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Nelson Mandela Museum Instils Human Rights Principles through Essay Competition.

Qunu, Eastern Cape - The Nelson Mandela Museum is proud to host its fifth annual Human Rights Essay Competition. The Museum invites you to attend the top 10 contestation and prize-giving ceremony on the 13th of March 2025, at the Nelson Mandela Museum Youth and Heritage Centre in Qunu at 09h00.

This national programme encourages Grade 10 and 11 learners to write and submit essays focusing on Human Rights as enshrined in the Bill of Rights (Chapter 2, Section 7-39) of the Republic of South Africa.

This year's essay topic, "You are a student at school X, but owing to your sexual orientation, you feel discriminated against, and your human rights as enshrined in the constitution are trampled by other learners and educators," resonated with high school learners from across South Africa.

An invitation was extended to Grade 10 and 11 learners nationwide, and over 700 submissions were received from all nine provinces. The essays were adjudicated by independent judges from Walter Sisulu University and the Eastern Cape Department of Basic Education.

After a rigorous selection process, the top 10 finalists were chosen. They are:

1. Siyalu Anathi, Zingisa Comprehensive High, Eastern Cape
2. Qebeyi Hlomla, Ndamase Senior Secondary School, Eastern Cape
3. Lesia Leticia, Maralaneng SS, Free State
4. Mahlatsi Malebala, Atlehang SSS, Free State
5. Marungula Nkuna, Eqinisweni SSS, Gauteng
6. Motebele Ramokone, Noordwyk SSS, Gauteng
7. Mpungose Asanda, Makhasa HS, KwaZulu-Natal
8. Mkhize Swelihle, Msimude HS, KwaZulu-Natal
9. Selemela Tshegofatso, SOL PLAATJIE SS, North West
10. Mc Dillon Carter-Blyke, KIMBERLY BOYS High School, Northern Cape

The top 10 finalists will present their essays orally, demonstrating their knowledge, understanding, and critical thinking on human rights issues. The competition aims to promote awareness, understanding, and respect for Human Rights among young people, in line with Nelson Mandela's legacy of promoting justice, equality, and human dignity.

"We are impressed by the calibre of essays received and the passion shown by the learners in advocating for their human rights," said Dr Vuyani Booi, CEO of the Nelson Mandela Museum.

The top three winners will receive electronic gadgets (latest cell phones with a one-year data bundle) to facilitate educational research, and all top 10 participants will receive certificates of participation. The museum will cover the costs of transport and accommodation for the participants and their educators.

Members of the media are invited to attend and cover the event.

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