



## OFFICE OF THE DEPUTY CITY MANAGER

### HUMAN SETTLEMENT & INFRASTRUCTURE CLUSTER SUPPORT SERVICES

#### **THE WIZARDS AT MATHEMATICS INTERNATIONAL CONTEST (WIZMIC) 2016: LUCKNOW, INDIA – OCTOBER 2016**

EThekweni Municipality - Human Settlement & Infrastructure Cluster partnered with The Centre for the Advancement of Science and Mathematics Education (CASME) and The Foundation for English, Mathematics, Science, Sports and Innovation for South Africa (FEMSSISA) on taking four learners to the WIZMIC contest.

CASME and FEMSSISA coordinated a Local Olympiad aimed at Grade 7 pupils and as a result four learners from Umlazi schools (Isidingo Combined Primary School, Ndongeni Senior Primary School, Ntwela Primary School, Muzomuhle Primary School) came up top. The exceptionally bright learner's names are Thando Funeka, Nandi Mabaso, Sisekelo Zondi and Mhlengi Shange. The learners were selected based on their performance on the tests and assessments that were conducted by CASME and FEMSSISA that were set according to international standards.

The sharp-witted learners were then presented with a golden opportunity to part take in an international competition, the Wizards at Mathematics International Contest (WIZMIC), hosted by City Montessori School, RDSO Campus, Lucknow, India. The City made it possible for the learners to undergo three months Problem Solving techniques training in preparation for the competition.

A Send of Function for the learners was hosted on the 12<sup>th</sup> of October 2016, the Function was attended by Her Worship, Mayor Cllr Zandile Gumede's representative – Cllr M. Sithole. Cllr Sithole addressed the delegates, learners and parents. Amongst those who attended the function was a representative from the City Manager's office and a representative from the Office of the Deputy City Manager, both the City Manager and the Deputy City Manager played a vital role in making it possible for the four learners to participate in the international contest. The learners were encouraged to fly the South African flag high and it was evident that everyone in attendance was extremely proud of the young Wizards for having made it thus far. It was apparent that the learners have very bright futures ahead of them.

The Team departed for India on the 14<sup>th</sup> of October 2016, excitement was in the atmosphere as all four learners were experiencing their very first international trip. Exhilarating tours were planned for

the learners on arrival and there after the hard work began. The learners performed very well and Sisekelo Zondi made everyone extra proud when he scored himself a bronze medal.

There is a shortage of scarce skills within eThekweni and the whole of South Africa, we trust that initiatives like the WIZMIC contest inspires learners to continue to work very hard and that they will choose subjects that are STEM related and which will ultimately lead to a STEM related career path. It's at an advantage to train learners whilst they are young, with the proper guidance comes a great deal of success.