




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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CONTACT DETAILS OF THE DOC PROVINCIAL OFFICES

For more information about similar programmes that are run across the country, contact one of the following provincial offices:

EASTERN CAPE

Ndlelantle Pinyana
043 722 2602 or 076 142 8606
ndlelantle@doc.gov.za

FREE STATE

Trevor Mokeyane
051 448 4504 or 083 255 0042
tshenolo@doc.gov.za

GAUTENG

Peter Gumede
011 834 3560 or 083 570 8080
peterg@doc.gov.za

KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420
ndala@doc.gov.za

OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Vodacom Limpopo launches Vodacom E-school learning portal

By: Madire Mocketla and Ntsako Bvuma-Mahlori: DoC, Limpopo

Former President Nelson Mandela once said: "Education is the most powerful weapon which you can use to change the world". This was evident when the Managing Executive of Vodacom Limpopo, Junaid Munshi, launched the Vodacom E-school learning portal which holds all the approved curriculum content for grade 10 to 12 learners at Bokamoso High School on 28 January 2015. The school was selected due to its track record of producing good results in matric, as it was evident when they obtained 96% pass rate last year.

The Vodacom E-school portal is free to access using a Vodacom sim card and it is done in partnership with the Department of Basic Education. The learners will no longer face challenges of not having textbooks since they will have the luxury of accessing the learning content through their smart phones.

Top learners who are part of the class of 2015 were presented with gadgets that they will use to access the E-school portal and at the same time be ambassadors for the portal in their communities.

The Executive Head of Sustainability at Vodacom, Suraya Hamdulay, demonstrated to the learners how they can access the portal. The E-school portal assists learners to practise and track progress on their studies. At the moment, the subjects that are offered are Physical Science, Life Science, Mathematics, Mathematics Literacy, Accounting and English. "It is an extremely handy tool to prepare for exams," said Suraya. She indicated that the portal also has feedback badges to track progress on learners' performance in their respective grades.

One of the top learners, Auctovia Leshiba, stated that good things need to be appreciated. She also said that they will use the gadgets to improve their matric results.



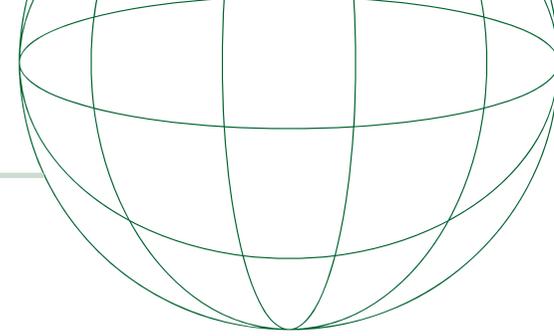
Bokamoso learners were presented with gadgets to access the Vodacom E-school learning portal.



communications

Department:
Communications
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





LIMPOPO

Thanyani Rhavhura
015 291 4689 or 082 421 3461
thanyani@doc.gov.za

MPUMALANGA

Tiisetso Ramotse
013 753 2397 or 072 219 5136
tiisetso@doc.gov.za

NORTH WEST

Mareka Mofokeng
018 381 7071 or 083 382 5909
mareka@doc.gov.za

Kagisho Meremetsi
018 381 7071 or 084 318 9179
kagisho@doc.gov.za

NORTHERN CAPE

Marius Nagel
053 832 1378/9 or 083 778 9179
mariusn@doc.gov.za

WESTERN CAPE

Louis Botha
021 697 0923 or 073 427 1917
LouisB@doc.gov.za



Suraya Hamdulay making a presentation on how the E-school portal works.



Bokamoso learners getting ready to be shown how to access the Vodacom E-school learning portal.



Thapelo Masebe said:

“The Vodacom E-school learning portal will benefit me in a great way. I am hoping to get five distinctions at the end of the year. I want to be a civil engineer. I will definitely share the information with other learners.”



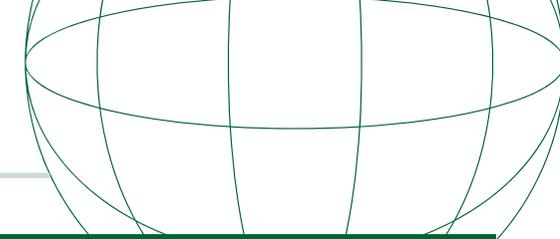
Kabelo Sako said:

“This Vodacom E-school learning portal will assist me with information that books do not provide. It will also help me progress by giving me assignments and homework to test myself. I believe this portal will help me get six distinctions at the end of the year. I want to be a neurologist. I will share this portal with my fellow classmates and my friends in the rural areas and also those from other schools who do not know about it.”



Khomotjo Raphadu said:

“The Vodacom E-school learning portal will benefit me in a good way because I will use it every day to do revisions on the work that was done at school. I want to study Geology after passing my matric. I will definitely share this portal with my friends when we leave here.”



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

Youth council hosts annual youth summit

By: Nomzamo Zondi: DoC, KwaZulu-Natal



Andrew Gwacela said:

“The event assists us as young people to have robust engagements and raise our grievances. A number of stakeholders share ideas that are very informative, because we have difficulty in accessing information. My contribution to the NYP was a call to assist unemployed graduates. It was good that we gathered here to make a contribution towards shaping and changing the lives of young people for the better.”



Slindile Hlengwa said:

“I was impressed by the presentations from different stakeholders and the encouragement that as young people we should focus on educating ourselves. This platform assists us to exchange ideas with fellow young people on how we can better our lives. I want to encourage the youth to be active and do things for themselves.”



Young people at the Youth Development Summit.



Frikkie Brooks and Max Mbili engaging with the youth at the event.

The Hibiscus Coast youth converged at the Margate Hotel from 23 to 25 January for an annual youth summit. The summit was represented by delegates from all 29 wards of the Hibiscus Coast Municipality. The Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Buti Manamela, has called upon young people to contribute towards the National Youth Policy (NYP) 2015 – 2020. The youth summit was a good platform for robust discussions on issues that affect young people. “The annual Youth Development Summit is hosted as one of the critical vehicles for discussion, debate and consultation over youth-development programmes. This is also informed by the Local Government Municipal System and Municipal Structures Act, which encourages participatory government,” said Phumlani Mzobe, a Youth Development Manager at the municipality.

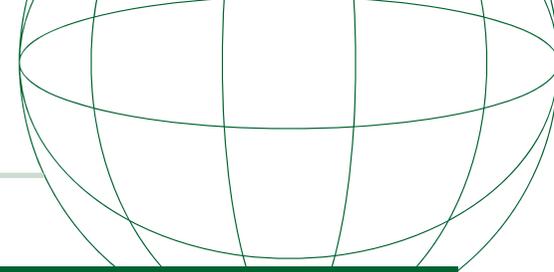
The weekend was dominated by presentations on development, from government departments to the private sector. The Saturday evening saw young people pay attention at a high profile engagement session. The keynote speaker at the youth business gala dinner was Frikkie Brooks, the Deputy Director-General in the KwaZulu-Natal Office of the Premier. Brooks’s address focused on the National Development Plan (NDP) and the role that young people can play in its implementation. Max Mbili, the Hibiscus Coast Municipality Manager, joined Brooks on stage to assist him with answering questions from the floor.

The summit ended on a high note with a fashion show for young designers where tremendous talent was showcased. Fashion and tourism are the growing economic pillars in the municipality. The Youth Council declared that the youth will fulfil the aspirations and objectives of the NDP through the implementation of programmes that will address social ills. “We therefore declare this Youth Development Summit as an effective instrument in the development of the lives of young people and commit to the implementation of all resolutions taken,” said the council’s secretary, Pinky Ngcungama.



Mlungisi said:

“These gathering assist us a lot because we receive updated information. The summit also serves as a platform that government departments use to engage with young people and also bring service delivery. The NYP must make it clear how young people who are in business can be capacitated in order for them to have economic stability.”



OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Department of Higher Education and Training tackles scarce skills

By: Lehlohonolo Mphuti: Department of Higher Education and Training



An artisan student equipping himself with new skills.



The Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mduduzi Manana, answering questions from journalists.

The Ministry of Higher Education and Training is embarking on a nationwide campaign to produce more engineers who are needed in the labour market for the growth of our economy.

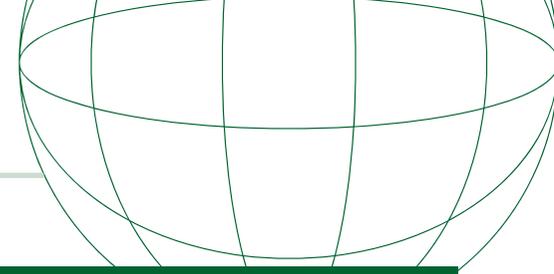
The National Development Plan has set a target for the government to produce 30 000 artisans by 2030.

As a result, more than 18 000 students enrolled for critical and scarce skills studies at Technical and Vocational Education and Training colleges around the country, in 2014.

Engineering Level 6 has 13 336 students, Civil Engineering Level 4 has 1 961 and Engineering and Related Design Level 4 has 3 274.

The Minister of Higher Education and Training, Dr Blade Nzimande, said: "The artisan community can play a pivotal role in the growth of the country's economy."

According to recently published stories in the *Engineering News*, South Africa has a shortfall of 40 000 qualified artisans against the annual production rate of 13 000 qualified artisans. The publication said that the artisan skills shortage is widely regarded as a key obstacle to economic growth, job creation and business expansion.



Sisanela Mfana said:

“My plan is to pass Grade 12 and pursue Social Studies at the University of Cape Town.”



Sibongile Shukuma said:

“I want to obtain good marks in Physical Science so I can study towards becoming an electrical engineer.”

OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

It is all systems go at Hala Senior Secondary School

By: Vuyani Sibene: DoC, Eastern Cape

The National Development Plan’s (NDP) vision for 2030 is that South Africans should have access to education and training of the highest quality, characterised by significantly improved learning outcomes. The NDP incorporates key targets set out in the Basic Education Sector Plan (Towards the Realisation of Schooling 2025). Targets for 2030 include improved retention of learners and improved learning outcomes. Education is a societal issue, therefore extensive interaction and support on the issue is necessary hence the Chris Hani District Municipality saw it important to engage in a back-to-school campaign.

The Eastern Cape has not been performing well for years compared to other provinces when it comes to matric results. Since all schools reopen in January, government leaders use the opportunity to engage with learners.

The Chris Hani District Municipality embarked on a back-to-school campaign where Members of the Mayoral Committee and Council visited one high school in each Local Municipality on 21 January.

The Municipality Speaker, George Xoseni, visited Hala Senior Secondary School. The school assured Xoseni that it was all systems go as stationery was received in November last year. The school however, highlighted that the challenge was getting Maths and Science educators.

The school aims to achieve the following:

- Beginning of February: extra classes and Saturday classes will start.
- End of June: the syllabus must have been finished.
- August: school camps will start.
- The school will find someone to assist learners with Maths and Science.

Speaker Xoseni said, “As government we are expecting teaching and learning to start on the first day of school. As Chris Hani District Municipality, we are taking education seriously. It is important that learners take education as their pillar that will take the district forward by producing best matric results this year.”



Chris Hani District Municipality Speaker, Xoseni, with the school principal and the learners.