

Did you know?



WORKING TOGETHER WE HAVE CHANGED LIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA: Between 1994 and 2004, over 1 200 new clinics were built.

CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

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MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

A hospital and clinic are making a difference in Regorogile

By Maria Ramoshaba: GCIS Limpopo



Raisibe Mmekwa of Regorogile Ext 5 says the hospital is beautiful. "It is like walking into a mall. We no longer travel long distances to access health facilities. Services are very good at the hospital and there are more doctors than at the previous one," she says.



Originally from Zimbabwe, Faith Fambisa now lives in Northam. She appreciates the good service she receives from Regorogile Hospital. Her child was diagnosed with malaria but responded positively to treatment.



The entrances to the casualty and outpatient departments at the Thabazimbi hospital.

One of government's five key priorities is health, with a call for all to live a healthy and long life.

To achieve this goal, government is developing infrastructure in the health sector.

Government has built a hospital and a clinic in Regorogile to ensure that people there have access to health facilities.

The community previously used a hospital built by the Kumba Iron Ore mine.

It had only four wards and because it had a shortage of doctors, patients with serious health conditions were transported to the Bela-Bela and Mankweng hospitals.

The previous hospital was in a mountainous area that is not easily accessible.

The hospital catered for all farm areas in Thabazimbi, Northam and North West.

The new hospital has 12 wards and offers more services than the other hospital. The people of

Regorogile no longer have to use transport to reach the hospital – they can simply walk there.

New services available to the community because of the hospital are dental care, social workers, an ambulance and voluntary counselling and testing facilities.



government communications

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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

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Did you know?



WORKING TOGETHER WE HAVE CHANGED LIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA: By March 2012, more than 20,2 million people had undergone testing since the HIV Counselling and Testing Campaign started in April 2010.

Emma Monareng is a woman on the move

By Maria Ramoshaba: GCIS Limpopo

The realisation of Emma Monareng's vision is making a real difference in Bela-Bela.

Emma was a professional nurse at Bela-Bela Hospital from 1995 until 2004. She was responsible for the paediatric wards there. The plight of young mothers touched her.

Of all the groups, HIV and AIDS infections affected teenage mothers the most. Emma noticed that after being discharged, the young mothers did not receive enough support.

She resigned so that she could eventually establish Simunye Sunrise Hospice in Bela-Bela in 2006.

First she joined the Moretele Sunrise Hospice in 2005 where she was trained and given support in starting an NGO in Bela-Bela.

As a founder Emma funded the organisation while still awaiting funds as she had a passion to see Simunye Sunrise Hospice being established.

Fortunately, the people at the Moretele Sunrise Hospice supplied her with resources to sustain Simunye until she received funding.

Due to the high rate of unemployment in the area Emma recruited unemployed youth and women to join her non-governmental organisation (NGO).

Some of her recruits developed career paths.

The organisation received funding from the Department of Health in Limpopo in 2012 and also from the Moretele Sunrise Hospice in Gauteng.



Hlomphile Levimbi and Constance Mautla have gained more skills since they joined Simunye Sunrise Hospice and love to work with people to improve their health.

Emma started with 11 home-based carers at Mabula. Today the NGO caters for Pienaars River with 12 carers, Masakhane with 10 carers, Mabula with 16 carers and Bela-Bela with seven carers. There are 45 home-based carers.

The areas have coordinators and one project manager who reports to Emma. They work closely with local municipal clinics.

The people of Simunye have been taught about TB, HIV and AIDS, and financial management and attend workshops organised by the Department of Health to improve their skills.

Their activities include going from door-to-door with other stakeholders, school visits, and looking in on vulnerable children to check on their wellbeing. They also take care of chronically ill patients and people with HIV and AIDS, and TB.

Since the organisation's inception, the rate of HIV and AIDS infection has dropped. In addition 60% of the youth now have greater awareness and knowledge of HIV and AIDS prevention.

Simunye has a support group where infected people share their experiences and challenges and people are always encouraged to be tested for HIV and AIDS and to know their status.

Besides serving the community, Simunye is also contributing to skills development. One carer is now employed at EMS in Pretoria and another works as a financial official in Bela-Bela.

Simunye also works closely with the Department of Agriculture to establish vegetable gardens to provide nutritious food that contributes to good health.

In 2012, the organisation had 287 patients and in 2013 it had 193 women and 107 men. This indicates that the extent of the stigma attached to HIV and AIDS is lower. There is also greater participation in health-care issues.

Simunye rents an office at the Living Word Church in Bela-Bela but is looking for its own accommodation. Because Simunye only offers employees a stipend it is difficult to maintain staff.

In 10 years from now, Simunye hopes to have increased its number of volunteers and have a structure to provide relief services.

Simunye operates from 08:00 to 16:00 from a Monday to Friday.

Did you know?



WORKING TOGETHER WE HAVE CHANGED LIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA:
In 2011/12, 1,6 million arrests were made by the SAPS of which 777 140 were for serious crimes.



Representatives from stakeholders attended the final day of the Sports Against Crime awareness campaign.



Captain Ngwasheng Gilead of the South African Police Service speaks to the learners.

OUTCOME 3: ALL PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE AND FEEL SAFE

Sports Against Crime Campaign wraps up Women's Month.

By Martin Madiba: GCIS Limpopo



Teams participated in sports events held during the final day of the Sports Against Crime Campaign.



Parents and learners listen attentively.

For Women's Month the Thabaleshoba Health Centre's social development department, GCIS and the Babirwa Thusong Service Centre teamed up to run the Sports Against Crime Campaign at Sephuti High School in Tuaeatswala, Mogalakwena municipality, Limpopo, recently.

Several stakeholders were invited to give a word of advice to learners about the ills of crime and also to tell them about the services they provide.

A representative from the GCIS advised the learners that "even if the legs cannot wash the hands, nothing prevents the hands from washing the legs." Loosely translated he meant that although kids may not have anything to say to adults, we as adults will always have

something to say to kids so as to groom them. He also explained briefly how the GCIS could assist learners in matters relating to bursaries and tertiary education institutions.

In his concluding remarks the GCIS official advised learners to learn to "use their tongues to count their teeth" in other words always try to be careful and do correct things. This was when he urged the learners to submit applications for admission to tertiary institutions well on in advance to avoid the recurrence of last-minute applications that had tragic consequences at the University of Johannesburg on one occasion.

The event ended with sporting activities with teams from different schools taking on one another.

Did you know?



WORKING TOGETHER WE HAVE CHANGED LIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA: In 2012, almost 95% of households had access to water infrastructure equal to RDP standards, which is well above the Millennium Development Goal standards.



Premier "DD" Mabuza officially hands over and opens the brand new house given to Mr Nkosi of Mafumbe.



Captain Ngwasheng Gilead of the South African Police Service speaks to the learners.



The Premier shared his birthday cake with the learners of Magagula Secondary School.

OUTCOME 8: SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND AN IMPROVED QUALITY OF HOUSEHOLD LIFE

Kancane Kancane Housing Legacy Project Brings Tears of Joy

By Bongani Mazibuko: GCIS Mpumalanga



Above left: Ms Hleziphi Mthethwa cries tears of joy after being given a brand new house by Premier "DD" Mabuza. Above right: MEC for Human Settlements, Mr Andries Gamede looks on.



Right photo: Dancing with the joyful Mr Nkosi are (from left) Ms Nokhaya Mnisi (Member of Parliament for Mpuluzi Constituency), Cllr Busisiwe Shiba (the Mayor of Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality), and Premier "DD" Mabuza.

The Kancane Kancane Housing Legacy Project is an initiative of Mpumalanga Premier David (DD) Mabuza. He sourced private companies to build houses and donating the houses to needy people – mainly the elderly. Private companies donate building materials, skill, labour and household items for the houses.

Premier Mabuza donated a luxurious and up-market sponsored three-bedroom house to 76-year-old Hleziphi Mthethwa of Mafumbe village in Mayflower, Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality recently. For most of her life Hleziphi had lived in a mud house and survived on a Social Old-age Grant.

On the same day the Premier handed over houses to four other residents of Mafumbe. Mageba Projects, Corobrick, Afrisam, Cosmos, Nkonki & Associates and Basil Read built the houses, starting in May this year. All the houses were

furnished and the beneficiaries were given food parcels and blankets.

Ms Mthethwa told Premier Mabuza she did not believe that it was her house regardless of it being built in her yard. She indicated that the house donated by the Premier had brought freedom to her family of five who mainly rely on her Social Old-age Grant for survival.

She burst into tears of joy and asked the Premier and his entourage to sing *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrica*, which they did for their elderly audience, and standing to attention.

"It feels like I have been freed from slavery. This is a dream come true. Even when this house was being built, I often asked if indeed it was mine. Could you please sing the *Nkosi Sikelel' iAfrica*, because freedom has come to my house," said Ms Mthethwa.

"We made an agreement with the people that we will build better communities by providing houses and water to our people. We said we are not going to wait for government alone to build houses," said the Premier.

"We have partners who have means, indeed we are glad that the private sector is coming on board to assist us to deliver on that agreement. We are also speeding up our processes as government in delivering on that promise we made to our people," said Premier Mabuza.

He voiced his appreciation for the sponsors of his Kancane Kancane Housing Legacy Project and indicated that their efforts contributed to the construction of houses. The sponsors further supported the Premier with school uniforms and food parcels, which he donated to the Magagula Secondary School while celebrating his 53rd birthday with the learners.

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

THE PAPER FOR THE PEOPLE OF TSHWANE
PRETORIA NEWS
24 September 2013

– LETTER FROM TSHWANE
PHUMLA WILLIAMS

Public Upgrades to Boost the Economy

South Africa is a hive of building activity and it is about to get even busier. Key infrastructure projects will be rolled out over the next seven months in water, transport, energy and education.

These projects are part of government's multi-trillion-rand public infrastructure programme, which has been unlocking economic and job opportunities around the country.

Last week President Jacob Zuma re-opened the Grootvlei Power Station in Balfour, Mpumalanga, as part of the rollout.

The power station was built in the late 1960s but mothballed in 1990 because there was excess power at the time. It was re-commissioned in 2005 with an investment of R7,2 billion.

Our infrastructure investments are more than just bricks and cement; they are intended to transform the economic landscape and strengthen the delivery of basic services.

The Grootvlei Power Station generates 1 200 megawatts, which will sustain the electricity supply for more than 42 000 residents in the surrounding townships of Nthorwane, Siyathemba and Grootvlei Extension 1.

Moreover, it will support electricity demand on the national grid when other power stations undergo routine maintenance. It is part of Eskom's return-to-service projects, which include other mothballed power stations namely Camden and Komati in Mpumalanga.

Our investment in energy and its supporting infrastructure, through three strategic infrastructure projects that focus on the sector, is laying the ground for long-term development.

Opening the power station President Zuma said, "We have prioritised infrastructure development because it is critical to enabling and promoting economic growth. Our roads, railways, ports, pipelines, airports, dams, power stations, transmission and distribution lines form the backbone for economic growth and also contribute to an improvement in the quality of life."

President Zuma, who drives infrastructure development through the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission, also inspected progress made in the construction of the Balfour Railway Line.

This is a secondary railway line that will initially transport three million tons of coal a year to the Grootvlei Power Station and has the capability to increase that to seven million tons a year.

The Minister of Public Enterprises, Malusi Gigaba, said the first phase of the project was due to be completed by December 2013 and the second phase by April 2014.

During the construction phase over 300 jobs would have been created. The Eskom Power Station Project has already employed over 3 800 people during peak operations.

Another 750 new jobs are being sustained in the construction of the Majuba Railway Line in Mpuma-

langa that will link Ermelo to Eskom's Majuba Power Station. This is the first new large rail-line constructed since 1986.

Other infrastructure projects being rolled out include the launch of the Spring Grove Dam in KwaZulu-Natal and De Hoop Dam in Limpopo; the latter has a storage capacity of about 58 million cubic metres to ensure a steady water supply for domestic use and for the local mining industry.

The launch of the Bridge City and Rail Link Project in KwaZulu-Natal, constructed at a cost of over R5 billion, will serve 40 000 commuters a day and handle 14 000 passengers in peak hours.

New railway carriages will be unveiled in the Eastern Cape, and the R71 road from Polokwane to Tzaneen will be launched.

In addition, over 15 schools will be handed over as part of the first phase of the Accelerated School Infrastructure Delivery Initiative, in line with our commitment to deliver one school a week.

Through our prioritisation of infrastructure development – the biggest and most ambitious plan in our history – the Government has become one of the biggest employers in the country.

Within the term of the current administration, it will spend R1 trillion on infrastructure projects as part of a long-term total infrastructure investment of more than R4 trillion.

Our large-scale developments such as electricity plants; rail and road upgrades; and water

infrastructure will sustain between 50 000 and 100 000 jobs just in the construction sector up to 2015 and create countless indirect jobs.

Through our investment in infrastructure development, we have stimulated economic activity in areas, which would not necessarily attract private sector interest.

Since the adoption of the New Growth Path employment has increased by 750 000, with just under half of these jobs having been generated in the Public Service, especially among the ranks of health workers, teachers and the police.

The Government is set on leading and guiding the economy in the interests of national development, achieving higher rates of growth and fostering social inclusion. Our investment in infrastructure is helping restore private sector confidence in the local economy after the global economic downturn.

We encourage the private sector, which is reported to be holding over R500 billion in uninvested cash, to partner with government to realise this massive infrastructure development drive so that we can fast track our efforts to create employment.

In the economic environment, our investment in infrastructure is crucial to unlock economic opportunities, expand investment and create jobs. It is in everyone's interest to work together to ensure the success of our programme and change people's lives.

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

PHUMLA WILLIAMS – VOICE OF GOVERNMENT THE NEW AGE 25 SEPTEMBER 2013

Uplifting the lives of the vulnerable

Since 1994, government has implemented a range of social services to address the country's triple challenges of poverty, unemployment, and inequality. These services, especially social grants, have had an extremely positive impact on improving the living standard of numerous households.

Social grants remain government's main poverty alleviation initiative. The key purpose of a grant such as the Child Support Grant, Disability Grant, Grant for Older Persons, War Veteran's Grant, and others is to ensure that persons living in poverty have a basic income. It also affords dignity to these South Africans by allowing them to meet essential subsistence needs.

The number of South Africans benefitting from grants increased from 2,5 million in 1993 to 16 million by mid-2013. Of these an estimated 11 million are child support grant beneficiaries.

The increased access to grants in the country is further supported by the *General Household Survey (GHS) 2012* results, which were released by Statistics South Africa last month. It shows that the percentage of individuals benefitting from social grants increased over time to 29,6% in 2012.

The significance of social grants is especially highlighted by the fact that 39,5% of households interviewed by the GHS indicated that social grants were their main source of income. They have many benefits for households of which poverty alleviation is probably the most obvious.

Furthermore, the results of the *Child Support Grant Impact Assessment (2012)* clearly indicate that the Child Support Grant significantly reduces the six main risky behaviours, which include sexual activity, pregnancy, alcohol use, drug use, criminal activity and gang membership.

In addition, the assessment shows that the positive developmental impact associated with this type of grant is the promotion of nutritional, education and better health outcomes among children.

More advantages are pointed out by a 2009 Fin-Mark Trust study titled, *The use and effectiveness of social grants in South Africa*, which stated that grants empower a recipient's ability to manage risk and insecurity. In addition, the study found, "grant beneficiaries have higher levels of savings, and are able to engage with credit markets on generally more favourable terms."

Social grants have changed many lives over the last 19 years, with several previous beneficiaries completing schooling; opening small businesses; or securing stable employment.

Nonetheless, there are numerous vulnerable South Africans who are eligible for grants who have not yet registered to receive them. Among these are two million children; this is of great concern to government.

To ensure that our social services reach eligible persons and are accessible, the Department of Social Development recently launched a new

service delivery improvement strategy called Project Mikondzo (footprints). Through this strategy government aims to extend the reach of its social services to every corner of the country.

At the time of the launch, the Minister of Social Development, Bathabile Dlamini, highlighted the need for a new strategy saying, "The department is continuously reviewing its service-delivery model in order to meet the changing developmental needs of all South Africans, especially the vulnerable groups, including children and youth, older persons, and people living with disabilities."

To ensure we reach the most destitute in our country, Project Mikondzo will target the 1 300 poorest wards in 23 district municipalities as prioritised by Cabinet. It aims to identify the social service-delivery challenges faced by these wards so that government can develop better responses to those needs.

To accomplish this, office-bound officials from the Department of Social Development and its agencies, the National Development Agency (NDA) and the South African Social Security Agency (Sassa), will join frontline officials to interact with communities to tackle social challenges such as poverty, malnutrition, violence against women and child-headed households.

Minister Dlamini emphasised the importance of these interactions with communities saying, "We do this to improve our responsiveness to the needs of our people and break down the

structural barriers created by apartheid that placed government far from people."

The department is also planning a command centre with a toll-free hotline number, which will be staffed 24 hours a day, seven days a week. This will serve as an additional channel for communities to report challenges.

However, all social service-delivery improvements will be informed by engagements with provincial and municipal authorities, councillors, ward committees and social workers.

As we start rolling out Project Mikondzo, government calls on communities, community-based organisations and non-governmental organisations to help us make this a success. This strategy can only reach its desired outcome where communities are actively involved in their own development initiatives. Let's work together to improve social services in every corner of our country.