



# MY DISTRICT TODAY



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## Outcome 1: Improved quality of basic education

### *ICT centre to transform teaching and learning*

*By Peter Titus, GCIS Cape Winelands District*

Vodacom, in partnership with the Department of Basic Education, Microsoft, Cisco and Mindset, have established the Vodacom Mobile Education Programme, which identified teacher development through information and communications technology (ICT) as a way to enhance quality teaching and learning.

The programme includes the establishment of an ICT resource centre that is expected to train about 1 400 teachers from 200 schools annually in the use of ICT to support teaching and learning. In addition, 20 schools have been identified by the department to focus specifically on improving Mathematics and Science.

The programme, which has already been launched in Worcester, will be rolled out in all the nine provinces. It is set to transform teaching in the classroom through the use of ICT. The Worcester centre has been fully equipped with a computer room housing 50 computer terminals, educational aids, Internet connectivity and training facilities.

The programme offers the opportunity to level the playing field for teachers who previously had little or no access to technology. Interventions such as these are not only expected to improve learner pass rates in Mathematics and Science, but also ensure that learners pursue these subjects at university.

“The operation of the centre with the selected schools can serve as a case study on how to use ICT in the classroom, and future gaps can be identified and solutions provided,” says Portia Maurice, Vodacom’s Chief Officer of Corporate Affairs.

“The realisation of the importance of technology in education and its successful implementation in our schools is a necessity. That is why we are grateful for Vodacom’s support in strengthening and supporting quality teaching through the use of technology.”

“It is an important example of how the private sector and the community can assist the Western Cape Provincial Government in improving the quality of education in the province, making education better together,” says Donald Grant, Western Cape MEC for Education. “By harnessing the power of technology to deliver a quality curriculum, we can ultimately revolutionise how teaching takes place in our country.”

Vodacom has committed to supplying content hosting and free Internet connectivity for the next three years. Connectivity includes the establishment of a controlled gateway to the Internet for each province. This will allow for easy communication among teachers.



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**Outcome 9: A responsive, accountable, effective and efficient local government system**

*Government brings smiles to those who are needy*

*Mariah Ramoshaba, GCIS Limpopo*

In ensuring effective dissemination of information about government programmes and policies, GCIS collaborates with district stakeholders in the provinces to ensure communities are well informed of these programmes – especially those who do not have access to mainstream media.

During a door-to-door campaign, of community development workers (CDWs) at Phomolong, in Modimolle Local Municipality in Limpopo, a needy child-headed household was identified. The purpose of the campaign was to inform community members of government programmes, services

rendered by CDWs and home-based carers, and that other challenges that could be referred to stakeholders.

Theo Mfati, a Grade 11 learner at Solomon Mahlangu High School, looks after his ailing brother. His brother was busy with Grade 7, but had to drop out of school owing to illness.

Their parents died four years ago and they have no relatives. Theo has the responsibility of caring for his brother, attending school and doing some piece jobs to ensure that they have food on the table,

since they do not have the required documents to access a foster care grant.

In response to their plight, the officials bought them food so that they could have something healthy to eat. The officials also took it upon themselves to assist the household in getting identity documents and birth certificates. Theo thanked the officials for their efforts.

The CDWs encourages people who cannot afford to pay for water services to register on the indigent register of the municipality.



Modimolle community development workers, GCIS officials and home-based carers hand over the groceries they brought for Theo (second from right) and his brother.

## Outcome 9: A responsive, accountable, effective and efficient local government system



The Department of Labour officials assisted young people.



Officials from the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development provide information on Youth in Agricultural Development.

### *Government departments bringing services closer to the people*

*Palesa Beja*

The Gauteng Provincial Government partnered with GCIS in bringing government services to the Ipelegeng Thusong Service Centre, which is largely used by youths from around Soweto. The Thusong Service Centre (formerly the Multi-Purpose Community Centre or MPCC) Programme was initiated in 1999 as a primary vehicle for the implementation of development communication and information to integrate government services in primarily rural communities.

This was done to address historical, social and economic factors which limited access to information, services and participation by citizens, as they had to travel long distances to access these services.

Young people were encouraged to engage with government in an effort to mainstream youth development issues in the province.

Youth development is one of government's key objectives. The province's vision is to be transformed into a globally competitive city region that will be characterised by prosperity and government's ability to deliver basic services to people.

Officials from the Department of Labour encouraged young people to participate in the provincial government's plans and programmes for youth development. The officials informed young people about the unemployment database register, learnerships, internships and career guidance, and urged the youth to make use of these services.

Young people received information from the Gauteng Department of Roads and Transport, the South African Revenue Services, the Company Intellectual Property Commission, the South African Social Services Agency, as well as Aurum, which provided health-screening services to the youth.



GCIS officials ensure that the youth receive relevant and up-to-date government information.



## Outcome 9: A responsive, accountable, effective and efficient local government

### Sanitation project contributes to job creation Vuyani Sibene, GCIS Cofimvaba Thusong Centre

Hundreds of unemployed graduates, community members, local contractors, job seekers and entrepreneurs have begun reaping the benefits of a sanitation project that was initiated at the end of 2010.

Thousands of ventilated improved pit (VIP) toilet units are being erected in households across the Chris Hani District Municipality. Not only does the project focus on constructing toilet units, but the manufacturing of construction materials is also done locally.

A factory was recently built in Queendustria in Queenstown, and manufacturing has begun. Initially, four factories were to be built throughout the district, but the plant in Queendustria has been earmarked as the only factory that will be able to

produce the required volume of 60 toilets a day. It was decided that community members that would have been employed at the other factories will work at the Queendustria factory – a decision that has allowed the municipality to save about R20 million.

Leading manufacturing company Cemforce appoints local subcontractors and employs local people to ensure local economic development. Skills transfer is also taking place, with unskilled and semi-skilled local people being trained by Cemforce.

Since January 2010, this R500-million project has already seen over 200 unemployed graduates appointed by the district engineering, administration, social sciences and finance, with

more graduates set to be hired as part of an internship programme. An Extended Public Works Programme-based stipend is paid monthly to all interns. Four consultants have been hired as quality controllers for the project, and each will have to employ at least three local unemployed graduates as interns to ensure skills transfer.

The Chris Hani District Municipality Council is doing its utmost best to ensure that its targets on sanitation are met. The targets stipulate that by 2014, all households should have access to proper sanitation.

This target is in line with government's policy on sanitation, which seeks to improve the health and quality of life of the whole population, as well as to protect the environment.



MEC Mlibo Qoboshiyane with MUNIMEC members during their visit to the project in Queenstown.



One of the complete erected ventilated improved pit toilets produced at the factory.



Beneficiaries on site, hard at work in the factory in Queenstown.