



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 I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Kgotsofalo Intermediate Farm School welcomes new learners

By: Lehlohonolo Manoto: DoC, Free State



Grade 1 learners at Kgotsofalo Intermediate Farm School on their first day at school.

Kgotsofalo Intermediate Farm School is located at Tierpoort Farm on the N1 road in Bloemfontein, in the Free State. The school accommodates learners from nearby farms and has admitted 160 learners for the year 2015. On 14 January, the school welcomed 19 Grade 1 learners who started school for the first time in their lives. Sarah Bless, a Grade 1 educator at the school, explained that all the 19 new learners were very excited to be starting their school this year and none of them shed tears to show unhappiness. She further indicated that the first day was all about oral work.

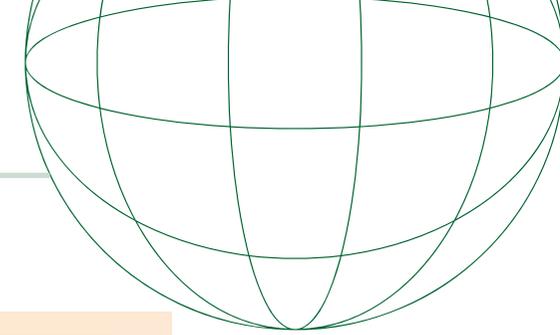
The school has a hostel that accommodates learners who come from farms that are far away from it. These learners visit home once a month and also during the school holidays. Dinah Mosola, the school principal, indicated that the learners were very excited after an announcement that their teachers will take care of them during their stay at the school's hostel. The principal also said that although they have transport challenges with the Grade R learners, they were very happy to welcome new Grade 1 learners and will do their best to educate them as they are the future of the country.



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



Thandi Kase said:

"I enjoyed my first day at school and I have found a new friend called Naledi. We ate at the kitchen."



Morena Patric Jao said:

"I am very happy to be at school. There are many children to play with and I enjoyed the food I got from the school kitchen."



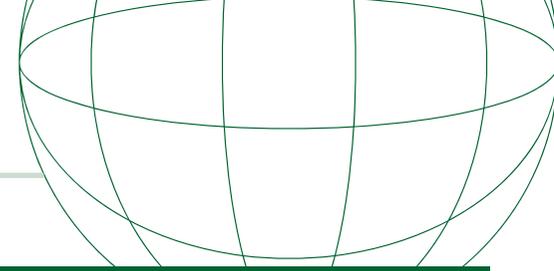
Diana Mosola said:

"It was very exciting to welcome the new Grade 1 learners and none of them cried. They were all happy to be with other children."



Sarah Bless said:

"It is usually exciting to welcome Grade 1 learners. Today we did oral work and this class of 2015 looks determined to learn."



OUTCOME I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Schools reopen in North West

By: Abigail Sejesho: DoC, North West



Learners at Molelwane Secondary School at Signal Hill.

It was back to school on 14 January as schools reopened in North West. The mood was positive in many schools as the province did well in last year's matric results, obtaining position two in national results. Learners, especially those in rural schools, were ready for the year ahead and looked determined to do exceptionally well.

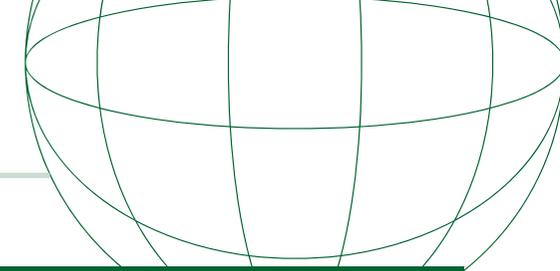


Learners at Bloemhof Primary School.



Learners at Sekopane Primary School at Lonely Park.

Omatla Kwena-More gets ready for his first day at Rekopane Primary School.



Learners at Ubuhlebolwazi High School preparing themselves to learn on their first day at school in 2015.



Educators getting ready to teach.



Lessons already under way in one of the classes visited.

OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

MEC Nhlengethwa motivates learners at Ubuhlebolwazi

By: Bongani Mazibuko: DoC, Mpumalanga

Doing well at school begins on the first day when schools reopen in January. This was the message that the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Dumisile Nhlengethwa, emphasised during the back to school campaign in Silindile in Msukaligwa Municipality, Mpumalanga on 14 January. The MEC visited Ubuhlebolwazi High School to motivate learners and also to congratulate the school's matric class of 2014 for obtaining 86% pass rate, a 17% improvement compared to the 2013 performance.

In her address, MEC Nhlengethwa said, "As learners, you must not only rub shoulders with us as leaders and giants, but you must use us and climb on our shoulders to see brighter horizons we never saw, and reach where we never reached. Like a giraffe, you must eat the greener leaves that other animals cannot reach. Take advantage of government's service-delivery programmes such as the National School Nutrition Programme and eat the food that is served in this school, as this will help you have a healthy mind to focus on your studies."

The MEC was accompanied by the Executive Mayor of Msukaligwa Municipality, Siphon Bongwe, the Chief Whip of the Gert Sibande District Municipality, Agnes Mnisi, and senior officials in the Department of Basic Education. These dignitaries also met with the school principal and the school management team to discuss issues affecting the school and filled in the monitoring form that was prepared for the visit. The purpose of the monitoring tool was to determine areas that need improvement. The overall event was successful in meeting its objective of motivating learners as well as identifying some of the areas that need to be improved.



MEC Nhlengethwa addressing the learners and educators.



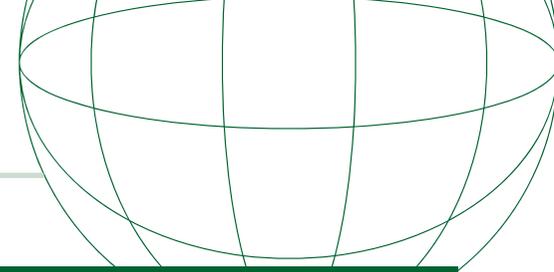
MEC Nhlengethwa pointing to the cracks on the classroom wall.



Part of the roof of the first-floor balcony falling apart.



The dignitaries from government and the school management.



OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION



Grade 12 lessons getting under way at Dirang ka Natla Secondary School with all learners having received textbooks and other learning materials.

Monitoring team visits North West schools

By: Xolani Mndaweni: DoC, North West



Educators at Dirang ka Natla Secondary School, in Khuma attending the first school assembly this year.



Learners properly dressed in their school uniform at the school assembly.



A monitoring team inspecting classrooms.



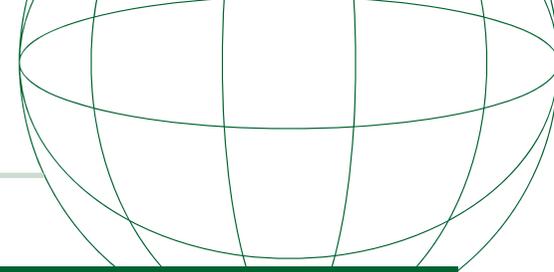
Matlosana Area Manager, Simon Mogotsi, accompanied by the monitoring team from various departments, engages with the school principal of Pelonomi Primary School, A Montshusi in Stilfontein Farms.



Inspection of the nutrition facilities at Pelonomi Primary School.



Lethogonolo Basi receiving food provided by the Department of Basic Education as part of the National School Nutrition Programme.



PUBLIC NOTICE:

DRAFT NATIONAL YOUTH POLICY (NYP) 2015 – 2020

The Youth Desk in The Presidency, in partnership with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and the National Youth Council (NYC) has released a draft NYP 2015 – 2020 (NYP 2020) for public comment. The NYP 2020 aims at ensuring that South Africa has youth development programmes that respond to the challenges faced by the youth; programmes that enable young people to take charge of their own destiny. The NYP 2020 must enable young people to make the right choices, protect them from exploitation and neglect, and ensure that they participate in all spheres of society.

Informed by the review of the previous youth policy and research on the state of young people, four pillars were prioritised. They are economic participation; education and skills training, making the correct behavioural choices in relation to alcohol, drug abuse and sexuality as well as inculcating a sense of solidarity and love of self and country; “creating” a youth that is more conscious of similarities than differences especially in terms of race and class.

Economic participation: At 57, 8% the labour absorption rate for adults is almost twice that of young people, which is at 30,8%. To enhance economic participation, the NYP 2020 suggested measures such as: industrial policy interventions to improve labour-absorption in the economy; work exposure to provide young people with an opportunity to gain experience; linking young job seekers to employers; interventions to support entrepreneurship, facilitate access to opportunities, business training and markets for youth-owned companies and cooperatives, and improved public employment schemes. Inequality of opportunity will be reduced through the implementation of redress measure such as the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment and land reform as well as through the radical economic transformation agenda driven by government.

Education and skills development: The education and post-school education and training sector must improve equity in access and quality of outcomes. In order to achieve this, the country must among others, improve the school system, strengthen the capacity of key youth development institutions and ensure integration and coordination in the delivery of youth services, as well as progressively introduce free basic education for poor learners until undergraduate level. The Technical and Vocational Education and Training sector should cover about 25% of the age-relevant cohort. Special attention needs to be given to opportunities that provide unskilled and uneducated youth with second-chance opportunities.

Behavioural change: Young people should espouse a core value system that propagates a good self-image. The NYP 2020 talks to how the skills and capacities needed to be assertive in negotiating and making decisions about sexual and reproductive health will be nurtured, and how laws, policies and recreational facilities will be harnessed to deal with the challenges of substance abuse and related illnesses, particularly among the youth.

Social cohesion and active citizenry: The NYP 2020 calls for the fostering of leadership across society, active citizenry, as well as fostering the values that are outlined in the Constitution. When it is adopted in March 2015, the NYP 2020 must be about the shaping of young people as active and productive citizens. To ensure implementation, the Youth Desk in The Presidency, in partnership with the NYDA and the NYC, will develop a strategy outlining methods, targets and tactics in June 2015, by which the NYP 2020 will be implemented.

The youth-development machinery will also be optimised for effective implementation of the policy and strategy because it is a policy that must inform structure and delivery mechanisms.

Please send your comments to:

Email: Youthdesk@po-dpme.gov.za

Post: The Youth Desk, Private Bag 0001 Pretoria

Drop off Comments at: The Youth Desk, The Union Building, and No. 1 Government Avenue Pretoria

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