



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Deputy President's outreach programme

By: *Mojalefa Senokoatsane: DoC, Free State*

On 7 February, Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa, the Free State Provincial Government and Kagiso Shanduka Trust launched two school projects in Kroonstad. This launch had been in the pipeline for the past two years.

Thakameso Comprehensive School, which performed well during the 2014 matric results, received a new library. The library will go a long way in ensuring that the culture of learning continues at this school. It is envisaged that the library will boost the school's performance.

Deputy President Ramaphosa and the Acting Premier of the Free State, Msebenzi Zwane, also handed over three new classrooms at Ntha Intermediate School as part of the school renovation project.

During his address, Free State MEC for Education, Tate Makgoe, indicated that they were happy with the projects that had been launched within the province. The MEC said that this was made possible by the healthy relationship between government and the private sector.

In his keynote address, the Deputy President mentioned that the Free State was chosen due to its outstanding work, especially in education. He said the project had to be implemented in the Free State for it to be a success because the Education MEC is very passionate about education. He further said that these projects were part of the 17 that are to be undertaken by government, Kagiso Trust and the Shanduka Foundation.



MEC Makgoe, Deputy President Ramaphosa and the Kagiso Trust Chairperson, Reverend Frank Chikane, cutting the ribbon at Thakameso Comprehensive School.



Acting Premier Zwane, Deputy President Ramaphosa, MEC Makgoe, Reverend Chikane and Moqhaka Local Municipality Mayor, Justice Mareka, during the handing over of the three classes at Ntha Intermediate School.



Deputy President Ramaphosa engaging with Grade 12 learners at Thakameso Comprehensive School.



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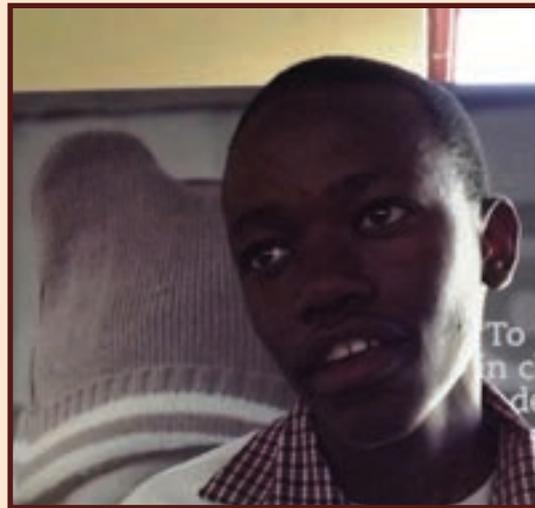
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OUTCOME I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Neo said:

"I never thought that the Deputy President would ever come to our school. This shows that government really cares about us. We will make sure that this new facility works for us."



Matshediso said:

"This new library will go a long way in ensuring that we perform to the best of our abilities."





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

Chris Hani District Municipality on the right track

By: Vuyani Sibene: DoC, Eastern Cape

Local government is the primary point of service delivery and is where citizens interact with government. The vision of a developmental local government system is that it would be the building block on which the reconstruction and development of the country and society will be built, a place in which citizens freely engage in a meaningful and direct way with institutions of the State. The transformation of the local-government sector remains a priority for the current administration. The National Development Plan makes it clear that meeting the transformation agenda requires functional municipalities and capable machinery at a local level that can create safe, healthy and economically sustainable areas where people can work, live and socialise.

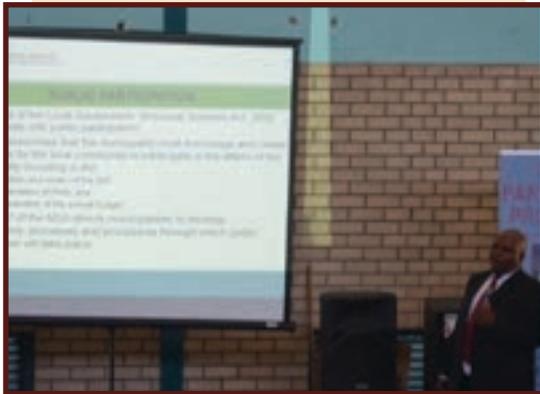
It is therefore important to understand where we are, where we could be and what needs to be done. The goal is to improve the functioning of municipalities to serve communities by getting the basics right.

On 23 January 2015, the Executive Mayor of Chris Hani District Municipality, Mxolisi Koyo, followed the legislative context of Section 21 of Municipal Finance Management Act of 2003 which requires each municipal council to deal with the annual report within nine months of the financial year.

The report was focusing on the five key performance areas (KPA):

- KPA 1 – Basic Service Delivery and Infrastructure Development
- KPA 2 – Local Economic Development
- KPA 3 – Municipal Transformation and Organisational Development
- KPA 4 – Municipal Financial Viability Management
- KPA 5 – Good Governance and Public Participation.

The Executive Mayor said, “The municipality continues to make considerable strides in its efforts to deliver services to communities. Significant improvements have been registered in the delivery of water and sanitation, municipal health services as well as economic support.”



Dignitaries who attended the Back-to-Basics session.



Mana Woda said:

“Water is a huge challenge in ward 27 in Lukhanji Local Municipality.”



Xolile said:

“In Elinge, we have a very big challenge when it comes to water supply. We request government to assist us.”



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

World Wetlands Day celebrated in Mpumalanga

By: Bongani Mazibuko: DoC, Mpumalanga

The Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA) led the wetlands celebration at a provincial event held at Chrissiesmeer, in Msukaligwa Local Municipality, outside Ermelo on 6 February. The wetlands in Chrissiesmeer are known locally and abroad mainly for the unique scenery and birdlife found around it. The wetlands and the grasslands provide a habitat to various bird species, some of them are rare or endangered.

Various stakeholders directly involved in the preservation of the environment were present, educating people in the exhibition stalls. Among them were Endangered Wildlife Trust (EWT), Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA), Matotoland Eco-tourism, Birdlife SA, Gert Sibande District-Environmental Health Services, and DARDLEA. Messages of support were received from EWT, MTPA, Matotoland Eco-tourism and Birdlife SA.

Delivering the keynote address, the Director-General in the DARDLEA, SP Xulu said, "I am happy when I see learners among us, because these are the people we should start with, in terms of preserving the environment. Programmes that are being run in schools and those that are run by our department in our environmental section would actually be targeting the youth so that they can also play a role in the protection of the environment."

This celebration was also attended by learners and educators from neighbouring schools. The celebration was educational to both the community members and the learners. Learners and educators received information booklets and Enviro-posters from the exhibition stalls.

Siboniso Dlamini was one of the learners from Laerskool Chrissie who participated in the schools' competition on Environment in 2014. He was awarded a certificate by Birdlife SA and a laptop by DARDLEA.



Left: The Dardlea HoD SP Xulu delivering her keynote address during the provincial wetlands celebration. Middle: Dave Rathbone from the Matotoland Eco-tourism handing over a book on the history of Chrissiesmeer. Right: Siboniso Dlamini from Laerskool Chrissie awarded with a Birdlife SA T-shirt, certificate of appreciation and a laptop.



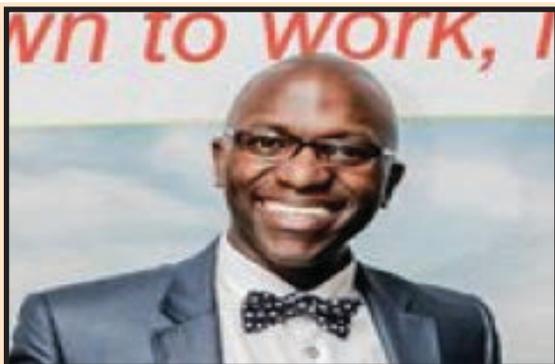
OUTCOME 10: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS AND NATURAL RESOURCES THAT ARE WELL PROTECTED AND CONTINUALLY ENHANCED



Left: Lilian Mlambo from EWT, Dave Rathbone from Matotoland Eco-tourism, Kristi Garland from Birdlife SA and Grassland Environmental Education Programme, and Brian Morris from the MTPA. Middle: Learners and educators were also in attendance. Right: An official from DARDLEA educating learners about the 3Rs: Re-use, reduce and recycle.



Left: Officials from the Gert Sibande District Municipality's Environmental Health Services. Middle: Posters mounted on the Wonders of Wetlands. Right: Community members attending the Wetlands Day celebration.



Speaker of the Oudtshoorn Local Municipality Ntobeko Mangqwengwe said:

“The Oudtshoorn Municipality is expected to report on a monthly basis on the number of actions it has accomplished to implement the Back-to-Basics campaign. “The feedback includes monthly reports of the council’s activities such as council meetings, overall operations of financial management and all reported instances of fraud and corruption, including actions being taken, revenue collection and debtor management processes.”

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

Oudtshoorn Local Municipality heeds the call

By: Jetro Grootboom: DoC, Western Cape

The Oudtshoorn Local Municipality participated in the government’s Back-to-Basics campaign.

The municipality’s managers attended a three-day strategic session recently.

On 2 February, about 50 senior officials comprising supervisors, managers and directors of the municipality met to discuss how they would contribute towards the Back-to-Basics campaign (basic services, good governance, public participation, financial management and institutional capacity) as the vehicle towards building a responsive, caring and accountable local government.

All attendees of the workshop have signed an agreement with the municipality and pledged to participate towards ensuring that service delivery under the five key focus areas will be realised.

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Some of the leaders who were part of the 50 municipal officials who attended the strategic session.