation); Mr Kelvin Glen: Director, Tiger Brands Foundation; Ms Maude De Hoop: Assistant Director, National Department of Health: Nutrition Directorate and Dr Ntsikane Maine: Director, Tshwane Local Government, Agriculture and Rural Development Division. The national NSNP directorate provided secretariat support. The top three (3) schools were visited in November 2013 to verify the profiles for final judging.
THE PRIZES

1. **School:** The winning school will receive a fully equipped kitchen or dining hall plus eating utensils (plates, cups & spoons) worth **R417 500.00** donated by TBF.

2. **The 23 finalist schools will be awarded with cooking equipment supplied by the Department of Basic Education and a Certificate of Recognition.**

3. **District:** The winning district will receive equipment to the value of **R80 000.00** sponsored by TBF.
PROFILES OF THE THREE WINNING SCHOOLS
FIRST PLACE
TEBOGO PRIMARY SCHOOL

Province: North West
District/Circuit: Bojanala District
School Name: Tebogo Primary School
Quintile: 1
School Principal Name: Mr Lightfoot W
School Physical Address: No.1 Khalanyoni Settlement, Sonop
School Telephone Number: (076) 540 0897
Cell: 082 806 5615
Fax Number: N/A
Email Address: Tebogoprim@gmail.com

“Our school is situated in a remote area of Sonop in Madibeng. The school is a Quintile 1. Our learners benefit from the NSNP programme. Good practice is evident at school because we have a sustainable food garden. Learners enjoy a balanced diet every day. They are fed with vegetables from our food garden. Hygiene is a priority in our kitchen. The food is stored in closed containers with beautiful cupboards. Food handlers are always clean. We interact with other stakeholders for donations. Due to all this, our learners perform excellently both academically and in extra and co-curricular activities.”
SECOND PLACE
OAKLEY PRIMARY SCHOOL

Province: Mpumalanga
District/Circuit: Bohlabela District
School Name: Oakley Primary
Quintile: 2
School Principal Name: Mr Mokoena H
School Physical Address: Stand No: 369, Oakley Village, B.B.R
Telephone Number: (013) 708 1380
Cell: 072 476 2905
Fax Number: (013) 708 1306 / 013 708 6033
Email Address: Oakleyprimary@yahoo.com

“Most of our learners are either orphans, vulnerable or come from child headed families. Ever since the introduction of the NSNP in our school, we strived so hard to implement the policy as it is. Our school portfolio serves as evidence. Educators teach learners to practice and sustain a healthy lifestyle throughout their lives. The NSNP programme helps the learners to make wise choices when preparing meals at home. We also involve the community to alleviate poverty and have started a permaculture programme to supplement the NSNP vegetables”. 
THIRD PLACE
MAKANA PUBLIC SCHOOL

Province: Eastern Cape
District/Circuit: Grahamstown District
School Name: Makana Public School
Quintile: 03
School Principal Name: Mrs Lubelwana NW
School Physical Address: Vellem
Telephone Number: (046) 637 0098
Cell: 078 087 8953
Fax Number: 046 637 0098
Email Address: 200100482@vodamail.co.za

"The Makana Community feel that they deserve to win in this competition based on the following: we adhere to the rules, criteria and requirements of the Nutrition programme; we serve our learners with healthy & nutritious food; and learner enrolment has increased. Learners are provided with fruit as well. They are motivated to attend school regularly. Team work is encouraged in our school. Parents assist in growing vegetables in the garden to add to what the nutrition programme provides the school. Our school has suitable cooking and eating utensils".
“As a school situated in the deep rural poor former Transkei area, we feel that we can stand up and applaud the drastic changes in the lives, self-esteem, general well-being and academic advancement in our learners as a result of the NSNP. The programme stands as a backbone and support to all the school activities that are co-ordinated in order to sustain learning. NSNP forms fertile soil on which all other planted disciplines and values germinate from.”
MACLEAR PUBLIC PRIMARY SCHOOL

Province: Eastern Cape
District/Circuit: Mt Fletcher District
School Name: Maclear Public Primary School
Quintile: 3
School Principal Name: Mrs Nodada NW
School Physical Address: Sonwabile Township
Telephone Number: (045) 9321877
Cell: 083 364 0116
Fax Number: N/A
Email Address: sekienodada@gmail.com

“We have strived to meet the expectations of DBE by ensuring that we carry through the NSNP objectives and operate as per its policies. We ensure that feeding takes place each day. The school garden becomes a source of nutritious meals. We involve all stakeholders especially educators who take care of learners who comes from vulnerable home situations. The school is situated in a poverty stricken area and we are disadvantaged in terms of permanent infrastructure but improvise to reach maximum expectations.”
"The School Nutrition Programme is important because it provides food for learners who come to school on empty stomachs. It also helps learners who are from disadvantaged families to get food to eat. It provides healthy food for the learners who are sick (HIV/AIDS learners). Healthy food makes learners to perform well in the classes. It also encourages learners to come to school regularly. This programme also provides work for parents who are unemployed. The programme should continue because it solves the problems such as poor performance in class ("healthy mind provide good result"); it reduces malnutrition because learners eat healthy food; create jobs for very needy families; and encourages volunteer food handles to establish and register local women cooperatives."
“As a school, we would like to thank the Department for introducing the NSNP for public schools. Since the programme started we have experienced less absenteeism, our learners are performing well and the malnutrition has been reduced or stopped in our area. Our learners enjoy the meals. We hope and think that the programme will be sustainable”.
"The school should be rated the best as we adhere to the guidelines of NSNP that is feeding time, record keeping and staff involvement. Learners are given meal tickets for the control of utensils. The school has hired Co-operatives to create jobs in the community. We have established the food garden in our school. We went far to extend the project to families at home to teach them about good nutrition so that they start their own food gardens. Workshops are conducted for learners and community on permaculture. We cook a variety of fresh vegetables from the garden. We bought a kitchen unit and built a bigger kitchen with the surplus from the NSNP."
KHENSANI PRIMARY SCHOOL

Province: Gauteng
District/Circuit: Tshwane North
School Name: Khensani Primary School
Quintile: 3
School Principal Name: Dr Sebolela F
School Physical Address: 1813 Block H, Shoshanguve
Telephone Number: 012 797 4217
Cell: 083 273 2476
Fax Number: 012 797 3332
Email Address: fanniesbolela@gmail.com

“The school has moved from strength to strength in ensuring that health issues remain a priority in our school. We ensure that the environment in which learning and teaching takes place is conducive. We started a vegetable garden to augment the feeding programme and to transfer skills to the learners so as to start their own vegetable garden at the back of their yard. The quality of work that the school upholds made it possible that the school was accredited as a health promoting school. The school serves as a model of excellence”.

“Siyadla...Siyafunda...Sinamandla”
“Although the kitchen we are currently using adheres to safety and hygienic regulations, we would definitely like to have an equipped kitchen with its certificate of recognition, which is spacious with all wonderful facilities and cooking utensils. We can just imagine what a highlight this will be for our learners, food handlers, parents, educators and the entire community. That will also promote the image of the school and will be a dream come true for Ntsha-Peu.”
“The school, SGB and community applaud the Government for introducing the feeding programme. This has partly eradicated poverty in the school and created a better learning situation. Teachers are now less stressed about absenteeism. Teachers were encouraged to fully participate in food gardening and recycling, to partly assist in feeding as well as fundraising. The healthy diet came at the right time to alleviate poverty as + - 99% of learners attend school regularly. Late-coming range at + - 2%. There is good communication with parents. Some parents are even volunteering in planting vegetables which is good and much appreciated. An open plan dining hall and eating utensils are our future plan”.
CHUCHEKANI PRIMARY SCHOOL

Province: Limpopo
School Name: Chuchekani Primary School
District/Circuit: Mopani
Quintile: 1
School Principal Name: Ms Maphanga SG
School Physical Address: 241 Humulani Settlement, Lulekani Phalaborwa
Telephone Number: N/A
Cell: 071 598 7170
Fax Number: N/A
Email Address: N/A
ChuchekaniPrimary@gmail.com

“The school was opened in 1994 and most learners were from neighbouring Mozambique. The NSNP has been very helpful with orphans in alleviating poverty. Through the programme, attendance has improved immensely, problems with malnutrition are better and learners are more disciplined and are no longer bunking school. A garden has been erected at the school with the assistance of the community that takes care of the watering and planting of seeds. It consists of spinach, cabbages, tomatoes, green peppers and carrots. These are used to supplement the NSNP meal, for educational purposes and selling to the community. Cleanliness of the Volunteer Food Handlers (VFHs) is fundamental when handling food. A donation of a container kitchen and storage by Sefapato was very much appreciated. We would like to thank the visionary who came up with the idea of introducing school feeding for our 1048 needy learners”.

“Siyadla...Siyafunda...Sinamandla”
DZINGAHE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Province: Limpopo  
District/Circuit: Vhembe / Sibasa  
School Name: Dzingahe Primary  
Quintile: 3  
School Principal Name: Mrs Matse NP  
School Physical Address: Block B Dzingahe Village  
Telephone Number: N/A  
Cell: 076 204 6399/ 079 958 1938  
Fax Number: N/A  
Email Address: matsepatience@gmail.com

“The hospitality of this programme is of great value to our learners as the poor are benefiting by getting meals which they don’t get at home. Hope this programme doesn’t stop as most of the learners have returned to school.”
“We feed our learners at exactly 9h30 every day and we also make sure that each learner has eaten accordingly. The school does not provide eating utensils to the learners because of lack of funds. Our learners are fed in the classroom and under the supervision of teachers. We feed our learners with different types of food i.e. butternut, samp, soya etc. and fresh fruit and vegetables. The Volunteer Food Handlers (VFHs) and Learners wash their hands before preparing and eating food. The School Governing Body (SGB) supervises everything i.e. whether learners are being served satisfactorily. They also check whether the funds are used correctly. The Department of Agriculture also provide us with manure and seeds. We have Soul Buddy’s Club for learners. They have their own vegetable garden which also plays a role in other learners seeing the importance of the garden. Our food is stored properly and on shelves”.
“The village in which the school is found is engulfed with poverty due to high rate of unemployment and many orphans caused by the pandemic. Due to this socio-economic status the school is classified as quintile 2”.
“The name Mthombo is derived from Nguni word which means ‘spring’ or a ‘well’ or ‘source’ of valuable water. Learners come from a rural area where their families’ social-economic status is heart-breaking and the NSNP addresses a dire need for our learners. NSNP also assists educators to achieve their objectives which in turn will see learners remaining at school for longer and can go to tertiary institutions and attain skills which will be a boon to their communities”.
OMANG PRIMARY SCHOOL

Province: Northern Cape
District/Circuit: John Taolo Gaetsewe
School Name: Omang Primary School
Quintile: 3
School Principal Name: Mr Loeto BP
School Physical Address: Dithakong Village
Telephone Number: 053 773 6010
Cell: 082 068 7250
Fax Number: N/A
Email Address: pusholoeto@webmail.co.za

“The school is situated in a rural village of Dithakong. We are benefiting 1078 disadvantaged learners with the allocated budget as our priority. “We are committed in promoting healthy lifestyle using clean containers, utensils, food handlers and children wash their hands before preparing food and eating. We work well with our partners in making sure our learners are healthy and strong”.”
EZAMUKUTHULA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Province: KwaZulu Natal
District/Circuit: Uthukena
School Name: Ezamukuthula Primary School
Quintile: 3
School Principal Name: Mr. Shabalala PE
School Physical Address: 552 C. Section, Wembezi Township, Estcourt
Telephone Number:
Cell: 072 416 0528
Fax Number: 036 353 0288
Email Address: N/A

“We aim at equipping our learners and community with agricultural skills and encouraging the goodness of eating fresh fruits and vegetables from the soil as well as promoting them to be future entrepreneurs. We work hand-in-hand with the Department of Agriculture to get more knowledge and skills of how to work with the soil and plantation.”
UKUKHANYA KOMSINGA SPECIAL SCHOOL

Province: KwaZulu Natal
District/Circuit: Umniniyathi
School Name: Ukukhanya komisinga Special School
Quintile: LSEN
School Principal Name: Mrs Dlamini N
School Physical Address: Esidakeni Area
Tugela Ferry
Telephone Number: 071 696 5320
Cell: 082 435 3320
Fax Number: 033 493 0595
Email Address: nununotanda@gmail.com

“Despite being a special school with various disabilities, handicaps or impairments, learners are breaking through all odds in the NSNP garden projects and environmentally friendly atmosphere. The school, with its open door policy, has managed to attract and co-opt the business community into the supplementary feeding programme to complement the NSNP.”
MANDLAMASHA COMBINED PRIMARY SCHOOL

Province: KwaZulu Natal
District/Circuit: Amajuba - Dannhauser
School Name: Mandlamasha Combined Primary School
Quintile: 2
School Principal Name: Mrs Zungu PM
School Physical Address: Koppie Allen Farm
Telephone Number: N/A
Cell: 083 335 1525
Fax Number: 079 201 0439
Email Address: N/A

"The school has been successful in adhering to the NSNP guidelines, implementing innovative programmes and encouraging and inviting stakeholders to participate in school activities. We promote school gardening and an environmentally friendly atmosphere. Food handlers are clean and maintain hygiene. Food is stored safely. Nutrition Education is promoted with the school partners to benefit learners in their health, home environment, lifestyle choices and also to keep them safe."
STADT PRIMARY SCHOOL

Province: North West  
District/Circuit: Ngaka Modiri Molema  
School Name: Stadt Primary Schoo;  
Quintile: 2  
School Principal Name: Mrs Petiele LP  
School Physical Address: 10166 Stadt  
Village, Montshioa-Stadt Mahikeng  
Telephone Number: 018 392 4040  
Cell: 082 257 8655  
Fax Number: 018 392 4040  
Email Address: 600102029@nwed.gov.za

“This is a school established in 1878 in a rural village but is still going strong. The school currently feeds 1,277 learners 5 days a week. A balanced diet is provided daily containing starch, protein, fruit or vegetables. The school has always maintained a high standard in menu compliance. The school maintains well-kept records, a vegetable garden and orange trees which are still growing. The success of the school is because of the involvement of different stakeholders, strong governance, a dedicated school management team as well as educators, community members, NGOs and hardworking Food Handlers. Hygiene and cleanliness is our priority. We therefore as Stadt Primary School, strongly believe that we are the best school for this award.”
ZAMUKULUNGA PRIMARY SCHOOL

Province: North West  
District/Circuit: Dr Kenneth Kaunda  
School Name: Zamukulunga Primary School  
Quintile: 2  
School Principal Name: Mr Macwela VJ  
School Physical Address: 2528 Kopanong Street, Jouberton, Klerksdorp  
Telephone Number: 018 461 5594  
Cell: 082 048 4099/071 930 3594  
Fax Number: 018 461 5594  
Email Address: zamukulungapschool@gmail

"The purpose of this project is to alleviate poverty in our school and surrounding community. Learners that are really needy benefit a lot from healthy food provided on daily basis. This also minimised absenteeism of learners from school. We provide needy homes with left-overs or vegetables from our garden. We raise more funds during school holidays to expand our project. We motivate learners to have passion for a career in agriculture. Other learning and teaching areas benefit as learners are able to understand better."
GREYTONE PRIMARY SCHOOL

Province: Western Cape
District/Circuit: Overberg Circuit 3
School Name: Greyton Primary School
Quintile: 1
School Principal Name: Ferdinand J. Hans
School Physical Address: Plantation Road, Greyton
Telephone Number: 028 254 9943
Cell: 082 323 5226
Fax Number: 028 254 9943
Email Address: greytonprimer@twk.co.za

“The NSNP, at our extreme rural school, is of the utmost importance to attain optimum performance and results of our impoverished learners. The programme thus forms an integral and extremely vital part of our strategy to deliver curriculum support to our learners. Nutritious meals to hungry pupils are vital in preparing them to focus on lessons and their learning. Hungry children cannot learn”.

“Siyadla...Siyafunda...Sinamandla”