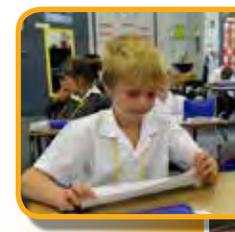





# MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 6 / February 2017

## 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

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043 722 2602 or 076 142 8606  
[ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za](mailto:ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za)

### FREE STATE

Lineo Sehlabaka  
051 448 4504 or 082 722 9445  
[tshenolo@gcis.gov.za](mailto:tshenolo@gcis.gov.za)

### GAUTENG

Peter Gumede  
011 834 3560 or 083 570 8080  
[peterg@gcis.gov.za](mailto:peterg@gcis.gov.za)

### KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi  
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420  
[ndala@gcis.gov.za](mailto:ndala@gcis.gov.za)

## OUTCOME 10: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS AND NATURAL RESOURCES THAT ARE WELL PROTECTED AND CONTINUALLY ENHANCED

### Government assists citizens to reclaim their land

By Mojalefa Senokoatsane: GCIS, Free State



LandCare workers being introduced to the project during the LandCare Project launch in Moqhaka Local Municipality.

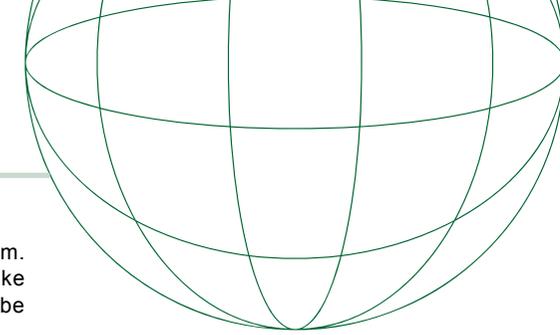


Workers doing their rehabilitation work during the LandCare Project launch.

During the 2017 State of the Nation Address, President Jacob Zuma spoke about the importance of land redistribution as one of government's priorities. In order to achieve this, there are various ways in which citizens can ensure that they play their part in claiming back their land. One of the avenues that communities can pursue is to rehabilitate already available misused land and turn it into productive agricultural space.

The Department of Agriculture in the Free State has been mandated to ensure that communities understand the importance of land and positive exploitation of available land to benefit all people as the Free State is known to be the food basket of the country. In keeping with this mandate, the MEC for Agriculture in the Free State, Oupa Khoabane, launched a LandCare Project in the Moqhaka Local Municipality on 14 February 2017, where 66 LandCare workers, who are predominantly women, have been employed.

The main aim of this LandCare Project is to teach community members to take charge of available community land by rehabilitating, ploughing and producing food so that they can help to sustain their lives.



**LIMPOPO**

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**MPUMALANGA**

Jerry Nkosi  
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**NORTH WEST**

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**NORTHERN CAPE**

Marius Nagel  
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**WESTERN CAPE**

Ayanda Holo  
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The province has already launched 90 of these projects with R44 million already spent to sustain them. In his address, MEC Khoabane said that this project was intended to ensure that communities take charge of their own land through rehabilitation and responsible reuse. The MEC said that this could be achieved if communities worked hand in hand with the department and the municipalities.

The MEC urged the Land Care workers to work hard to rehabilitate the land, to use the land by ploughing and producing food to feed their families, and other community members. The MEC visited the project where the workers demonstrated their labour-intensive work.



**LandCare workers going through their paces on-site during the launch.**



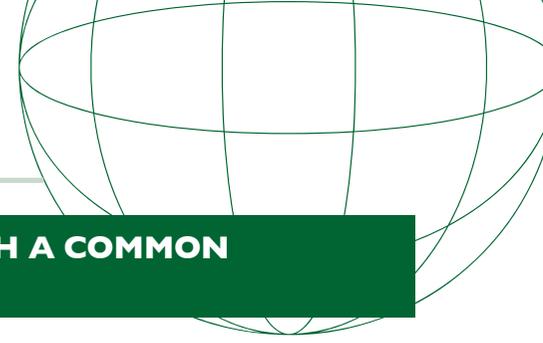
**MEC Khoabane, Councillors Moletsane and Moqhwathi during their walkabout at the launch.**



**Pulane Mosupa said:**  
“This project has taught me that we need to take care of our environment and that women have strength as this work is very labour intensive. We have already been taught to start farming, which will assist us as we will be able to sustain our project, years after the programme is done.”



**MmaNthabiseng Mosai said:**  
“This project means everything to me as it has enabled me to feed my family of three, which was very difficult as there was no one working at home. I hope this project will be prosperous and be able to sustain itself for years to come.”



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

**Commemoration of the Battle of Isandlwana**

*By Thandinkosi Zulu: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal*



**Isilo – King Goodwill Zwelithini and Inkosi Mangosuthu Buthelezi leading the Zulu warriors during the commemoration of the Battle of Isandlwana.**



**Thabisile Dlamini, Ntando Nkosi and Zekhethelo Ntshangase said:**

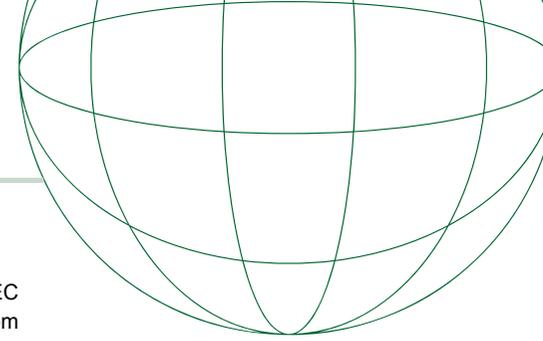
“We were amazed to see that our forefathers were very strong to face the armed British warriors with their spears. The re-enactment by white and Zulu warriors was very educational and we hope our government can continue to educate us about our past.”



**Thousands of community members and dignitaries during the commemoration of the Battle Isandlwana.**

King Goodwill Zwelithini and the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government observed the historic annual commemoration of the Battle of Isandlwana which was attended by thousands of community members on 21 January 2017. The historic commemoration is part of the provincial government’s endeavour to highlight previously marginalised heritage sites and foster social cohesion among communities.

King Zwelithini has called iSandlwana mountain the holy mountain and has also called for an annual pilgrimage for everyone who is connected to this part of history. He told thousands of community members, including international tourists who came specifically for this gathering, that the past should be set aside but there should also be more recognition for the role that traditional leaders played in the fight against colonialism. “Traditional leaders played a crucial role to defend the country and fight against the apartheid regime,” added the King.



**Kwenzi Thusini said:**

“Today marks 138 years since the historic Battle of Isandlwana. The commemoration reminds us of heroes and heroines who fought against the colonial power for our freedom. We must never forget about our history and our traditional leadership role in the formation of the Struggle. This ceremony must continue to educate our generations about our rich history.”



**King Goodwill Zwelithini addressing thousands of people during the commemoration of the Battle of Isandlwana.**

Attendees included Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo from the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government, KwaZulu-Natal MEC of Arts and Culture Bongive Sithole-Moloi, Prince Mangosuthu Buthelezi, and traditional and religious leaders from KwaZulu-Natal. Melusi Thusini from KwaNkhokwe commended the commemoration. “It is very exciting to see that our government, together with the traditional leadership, are united to showcase the rich history of the Battle of Isandlwana. Even though we were not there, we can learn a lot from this event, which showcases the victory of Zulu warriors during 1879. We take pride in this ceremony and it shows that if we can use the Battle of Isandlwana as our case study in our education system, we can achieve a lot,” he said.



**Group of tourists who visited the site and the commemoration.**



**Senior Zulu warriors gathered to listen to the King addressing them.**



**Nokuthula Zwane said:**

“It is painful to see that our grandfathers are not getting 100% recognition although they were the first ones to face and fight against colonial monopoly by the British empire. I hope government will do something to recognise traditional leaders as King Goodwill Zwelithini stated in his address.”



**Emihle Qwele said:**

“Government must do something to address the problem of mud schools, bad and very old buildings, lack of furniture in schools and poor roads to schools. The absence of libraries and science and computer laboratories are some of the things that contribute to poor results. Most importantly, the shortage of teachers, especially for science and mathematics.”



**Nazo Siphe said:**

“We are the future of our country and education is the only way through which we can achieve our goals, but with all that being said we cannot achieve all those dreams if we do not get better education. If we do not have proper classrooms, chairs, desks and windows we cannot perform good in our studies. These are just basic things that a school should have to produce good results. All in all, poor infrastructure contributes to low pass rates in our schools.”

## OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP

### Learners participate in a Pre-SoNA school debate

By Tabita Ngqunge: GCIS, Eastern Cape



**Learners from Kusile and Sinovuyo high schools at Kumkani FM during the pre-SoNA debate.**

As part of creating awareness and providing a platform for engagement by various sectors, the Eastern Cape Provincial Office and the Buffalo City Metro Municipality facilitated a community radio debate at the Kumkani FM radio station in Scenery Park, East London, with learners from Sinovuyo High School in Duncan village and Kusile Comprehensive High School in Gompo, East London. The event took place on 6 February 2017.

It was a very successful radio engagement between the pupils. The topic for the debate was how infrastructure affected the students’ learning capabilities and the low pass rate in the Eastern Cape. Sinovuyo pupils were against the topic and Kusile was proposing it. Both parties made valid points on the topic but at the end of the day they all came to the same conclusion.

They concluded the debate by stating that it is very important for learners to be disciplined and work towards a goal with a vision in mind, and that parents should be involved in the lives of their children to help them to do better. A request was also made to government to produce a safe learning environment and provide the resources needed for the children to achieve the highest results to ensure a brighter future.

The debate was truly remarkable coming into contact with the learners who did their best to make the most out of the little that they had, the amount of diligence and perseverance they have to succeed is wonderful but they are very wise because they know they cannot do it alone so they are asking for help.



**Mihlali Nqodolwana said:**

“Our education starts with us. If we do not make education our priority then who else will do that for us? We need to treasure the little that we have. There are learners who do very well from rural areas under very poor conditions where there are not even classrooms and enough books and that shows commitment and that goes a long way.”



**Mani Olwethu said:**

“We cannot always blame government, we need to take responsibility and focus on our education. We all know that education is the key to success. We need education to fulfil our dream. Government is doing everything to ensure that we get better education but we seem not to appreciate those things for the very fact that we break chairs, desks and windows, which show that we do not put our education first. We cannot blame our parents for our irresponsible actions.”



**Executive Mayor Bentley Vass arriving at the event.**



**Elroy Cloete said:**

I foresee a problem with water supply in our area. Government should build more dams to store water for tough times. They can put up more pumps with better infrastructure so that towns do not run dry. In our area a large number of mines closed. That made our parents to be unemployed. Our school does not offer all the subjects that we need to further our education. Mathematical Literacy does not help us in anyway, but Maths is not offered at our school."



**Mary van den Heever said:**

"We need teachers in our school as there is a shortage of them"

## OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP

### Community members participate in a SoNA activation campaign

*By Willem van Dalen: GCIS, Northern Cape*



**The Mayor, councillors and the staff of the Nama Khoi Local Municipality at the event.**



**Community members at the event.**



**Some of the government departments rendering services at the event.**

The Government Communication and Information System in the Namakwa District, with the assistance and cooperation of a number of role players, identified the rural town of Komaggas to host the live viewing of the State of the Nation Address (SoNA). Government departments helped the people with information and services before the start of the live broadcast. More than 460 people from Komaggas and Buffelsrivier attended the event, which took place on 9 February 2017.

Some of the departments that were present included social development, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, labour, provincial departments of education, cooperative governance, human settlements and traditional affairs, South African Social Security Agency and the local and district municipalities.

The Executive Mayor of Namakwa District Municipality, Bentley Vass, welcomed all attendants and stakeholders. He explained the significance of the speech by President Jacob Zuma and also mentioned a few matters that the audience should pay attention to in the speech. Community members expressed their gratitude towards government departments and municipalities that made the day a success, and indicated that they felt very important because the event took place in their community.



**Leon Engelbrecht said:**

"We request that other subjects be introduced in our school so that we can pursue our dreams with confidence."