



Access to healthcare services has steadily increased with more than 1 500 healthcare facilities built since 1994.



MY DISTRICT TODAY

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OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Project bloodhound connects learners internationally

By Wally Cloete: GCIS, Northern Cape



Dave Rowley and Wendy Maxwell from the Bloodhound SSC education team, based in Kimberley, handing out books to pupils at the Philandersbron Primary School.



Bloodhound SSC Ambassador, Father Aloysius, spending some time reading with pupils from Groot Mier Primary School.



Grade 7 learners of Welkom Primary School reading through some of the books donated by Avon Primary School.

The Bloodhound Supersonic Car (SSC) Project from the United Kingdom (UK) has been donating books to several schools in the Northern Cape with the aim of making research work easier for learners. This project is part of Bloodhound's social responsibility programme.

The learners of Avon Primary School in the UK took it upon themselves to donate their library books to schools in the Northern Cape, where study material such as reference and research books were luxury items.

According to Dave Rowley, director for the Bloodhound Education Programme in South Africa, the

learners recently attended the official opening of the new Bloodhound SSC assembly site.

They, after doing some research on the province, decided to share their books with schools in South African. They also opted to share books with the province's Mier municipality after hearing about it at the opening of the Bloodhound Technical Centre.

On 25 February, books were delivered to Loubos, Groot Mier, Philandersbron, Riemvasmaak and Welkom primary schools. Learners were excited to receive their books and couldn't wait to start working through them.

The sponsors hope that this will be the start of a relationship between their school and the Northern Cape schools.

Marina du Plessis, acting headmistress of Loubos Primary School said the books would come in handy, especially when learners need to do assignments.

"We are excited about the Bloodhound Project. These resources will enable me to help learners improve their English skills," said Father Aloysius who has recently joined the Bloodhound Education Programme and is based in Keimoes.



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The Medunsa Organisation for Disabled Entrepreneurs has so far enabled 532 people with disabilities to establish their own enterprises and creating 900 jobs.

OUTCOME 6: AN EFFICIENT, COMPETITIVE AND RESPONSIVE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

De Hoop Dam brings water relief for thirsty communities

By Doctor Marebane and Mokgoma Nkopodi: GCIS, Limpopo



President Jacob Zuma and his entourage on the site visit to the De Hoop Dam to officially open the dam on 24 March.



Part of the diverse crowd during the official opening of the De Hoop Dam at Ga-Malekane Village on 24 March.

As the country is celebrating 20 years of democracy and freedom, the community of Sekhukhune also have a reason to celebrate. The much anticipated De Hoop Dam has finally been launched at a glittering function held at Ga-Malekane Village in Sekhukhune on 24 March 2014.

President Jacob Zuma officially opened the R3-billion dam and the day coincided with National Water Week. In his speech the President highlighted the significance of the dam and said that the dam will benefit the communities of the Sekhukhune, Lephalale and Capricorn municipalities. He said that the dam is the 13th largest dam in the county. The water supply brings relief to the village communities of Limpopo. Some used to depend on boreholes and others travelled long distances to fetch water. He further

said that the dam will provide the local mines with water and will boost the economic growth of the area.

"Indeed South Africa is a better place to live in and there is a good story to tell about water provision, health and education as more and more people is accessing government services than it was prior to 1994. The quality of lives of ordinary South Africans have improved as more and more students are admitted to universities and millions of learners now get free education and meals at schools," he said.

He further urged the community to cast their votes on 7 May, as it is their democratic right. Some of the communities said that they were happy, because the De Hoop Dam Infrastructure Project has been completed.

Kholofelo Mankge from Ga-Malekane said, "I feel happy that government has solved the lack of water in the area. It was very difficult for us. Children were always pushing wheelbarrows to fetch water instead of studying. We used to travel about 8 km to fetch water from the river which we shared with animals."

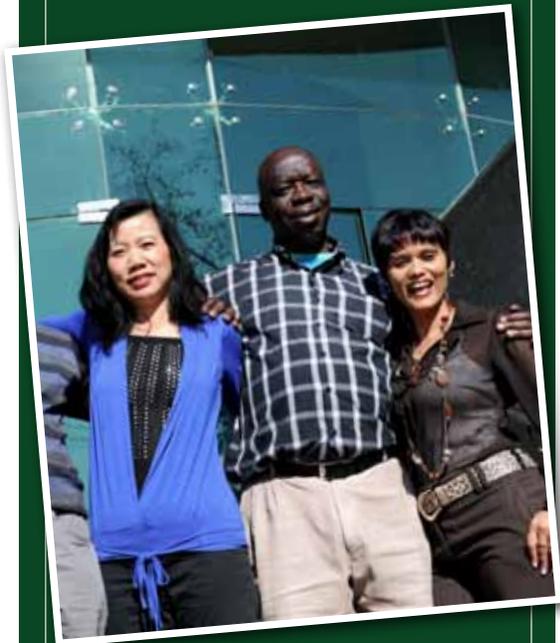
Johannes Monama from Rosenekal said, "I feel honoured to have been part of the water project. The project created many job opportunities and other spinoffs that made it possible for us to provide for our families." Solly Moholo and Winnie Mashaba entertained the crowd. The local poet and praise singer, Lesufi le Dithala Bodiba, recited a praise song about the President, and the crowd cheered for more poetry.



President Jacob Zuma, Limpopo Premier, Stanley Tshupu Mathabatha and the Minister of Economic Development, Ebrahim Patel, listening attentively to the community of Sekhukhune during the launching of De Hoop Dam at Ga-Malekane sports ground on 24 March.



Let us all celebrate living in a country that guarantees that never again will our humanity be taken from us, irrespective of our race, gender, creed or sexual orientation.



South Africa indeed has a good story to tell

OUTCOME 6: AN EFFICIENT, COMPETITIVE AND RESPONSIVE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

Ngwathe's good story of road maintenance

By Steve Naale: GCIS, Free State



Ngwathe Local Municipality workers fixing Parys' roads.

Ngwathe Local Municipality, in partnership with the Free State Provincial Department of Police, Roads and Transport started implementing a road repairs and maintenance programme including rebuilding strategic roads within the municipality.

The project started in 2013 as a result of the Mayoral Imbizo, where Mayor Mochela and councillors

embarked on a roadshow to report back to the community on service delivery achievements and noted the critical concerns raised by the citizens of the Ngwathe local municipality.

All roads in Parys and Tumahole are receiving attention with the focus on the main arteries and secondary roads. The main target was strategic

roads linking Parys with other areas such as Van Collier Street to North West, Bree Street which is another main road linking the N1 and R59. St Jan, Dwars, Schilbach, Phillip, Kruis streets and many other streets in Parys are in the pipeline to be rebuilt in partnership with the Fezile Dabi District Municipality.

With the recent launch of Kasi Tourism by Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs MEC Mosebenzi Zwane, streets such as Brown, Tladi and Koloane in Tumahole are being repaired to inspire local tourism in the rapidly economically growing township.

Mayor Mochela expressed his gratitude to the taxi industry that temporarily relocated to the Parys taxi rank to allow road repairs to continue smoothly. "This is an indication that our taxi drivers and passengers appreciate the work we are doing as the municipality in improving the state of our roads," said the Mayor.

"We further request our road users to be patient as we improve our service delivery in the best interests of our residents as more roads are being fixed because more roads are going to be closed," Mayor Mochela added.

The revitalisation of an old location is another initiative under Operation Hlasela, initiated by Premier Ace Magashule that has seen most streets in the township being paved.





Life expectancy in the country has increased from 52,7 years in 2002 to 59,6 years in 2013.



South Africa indeed has a good story to tell

OUTCOME 2: A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS

The good story continues: a new community health centre (CHC) for Baga Mothibi area in Greater Taung

By Fatima Modise: GCIS, North West



Part of Sekhing CHC nurses' home.



Sekhing CHC

A brand new CHC is under construction in Sekhing village in the Baga Mothibi tribal area in the Greater Taung Local Municipality. This initiative supports the government's plans of infrastructure development and that we have a good story to tell.

Greater Taung is a vast local municipality with 102 villages. The construction of the health centre will help the community to access health services closer to home as people of the Baga Mot-

hibi tribal area have to travel more than 80 km to Taung Hospital to access health services. The centre will have a pharmacy, radiology, dental, maternity and many more services, which will reduce the workload of Taung's district hospital. The project worth R85 million was started in 2012 and is expected to be finished by mid-2015. It has thus far employed 252 people 70% of which is from local communities.



Ms Phumla Williams: Acting CEO, GCIS

South Africa indeed has a good story to tell

PHUMLA WILLIAMS – VOICE OF GOVERNMENT

20 Years of improving security and justice

Before 1994 the security forces and the justice system functioned with the express intention of upholding the apartheid state. The security forces were despised by most people, lacked legitimacy and operated as an instrument of control.

Twenty years into our democracy the situation is very different. Today the police and the criminal justice system are committed to protecting all citizens and upholding the rule of law.

As South Africans commemorate Human Rights Month, we must never forget the brutality and oppression of our past. The protections entrenched in our Constitution and the Bills of Rights are a guarantee that citizens will never again be subjected to human rights abuses by the state.

At the recent Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster media briefing, Jeff Radebe, the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, reminded the nation of the challenges we faced in 1994.

“The new democratic government inherited a dysfunctional and polarised system which deliberately denied the fundamental rights of the majority of people. The challenge that confronted us was to unite and help transform a nation that was divided across race, class, sex, creed and economic status. In addition, we were faced with the urgent task of ensuring a safer and secure South Africa,” he said.

He emphasised: “As government we knew that we needed to remodel the criminal justice system and align it with the values enshrined in our Constitution. We needed to create a system that is readily-responsive to serve the citizens, to afford them dignity and recourse; one that is able to inspire the confidence of the ordinary South African.”

The sorry state of affairs at the time is echoed by findings from the Twenty Year Review South Africa 1994 – 2014. It shows that before 1994, separate systems for the administration of justice functioned in South Africa. The former homelands had police and justice departments and other justice - related structures. As a result, there was a disparity in the delivery of services, depending on race and geographic location. Commanding personnel were mostly white men.

The report highlights that before 1994, the primary focus of law enforcement and the justice system was on upholding the apartheid state. The resulting highly centralised, para-militarised and authoritarian police service concentrated its efforts and resources on eliminating opposition to the apartheid regime.

South Africa today is indeed a better place; however the government acknowledges that more must be done. Our successes in fighting crime must be viewed against what we inherited as a nation in 1994. The prevalent view of crime increasing since 1994 is wrong. The Twenty Year Review shows that crime had reached alarming proportions before 1994. In 1992 alone, more than 20 000 people were reported to have been murdered in South Africa as a result of political and criminal violence. At the time, there were 380 000 rape cases in South Africa every year, with 95 per cent of the victims being African.

Significant progress has been made in reforming the criminal justice system. The rule of law is paramount and the Constitution guides our efforts. In line with the prescripts of the Constitution and the Bill of Rights a number of state institutions are in place to ensure access to justice. Our courts operate without fear or favour, are independent and are subject only to the Constitution and the law.

Independent bodies such as the Office of the Public Protector; the South African Human Rights Commission; the National Prosecuting Authority; the Independent Police Investigative Directorate; Anti-Corruption Task Team; Directorate for Priority Crimes Investigation; Civilian Secretariat for the Police; and Legal Aid South Africa, all serve to further strengthen and legitimise the rule of law.

The fight against corruption has always been on government’s radar and has been significantly ramped up. Measures have been put in place to prevent public servants from doing business with the state, and the JCPS Cluster is busy developing an Anti-Corruption Framework.

Much has changed since 1994 but further work must be done to reduce levels of serious and violent crime. Efforts to ensure an efficient and effective criminal justice system must be further improved so that all citizens may enjoy equal access to justice.

As we look forward to the next 20 years, government will continue to work with society to ensure a safer South Africa. Our historic journey has shown that no challenge is too great.

