OUTCOME 14: A DIVERSE,SOCIALLY COHESIVE SOCIETY WITH A COMMON NATIONAL IDENTITY

Mandela Day brings joy to Maphiniki family
By Karen Foutie, GCIS, Northern Cape

MEC Williams donating bicycles to make it easier for learners to travel to school and back.

Northern Cape MEC for Transport, Safety and Liaison, Pauline Williams, commemorated Nelson Mandela International Day on 18 July by handing over a temporary shelter to a family of six that stayed in a dilapidated house, bicycles to learners and many other gifts to residents of Maphiniki Village under the John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality.

The Kaketsa family of six lost their home in a storm that hit Kuruman recently. This left them without shelter and basic needs. The needs of the household were identified by the tribal authorities. Victoria Kaketsa, 57, expressed her gratitude to the aid provided by government, state-owned entities and other stakeholders. She said she never thought that someone would come to her family’s rescue. According to her, it was never easy to find shelter for her two children and three grandchildren. She was overwhelmed as MEC Williams handed over the temporary shelter which has electricity.
Individuals and stakeholders donated beds, bedding, food parcels, toiletries and basic kitchen equipment to the family.

The MEC addressed more than 200 people to raise awareness on road safety, human trafficking and crime prevention. Information stalls were erected to allow the community to engage with officials on their information needs.

Wonder Ndlovu:
“I am very happy today to celebrate Mandela’s legacy by spending time to renovate my school and I want to say to all men and parents who abuse children and raping them: Please note that such things are not what Mandela fought for. I am saying “No” to gender-based violence.”

Gladys Teteme:
“It is a good day. To see a family who has lost everything in a storm helped by the community is amazing. It is nice to know that government cares the way Madiba did.”

Amelia Kolberg:
“I am so thankful that I can be here today. I managed to get help from Home Affairs and I think this is what Madiba left for us. We get services, the MEC is here and we got the information. The youth have so many opportunities and they must make use of them, and that is what Madiba wanted.”
Community march against violence affecting women and children

By Tinyiko Molefe, GCIS, Gauteng

In light of recent attacks on women and children, the GCIS, in partnership with the Department of Social Development in Ekurhuleni, marched against Gender-Based Violence (GBV). The purpose of the march was to raise awareness and discourage GBV.

"GBV is the most extreme expression of unequal gender relations in society and a violation of human rights, and it happens everywhere. It can be stopped by educating our kids at an early age," said social worker Amogelang Motlokwa.

Amogelang emphasised the importance of raising awareness on GBV to the community at large.

Itumeleng Nyongwane said that GBV happens within our communities and that everyone must contribute towards fighting against it. He said, "As a young responsible man, it is my responsibility to protect my fellow community members and my family from abuse by reporting GBV perpetrators."
Youth against crime

By Thandinkosi Zulu, GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

Endumeni SAPS, together with the GCIS, recently held a successful dialogue with hundreds of young people, which was aimed at making a meaningful impact to the fight against crime.

The dialogue was held at the Craigside Hall and was followed by sporting activities such as soccer and netball. The dance performers of the day interacted with Constable Velabahleke Mbense. He advised them on how they could unite against crime around their areas.

Constable Mbense encouraged the local youth to unite and fight crime, and deal with social ills affecting their communities. “You can stand the ground and say no to drug abuse, no to substance abuse, no to violence aimed at women and children. You are no different from the youth of 1976 who fought against the apartheid system which forced them to study all their subjects in Afrikaans. Young people must lead the struggle against Woonga and theft to ensure that no juveniles are arrested,” said Constable Mbense.

The youth were encouraged to be positive about their future and to take their education very seriously to fulfil their goals of becoming successful individuals. On the other hand, young people were urged to deal decisively with peer pressure and to make wise decisions about their future.
OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Youth receive bursaries on Mandela Day

By Bongani Mazibuko, GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Blade Nzimande, hosted about 5 000 young people during the Mandela Day Youth Imbizo in Secunda, Mpumalanga on 18 July 2017. Minister Nzimande was accompanied by the Acting Executive Mayor of the Gert Sibande District Municipality, Cllr Noliqhwa Nhlapho, and the Executive Mayor of the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality, Cllr Florah Maboa-Boltman.

This was the Minister’s flagship programme where he hosted an Imbizo with youth to discuss issues pertaining to higher education and training, and as part of commemorating Mandela Day by doing good for the less privileged.

A total of 83 young people received full-study bursaries to the value of R97 000 to pursue studies at universities of their choice. Institutions of higher education and training, universities, Technical and Vocational Education and Training colleges, sector education and training authorities and the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) were present to exhibit and provide much-needed information to the learners.

Bongekile Makhanya:
“Thanks to the Department of Higher Education and Training. This bursary will assist me to become an educator. It will help me to pursue my dream of studying for a Bachelor of Arts degree in Education at the University of Pretoria.”

Thembelihle Mabuyakhulu:
“I am very grateful to receive this study bursary. It will assist me to realise my dream of studying Information and Communications Technology at the University of Pretoria.”

Blessing Morris:
“I am happy to be here at this career exhibition. We have already gathered a lot of information from the exhibition stalls.”