



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Limpopo traditional leadership supports culture of teaching and learning

By: Doctrine Netshikweta; GCIS, Limpopo

On 15 January 2025, the Kutama Traditional Authority (KTA) working closely with the Government Communication and Information System, South African Police Service, Department of Health, community structures and the private sector, established a programme of action to visit all schools within their area.

The aim of the visits was to motivate and encourage the learners, especially those from schools that perform poorly. Learners who performed well were appreciated, while those who underperformed were motivated to improve their results by putting more effort into their studies. The learners appreciated the initiative by the traditional authority to support a culture of learning and teaching, which in turn would build responsible and capable future leaders across the Kutama community.

Limpopo Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Social Development, Ms Florence Radzilani, adopted Swongozwi Secondary School situated in the Hamadodonga village, which performed below expected standards during the 2024 academic year.

The Headman of the village, Mr Progress Kutama, said that charity began at home and that as the traditional authority, they were keen to assist their community to develop future leaders. "That is why, as the KTC, we cannot wait for other people to motivate our children on our behalf, simply because we are the ones who know them better as their parents and leaders," he said.



Swongozwi Secondary School learners listening to words of encouragement from members of the KTA.



MEC Radzilani mentioned during her address that she would adopt Swongozwi Secondary School.



The KTA delegation at Swongozwi Secondary School to support the teachers and learners.



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Lufuno Sivhada, Grade 12 learner:

“Today history has been made at Swongozwi Secondary School. The Social Development MEC, Florence Radzilani and His Majesty Thovhele Vho-Kutama, visited our school. This is a sign that something went wrong in this school. The 2025 matriculants will never be the same as others. We are not going to dishearten you. We appreciate your parental support.”



**Soutpansberg West Circuit Manager,
Mr Thivhelimbilu Rabambi:**

“As a circuit, we feel honoured getting such marvellous support from both community structures and leadership from the first day of the school calendar. To us, it means a lot; this year will be a different year compared to other years. Raising a child needs a village, and this year we have the village with us from day one. The adoption of the school by the MEC will address the social challenges we faced during the previous years. Working together, we are going to achieve greatly during the 2025 academic year.”

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Democracy Bus makes a stop in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District

By: Rapelang Motlagomang; GCIS, North West

The North West leg of the Democracy Bus began in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District on 14 January 2025, as part of the 2024 Senior Certificate results announcements in Klerksdorp, City of Matlosana Local Municipality. The province's top achievers had a chance to enjoy a moment on the bus as it ferried them from the event venue.

On 15 January 2025, the Mayor of Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality, Cllr Nikiwe Num, rode on the bus to visit Phiri Secondary School in the Ventersdorp area, as part of the Back-to-School campaign. The Mayor indicated that the purpose of her visit was to ensure the school's readiness for the 2025 academic year.

Addressing learners at the school, Cllr Num said that democracy had touched the lives of many, and that the school was one of many that were built post-1994, urging the learners to keep it in good condition for future generations. She concluded by saying she was impressed with the school's readiness, as many aspects were in order.

Learners hopped onto the bus for a tour, during which Government Communication and Information System officials got an opportunity to share the significance of the bus with the learners. After the ride, the learners exclaimed that the experience brought them hope and that they never thought the Democracy Bus would reach a remote area like theirs.

The bus ended its tour in Potchefstroom at the Ferdinand Postma High School, which is one of the schools that achieved a 100% Matric pass rate. The Executive Mayor of JB Marks Local Municipality, Cllr Gaba Thithiba ka Qhele, addressed the learners on the purpose of democracy and the importance of partnership and growth. The Mayor congratulated the school on maintaining a 100% pass rate for the past 25 years.



The North West Grade 12 top achievers waiting to ride in the Democracy Bus.



Cllr Num addressing the learners at Phiri Secondary School.



Phiri Secondary School learners get onto the bus for a joyride.



The Ferdinand Postma High School Matric Class of 2025 after taking a ride on the Democracy Bus.



Ms Thuli Maseko:

“When buying food, I’ve always preferred the cheapest and sometimes unlabelled products, thinking I was saving money, but now I understand the importance of buying labelled products with ingredient lists, clearly marked use-by and expiry dates, as well as manufacturer’s details.”



Mr Lucious Bodibe:

“For our safety, I wish we could educate local food vendors on the importance of food preparation areas being clean and hygienic, with the equipment being in good condition and cleaned effectively. Everyone involved in handling food must practise good hygiene to avoid any contamination.”

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Food safety is everybody’s responsibility

By: Robbie Senoelo; GCIS, Gauteng

Government’s efforts in fighting food-borne illnesses received a boost when the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), in collaboration with other stakeholders, conducted an education and awareness campaign at Pretoria’s Denlyn Mall, Mamelodi West on 22 January 2025.

In 2024, South Africa faced a devastating food safety crisis, as foodborne illnesses claimed the lives of over 20 children, prompting nationwide outrage and urgent action from various government departments. The GCIS responded by conducting awareness campaigns through activations at malls, road intersections and taxi ranks, online social media platforms and interviews on community radio stations.

Joining the GCIS were stakeholders such as Tshwane District Health Services, the Multi-Sectoral AIDS Management Unit, Community Development

Workers, Gauteng Office of Consumer Affairs (GOCA), National Credit Regulator (NCR), Council for Debt Collectors and the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications. The activations were also used to educate businesses, shoppers and residents about their consumer rights and responsibilities. There were exhibitions, face-to-face interactions and distribution of information products.

Addressing community members who visited the exhibition stalls, Ms Tebogo Oepeng from GOCA, encouraged them to avoid purchasing foodstuffs that passed their expiry dates. She said, “When shopping, check the dates before paying. Do not purchase canned foods that are dented, damaged, rusted or packets that are torn or opened, be vigilant for your sake and safety of your loved ones,” she concluded.



Ms Oepeng engaging a community member during the Food Safety Campaign at Denlyn Mall.



Shoppers and community members receiving government information products during the Food Safety Campaign.



Multi-disciplinary teams set up their information products to distribute at Denlyn Mall, Mamelodi.



Ms Keamogecoe Melato:

“The morning, weekend and extra classes really helped me achieve good marks; they are the right way to go.”

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Hard work pays off for Xhariep District learner

By: Yanga Ngcukana; GCIS, Free State

Eighteen-year-old Keamogecoe Melato, affectionately known as Kea, passed Grade 12 in 2024 with flying colours and has been accepted at the University of Cape Town’s Faculty of Humanities.

Kea was raised by her aunt and grandmother in Madikgetla township, Trompsburg, which falls under the Xhariep District Municipality. She dedicates her Bachelors pass to her family, as they were very supportive of her studies and gave her time off from doing house chores to allow her more time to study.

“Study groups and using weekends to study also helped me gain knowledge and do revision at my own pace, with the help of other learners sometimes. Educators at Trompsburg Secondary School were very supportive and treated us as their own. They were always with us during our study periods, even at

night, to guide and protect us. I am very happy that we did not disappoint,” she concluded.

Her grandmother (73) wished her well in her university studies, “I know you won’t disappoint me and the family,” a teary gogo said.

Trompsburg Secondary School received an 89.6% pass rate in 2024, dropping by just 0.4% from 2023. The Principal of Trompsburg Secondary School, Mr M.J. Makhetha, dedicated the good results to the educators who always put the learners first. He also wished the learners well in their future endeavours and university studies.

The future looks bright for Kea, who is determined to do well in her studies to honour her grandmother.



Keamogecoe posing for a photo in her school uniform.



Attending the Grade 12 school camp in Gariepdam.