

## DID YOU KNOW?

### THE BEAT AT AFRICA'S FEET

Orange Africa Cup of Nations 2013  
Jan 19: South Africa vs Cape Verde 18:00 Soccer City Stadium  
Angola vs Morocco 21:00 Soccer City Stadium



# MY DISTRICT TODAY



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## CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

For more information about similar programmes that are run across the country, contact one of the following provincial offices:

### EASTERN CAPE

Ndlelantle Pinyana  
043 722 2602 or 076 142 8606  
ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za

### FREE STATE

Trevor Mokeyane  
051 448 4504 or 083 255 0042  
tshenolo@gcis.gov.za

### GAUTENG

Peter Gumede  
011 834 3560 or 083 570 8080  
peterg@gcis.gov.za

### KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi  
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420  
ndala@gcis.gov.za

## Outcome 1: Improved quality of basic education

### Hard work pays off

*Jerry Nkosi: GCIS, Mpumalanga*

Calvin Mawere of Bushbuckridge Secondary School became the best learner in the province's 2012 Grade 12 results by obtaining eight distinctions in Sepedi, English, Mathematics, Physical Science, Life Science, Life Orientation, Accounting and Agricultural Science. Calvin is going to study Medicine at Wits University.

During the announcement of the matric results on 3 January 2013 in Middelburg, Calvin was presented with a brand new Toyota Etios, from Imperial Toyota in Nelspruit. This delighted learner who obtained 100% for Mathematics also received other gifts, which included a laptop, cell phone, a travelling bag, bar fridge, and a microwave oven.

"I am overjoyed because my dream to become a medical doctor is about to become a reality. I would love to become a doctor to help reduce the shortage of medical doctors in my province," he said.

He said that he could not have made it without the involvement of his teachers and parents. "I thank my parents who encouraged me to study hard and my teachers for tirelessly inspiring me," he said.

To the class of 2013 this is what he had to say, "Work hard. Matric is not as difficult as others would want you to believe."

Mpumalanga's results have improved to 70% from the previous year's 64,8%. Of the 47 889 learners who wrote the 2012 Grade 12 examinations, 33 504 passed; 9 495 obtained university exemption; 14 277 qualified for diplomas; 9 633 qualified for higher certificates; and 99 achieved the National Senior Certificate.



Mpumalanga's top learners.



government  
communications

Department:  
Government Communication and Information System  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

#### LIMPOPO

Thanyani Rhavhura  
015 291 4689 or 082 421 3461  
thanyani@gcis.gov.za

#### MPUMALANGA

Tiisetso Ramotse  
013 753 2397 or 072 219 5136  
tiisetso@gcis.gov.za

#### NORTH WEST

Mareka Mofokeng  
018 381 7071 or 083 382 5909  
mareka@gcis.gov.za  
Galebonwe Diokana  
018 381 7071 or 082 559 167  
galebonwe@gcis.gov.za

#### NORTHERN CAPE

Marius Nagel  
053 832 1378/9 or 083 778 9179  
mariusn@gcis.gov.za

#### WESTERN CAPE

Ayanda Hollow  
021 697 0145 or 083 255 7665  
ayanda@gcis.gov.za

## Outcome 1: Improved quality of basic education

### Against all odds

The general improvement in the national matric pass rate was cause for celebration; therefore the GCIS' North West provincial office spoke to some of the learners of Matlosana Class of 2012.

In January 2013, Cllr Louisa Mabe, North West's MEC for Education, proudly announced the highest ever provincial matric pass rate of 79,5%. Among the four districts in the province, the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District came out on top, with their matric pass rate of 82,8%.

One of these young stars is Anna Mako. She completed her matric at Tshedimotsetso High School in the crime-riddled Jouberton Township outside Klerksdorp.

"I'd like to be a teacher one day, because I love children, and would like them to perform as well as I have done," said Anna. She wrote seven subjects and achieved three distinctions, one B, and three Cs.

"I believe studying hard, staying focused and praying hard has helped me to attain these results, and I recommend this recipe for the class of 2013!"

If Lerato Sebetlela has her way we could soon expect an Econometrics in the near future. Lerato completed her matric at Chris Hani School in the mine dump-surrounded township of Khuma, just outside Stilfontein. "I have been accepted at the University of Pretoria, but I will never forget where I come from. I urge all learners especially those in disadvantaged areas, to believe in themselves irrespective of the conditions they find themselves in."

Donald Shiko, a learner from Arefadimeng School in Jouberton, has been accepted to study Economics at the University of North West. Donald also achieved three distinctions, one B, and three Cs. He shared a quote from his favourite author, John C Maxwell, "It may not be your fault that you are down, but it is your fault that you are not getting up."

One of the A-students highlighted the need for teachers to also give attention to slow learners. "Teachers tend to focus on the smarter students, so some learners fall through the cracks and fail," said Bahedile Magajane from Borakanelo High School in Khuma. Bahedile has been accepted at the University of Witwatersrand to study towards a Bachelor of Science Degree in Mathematics. "I joined a study group and we started studying from the beginning of the year."

Star FM community radio station worked closely with the GCIS to highlight these positive community stories. The partnership involved the Department of Basic Education, non-governmental organisations, the community and businesses.

Siyanda Resources (Pty) Ltd, which operates in the area brought bursary application opportunities for the learners. The Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality and the North West Office of the Premier also made bursaries available.

"Our aim is to inspire all learners in our district and beyond, to do their best for the 2013 year," said Mr Malungane, Star FM's station manager. Interested learners can contact Siyanda Resources (Pty) Ltd on 011 832 2543/4/5 for bursary application forms.



Some of the Matlosana Municipality's Class of 2012 top achievers with Star FM's station manager.

## Outcome 7: Vibrant equitable and sustainable rural communities with food security

### Elderly farmer reaping the benefits of hard work

*Odas Ngobeni: GCIS Limpopo*



After spending many years as a mine worker, a pensioner from Limpopo says his biggest regret is not starting his own project sooner while he was younger.

At the age of 70, Daniel Mabuza retired from the mine in 2003 and returned to his home village of Ezekhaya, about 50 km outside Tzaneen. Very soon he realised that his pension money would not sustain his family for long. He then risked all his earnings by investing in a venture, which now employs 20 permanent workers and a further eight seasonal workers.

“My biggest regret is that I wasted a lot of time working for other people. I wish I had quit my job earlier and became a farmer while I was still a young man,” he says.

Buoyed by a booming agricultural project, Mabuza says, “I could have used my youthful energy to the benefit of my family and this community.”

He started the agricultural project in 2003, taking advantage of the 56 hectares his father bought in 1929, which he then inherited. “I only focused on poultry and goat farming, ploughing only two hectares of land.”

In 2009, Phangweni’s Eden Farm, a cooperative, was registered with the help from the Small

Enterprise Development Agency (Seda). The cooperative supplies among other things, tomatoes, butternuts, green peppers and sweet potatoes to the giant retailer, Massmart.

“The Seda helped us to register the cooperative. They also trained us in bookkeeping. They have been helpful in marketing this business for us. It was through their facilitation that we got a tractor from the Department of Trade and Industry. The department also promised us more irrigation pipes and two water tankers,” says Mabuza.

The Department of Agriculture installed an irrigation system on a two-and-a-half hectares of land, which Mabuza is grateful for. “The support from the department is very encouraging. Not only did they assist with the irrigation system and the demarcation of hectares, but also gave us a borehole, a generator, compost and a fence we still have to erect.

“Part of the requirement of the deal we signed with Massmart in 2011, was that we should be able to plough five hectares. We could only afford to install irrigation on two-and-a-half hectares land, and the department came through for

us by installing the rest of the irrigation system so their support is invaluable. They continue to offer advice and constant monitoring,” he says.

It was a one-year deal with Massmart in 2011, but Phangweni Eden Farm has since signed a three-year deal with Massmart in 2012. Mabuza admits though that it is not always smooth sailing, saying “We don’t have a shelter on this farm, which is quite challenging for us when it rains. We also need an additional borehole and electricity connection.”

Maria Shokane, 39, mother of two children says the skills they gained working on the nearby farms are proving useful. “Every day we learn something new and we love it. The project has given us a chance to feed our families,” she says.



Daniel and his team members.



## Outcome 12(b): An empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship

### Mpumalanga catches Afcon fever

Robbie Senoelo, GCIS Gauteng

Orange Afcon 2013, is a buzz word in the entire province as Mpumalanga shows its readiness to host the prestigious tournament at the Mbombela Stadium.

The Nkomazi and Mbombela municipalities, the Department of Culture, Sports and Recreation in partnership with Ligwalagwala FM rolled up their sleeves and conducted a road show around the Nkomazi municipal main roads in mobilising communities for Orange Afcon 2013 just as they did for the 2010 FIFA World Cup™.

Burkina Faso, Ethiopia, Nigeria and Zambia where nominated to be hosted in the Mbombela stadium for Afcon 2013. Mr R Moyo of the Mbombela Stadium said, "We are proud of our stadium. Mbombela stadium with its unique and different colours represents the big five."

The Nkomazi Executive Mayor, Cllr TS Khoza, said in her keynote address that she is confident that her community will attend Afcon 2013 in great numbers and guaranteed the Mbombela local organising committee to rest assured about the attendance from her municipality.

She said Nkomazi will host another road show on 18 January 2013 with Mozambique and Swaziland. The intention is to mobilise them as neighbours to attend the games.

The Executive Mayor assured all visitors that Mpumalanga will give them spectacular scenery and the province is ready to host them. The success of Orange Afcon 2013 will instil a spirit of Ubuntu and Pan Africanism.



Nkomazi Mayor with Takumi, the mascot for Afcon.



Nkomazi Executive Mayor, Cllr TS Khoza, with the big yellow spectacles blowing the vuvuzela.



The back of the branded bus with matches for the Mbombela line-up.

