



# MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 1 / January 2017

Special Edition: Back to School

## CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

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## OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

### Grade 1 learners get ready for school

*By Lehlohonolo Manoto: GCIS, Free State*

Sentraal Primary School admitted 161 Grade 1 learners for English and Afrikaans classes for the 2017 school year. Although some of the learners have started their Grade 1 classes very smoothly and with jubilation, there were other children who found it difficult to adapt to the new environment, especially a formal classroom setting. Some of them were crying while others indicated that they wanted to sleep.

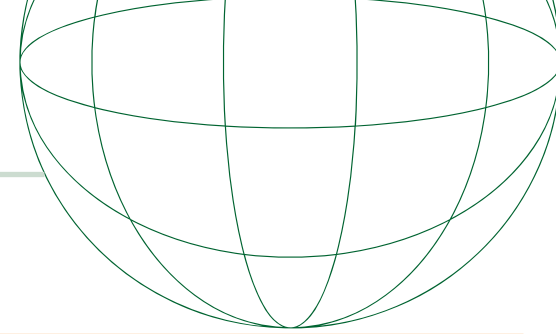


The Grade 1 English class of Sentral Primary School.



government  
communications

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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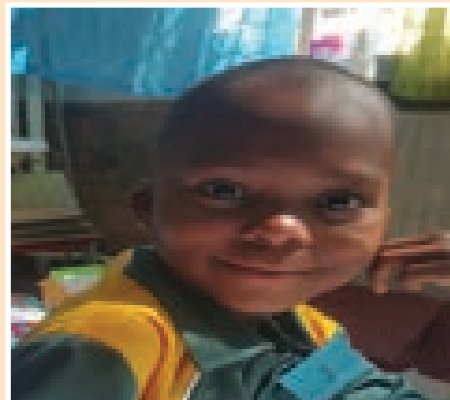
#### WESTERN CAPE

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**Dolores Daniels said:**

"The learners are very excited and are looking forward to the new challenge awaiting them. One little girl however, said she wanted to go back to Grade R because she was tired and wanted to sleep. She will be fine."



**Otshego Mokonyane said:**

"I enjoy playing with other children at school."



**Bokang Leine said:**

"I love drawing and writing."



**Boipelo Sithole said:**

"It is nice to read and also to wear a school uniform like the rest of the learners."



**Mamello Thaele said:**

"I love reading and writing. I want to learn to speak English."



**Theo Lobelo said:**

"School is fun as I get to play with other children and I have already made new friends."



## OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

### Minister visits Limpopo schools

*By Jacob Molete: GCIS, Gauteng*

Minister of Communications, Faith Muthambi, has visited various schools in the country as part of the back-to-school campaigns. On 16 January 2017, the Minister visited Kolokoshani High School in Vuwani to hand over a computer lab and bicycles to learners from poor and low-income families.



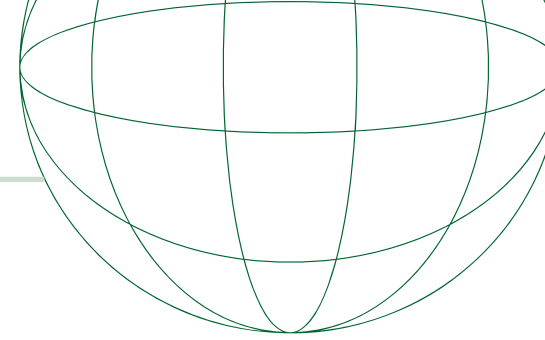
Minister Faith Muthambi addressing stakeholders during the back-to-school campaign at Matodzi High School before handing over bicycles to needy learners.



Minister Faith Muthambi addressing stakeholders during the briefing session at Kolokoshani High School computer lab.



Kolokoshani High School computer lab.



**Minister Faith Muthambi, government leaders and some of the learners who were beneficiaries of the bicycles.**



**Minister Faith Muthambi with Grade R learners.**



**Minister Faith Muthambi donating talking books and shoes at Tshivhazwaulu Primary School. She also interacted with the Grade R class and they sang the National Anthem together.**



**Minister Faith Muthambi addressing attendees at the event.**

## OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

### Minister touches lives of Ntongande Secondary School learners

*By Bonginkosi Gumede: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal*

Minister of Communications, Faith Muthambi, encouraged learners from Ntongande High School in Mfolozi, KwaZulu-Natal to view cycling as a sport among disadvantaged communities. Minister Muthambi handed over 10 bicycles to learners on 11 January 2017 as part of her back-to-school campaign. The bicycles were given to learners who travel more than 15km to get to school.

“Our view is that the bicycles will lead to increased academic performance at the school and we also hope that it will lower the rate of absenteeism. The bicycles are intended to assist destitute students, who are in a desperate situation to get education and we are doing this because we are a caring government,” said the Minister. “We are a government that cares and we are here to encourage the youth to realise that education is key to many positive opportunities in life,” she added.

Minister Muthambi indicated that the idea behind these bicycles was to encourage learners to view cycling as a sport among disadvantaged communities as certain sports such as wrestling, cycling and rugby were regarded to be played in schools mainly in white areas. The Minister also engaged with the school’s management to identify critical needs in order for government to assist. She also used the campaign to promote the right to educate children and the role of parents in providing support as well as strengthening the education system.



**Minister Faith Muthambi and other government leaders posing with the learners who received bicycles.**

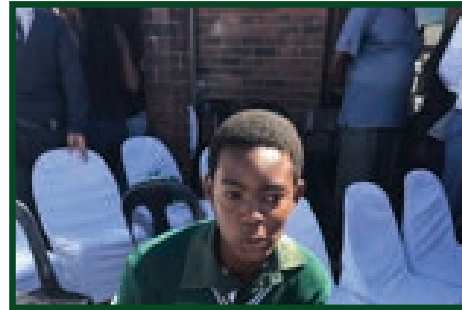


**Sfiso Mthimkhulu is congratulated by Mfolozi Municipality Mayor Smanga Mgenge and Speaker Zakhele Mfusi as he receives his bicycle at Ntongade Secondary School.**



**Sabathile Dube said:**

"I thank God and also wish to share my joy with my teachers and also note that all this came with hard work, dedication and commitment. I also want to thank RBM for offering me a bursary to pursue my studies as I intend to become a doctor."



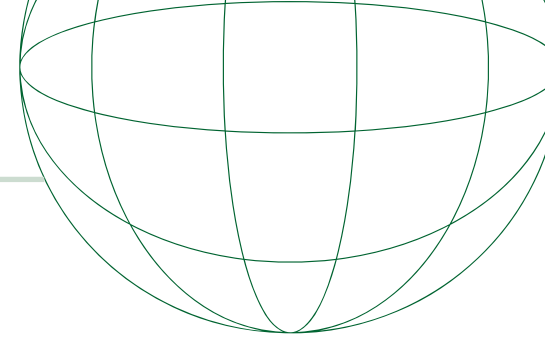
**Zanele Mboweni said:**

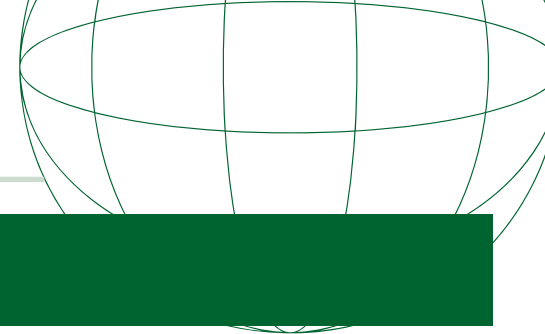
"I am very happy to have been part of the top 10 achievers and also to be getting a bursary that will enable to further my studies as I am from a poor background."



**Siyabonga Mthethwa and Phumlani Mhlongo said:**

"We are very happy that we have been the recipients of RBM bursary. We will be able to go and further our studies and come back and serve our community."





## OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

### Minister hands over a computer lab and school shoes

*By Bongani Mazibuko: GCIS, Mpumalanga*

On 13 January 2017, Communications Minister Faith Muthambi handed over a Computer Centre with information communication technologies equipment sponsored by MTN, at Izimbali Combined Maths, Science and Technology (MST) School in Amsterdam, in Mkhondo Local Municipality as part of government's 2017 back-to-school campaign.

Izimbali Combined MST School was officially opened by Mpumalanga Premier David Mabuza on 24 February 2014 and had its first enrolment of learners as a combined boarding school in that year. This came as a result of the closing down of a number of deep rural, farm schools wherein two, three or four different grades were taught in one classroom. Those farm schools lacked resources. Learners had to travel long distances to and from those farm schools daily. Some of them would only eat a decent meal for the day only at school through the School Nutrition Programme of government. The environment was never conducive for teaching and learning at all.

In improving the quality of basic education as the apex outcome of government, the Minister also handed over a fully equipped Interactive Multi-Media software computer centre at the school. She also handed over more than 350 pairs of school shoes for learners at the school.



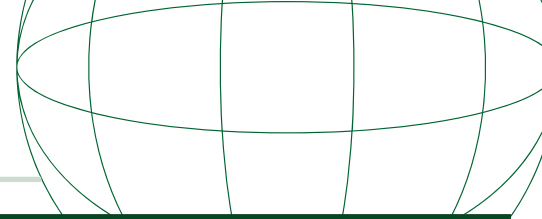
**Minister Faith Muthambi also handed more than 350 pairs of School shoes for learners at the school.**



**Member of Parliament, Sibusiso Radebe, directing the proceedings during the briefing session at the school.**



**Speaker of Mkhondo Local Municipality Councillor Thembelihle Nkosi, MEC for Education in Mpumalanga, Reginah Mhaule, Communications Minister Faith Muthambi, Gert Sibande District Municipality, Councillor Dumsile Nhlengethwa and Sibusiso Radebe.**



Eric Matsomane from MTN Foundation responsible for Education Programmes addressing the audience.



Minister Faith Muthambi interacting with a learner at the fully equipped computer centre at the school.



Children and their educators at the event.



Education MEC Reginah Mhaule interacting with a learner at the computer centre.



School Principal Samson Nkosi with Minister Faith Mthambi.



Stakeholders from the Department of Communications and MTN Foundation displaying fully packed boxes of school shoes handed over to the learners.



Communications Minister and Education MEC being interviewed by Bheki Mtshali from Mkhondo FM.



MTN officials during opening of a computer laboratory.



Premier Helen Zille and the 2016 Grade 12 learners at the award ceremony.

## OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

### Western Cape honours and celebrates top achievers

*By Sikelela Zokufa: GCIS, Western Cape*

Premier of the Western Cape, Helen Zille and MEC for Education, Debbie Schäfer, hosted the Western Cape National Senior Certificate (NSC) 2016 Awards Ceremony at the Premier's Residence on 12 January 2017. The event celebrates outstanding achievement by schools and candidates in the 2016 NSC examinations.



Hundreds of learners and teachers attended the ceremony.



Mfuleni High School received an award of the Best Improved School.



Tawanda Mutasa of Perner School of the Blind receiving his award of best performance.



National 2016 Top Achiever Conrad Strydom was awarded for his outstanding performance.