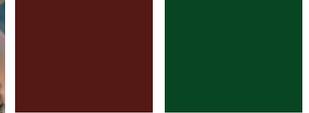


DID YOU KNOW?

The commemoration of Youth Month this year marks the 37th anniversary of the 16 June Soweto uprising and will be celebrated under the theme "Working together for youth development and a drug free South Africa".



MY DISTRICT TODAY

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Outcome 12: An efficient, effective and development-oriented public service and an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship

New boxing academy helps prevent drug abuse

Ephraim Malema: GCIS North West

The Mayor of Moretele Local Municipality, Sello Lehari, recently officially opened a boxing academy in Dikebu village to promote a healthy life style among the youth.

The boxing gym, known as the Dikebu Boxing Palace, is also expected to take young people off the streets and help them to stay away from drugs.

The gym has all the necessary equipment needed to train professional boxers.

It was built and equipped in partnership with the Department of Sport and Recreation, and the world-renowned boxing promotion club, Golden Gloves, under the leadership of Rodney Berman.

Former WBA and WBO champion Brian Mitchel also attended the event. "This boxing academy will help young people from the villages to also become boxing champions. We will support Dikebu Boxing Palace and help young people from this area to develop some boxing skills and knowledge," Mitchel said.

Mayor Lehari said the boxing club would help to develop aspirant boxers in the villages. "I am convinced that this boxing club will produce quality boxers and the municipality will look after it and help it to produce many professional boxers," he said.

After the Mayor's address, some amateur boxers took to the ring, exchanging blows much to the excitement of the audience.

The boxing academy will also be used by young people from surrounding villages.



Mayor of Moretele Local Municipality Sello Lehari and former WBA and WBO world champion at Dikebu Boxing Palace.



Amateur boxers exchanging blows at Dikebu Boxing Palace.



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Outcome 7: Creating a vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities

Government on course to restore dignity to its citizens

GCIS: KwaZulu-Natal

During the State of the Nation Address, President Jacob Zuma said rural communities were entitled to development in the same way as urban counterparts. Even though Manaba is not a presidential node, it needs to be developed since the standard of living is very low. There are no sources of income except schools and clinics. These institutions employ a very low percentage of the community. Communities survive by stock farming or participating in communal gardens.

MEC Nomusa Dube from the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs along with the Umhlabuyalingana Local Municipality, launched a massive electrification project which has benefited 411 households so far. This entailed connecting households to the grid with rechargeable connections, one at a time. Beneficiaries can now recharge Eskom cards to reload electricity.

Melina Mabika, an 86-year-old grandmother, was overwhelmed to have electricity in her house. She said that when she was a teenager, electricity was for white people. They survived by collecting fire wood from the field for cooking and using candles for lighting at night. Mabika said she was grateful that her grandchildren and great grandchildren would now live better lives. Apart from having her house connected to the grid, she also received groceries and electrical appliances.

The Manaba household electrification was a pilot project which shows how Government is improving the lives of the poor. The second phase of household electrification will reach the areas of Hlomula, Mabibi and Nsukumbili. Madonela is already benefiting from the first phase.

MEC Dube said launching this project symbolised that Government was listening to community

needs and responded to their call. "The promised development is underway and everyone can confirm that Government is sticking to its promises." The MEC added that people could now charge their phones, watch television, cook, turn on lights at night and connect fridges to store food so that it could last longer.

The success of the project was due to Eskom, the Department of Energy and Umhlabuyalingana Municipality. The project had its challenges, but these were solved thanks to good working relations between all stakeholders. The community also played a significant role.

The project brought job opportunities to the community and uplifted their families. Inkosi Gumede heaped praises on Government and advised that communities should use this precious resource wisely.



COGTA MEC Nomusa Dube addressing Melina Mabika. The Mayor of Umhlabuyalingana, TS Mkhombo (in the black suit), also attended the event.



COGTA MEC Nomusa Dube (right) demonstrating how electricity works.



Performing *We Are The World*, Children from Martie Du Plessis and Brema School

Outcome 12: An efficient, effective and development-oriented public service and an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenry

Working together to protect children

GCIS: Free State

National Child Protection Week (CPW) is commemorated annually to raise awareness of children’s rights as entrenched in the Children’s Act of 2005. The campaign which began in 1997, aims to mobilise all sectors of society to protect and care for children. The campaign was led by the Minister of Social Development, who emphasised that everyone must help protect children and create a safe and secure environment for them.

In the Free State, the campaign was launched on 27 May 2013 in Bloemfontein by MEC Sisi Ntombela at Pholoho Special School.

During the launch, children who attended the event gave performances while SASSA handed out school backpacks to all the children. Other government departments such as the departments of labour, education, correctional services, the South African Police Service, the National Youth

Development Agency to name a few were also present to inform those who attended about their services.

The closing event was held in Tweeling on 4 June during which a centre for children was handed over to the MEC by the Deena and Revi Pillay Foundation.

The MEC used the opportunity to commission 182 child and youth care workers to implement the Isibindi Model within communities.

The model responds to the needs of children, youths and families who are vulnerable and at risk. The focus of the Child Protection Week 2013 was also to strengthen community – based care services via the Isibindi model.



MEC “Sisi” Ntombela at the launch of Child Protection Week



MEC Ntombela giving a SASSA bag to one of the programme directors for the day, a learner from Kagiso Secondary School.





Maqungo Lwazikazi: During the site visit I learnt about civil engineering thanks to Kumkani Dzulani, who told us about all the precautions even before we got to the site. Out of the six categories of civil engineering I liked transport engineering the most. The visit to Umtata Bridge was very insightful to me.



Lavela Mahlangeni: What I learnt during the site visit was very interesting. It gave me a good idea of what career choice I want to pursue. It was very interesting to know how to start constructing the bridge from scratch. I learnt that whenever there is construction you must avoid water and dust.



Outcome 5: A skilled and capable workforce to support an inclusive growth path

Government infrastructure programme benefits a local school

Sabelo Kakaza: GCIS Eastern Cape

Government has identified infrastructure as one of the key drivers for job creation. In this regard the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission (PICC) was established in 2011, and since then significant progress has been made.

Under the leadership of the President, the PICC has launched intergovernmental forums of the 18 strategic infrastructure projects. By the end of March 2013, Government has spent approximately R860 billion rand on infrastructure development since 2009.

Infrastructure development creates jobs in construction, and grows demand for inputs such as pylons and machinery. It also improves conditions for investors who need electricity,



Zihle Wandipha: My interest in civil engineering is in structural engineering and surveying. I have seen different types of equipment and the way they are put together. The site visit helped me to realise that when I continue my studies I want to do structural engineering and surveying. It is good to have this bridge closer to our school.

water, roads and telecommunications to compete, and it improves living conditions in communities deprived of basic services. Learners from one of the previously disadvantaged schools in the area of Mthatha can attest to this.

Construction of the N2 Bridge in Mthatha is one of the catalytic projects of the KSD Presidential Intervention Programme which has benefited 55 science students from St. Johns College in Mthatha. They visited the new Mthatha Bridge to learn more about the world of civil and construction engineering, led by Mr Magaqa, the principal at St Johns College.

Learners appreciated this experiential exposure on site. "On-the-job career exposure is better



Vuyolwethu Mgwetyana: As I was listening to the presentation I learnt a lot about how civil engineering and its six categories work. I now have a clear idea which direction to take to get the type of work I will enjoy. I have seen a number of different materials that I didn't know about. I also learnt the terms used on site and how the jobs are allocated.

than an on-paper career exhibition. At our school, all learners are doing mathematics and physical science as compulsory subjects. This gives them more chances to do whatever form of engineering they would like, since as engineering is one of the scarce skills in our country," school principal Mr Magaqa said.

While we were on site, we saw many job opportunities and skills development around infrastructure development. We want to thank the staff on site, the constructor and GCIS for giving us this opportunity to get first-hand information about this development. It will help our students a lot."



Fetu Sonke: The visit was very interesting. Out of the six categories I want to do transport engineering, because it includes cleanliness before any construction can occur. Workers have to avoid water and dust because they are threats in construction. I want to follow transport because I like road services. The presentation taught me how engineers do their work.