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## CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

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## PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

### Northern Cape honours top learners

By Masego Mollo: GCIS, Northern Cape



Premier Zamani Saul and Education MEC Zolile Monakali handing over certificate and trophy to top achiever Gabbi Christians.



Top-10 matric 2020 learners in Northern Cape.

The Northern Cape Provincial Government celebrated its top achievers in style, during the Matric 2020 Awards ceremony that was held at the Protea Hotel in Kimberley, on 23 February 2021.

Premier Zamani Saul announced the province's top achievers in different subjects and top academic schools in the province.

Gabbi Shae Christians, from Kimberley Girls High School, was named the top learner in the province. She was a top-performing learner throughout her entire primary and secondary education.



government  
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Shireen Wiese of Martin Oosthuizen High School in Kakamas, obtained second position in the province and intends to further her tertiary education at the North West University.

In third place, also from Kimberley Girls High, is Hanna Lawani, who said it took a lot of dedication, hard work and sacrifice to achieve this milestone.

Premier Saul said they will also assist learners who did not do well in other subjects, to ensure that they pass. "We have to remember that these learners are our children and need our continuous support," he said. Saul further encouraged parents to be actively involved in their children's education.

The Northern Cape obtained an overall pass mark of 66%, with four schools obtaining 100% pass rates, namely: Vaalharts High School in the Frances Baard District, Calvinia High School in Namakwa District, Hopetown and Prieska High Schools in the Pixley Ka Seme District. Hopetown High School maintained 100% pass rate over five years.



**Gabbi Christians said:**

"I am the top performing learner in the Northern Cape and I am from Kimberley Girls High School. I have no words. I am so happy. I would like to thank my family for their support and if I have to say anything to the matriculants of 2021, is that they should stay focused. If at all they feel overwhelmed, or feel like they are going to crash, they should take a break; that worked for me. I will be studying Chemical Engineering at Stellenbosch University."



**Shireen Wiese said:**

"I obtained second position in the province's top 10 performing learners for 2020. I worked so hard, so I am enjoying every minute of it. I intend to study BCom Accounting at North West University in Potchefstroom."



**Hannah Lawani said:**

"I came third in the province and this feels surreal to me. It was not something I completely expected. It was definitely something I hoped for but did not think it will be possible. I am very grateful to the Lord for this achievement. I will hopefully study medicine or engineering, just not sure at the moment."

## PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

### School receives science mobile lab

By George Moeketsi: GCIS, Gauteng



Deputy Principal Mike Mongau (left) and Boitumelo Mnisi of PPC cutting the red ribbon during a ceremony of handover of the high-tech science lab donated by PPC.



PPC official Sarah Mokotedi, engaging with Fikile Valankulu, a Maths and Science teacher at Phelindaba Secondary School.



Sarah Mbatha said:

"This is a wonderful gift. We only hope the community will take care of it."

On 4 March 2021, the PPC in partnership with the Gauteng Department of Basic Education donated a high-tech science mobile lab and smart tablets to Phelindaba Secondary School in Atteridgeville, west of Pretoria after its old laboratory was dilapidated.

Welcoming the donation to the school, Deputy Principal Mike Mongau said: "Our old science building and other infrastructure were dilapidated, while floors, cabinets and equipment were in a poor state. We did not have much, so all we could do to continue with teaching was improvise, especially with experiments, so it was a challenge. And often, we were left unsure of the outcomes as we did not have everything. This donation means a lot to the school and these pupils. We can only hope that with such improvements we can get the community behind us."

PPC General Manager Boitumelo Mnisi said the company had visited a number of schools in the area and identified Phelindaba Secondary School as the most in need. "Although we found that the school had a science laboratory, it was in a terrible state, with broken tiles and cupboards, and was using old chemicals to conduct experiments," she said.

The mood at the school was positive, in particular, learners who are now in Grade 12 were so excited about the donation and refurbishment.



Elie Kolela said:

"We are very lucky. Those who came before us never experienced this. We are going to take care of this laboratory so that those who are coming after us can use it."





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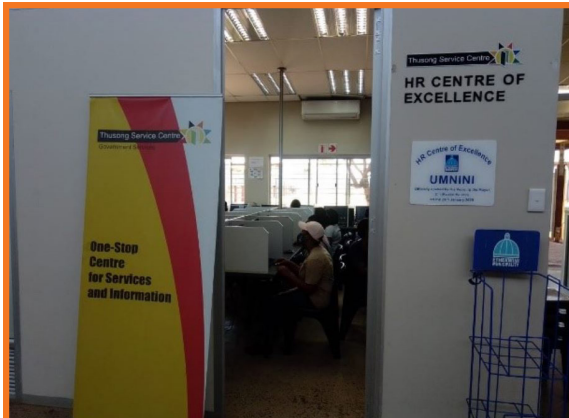
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## PRIORITY 4: CONSOLIDATING THE SOCIAL WAGE THROUGH RELIABLE AND QUALITY BASIC SERVICES.

### Government takes services to the people

By Ayanda Vezi: Mnini Thusong Service Centre, KwaZulu-Natal



The HR Centre of Excellence offers free online services to youth and job seekers.



Local youth have completed basic computer courses at the telecentre and received certificates.



Know your Thusong service delivery blitz hosted by Mnini Thusong Service Centre as part of their monthly activities.

Mnini Thusong Service Centre is situated in a semi-rural area of uMgababa, which is about 37 km from Durban Central Business District. The centre is central and critical to the development of wards 98, 99 and 105 of eThekweni Municipality, and its location makes it accessible to other wards.

Mnini Thusong Service Centre started operating in 2012 but was officially opened in 2017.

There are currently 11 functional departments at the centre and it also caters for small business initiatives, supporting entrepreneurs and contributing to the economic recovery within the area.

The following services are available at the centre for the community of uMgababa:

- Sizakala Customer Services.
- eThekweni Libraries.
- Department of Social Development.
- South African Social Security Agency.
- HR Centre of Excellence.
- Department of Home Affairs.
- Department of Labour.

- Operation Sukuma Sakhe/War Room Office.
- Ward Councillors Office.
- Mnini Thusong Hall.
- Government Communication and Information Service.

Before Mnini Thusong Service Centre came into existence, community members were really struggling to access government services. They had to travel long distances to Umbumbulu to access key basic services.

The centre has contributed a lot towards the development of uMgababa and the surrounding areas, such as Danganya, Illovo, Mkomaas, Mfume, Magabheni, and Adams Mission. The communities are now able to access services closer to their homes, which saves them a lot of money and time.



## PRIORITY 5: SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

### Legacy projects unveiled

By Sinxolo Gqala: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Premier Oscar Mabuyane and Sports, Recreation, Arts & Culture MEC Fezeka Nkomonye unveiling the Rev Makhenkesi Stofile Public Library.



Premier Oscar Mabuyane, the Mhlaba family representative and Mayor Bandile Ketelo officially opening the council chambers and offices.

The Eastern Cape Provincial Government unveiled Dr Raymond Mhlaba legacy projects at his birthplace of Fort Beaufort and Alice on 26 February 2021. The legacy projects are on service delivery and they include an access road, internal roads upgrades in Alice, a public library, a council chamber and municipal offices for the Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality.

The flagship legacy projects were committed by the Premier during the Launch of the Dr Raymond Mhlaba Centenary Year in 2020 as part of service delivery programmes to honour the contribution and the legacy of Dr Mhlaba, who fought in the Struggle for the liberation and democratic government in the country. He was the inaugural Premier of the Eastern Cape after the 1994 general elections.

Minister Communications and Digital Technologies, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, Premier Oscar Mabuyane, Human Settlements MEC Nonkqubela Pieters, Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture MEC Fezeka Nkomonye, Amathole District Mayor Khanyile Maneli, and Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality Mayor Bandile Ketelo visited the access road and internal streets that are in completion of their phase in Alice.

The delegation preceded to officially open the Rev Makhenkesi Stofile Public Library, Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality Council Chambers and municipal offices. The Rev Makhenkesi Stofile Public Library boasts of a designated reading area, circulation area, boardrooms, offices, children's area, and computers connected to the Internet. The library is compatible to the visually impaired and deaf, and it has a Braille and audio book services.

Premier Mabuyane said these legacy projects will benefit local people. He said they want the area to be a proper university town with all the amenities befitting a town with a rich history and a university that many people in the country and beyond went to.

"We want the University of Fort Hare to be the university of choice by uplifting and changing the face of the town of Alice," he added.

Mayor Ketelo welcomed the legacy projects, saying they provide opportunities and an ease of access to information. He further urged the provincial government to provide support in revitalising roads infrastructure in the municipality. Mayor Maneli said the projects are a huge step in honouring the legacy of both Rev Stofile and Dr Mhlaba.

MaThahla Stofile, the daughter to Rev Stofile, said as the family they welcome the honour given to their father.

The Rev Makhenkesi Stofile Public Library was built by the Eastern Cape Department of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture to the tune of R28.9 million. Raymond Mhlaba Council chambers was built through the municipality's own revenue.

The Premier's youth development programme handed over a generator, a bush cutter and other equipment together with an amount of R100 000 as a boost to KK Trading youth led small enterprise based in Alice.