OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Minister reaches out to schools

By Nkopodi Mokgoma: GCIS, Limpopo

The Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality held a Back-to-School campaign that was led by the Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Senzeni Zokwana, on 5 February 2018. The event took place at Magukubjane village in Magukubjane Secondary School and Mashinyane Primary School respectively, in Groblersdal.
Magukubjane is one of the poor villages in the Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality. The Minister noted the dilapidated situation of some of the classes. This prompted him to immediately donate R1 000 from his own pocket.

“Love your books more than your friends. We have identified one learner who passed Grade 12 in 2017 to go and study agriculture at the University of the Free State,” said Minister Zokwana to a loud applause. He also pledged 200 trees to the school and he planted one immediately. The department also promised to demarcate 1.5 hectares for gardening.

The Minister then proceeded to Mashinyane Primary School where he donated some Moringa plants to the school.

Mahudu Delegate said:
“I am happy about the presence of the Minister at our school. I promise that we will perform well in the current academic year and I will qualify for a bachelor’s degree.”

Makeke said:
“The visit by the Minister will boost the morale of both learners and educators at the school. We are also thankful for what has been given to us and that they are still going to come back with more.”
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Local government rewards good performance
By Nonhlanhla Sithole: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The class of 2017 Matric Top-10 performers within the uPhongolo Local Municipality were honoured by the Mayor, Bawinile Nhlabathi. The Matric Award Ceremony was held at Sithambi Community Hall on 26 January 2018. It celebrated achievements and awarded 13 high schools, top subject teachers and learners who worked very hard to get good results.

uPhongolo Municipal Manager, congratulated parents, learners and educators for their sterling work in ensuring that, despite all challenges, a 100% pass rate was achieved. He mentioned that the municipality would keep supporting education, which is key to unlocking the economy and eventually benefit the municipality with a skilled society.

Mayor Nhlabathi encouraged learners to make good decisions to do well in their studies. She encouraged and motivated them to do their best and to excel in this year’s examination. She promised to increase access to career information through expos that they continue to conduct with uPhongolo Youth Council.

Various stakeholders from business forum, youth council, traditional council and many others offered messages of support to learners and schools, urging them to put education first.
The National Development Plan projects that small enterprises will create about 90% of jobs in the next few years. This means that these businesses should be developed to achieve the set target. The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) joined hands with Small Enterprise Finance Agency, Small Enterprise Development Agency and the Buffalo City Municipality considered engagement with owners of small business in Mdantsane and the surrounding areas to ensure that entrepreneurs are informed of the financial support available.

The session was held in Mdantsane on 25 January 2018. The business owners expressed their appreciation and requested that these workshops be conducted frequently to ensure that black entrepreneurs are mentored into growing and managing their own businesses effectively. They further proposed for an incubator programme to empower young and emerging business people.

Small business entrepreneurs and cooperatives attending the information session.
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Municipality rewards excellence
By Ephraim Malema: GCIS, North West

The Mayor of Moretele Local Municipality, Andries Monageng, honoured and awarded bursaries to 20 matric achievers of the class of 2017 in the municipality. Each of the 20 pupils who performed brilliantly received R20 000 for registration and stationery at institutions of higher learning of their choice.

The Mayor said, “The learners’ performance was against all odds considering that they come from disadvantaged families in rural schools with little resources, they must be applauded for that. We are giving them these bursaries in order to motivate them to study hard and make us proud. Kabelo Molefe of Thulare High School, near Lerelihabetse Thusong Service Centre, is the top student in all the schools within the Moretele Local Municipality as he managed to obtain seven distinctions. Government Communication and Information System supported the event and distributed information materials.