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PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Deputy Minister visits Moletši Thusong Service Centre

By Doctor Marebane, GCIS: Limpopo

The Deputy Minister of Public Service and Administration, Chana Pilane-Majake, visited Moletši Thusong Service Centre on 23 January 2024 as part of the back-to-school campaign. Deputy Minister Pilane-Majake is also one of the Capricorn District Development Model champions. Her visit started at Kabelo High School in Extension 44 where she donated 100 shoes to both the needy and deserving learners.

She decided to pay a surprise visit to Moletši Thusong Service Centre as part of the monitoring and evaluation mission and was not disappointed. Moletši Thusong has been service delivery centre since its inception in 2016 and was officially launched by the Limpopo Premier Stanley Mathabatha, Bishop Barnabas Engenas Lekganyane, the leader of Zion Christian Church, and His Majesty Kgoshi Kgabo Moloto 111. After the centre was launched, many achievements and big strides have been made including being voted among one of the best centres in the country during Thusong Awards in 2019 in Cape Town.

During the visit, the Deputy Minister met with the Thusong Service Centre staff members to hear some of their concerns and challenges. Matsiri Mokgokong, the Acting Manager of the centre, highlighted concerns such as non-payment of rental by service providers in the centre.

The Deputy Minister said that it was unfortunate that Thusong Service Centres in the country do not have a stable home.

"I am happy with what I have observed and convinced that the centre is viable as compared to other centres that I have visited thus far. The centre is functional and the manager has passion for the programme, we have heard your concerns and challenges and will escalate them to the relevant departments," the Deputy Minister said.

She toured the service centre starting at Makgoshi Mmanare Foundation, a non-profit organisation in the centre. According to Hendriaka Komape, the foundation serves the community of Moletši and one of their projects this year is 2023 Grade 12 Learners Awards, held on 27 January 2024, where the best local school learners were rewarded.

The Deputy Minister added that this year, the best learner will be rewarded with R25 000, laptop, air ticket and other rewards will be provided to the top 89 learners.

The Capricorn District Executive Mayor, said that they feel honoured to have been visited by the national office.

"It shows that our contribution in the Thusong Service Centre programme goes noticed. We are also proud to share our good practices with the Deputy Minister and we hope that the challenges faced by our centres will be attended to," added the Capricorn District Executive Mayor.



Deputy Minister Pilane-Majake during her visit at the Moletši Thusong Service Centre.



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PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Matric top achievers celebrated

By Mpho More, GCIS: Northern Cape

The Northern Cape Department of Education celebrated their top achievers on 19 January 2024 at the Mittah Seperepere Convention Centre and Tabernei Diamandstad Church in Kimberley.

The event started with the public announcement of the matric 2023 results by the Premier of the Northern Cape, Zamani Saul, where both parents and all matric learners were invited.

In his keynote address, Premier Saul encouraged learners who did not make it to try again.

“Everyone can rise above their circumstances and achieve success if they are dedicated to and passionate about what they do. Failure is, therefore, not a permanent feature but a temporary inconvenience that serves as a source of experience,” he said.

The Premier added that while thanking the parents who are taking part in their children school affairs and all the people that were involved in ensuring that the examination process bears integrity.

The event continued with prize giving at the church where top achievers walked away with money, laptops and iPads. The MEC for Basic Education, Zolile Monakali, thanked the teachers who always go the extra mile by teaching even on weekends to ensure that their learners reach their goals. He further thanked the sponsors such as MTN, Standard Bank, South African Institute of Chartered Accountant, Telkom, Old mutual and ABSA who always motivate the learners with prizes such as laptops and iPads in order to kick-start their year at tertiary.



Community members and some of the top achievers during the public announcement of the matric 2023 results.



Premier Saul awarding certificates and presents to top achievers during the prize-giving ceremony.



Premier Saul and the Matric Class of 2023 Top Achievers.

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Class of 2024 walk into a new chapter

By Monique Warden, GCIS: Western Cape

Since the Matric Class of 2023 closed off their year with their released results on 19 January 2024, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in partnership with the Karoo National Park in Beaufort West and the South African Police Service (SAPS) joined the new Grade 12 class of 2024 from Bastiaanse Secondary School as they walked into this new chapter of their lives challenged, but ready.

Approximately, 60 matriculants from Bastiaanse Secondary School took to the dry dusty roads of the Central Karoo to walk from their school in Rustdene, through town and the Loxton road to Bulkraal in the Karoo National Park to start their school year. The annual walk is a symbolic reminder to learners that it takes hard work to achieve things and that they are responsible (individually) for how far they go this year.

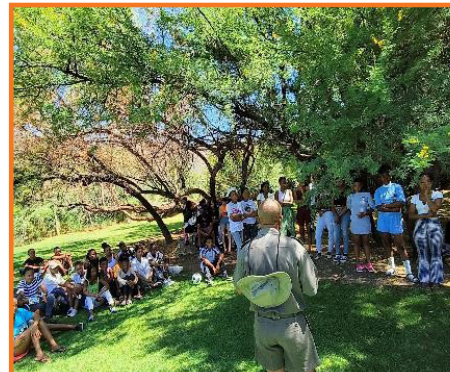
At Bulkraal in the Karoo National Park, the GCIS, Department of Health, Partners in Sexual Health, SAPS and the Central Karoo Environmental Educational Organization facilitated a working session with the learners. The sessions focused on teenage pregnancy, tackling suicide, self-harm, bullying

and the lasting impact of criminal records, which are all issues that the school and learners have had to face. In 2023, the school lost one of its matric learners to suicide and the effect the incident had on both the learners and teachers remains visible. The session also sought to demystify mental illness and encourage staff and students to seek help when the need arises.

Former Bastiaanse learner and Karoo National Park Social Economic Transformation Officer kicked off the sessions by encouraging learners with his own story of perseverance, while the Western Cape Department of Health Psychologist for the Central Karoo District, Kaizer Ndlovu, concluded by motivating learners to think for themselves and to remember they write every test/exam all by themselves so they are the main character in their own stories.



Grade 12 learners walking through their community and on the Loxton Road to the Karoo National Park.



An official from the Karoo National Park sharing his life journey as a former learner of Bastiaanse Secondary School.



An official from Partners in Sexual Health addressing the audience.

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Eastern Cape 2023 matric results

By Khoboso Lebenya, GCIS: Eastern Cape

Following the release of the 2023 National Senior Certificate (NSC) results by Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga on 18 January 2024, the Eastern Cape Provincial Government, led by Premier Oscar Mabuyane, hosted an awards ceremony to honour and congratulate matriculants who did exceptionally well in the 2023 academic year. The event took place on had on 19 January 2024 at the East London International Convention Centre, under the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality.

The awards ceremony was preceded by a media-engagement session, where the MEC for Education, Fundile Gade, presented the results. He indicated that the Grade 12 Class of 2023 is the 10th cohort to sit for the NSC examination based on Curriculum Assessment Policy Statements. The pupils started Grade 1 in 2012 and most probably had a fairly stable and conducive teaching and learning environment up to 2019, when their Grade 9 class was affected by the COVID-19 pandemic. However, they had three years of uninterrupted teaching and learning, thereafter.

“The year 2023 is also marked by improved quality and good standard of School Based Assessment submitted to Umalusi for resulting. This means that the persistent emphasis on formative School Based Assessment over the past few years has paid off handsomely in 2023. The bulk of schools with improved performance are in Quintiles 1-3. This means Quintiles 1-3 schools constitute 76% of schools obtaining a pass mark of 70% to 100%,” said MEC Gade.

The top five most performing districts in the province in 2023 are Alfred Nzo East which obtained position one at 85.1% with 8.1% improvement from 2022, followed by the Alfred Nzo West at 84.2%, occupying third place is Chris Hani East at 84.1% while Joe Gqabi obtained 83.9% and

number five being the Nelson Mandela Metro at 83.1%. Joe Gqabi is the most improved district at 12.2% improvement, followed by Chris Hani West at 8.9%, Alfred Nzo East at 8.1% as well as OR Tambo Coastal at 7.2%. The district bachelor pass rate has improved commendably, with only five of the districts performed the provincial average of 39.6% Bachelor passes and seven performed above 40%.

“I would like to congratulate the Class of 2023 for their 81.42% pass rate, this is a target that we have set ourselves as the Province and they did exactly that and more. I extend a word of gratitude to all involved in the Education Sector from teachers, parents Schools Governing Body, and the society at large for their contribution to the betterment of the education system in our province,” said Premier Mabuyane.

Government Communication and Information System had an opportunity to interview some of the top achievers from various schools who obtained not less than 80% on all of their Learning Areas.

Awardees walked away with full bursaries, certificates of recognition, vouchers, laptops and smartphones, to mention but a few. Some of the top achievers were: Liyabona Ncanywa from Nathaniel Pamela High School in the Amathole West district who will be pursuing Medicine at the University of Cape Town; Oviweyo Ngoyi from Soqhayisa Senior Secondary School in the Nelson Mandela Metro who will be studying BCom in Computer Science at the University of Cape Town and Yvonne Yonwaba who is the top learner in the Amathole East, from Nyanga High School.



Yvonne Yonwaba, from Nyanga High School, a top learner in Amathole East.



Provincial top achievers from various schools and districts of the Eastern Cape.



MECs and the Premier awarding some of the provincial top achievers.



Liyabona Ncanywa said:

“I will be studying Medicine at the University of Cape Town.”



Oviweyo Ngoyi said:

“I will be studying BCom in Computer Science at the University of Cape Town.”