



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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Outcome 1: Improved quality of basic education

State-of-the-art schools handed over in Waterberg

Maria Ramshaba, GCIS Limpopo

In responding to outcome 1 (improving the quality of education), the Limpopo MEC for Education, Mr Namane Dickson Masemola, officially handed over two state-of-the-art schools – Mookgophong and Ditheku primary schools – to the Waterberg District Municipality.

The schools are situated in Mookgopong and Marapong respectively. The two schools have fully equipped biology, science, computer and home economics laboratories and administration blocks.

This is in response to the communities' calls to the MEC to launch these projects as part of the government's service-delivery drive, following a series of appeals to the department and municipality to provide proper basic education infrastructure.

Spokesperson for the department, Mr Pat Kgomo, indicated that the launch was held under the theme, "Working together we can do more in providing quality education."

In his address, MEC Masemola highlighted that "the schools belong to the communities, and that they, together with the staff members, school governing bodies (SGBs) and learners, should take good care of them for the benefit of future generations."

He added that through the help of the SGBs, members of the community will be given an opportunity to use these properties, as long as they do so in a responsible manner.

Mr Sithole indicated "that the handing over of the schools was an answer to their prayers, as the schools are fully equipped and have everything a learner can ever desire."



Limpopo MEC for Education, Mr Namane Masemola, officially launched two schools in the Waterberg, accompanied by Waterberg District Mayor, Ms Tlotlanang Mogotlane (left) and Mookgophong Mayor, Ms Sarah Monyamane



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Outcome 12(b): An empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship

The Minister of Social Development launched International Day of Older Persons

Peter Titus, GCIS Western Cape

On 1st October the Minister of Social Development, Ms Bathabile Dlamini, commemorated International Day of Older Persons with a group of senior citizens from Worcester in the Western Cape. During the meeting, Minister Dlamini had an opportunity to talk to them about the foster-care grant announcement, which has led to uncertainties among recipients, especially grandparents around the country. The Minister assured them that all the foster-care grants they receive on behalf of their children do not affect their social assistance income.

“We love the elderly and we want the best for them. It will be good if they can attend community meetings so that they can share their knowledge with the youth and be active citizens,” said Minister Dlamini.



Minister Bathabile Dlamini and Deputy Minister Maria Ntuli from the Department of Social Development with Ms Colekazi Mbangula (101), in Worcester in the Western Cape

She handed out food parcels and presents to some elderly couples that attended the gathering. According to Ms Virginia Petersen, CEO of the South African Social Security Agency, more than 95 000 elderly people in the Breede Valley are receiving pensions.

Minister Dlamini told the elderly that they worked very hard for the government and in turn government should also look after them. Minister

Dlamini and Deputy Minister Ntuli also visited households in Zwelethemba and were informed about social challenges that the community, especially the elderly, are faced with.

A task team has been appointed to look into the challenges that were identified in the family hostels in Zwelethemba.



Two elderly community members of Zwelethemba, Mr and Ms September, were interviewed by e.tv on the morning of International Day for Older Persons.

Outcome 1: Improved quality of basic education

New laboratory improves the performance of science pupils at Gaseitsiwe High School

Ephraim Malema, GCIS North West

Before President Jacob Zuma's monitoring visit to Ngobi village in North West province in June this year, Science and Physics pupils at Gaseitsiwe High School did not have laboratory equipment to perform scientific research and experiments.

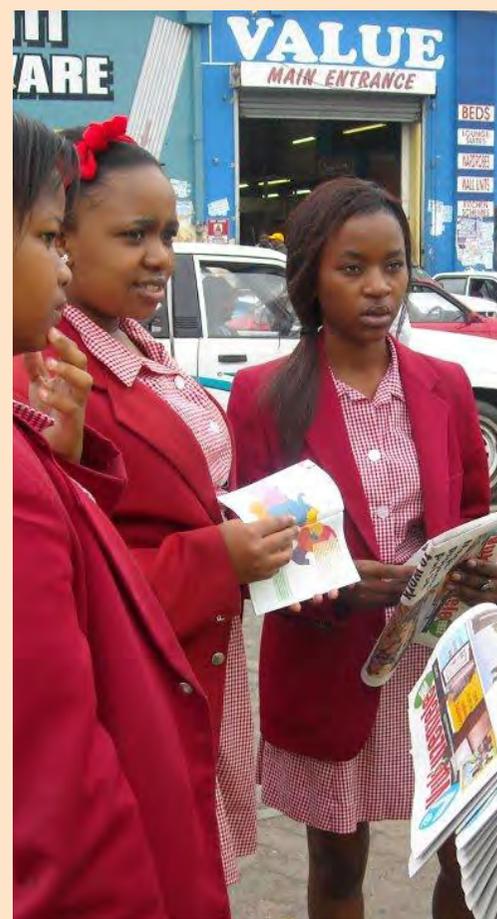
Gaseitsiwe, a Setswana name meaning "unknown", is now one of the best-known schools to have a Chemistry and Physics laboratory. The laboratory was donated by President Zuma during his visit

to Ngobi on Saturday, 2 June 2012, as part of the monitoring and evaluation of service delivery by government.

Joel Ntoane, who is the principal of Gaseitsiwe High School, said, "There has been a great improvement in performance in Science and Physics since the President donated this laboratory. I must thank President Zuma for helping us."

The Physics teacher at the school, Eldon Kwambana, said the pupils enjoy doing experiments in the laboratory. "Pupils like doing practical things. They mix chemicals and analyse reactions. We will produce doctors and engineers because of this laboratory," he said.

During his visit to Ngobi, President Zuma also launched a water project in the area, and residents can now enjoy drinking clean water from their taps.



Some of the pupils at Gaseitsiwe High School in Ngobi conduct an experiment in the laboratory.



Suzan Malepe, a pupil at Gaseitsiwe High School, uses a stethoscope to check the heartbeat of Karabo Ramokgopa in the school's laboratory.



Outcome 12: An efficient, effective and development-oriented Public Service and an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship

Botswana officials visit Mamelodi Thusong Service Centre (TSC)

Matshidiso Mokoka, GCIS Gauteng

From 2 to 4 October 2012, the GCIS hosted a delegation from the Botswana Government Communication and Information System (BGCIS). The main reason for the visit was for the BGCIS to understand and appreciate the GCIS's mandate of providing strategic leadership in government communication. BGCIS also wanted to understand how GCIS manages to operate an effective and efficient government communication organisation.

As part of their tour, the delegation visited Mamelodi TSC to find out what its role is and how communities are benefiting from the services that they receive in and around the centre. The delegation, led by Dr Raphael Dingalo, Director of Research and Policy, was taken through a presentation made by Mr Tshepo Mokoena of the City of Tshwane on the role of the centre and the reason why such centres are established in communities around South Africa.

He emphasised that TSCs are basically established to assist communities in accessing government services closer to where they live. He said: "The Thusong Service Centre is a one-stop shop where government services offered by the departments of labour and home affairs and the South African Social Security Agency etc., are available.

Government has made it easy so that it is not necessary for people to travel long distances to access these services."

He also said that it is the Government's intention to speed up service delivery. It takes into account that most citizens are from poor and rural communities and cannot afford to go to town for government services; hence the development of the centres to bridge that gap. "Thusong Service Centres are not always bricks and mortar; there are instances in rural communities where there is no infrastructure to house government departments. But through stakeholder engagement and management, government has made it possible for departments to provide mobile services on certain days to make sure that people are serviced. That is known as mobile Thusong centres," he said.

All officials from the Botswana delegation were impressed with what was said about the centre and how the South African Government has taken service delivery to a higher level, by taking citizens into consideration.

"Service delivery is important for any government and it is imperative for a democratic government to be people-centred. This is an eye-opener for us

and we will make sure we take all the positives that have been said about Thusong Service Centres and implement it in our country," said Mr Pitso Gobe from the Botswana Government.

The delegation visited the Department of Labour in the centre to see how it operates, and also engaged with officials working in the TSC.



Delegates outside the Department of Labour's office during a tour of the centre.