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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

Mamogolo Dirane
051 448 4504 or 072 928 6068
mamogolo@gcis.gov.za

GAUTENG

Peter Gumede
011 331 0164 or 083 570 8080
peterg@gcis.gov.za

KWAZULU-NATAL

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

PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Northern Cape awards top achievers

By Masego Mollo: GCIS, Northern Cape

Northern Cape Premier Zamani Saul said he had no doubt that the year 2020 would be a better year for the province, following the matric pass rate of 76.5%, which is an improvement compared to 73.3% in 2018. The Premier was speaking at the 2019 matric awards ceremony held at Kimberley Girls High on 8 January 2020.

The event was aimed at commemorating and honouring the top 20 learners in the province, the top achieving candidates in key subjects, and excellence in mathematics and physical sciences.

Tlotlo Lekgoba, the top achiever in the province, from Baitiredi Technical High School, obtained nine distinctions. Silje Fredericks of Northern Cape High, received eight distinctions and obtained second place, while Rudi Venter of Deineveld High School bagged eight distinctions and obtained third place. The top achievers received prizes in the form of cash, laptops and tablets, donated by various stakeholders.



The 2019 top 20 matric achievers in the Northern Cape.



Various stakeholders who attended the awards ceremony.



government
communications

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



LIMPOPO

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

MPUMALANGA

Jerry Nkosi
013 753 2397 or 082 316 5295
Jerry@gcis.gov.za

NORTH WEST

Boitumelo Mosadi
018 381 7071 or 073 245 0906
boitumelom@gcis.gov.za

NORTHERN CAPE

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

WESTERN CAPE

Geraldine Thopps
021 418 0533/2307 or 081 281 2200
Geraldine@gcis.gov.za

The MEC for Education, Mac Jack, said education is needed to equip learners to adapt to the demands brought about by the dynamic international and socio-economic challenges. He said it was through the partnership among government, private sector and society at large, that they have been able to improve the overall pass rate of the province.

Premier Saul said the vision of a modern, growing and successful province was anchored in its education system. "That is why we say improving the quality of our education system is the apex programme of the sixth administration. This will assist us to lay a solid foundation for a prosperous province," concluded the Premier.



Tlotlo Lekgoba said:

"What I can say to the class of 2020 is that they should be consistent at the beginning of their studies. They need to make sacrifices that entail putting a lot of time and effort into their studies. If one aligns their work ethics with their goals, then it becomes easy to achieve those goals. properly. I will be pursuing Actuarial Sciences at the University of the Witwatersrand. I want to invest my skills by filling that gap and making a difference in my community."



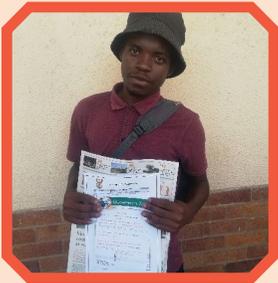
Silje Fredericks said:

"I will be studying Chemical Engineering at the Stellenbosch University. What I can say to the matriculants of this year is that they need to work hard, consistently and just aim for the best. They need to aim for 100% and surround themselves with the right people, those who are just ambitious as they are. This way, they will not have any problems."



Rudi Venter said:

"I will be furthering my studies at the Stellenbosch University. Today's event was very insightful. It was good to know and see that we have the support of the community and the department."



Olebogeng Thupayagae said:

“I met a GCIS official who shared information on government job opportunities that I did not know of. I will use that information to achieve better things in life.”



Refilwe Ntwayagae said:

“With the information that I have received regarding government vacancies circular, I am hopeful that the unemployment rate in South Africa will decline.”



Ontlametse Kgajane said:

“I am very happy about information that I have received today. It will definitely change my life.”

PRIORITY 1: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Information awareness on job opportunities

By Kaone Lekgetho: GCIS, North West

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) together with the National Youth Development Agency conducted an educational and job opportunities awareness activation at Mahikeng Museum on 17 January 2020. This was part of the back-to-school campaign and exposing 2019 matriculants to post formal education opportunities.

The GCIS engaged with hundreds of young people to inform them about government vacancies that get advertised through the website of the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) every Friday. Furthermore, the GCIS marketed the services provided by its Information Resource Centre where members of the public can manually access DPSA vacancies circular, copies of Z83 forms and other government information. Attendees were also encouraged to follow government on social media accounts for jobs that are shared on the online platforms.



Youth accessing information at Mahikeng Museum.



Rosinah Mahlalela said:

“I am happy about government’s visit to our school today, it really motivated us. We received study material and calculators. We are hoping to lift South Africa high with our good results in 2020.”



Busisile Myeni said:

“I am happy about the Minister’s visit as this encourages us as Grade 12 learners and other grades. I am encouraging other learners to focus on education and study hard.”



Clr Kgomo Willson said:

“I am happy that the Minister visited our school today during back-to-school campaign and this will encourage learners to study hard.”

PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Minister visits former school

By Livhuwani Todani: GCIS, Mpumalanga

As part of the 2020 back-to-school campaign, the Minister in The Presidency, Jackson Mthembu, visited Elukhanyisweni Secondary School on 15 January 2020 to assess the state of readiness for the 2020 academic year, and getting first-hand experience regarding challenges faced by school, and to motivate the learners. The school is one of oldest in eMalahleni, and also where the Minister completed his matric.

The school principal applauded the 2019 matric learners for achieving 96% pass rate and also aiming for 100% in 2020. He also thanked his staff. Challenges faced by the school such as a dilapidated fence, ceiling and roof were highlighted.

Minister Mthembu promised to fix the school’s leaking roof, ceiling, kitchen and also erect a new fence. He also urged the school governing body to work together to facilitate the renovations. He further urged learners to refrain from taking drugs and alcohol abuse as government has prioritised R380 billion towards education, so that learners get quality education in South Africa.

The Mduduzi Manana Foundation donated scientific calculators, Mathematics and Science study guides to all Grade 12 learners. Various government publications such as the *Vuk’uzenzele* newspaper, *Public Sector Manager* and the *Official Guide to South Africa* were distributed to learners.



Minister Jackson Mthembu addressing Elukhanyisweni Secondary School learners.



Stakeholders engagements at Elukhanyisweni Secondary School.

PRIORITY 6: A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

SoNA to highlight government plans

By Lwando Helesi: GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 13 February 2020, President Cyril Ramaphosa will deliver the State of the Nation Address (SoNA) to outline government’s Programme of Action to uplift and change the lives of all citizens. The SoNA will take place in Parliament, and as such, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) is mandated to spearhead this campaign by informing, educating and empowering all citizens with knowledge and information.

This involves mobilising communities and raising awareness so that people can understand what SoNA is about and can view or listen to President Cyril Ramaphosa when he delivers the speech. This continues to be one of the core functions of engaging with the public, by distributing information to them and also getting their views on how they feel about government’s achievements and where it can improve.

The GCIS held a taxi-rank activation as part of the pre-SoNA awareness programmes on 23 January 2020 in Elliot. The purpose of the outreach was to raise awareness about SoNA and bring information to the public so that they can have inputs into shaping their future.



Lungisile Valem said:

“I appreciate the information we have received today. I wish there could be more of these interactions from our government.”



Sandiso Kwatsha said:

“Government must bring us the much-needed jobs. As young people, we are the most affected when it comes to unemployment. I hope President Cyril Ramaphosa touches on this during the State of the Nation Address.”



Community members receiving government publications.



Community members visiting an information stall during the activation.