

The ETA/SARF Road Safety Primary schools' poetry and prepared speech competition 2021

The eThekweni Transport Authority (ETA) in partnership with the South African Road Federation (SARF) held its annual ETA/SARF Road Safety Primary schools' poetry and prepared speech competition on the 29th of May 2021 at the Durban International Convention Centre. This was the third annual event since the inception of the competition in 2018.

The main objectives of this competition is to support and complement the National Curriculum Statement (CAPS) on Road Safety education and delivery in schools, promote good Road Safety practices amongst the learners in primary schools and raise Road Safety public awareness among primary school learners. In 2019, the competition for the first time extended the invite to learners with special educational needs (LSEN) with the understanding of the importance of road safety education to all primary school learners irrespective of their educational capabilities or needs.

Invitation to participate in the competition and the entry forms were published in eThekweni Municipality newspaper "Ezasegagasini News" which is published and distributed to all regions of the eThekweni Municipality every fortnight. The closing date for all entries for this year's competition was the 14th of April 2021. The theme of the competition was Road Safety concerns affecting my community and the possible solutions. The competition had three categories which were Category 1 for grade 2 and grade 3 (Poetry), Category 2 for grade 4 - grade 7 (Prepared speech) and Category 3 for Learners with Special Needs (LSEN) (Poetry).

Again, this year 2021, SARF sponsored an amount of R30 000 for the prizes to be won by the learners. ETA was responsible for the facilitation and all the necessary logistics for the competition. There were three winners from each category and the prizes were as follows. For the first prize R3000 for the learner plus R4000 for the school, second prize was R2000 for the learner and the third prize was R1000 for the learner. All the prizes were similar to all three categories. For the first time this year through the guidance of the Chief Education Specialist from the Education Special Services, the prize money for the learners with special needs will be used to buy assistant educational devices that will enhance their education and minimise the educational barriers that they currently experience at school.

After a careful screening of all entries, a total of 14 primary schools which is the highest record of participants up to date made it through to the final competitions. There were nine mainstream schools and five LSEN schools.

The award event was graced with the presence of the ETA Road Safety Management, SARF National and KZN Regional Representatives and the Department of Education (DoE) Special Needs Services. This competition is growing each year with the number of participating primary schools increasing each year. This competition has also developed and maintained an excellent working relationship and partnership between the ETA, SARF and DoE.



The 2021 finalists and their educators



The winners of the 2021 ETA-SARF schools' competition (Prepared Speech) with ETA and SARF officials



The winners of the 2021 ETA-SARF schools' competition (LSEN category 3) with ETA and SARF officials