



MY DISTRICT TODAY

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Learners with access to workbooks and textbooks increased from 64% in 2009 to 99,4% and 98% with access to workbooks in 2013.

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OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION



Gone are the days that teachers had to leave their cars some distance from school and learners had to go to schools in town because of lacking libraries and computers at rural schools.

Vulindlela Junior Primary School is one of the Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative (Asidi) beneficiaries, which is a national programme that addresses school infrastructure backlogs in the country. The Eastern Cape is a priority because of its history of mud schools.

The school received two classrooms, a multipurpose hall, a site laboratory, a new office, nutritional room, admin block (comprising a staff room, pastoral care room, store room, clerk's office and principal's office) and a Grade R classroom. In addition, government has renovated five old classrooms, built toilets and put in 13 water tanks, said the principal.

During the construction of the school, 41 community members were employed. This afforded a good opportunity for 31 men and 10 women to obtain skills they never had before. This also provided incomes to many families, as many individuals who depended on those who got employed have benefited. Training was also provided in various skills. Thobeka Ngozana is very proud of the skills she obtained. "I came here knowing nothing, but I am very proud to tell you that I am doing jointing, wall washing and window cleaning very well and this

Government has changed our lives!

By Sabelo Kakaza: GCIS, OR Tambo

will open many doors to find another job after this project comes to an end."

Alfdav Construction also provided work to five sub-contractors as part of employing locals from the community. "It is always a pleasure for us as local constructors to be given an opportunity when there is work done in our communities so that we are able to see the improvement in the way of doing things, contribute to job creation and market ourselves as an SMME," said Mr Gordons Madolo, the director of Madolo Agencies.

The new school brought joy to parents, learners and educators. "We have come a long way – from where there were no classes; teaching in rondavels with cracks and no windows or desks and poor roofing. Learners left for other schools. When teachers came to school they had to leave their cars some kilometres away because of the poor access road. But our caring government has addressed all the things we were complaining about. The environment for learning has totally changed. It is very conducive and we hope to have more learners joining us, as we have noticed at the beginning of this year," said Principal Mhleli.

This is what other beneficiaries had to say:

Nceba (labourer): "This is a very good opportunity afforded to me. I came here knowing nothing

about administration but now I am a very good bookkeeper. I know all the safety measures for a construction site and I am very good at asset management. I learnt about building and carpentry. I can do it very well now. Also, it has been a good time for me because the skills obtained here will help me find a job when I am no longer working here."

Xolile (labourer): "I was unemployed with no income. Since I started here I was able to provide food and other stuff for my wife and two children. I came here without any skills but now I know how to operate the mixer machine, block-cutting machine and compactor."

Lisa Maplanga (Grade 6 learner): "The environment at our school is now conducive for learning. There is electricity, playgrounds, computers, a library and very beautiful classrooms – unlike before. We don't need to go to other schools, and more learners will come to our school because of the investment by government. We thank the government for this."

Siyasanga Xhegwana (Grade 6 learner): "We were struggling before, learning from a rondavel with cracks and no roof. One day, when I was in Grade 1, a snake came in. Our teacher tried to escape, but she fell and was injured. We used the windows to exit. Now we are very happy; everything we need is at our school."

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South Africa is spending R827 billion on its National Infrastructure Plan to grow the economy.

OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT-ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP

Transport Month and Road Safety Campaign

By Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



The Education Officer of the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport talking to learners.



Learners participated in the campaign.

Cold and rainy weather prevented people in informal settlements in the eThekwin and Ilembe region from coming out of their homes to engage with stakeholders during the Transport Month and Road Safety Campaign on 17 October 2013.

However, the bad weather did not dampen the spirits of stakeholders from the Department of Transport, the Tongaat SAPS and metro police when the campaign, targeting informal settlements, did not pan out the way they expected. Quick thinking and intervention on the part of the Sector Policing Manager of Tongaat SAPS, Warrant Officer Manisha Maharaj, resulted in a visit to the Seatides Combined School to

engage with Foundation Phase learners in grades R to 4.

The young minds were keenly interested in the information presented by Ms Anne Bonhomme, Education Officer of the Department of Transport, and Lieutenant Mandy Govender of the Tongaat SAPS, as they spoke about road safety. Some fun was added by way of songs to capture the learners' attention and participation. The songs focussed on road safety measures when crossing the road, walking in the road and travelling in cars and taxis.

The learners thoroughly enjoyed the presentation.



OUTCOME 3: ALL PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE AND FEEL SAFE

Intersectoral march and dialogue against abuse

By Yolisa Manxiwa: GCIS, Eastern Cape

By March 2012, 814 victim-friendly rooms were created at police stations throughout the country to render better services to victims of crime.



A community member sharing input during the dialogue.



Men making a pledge.



Panellists during the anti-abuse march in KwaNompumelelo Township.

Violence against women and children is widespread in the country – in various forms across all races, classes and cultures. It has a negative and lasting impact on the social, psychological and emotional well-being of survivors. It also affects family members and the community. Various institutional arrangements have been put in place by government to fight this scourge, but more needs to be done. New approaches and strategies are needed to address this challenge. In her commentary during Women’s Month, Ms Pumla Williams indicated that more needs to be done to ensure that women in our society feel safe, and we need to work with our communities, especially men and boys, to change the culture of violence.

The GCIS led an intersectoral dialogue on gender-based violence and anti-abuse in KwaNompumelelo in East London on Friday, 18 October 2013. The purpose of the session was to raise public awareness and educate communities about the scourge of rape in the country, and to mobilise society to stand up and act against abuse.

KwaNompumelelo is one of the most impoverished townships in East London and

has a high rate of abuse and crime. The march was a partnership between government, civil society organisations and communities to come up with solutions to improve the living conditions of people in the area, and to fight abuse. Stakeholders that ensured the success of the programme included the Department of Safety and Liaison, the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), South African Police Service (SAPS), Human Rights Commission, Commission for Gender Equality, Masimanyane Women Support, Child Welfare, the Eastern Cape AIDS Council (ECAC), Brothers for Life, the Community Policing Forum (CPF) and community media organisations.

The panel consisted of Safety and Liaison, the NPA, SAPS, Human Rights Commission, Commission for Gender Equality and Masimanyane, who shared about the support they provide and where people can go for assistance. “The culture of violence needs to be changed and addressed at home – when children are brought up – and also during the transition from boyhood to manhood,” said Commissioner Loyilane from the Commission for Gender Equality.

The community must take a stand and unite to fight the root cause of gender-based violence in the area, which was identified as alcohol abuse, especially among the youth. “The fact that people do not have anything to do contributes to alcohol abuse. They must start projects, and Masimanyane will support them with workshops and training,” said Mrs Sam from Masimanyane.

Senior State Prosecutor Mr Mampofu outlined how the Criminal Justice System works and explained how and why people get bail, as this was one of the issues that the community was unhappy about. The SAPS also gave information about their youth development programme through sport.

The programme ended with a pledge by men – led by Mr Jack from Brothers for Life – under the banner “Not in our Name.” Men should say that abuse in any form should not happen in their name. Mr Essop from the Department of Safety and Liaison stated that it was not easy to obtain democracy, but through unity and speaking in one voice it was achieved. This can also be done regarding this barbaric behaviour.



Strategic support provided to 416 new emerging farmers through the Recapitalisation and Development Programme, in addition to the existing 595 farms currently being supported at a cost of R1,2 billion.



Learners from the Loxtonvale Primary School delivered two choral items during the World Food Day celebrations.



Nella Makua from KOOR demonstrates practically how to prepare the planting area and make compost heaps.

OUTCOME 7: VIBRANT, EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES WITH FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL

World Food Day celebrated in Loxtonvale

By Wally Cloete: GCIS, Northern Cape



Back (left to right): Desmonia Kordom (Lawyers for Human Rights), Brendon Andrews (NAMKO), John Pekeur (CDW), Anthony Riders (KOOR), Gerald Damarah (CWP), and Cheslin Malgas (NC AIDS Forum); Front (left to right): Nella Makua (KOOR), Quinta Titus (NAMKO), Ronnie van Wyk (NAMKO), Sampie Beukes (Keimoes Advisory Office), Johann Magerman (Y&YM), and Lenie Coetzee (Women on Farms).



Community members listening to speakers on the importance of vegetable gardens at their homes.

Loxtonvale (Keimoes) – Women along the banks of the Orange River who grow vegetables for domestic purposes and make an income in this way paraded their produce as part of the celebrations for World Food Day.

Women on Farms, You & Your Money (Y&YM), Namakwa Development (Namko), the Catholic Organisation Orange River in Keimoes (KOOR), Lawyers for Human Rights, the Community Works Programme (CWP) and GCIS joined hands to celebrate this important event in the ZF Mgcawu District. Vegetables taken from their own

gardens were used as decor, and practical demonstrations on how to prepare the planting area and making compost heaps were done.

During his speech, Johann Magerman of Y&YM advised the community to not rely on food parcels or begging for food, but to get their hands dirty and cultivate crops themselves.

Lenie Coetzee of Women on Farms provided an overview of projects currently hosted in communities, namely the vegetable gardens in Brakbos Island (Lennertsville),

Skanskop Island (Malanshoek) and Loxtonvale, and a vegetable tunnel in Warmsand, where 300 tomato plants are already producing small tomatoes that will be harvested in November 2013.

Vegetables from gardens are sold to keep the gardens sustainable and also to provide an income for the groups. Altogether 70 women are benefitting from the proceeds of the four projects. Various donors have contributed towards the start-up of this initiative – among them the BSA, an overseas donor in Canada, and the Department of Agriculture.



Government has committed itself to improving the quality of 400 000 households through upgrading informal settlements in 45 priority municipalities.



OUTCOME 6: AN EFFICIENT, COMPETITIVE AND RESPONSIVE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

Provincial road to get R277-million upgrades

By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Mayor of the Overberg District Municipality, Nicollet Gutherie-Botha, with Reverend G Cunningham, Pieter Scholtz and Lenn Fourie.

The Department of Transport and Public Works has undertaken a multimillion-rand upgrade to the southern Cape road system. The Gansbaai-Bredasdorp Project will create essential infrastructure links in the region.

“The project will ultimately connect three communities in the southern Cape, namely Gansbaai, Elim and Bredarsdorp; thereby boosting the local economy, creating a new tourist corridor and addressing the road infrastructure needs of the high-potential

region,” said Robin Carlisle, Minister of Transport and Public Works.

At a sod-turning event in Elim on 11 April 2013, the current contract for the project (Uilenkraal to Elim phase) was launched. This involves the upgrading of the existing gravel road to a full, all-weather one from Uilenskraal to just east of Elim. Some sections of the road have already been constructed. The length of road to be reconstructed under this contract is approximately 29 km.

The contract is valued at R277 million and is expected to take 30 months, with work having begun in January 2013. Practical completion is expected in the latter half of 2015. The contractor is Haw and Inglis and the consulting engineer is HHO Africa Infrastructure Engineers.

Work will also include the following:

- Additional upgrades at the 17-km mark of the road (where the road passes through Baardskeerdesbos), involving the construction of brick-and-block paving, kerbs and footways.
- Road upgrades to Elim in a manner consistent with the present atmosphere and the cultural heritage of the town, taking into consideration urban services and other aesthetic features.
- The construction of a new bridge over the Uilenkraal River (bridge B5992).

“Of the contracted amount, R16 874 282 is reserved for local labour at a rate of R150 per day per person. The workforce will be drawn from the local area in transparent processes involving the community, to ensure that the allocation of work is fair. Through a R1 170 500 allocation for labour training, learnerships and apprenticeships will be created to benefit selected members of the local community in the long term,” added Minister Carlisle.



The continued reduction of the number of people in the LSM 1 – 3 category provides evidence of continued reduction of poverty levels.



President Zuma addressed mine employees during the launch of the underground project at Venetia Mine in Musina, Limpopo (22 October 2013).



Anglo-American CEO and Chairman of De Beers Group, Mark Cutifani, Chairman of Anglo-American, Sir John Parker, and President Zuma during the sod-turning ceremony of the De Beers Venetia Underground Mine.

OUTCOME 6: AN EFFICIENT, COMPETITIVE AND RESPONSIVE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

Venetia mine launches largest underground diamond project

By Thanyani Netshikweta: GCIS, Limpopo



Anglo-American CEO and Chairman of De Beers Group, Mark Cutifani, Chairman of Anglo-American, Sir John Parker, President Jacob Zuma, Minister of Mineral Resources, Suzan Shabangu and Limpopo Premier, Stan Mathabatha during the launch of the construction phase of the De Beers Venetia Underground Diamond Mine in Musina, Limpopo.

President Jacob Zuma was overcome with joy at the launch of the largest underground diamond mining project in the country in Musina, Vhembe District, Limpopo.

“This project is an important milestone in the development of the South African diamond industry and the mining sector. This R20-billion investment in the diamond industry – the biggest single investment in the diamond industry in decades – signals that our mining sector is poised for growth and that it has a bright future,” Mr Zuma said.

He added that mining has been the foundation of economic development in South Africa for well over a century. President Zuma indicated that South Africa is a mineral-rich country, and the mining sector is one of the main drivers for growing the economy.

“As government, we are investing time and effort in strengthening the mining sector so that it can contribute to inclusive growth and jobs,” he said.

The Venetia Mine Project will employ more than 2 500 people, while 500 more jobs will be created during the peak of the construction phase. The President also used the opportunity to condemn the killing of union members in the mining sector.

Philippe Mellier, CEO of the De Beers Group, said that 125 years ago they created an industry in South Africa that has been leading ever since. As De Beers expanded beyond our borders and into new markets, its heritage has always been inextricably linked with South Africa. The trust and confidence received from shareholders in South Africa has helped De

Beers to make the decision to build an underground mine here at Venetia. This is one of a handful of world-class diamond mines around the world. The plan is to produce until 2040, he said. He added that Venetia will support South Africa’s mining economy for generations to come, and make diamond moments possible for millions of people around the world.

During an exclusive interview, Vhembe Executive Mayor Mr Tshitereke Matibe said, “The launch of the Musina Venetia Mine Underground Project will create more jobs for our people. This will help us realise our master plan of turning Musina into a city.”



As of March 2009, more than 10 million households (77%) had access to sanitation compared to about 5 million (50%) in 1994.



OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT-ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP

Mbizana community have their say about the Legislature

By Ndyabo Kopo: GCIS, Eastern Cape

Aligned to the Imbizo Focus Week, the Eastern Cape Legislature kick-started a *Taking Legislature to the People* initiative in Mbizana Local Municipality, Alfred Nzo District, where the community was provided an opportunity to address the House. The session was chaired by the Speaker of the Legislature, Mr Fikile Xasa.

The meeting was held in line with the constitutional obligation of the Eastern Cape Provincial Legislature, which is to promote public participation and education in legislative processes. In order to facilitate this, the Legislature has to educate and encourage public participation in all its programmes thereby deepening democracy. *Taking Legislature to the People* is therefore an addition to the existing sectoral parliaments of the Legislature.

The GCIS asked community members to share their views on the decision of the Eastern Cape Legislature to take the Legislature to their community and also about what they wished to raise with their leaders if they had a chance. Here is what they had to say:



Ms Dandala of Mbizana in Matweba Village: "I hope that the visit will lead to changes in our lives, as we have challenges with access to tap water and we still fetch water from the river and the stream. Not all of the households have electricity and the roads are also bad."



Zwelakhe Dotye from Bizana High School: "I think the visit by the Legislature will help address some of the challenges that we face in our schools and communities, such as a lack of infrastructure and learner materials like chairs and books. At the moment we have to share Math and Science handbooks."



Ms Nelisiwe Jalubana of Greenville in Mbizana: "We acknowledge that government is trying to bring services to the people – especially in rural communities – but in my area we still have challenges with our hospital and the clinic, which do not have doctors. And we need RDP houses."



Mr Thembinkosi Luthuli from Mpise Village in Mbizana: "We hope that this is not electioneering. We need visible action by government on all the issues we have raised today. What we need now is swift action from all spheres of government to address the challenges of people in rural communities."