

Did you know?



WORKING TOGETHER WE HAVE CHANGED LIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA: Progress was made with the provision of free basic education for all, with over eight million learners (approximately 70% of all learners) now in no-fee schools.



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Government delivers on infrastructure development

By Rapuleng Moshwang: GCIS North West



The new classrooms added to Reitshokile Primary School at Piet-Plessis.

Reitshokile Primary School is situated in Piet-Plessis, a farming community affected by poverty and a high unemployment rate. This area is located far from government services. The school is situated in the Kagisano-Molopo Local Municipality in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality.

The school has received funds to build extra classrooms as part of the govern-

ment's infrastructure development initiative. Piet-Plessis is an area that has been identified as a beneficiary of the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme and War on Poverty.

Funded by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, together with the Independent Development Trust, the school was able to add 10 more classrooms and a library. The principal,

Mr Thabo Monamodi, says they are very happy with the extra classrooms, as this will enable them to increase the number of learners for the 2014 school year. This is good news for community members, since more learners will have a chance to obtain an education.



government
communications

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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

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Re-opening of Grootvlei power station creates local job opportunities

By Nomhle Sibanyoni: GCIS Mpumalanga



Delegates listening attentively to speeches.



President Zuma delivering his speech.



Grootvlei employees celebrating the re-opening of the power station by singing and dancing.



WORKING TOGETHER WE HAVE CHANGED LIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA:
88% of households are electrified.

President Jacob Zuma officially re-opened the Grootvlei power station. The re-opening of the station forms part of the infrastructure programme that is currently implemented by government. The station will not only add to the progress of service delivery with Dipaleseng Local Municipality, however, it has contributed enormously in local job creation during the upgrading phase and its final stages.

Given the high unemployment rate within the district, the station has further provided the necessary skills and experience needed by young

people. When their contracts with Eskom end, these young people will be in a position to look for other job opportunities to better their lives with the skills and experience they acquired.

Accompanied by the Premier of Mpumalanga Mr DD Mabuza, the Minister of Public Enterprises, deputy ministers, and local councillors, the President congratulated Eskom for their achievement and fulfilling their mandate.

The Premier expressed his gratitude for the support the National government provided to the

province for the initiation of job opportunities. He further reminded delegates that the current government is delivering on its mandate as promised.

Minister Gigaba dwelled much on governments' achievement since its term of office. Highlighted achievements of government assured that the living conditions of citizens have improved. The community was reminded that, more than 5 000 local households have electricity and more households will still be connected.

Did you know?



WORKING TOGETHER WE HAVE CHANGED LIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA:

Over the period 1996/97 to 2011/12 there was a significant increase in the number of grant beneficiaries; this was largely due to the introduction of the child support grant in 2008.



Women showcasing their handwork.



Some of the exhibitors setting up their tables.

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

Remembering our roots – the Ndebele culture

By Nomhle Sibanyoni: GCIS Mpumalanga



Some Ndebele women in their traditional attire.



As a way of preserving the Ndebele culture, the Nkangala District Municipality hosted the Tourism Indaba and Heritage Celebrations at Kwamhlanga in Thembisile Hani Local Municipality. One was able to see the vibrantly coloured geometric and dramatic traditional clothing of the Ndebele from afar.

The celebrations were attended by more than 10 cultural groups. They showcased their artwork, which has always been an important identifying characteristic of the Ndebele people. As a tourism and heritage site, the municipality is frequently visited by tourists. Various business organisations also formed part

of the indaba to market their businesses and sell their products.

Political principals and amakhosi from the five municipalities in the district graced the celebration by wearing colourful traditional attire. The acting executive mayor of Nkangala, Councillor Masombuka, encouraged the community to utilise funding opportunities provided by government to expand and sustain their businesses. Furthermore, they were encouraged to utilise the opportunities provided, particularly by the Department of Trade and Industry, which can assist them in showcasing their artwork in other countries and allow them

the opportunity to network with other entrepreneurs and learn new business skills in return. Moreover, she encouraged residents to support local business people by buying their products.

Various cultural groups provided entertainment in the form of song and dance. The Ndebele's essential artistic skill has always been understood to be the ability to combine exterior sources of stimulation with traditional design concepts borrowed from their ancestors.

Did you know?



WORKING TOGETHER WE HAVE CHANGED LIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA:
The total number of work opportunities created by the Community Work Programme (CWP) has steadily increased to a total 105 218 in 2011/12.



Sod-turning in process.



Sasol Group Executive, Maurice Radebe, and Lephalale Mayor, Jack Maeko, during the sod-turning ceremony.

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

Centre brings hope for women

By Martin Madiba: Limpopo GCIS



Community members and entertainers during the sod-turning ceremony for the Steenbokpan Thusong.

Lephalale Municipality has partnered with Sasol to build a Thusong Service Centre at Steenbokpan about 48 km outside Lephalale. The sod-turning ceremony was attended by municipal officials, Sasol management, GCIS, and members of the community of Steenbokpan.

The municipality decided to have this sod-turning ceremony during Women's Month, since they felt the centre will benefit women, especially those who have to travel long

distances to access services such as applying for social grants or IDs and taking their children to clinics.

Sasol Group Media Manager, Alex Anderson and Sasol Group Executive, Maurice Radebe shared similar sentiments that Sasol has been privileged to be able to partner with the community and they hope that the service centre would bring much needed government services closer to rural communities and farm areas.

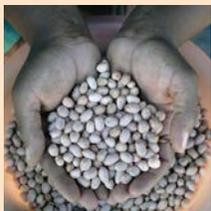
The municipality would run the centre by paying the staff and taking care of the maintenance and equipment. The building will be registered as an asset of Lephalale Municipality, which will be able to set up partnerships with various government programmes to bring services to the communities. This is the second Thusong Service Centre for Lephalale in 2013. The first, Mokuruanyane, caters for rural villages, and was opened by Mayor Jack Maeko in Mokuruanyane in April.

Did you know?



WORKING TOGETHER WE HAVE CHANGED LIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA:

Government has proposed measures to improve the livelihoods of South Africans through programmes such as the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and the Community Work Programme (CWP), which has been successful in provision of work opportunities.



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

Infrastructure development boosts economic growth

By Maria Ramoshaba: GCIS Limpopo



Johannes Molope (left) and Letshokgohla Josinah (right) appreciate the good work done by government in improving the R33.

Infrastructure development is one of the key priorities of government.

Good infrastructure improves the quality of life of people in rural areas especially and has wider socio-economic, environmental and health benefits.

Investment in infrastructure encourages pro-poor growth and improves opportunities for employment.

The R33 road from Modimolle to Vaalwater and Lephalale is one of government's infrastructure developments in the Waterberg District.

Mostly trucks use the 60 km road to deliver goods to Medupi Power Station.

"The construction of the road created 256 jobs for people from local areas," said Pastor Mokgotho.

Johannes Molope, who works in Lephalale, said that the road is more convenient to use now. It used to be potholed, very narrow and difficult to use because of the number of trucks carrying abnormal loads to Lephalale.

The development has minimised the number of accidents. The improved road is smooth and wider, which has shortened travel times.

The road has also improved the economic growth because companies use the road to deliver their products to various destinations including Botswana, via Groblersbrug in Lephalale.

Letshokgohla Josinah appreciates the good work done by government and for listening to meeting the needs of people by ensuring that the road was attended to and made safer.

More delivery panel vans and trucks now travel to Lephalale and give lifts to hikers. So, while the taxi industry welcomes the improvements to the road it is concerned about losses in business.

Regrettably, there are more accidents because of speeding and visible policing by traffic enforcement officers is not evident.

Did you know?



WORKING TOGETHER WE HAVE CHANGED LIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA:

The proportion of people who completed higher education has increased from 7,1% in 1996 to 12,1% in 2011.



The main library of the school.



The school's administration block.



Sports facilities at the school.

OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Vele Secondary now a state-of-the-art school

By Doctrine Netshikweta: GCIS Limpopo



Chief Azwihangwisi Rambuda and Limpopo MEC for Education, Dikeledi Magadzi officially opened Vele Secondary School on 22 August 2013.



Chief Azwihangwisi Rambuda, MEC for Education Dikeledi Magadzi, and Executive mayor Tshitereke Matibe, during the opening of the school.

Learners from the deep rural village of Gogogo in the Vhembe district in Limpopo will not be deprived of a quality education. This was the message when the MEC for Education in Limpopo, Mme Dikeledi Magadzi, officially opened Vele Secondary School as a state-of-the-art school in the village.

During her opening remarks she urged learners from Vele in Mutale to take education seriously, because education is the key to success. "I am happy to see that good infrastructure in Vele changed the mindset of learners. They were able to improve their matric pass rate – from 38% in 2009 to 84% in 2012.

Vele Secondary School was established in 1985, while construction of the new state-of-the-art school started in 2007. It has 16 classrooms, three computer laboratories and a resource centre.

"The construction of the new building changed the school from a rural learning facility to a pioneering educational and community centre. Education can break the cycle of poverty that continues to condemn millions of our people to a life without hope. It is a strong shield that can be used to defeat unemployment and poverty," said MEC Magadzi.

The state-of-the art school was made possible thanks to donations by the Oprah Angel Network, Independent Trust, Eskom Foundation and the Limpopo Department of Education.

Magadzi urged communities to utilise the infrastructure for good. This was supported by Chief Azwihangwisi Rambuda when he advised the communities and learners to not vandalise the building, which will be used by future generations.

The principal of the school, Adziliwi Makhado, promised a 100% pass rate in 2013 to the MEC and the community.

Did you know?



WORKING TOGETHER WE HAVE CHANGED LIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA:

The total number of grant beneficiaries was 15,5 million as at March 2012.



Gogo Doli was overjoyed by the recognition she received from Minister Bathabile Dlamini. With her is the area social worker.



The community, listening to dignitaries' addresses.

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

Minister Dlamini visits Jozini for service delivery

By Jacob Mkhize: KwaZulu-Natal

A second community engagement with the Jozini community took place on 6 September 2013, by the Minister of Social Development, Bathabile Dlamini, to determine the service delivery needs of the area. The community of Jozini also had a chance to submit their grievances and concerns regarding service delivery.

Social Development has developed a number of service-delivery models to try and curb social challenges. One such model that the department has launched is Project Mikondzo. Through this, the department seeks to increase its footprint and reach every corner of South Africa with its services. The department aims to improve responsiveness to the people's needs and break the structural barriers created by apartheid, which placed people far from government services. The department has also initiated Ke-Moja, meaning "I am fine without drugs" which targets the youth who are most affected.

Minister Dlamini's first visit was in November 2012. It came as a result of the report received from the Department of Health that there was a high number of malnourished children in the area. During the Minister's visit, it was discovered that the area was experiencing a number of social challenges, including a lack of formal early childhood development (ECD) centres, high rate of teenage pregnancy, abuse of the elderly,

abuse and neglect of people living with disabilities, women abuse, alcohol and substance abuse, youth without tertiary education and unemployment among the youth.

To address these challenges, a number of programmes were launched and implemented. A social cohesion programme, Azibuyeemasisweni, was launched to respond to incidents of elderly, women and children abuse. Social cohesion was jointly initiated with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, where they engaged with communities on issues of moral decay. The premise is that communities have the capacity to acquire knowledge to address their own social issues. This programme highlights the role of the amakhosi and traditional councils. Other programmes implemented aim to revive and strengthen support for ECDs and conduct campaigns for social behaviour change. These campaigns were launched in schools and across community structures.

Besides the programmes run by the department, the National Development Agency assisted the Makhathini Women Project to plough and cultivate agricultural products that they sell to prominent buyers and local businesses to sustain their families.

These initiatives have seen an increase in the number of people benefiting from

government programmes. Recent statistics show that Jozini now has 96 ECDs, while Ke-Moja has reached 974 children and 476 youths in schools.

Even though services have been accessed, communities still feel that justice has not been done regarding communal water supply. There are still areas where water tankers from the district municipality are not accessible. Inkosi Nyawo of Nyawo Traditional Council added that roads only receive attention when there are political principals coming to the areas. Under normal circumstances, roads are difficult to travel on and at times are inaccessible because of the bad condition they are in.

The initiatives of the second visit have helped draw up a map of how far the government has managed to respond to issues of service delivery during the 20 years of freedom. All three spheres of government need to work collectively to respond to the people concerned in the pursuit of a better life for all.