



# MY DISTRICT TODAY

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95% of households now have access to running water.

## CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

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

### Water supply set to improve lives

By Mlungisi Dlamini, GCIS KwaZulu-Natal

Chibini Bulk Water Supply is one of the major projects and achievements of the Harry Gwala District Municipality that came as a result of 20 years of freedom, in line with Government Outcome 9 (A Responsive, Accountable, Effective and Efficient Local Government System). Through this project the district hopes to reduce water challenges facing the area, promote health and hygiene awareness for the beneficiaries, and provide sustainable water supply to the region.

The project is located in the Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality in the vicinity of Ixopo and will serve the communities of Chibini, Ofafa, Fairview and Hopewell. With phase 1 having been completed in September 2013, the project has created a number of temporary jobs for local residents. "Plans for phase 2, which will ensure that the targeted communities get running water, are underway and a tender has been advertised," explains Thami Makhanya, Director: Municipal Works.

One of the local general workers employed on this project, Mr K Mveli, said he is happy about the pace at which the project is progressing. "It is good to know that we will no longer be forced to drink dirty water from the river," he said. Other community members, Zenzele Ngcobo and Thabani Msane, also expressed their appreciation for this project, saying they will now be protected from various diseases caused by untreated water.



## OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

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For the 2012 academic year, a total of 657 690 students enrolled in FET colleges, representing an increase of 54% compared to 2011.



*Gloria Tshilwane welcomed government representatives to the community centre that she and her husband established.*



*The Deputy Minister interacting with a beneficiary of the community centre.*



*The Deputy Minister took time to visit Molehe Mampe Secure Place.*



*The Deputy Minister Obed Bapela, addressing members of the community.*



## Say no to alcohol, drug and substance abuse and yes to education

By Willem van Dalen, GCIS Northern Cape

Drug, substance and alcohol use and abuse came under the spotlight during the visit of the Deputy Minister in the Presidency, Obed Bapela, to the Northern Cape. This was in response to the province's escalating problems with substance abuse, which results in many social ills such as foetal alcohol syndrome and incidence of crime. This was the first country-wide visit by the deputy minister, calling on the youth to refrain from using alcohol and drugs.

The Deputy Minister relayed the concern of government about the use of drugs such as dagga or marijuana, tik and danga, which is a mix of cocaine, dagga and cigarettes. He said government wants to make South Africa a drug-free country.

Deputy Minister Bapela encouraged the youth to use the services of the National Youth Development Agency to start businesses.

He said that education is the best weapon against poverty for the citizens of South Africa. He pleaded with the youth to study and obtain more skills to be able to take advantage of opportunities presented by projects such as the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) telescope and solar-power generator that are being built in the Northern Cape. "The new Sol Plaatje University will enable the youth to acquire the necessary skills and knowledge to harness the opportunities awaiting them."

The Deputy Minister expressed his appreciation towards bodies such as the Men's Develop-

ment Association, which encourages men to respect women. "When a man sees a woman, he should see nothing else than another human being that needs and deserves respect," Bapela said.



*A visit to the Du Toitspan Hospital.*



## OUTCOME 9: RESPONSIVE, ACCOUNTABLE, EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM

### Electricity rolled out to more than 200 houses in Prieska

By Willem van Dalen, GCIS Northern Cape

88% of households are electrified.



The tent was too small for all the people and the sun was scorching hot, but that could not wipe the smiles off the faces of the people that attended the event.



The mayor and the ward councillor untie the ribbon to enable the switching on of the power.



Mr Papier, Mayor of Siyathemba, assisting a new homeowner to switch on the electricity in her new home.



The air of anxiety and anticipation made everybody smile while they were waiting for the dignitaries to arrive in Prieska at the event where the electricity to their new homes was switched on.

Smiles and excitement could be seen everywhere in "Smartie Town" a new development in Prieska. Less than two years ago, Smartie Town was just an open veld. Now, 203 new houses have been built and on 24 October 2013 the Mayor of Siyathemba, Mr Piet Papier, switched on the electricity to all the new houses.

The Department of Energy was responsible for financing the electrification of the houses.

Flora Lottering, Piet Lottering and Marie Smit are just three of the hundreds of people benefitting from the project. They indicated that this was a dream come true, as this would be the first time in their lives that they would have electricity in their own homes. "I am so glad that all the struggling to cook

food and other household tasks have been made easier now," Mrs Smit said. Mr Lottering said that the first thing he's going to buy, is a "gram" (a music system to be able to listen to music). One of the ladies said that she would rather buy a TV to enable her to watch *7de Laan*.

Mr Papier requested the new owners to move into their new homes as soon as possible to prevent other people from vandalising the property. He also informed the new owners that the erven will be registered in their names. The houses are not to be sold within a period of eight years and if the property has to be sold, it has to be sold back to the Department of Housing. Each house is worth more than R100 000.

Mr Papier also warned the new homeowners to be very careful of electricity and teach their children to be safe. He thanked his council, the consulting engineers and municipal officials for their support and hard work to make all these community members' dreams come true.



Mr Piet Papier, Mayor of Siyathemba Municipality, addressing the crowd during the event.



The proportion of the population living below the R422 a month poverty line has decreased from 50% in 1994 to 34,5% in 2009.



More than 1 500 people watched the address as the President handed over the permit for development to the licencing company.



Radio West Coast also interviewed the municipal manager of the Saldanha Bay Municipality, Mr Louis Scheepers, regarding the IDZ in Saldanha Bay.

## OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

### Government infrastructure roll out programme on course

By Peter Titus, GCIS Western Cape



Hundreds of community members in the Saldanha Bay municipal area received government information on their way to the launch of the IDZ.



The President announced the handing over of the permit to the licensing company.



The local community radio station, Radio West Coast, with the help of GCIS organised an interview with Mr Kaya Ngqaka, Chief Director for Infrastructure Investment at the Department of Trade and Industry.

The Saldanha Bay Industrial Development Zone (IDZ) is an oil, gas and marine repair engineering and logistics services complex serving the needs of the upstream exploration and production service companies operating in oil and gas fields in sub-Saharan Africa.

President Jacob Zuma officially launched the IDZ at Saldanha Bay on South Africa's south-western coast on 31 October.

This IDZ is one of the 18 strategic integrated projects of the Presidential Infrastructure Coordinating Commission, the intergovernmental body overseeing South Africa's infrastructure drive.

The Minister of Trade and Industry, Rob Davies, said in a statement that a feasibility study had shown that the Saldanha Bay IDZ Project had huge potential for helping to uplift South Africa's economy to a higher industrial growth path.

The study, Davies said, found that the IDZ could potentially contribute 86% to the gross geographic product of the Western Cape and create in the region of 12 000 new jobs. "Additionally, the Saldanha Bay IDZ is likely to attract foreign direct investment worth approximately R9,3 billion over 25 years," Davies said.

The study also found that Saldanha Bay is strategically located to serve as a service, maintenance, fabrication and supply hub for the booming African oil and gas sector, due to the increasing number of oil rigs requiring maintenance, and their traffic flow passing from the west to the east coast of Africa.

Last month, German company Oiltanking GmbH entered into a joint venture with a number of South African companies to build a commercial crude-oil storage and blending terminal at the Port of Saldanha.

The company said that Saldanha was an excellent location for a crude-oil hub "as it is close to strategic tanker routes from key oil-producing regions to major oil-consuming markets."

Ideally situated for the blending of western African and South American crude oils, Saldanha "has the potential to establish itself as a global crude transshipment hub focused on certain established trade routes," the company added.

Davies noted that the oil and gas sector was one of the priority sectors of South Africa's Industrial Policy Action Plan, adding that the IDZ would also help to advance the objectives of the country's National Development Plan.

Journalist Donwald Pressly, in a Business Report article published last month, wrote that a pre-feasibility study carried out three years ago by Western Cape investment promotion agency, Wesgro, found that Saldanha had potential for three industrial clusters – "a renewable-energy production and manufacturing cluster, an oil-supply base serving the oil and gas sector coupled with a maritime ship-building and repair cluster, and a steel and minerals production and manufacturing cluster."

Pressly quoted the South African Revenue Service's definition of an IDZ as being "a purpose-built industrial estate linked to an international air or sea port, which might contain one or multiple customs-controlled areas tailored for manufacturing and storage of goods to boost beneficiation, investment, economic growth, and the development of skills and employment."

South Africa, he noted, currently has three operating IDZs – at Richards Bay in KwaZulu-Natal, and in the Eastern Cape at East London and Coega near Port Elizabeth.