

DID YOU KNOW?



MY DISTRICT TODAY

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Outcome 1: Improved quality of basic education

Mbonisweni Primary School gets a facelift

Bonginkosi Gumede, GCIS KZN

The partnership between Government and the private sector was strengthened once again with the successful completion of yet another project aimed at improving education facilities for learners. Minister Angie Motshekga officially opened the impressive new Grade R facilities at Mbonisweni Primary School in Hambanathi Township, Tongaat, eThekweni, on Saturday 9 February.

The facilities, built at a cost of R1 million, were donated by the Shanduka Group via the Adopt-a-School Foundation. The foundation seeks to garner support from the private sector, organisations and individuals for schools. Over the last ten years, the Adopt-A-School foundation has adopted more than 130 schools across the country and has also extended its reach to neighbouring countries. Minister Motshekga was accompanied by KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Education, Senzo Mchunu; and Shanduka Executive Chairperson, Cyril Ramaphosa.

The Grade R centre at the school received two new classrooms, a sick bay, fully equipped playground and upgraded bathroom facilities. Minister Motshekga hailed the work of organisations such as the Adopt-A-School Foundation and reminded the community of the importance of early childhood education. "The first five years of a child's education are the most important. Those years are make or break," the Minister said. "These years set a good foundation for their future education and KZN is leading the way."

The province has the highest enrolment in the country for learners in early childhood development (ECD). This facility will help reach the goal of universal ECD coverage by 2014. School principal Mrs Ziphwo Mahlobo welcomed the donation as one of the most important days in the school's history.

"I was one of the first teachers employed at this school in 1985 and it makes me proud to see that our hard work is recognised. The addition of the new Grade R facilities will strengthen our school as the first choice for parents in the area," Mrs Mahlobo said.

Speaking on behalf of the Shanduka Group, Mr Ramaphosa said the facility was testament to the importance of business and Government working together. "This project was built by local people, using local skills. If you don't get education right in Grade R, learners will not achieve their true potential. We will continue to support this school and make it one of the best in the province," Mr Ramaphosa said.

In addition, he also pledged to upgrade the school's computer lab. On the day, KZN MEC for Education Senzo Mchunu announced that the Provincial Department of Education would soon start construction on a third Grade R classroom at the school.



A classroom in the new Grade R School.

From Left: Mbonisweni Primary School Principal Mrs Ziphwo Mahlobo, Minister Angie Motshekga, Shanduka Group Chairman Cyril Ramaphosa and MEC Senzo Mchunu.

SoNA 2013 – Let your voice be heard

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Every year during the opening of Parliament, the President of the Republic of South Africa delivers a speech on the state of the nation. The State of the Nation Address (SoNA) is important to all the people of South Africa because it tells us about Government's Programme of Action (PoA) for the current year. The PoA is a framework of Government's plans for the country and the people of South Africa.

When the citizens are aware of what the Government is doing, every one of them is able take part in Government's plans of creating a better life for all.

This is what some of the people of OR Tambo had to say:



Nyameko Nongqayi – On matters of safety and security I am very happy, because our Government is making some efforts. but there are some challenges, such as making it legal for children of ages 12 to 16 to have consensual sex and to have abortions. My wish is that those in power could reconsider their decisions on these matters. Lastly, as citizens of this country, we do not feel safe when people are killed by police officers in incidents like the Marikana massacre.



Andiswa Mpemnyama – We applaud our Government in its efforts to bring development to the people; things like the building of houses, roads and improvements on supplying clean water, especially in the President's programme of supporting our municipality – the King Sabatha Dalindyebo Municipality. The problem that still exists is the internal corruption and my plea is that efforts to combat it should be intensified.



Bukelwa Xolilizwe – In improving education, we appreciate the intervention role the national Department of Education has played in our provincial affairs in the Eastern Cape. That brought about changes in the matric results, as well as the demolishing of mud schools and the building of new schools. Secondly, my plea is that our Government should look into the issue of trade unions, which play a negative role in the education of our children. They do this by engaging in strikes which take long and cripple the future of our children.



Lorna Phunguzwa – In his previous speech, the President touched on the issue of improving healthcare. We have so far seen some improvements in health services, especially in our villages. As I speak now the construction of a hospital is underway here in Mthatha. There is also a campaign on the National Health Insurance to be rolled out here in the OR Tambo district. We are very happy about this because everyone, even the poor, are now going to have access to better healthcare services.



Pule Mangqobe – On the issue of job creation, my wish is that Government could give more support to the Co-operatives. I appreciate the role the KSD Municipality is playing. There are people who have been employed in the projects of road construction and the refurbishment of the airport. One other thing that should be carefully looked into and discouraged is nepotism that is taking place.



Outcome 12: An efficient, effective and development-orientated public service and an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship.

Government promoting dialogue



The 2013 State of the Nation Address was characterised by a first-ever community and stakeholder outreach programme by principals in The Presidency, designed to listen to the views of the public.

On 12 February, President Zuma visited the Tshwane South FET College in Mabopane, Pretoria. In 2012, the President met with FET college principals to gain first-hand experience of how these colleges operate, given Government's emphasis on developing technical skills needed by the economy. President Zuma was accompanied by the ministers of higher education and training; labour; and public enterprises along with the Premier of Gauteng.

During a dialogue session led by Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe on 12 February, farmworkers discussed their concerns with Government ministers about evictions, deductions to their pay and the increasing number of foreign nationals working on farms.

On 13 February, Minister Trevor Manuel and National Planning Commission Deputy Chairperson Mr Cyril Ramaphosa visited two communities in the Western Cape, namely Mitchells Plain and Khayelitsha. During their visit

they focused on small and medium business, early childhood development initiatives and youth employment. These three areas feature prominently in the National Development Plan, which is largely based on promoting active citizenry.

South Africans across the board had access to the President's State of the Nation Address on 14 February 2013 at 19:00. Even the remotest communities were able to watch the President addressing the nation. In addition, the people of South Africa had the chance to engage with their local leaders about the speech. These included MECs, mayors and senior officials from various departments.

Over 22 different events were held at tertiary institutions during which students debated about the State of the Nation Address and shared their views on what the President had announced.

On 15 February, President Zuma closed the state of the nation week with a visit to displaced families who live in the OR Tambo hall in Khayelitsha, following the devastating fires in December 2012.



Outcome 12: An efficient, effective and development-orientated public service and an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship

Our centre, our services

Sabelo Kakaza: Viedgesville Thusong service centre: KSD in Mthatha.

Viedgesville Thusong service centre is surrounded by a number of poor villages, which form part of the King Sabatha Dalindyebo Local Municipality. The people of this community are very pleased to have the services of a new service centre in their area. Initially, services were provided from the post office, while health services were provided from the Mbekweni Health Centre. In 2010, the newly appointed GCIS Communication Officer, together with the centre manager, invited the departments of social development, home affairs, SASSA, SAPS and the NPA to provide their services from the centre for the benefit of the surrounding communities. All the departments now provide services from the Thusong Service Centre.

and for local government. The seminar, which was aimed at empowering rural women and the youth, resulted in new enterprises being established and workshops being held, which focused on economic opportunities.

Youth and women working together to develop the local economy.

The youth and women meet every week at the centre to discuss economic opportunities. Every time they meet with staff from the GCIS office and the centre manager, they invite someone from the department or private sector to share useful information with them. The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform promised to provide training to the youth.



Learners visiting the career exhibition at the service centre.

“We thank GCIS for bringing this office to our community,” said the principal of the Zwelodumo Senior Secondary School, Mr Dwabayo, during the career guidance and counselling session. The sessions were conducted for the benefit of the schools in the community and a number of institutions were invited to provide career information to learners from two senior secondary schools and three junior secondary schools.

In August 2012, the centre organised a seminar for women about economic development which were attended by the ministers of tourism; women, children and disabled people; as well as the MECs for rural development



Officials from Government departments during an information day held for elder women.

Once every quarter, the centre conducts an information day to remind pensioners about the services provided by the centre and to update the community on any new developments within the centre. This is done to promote the practice of the Batho Pele principles to all the service providers at the Thusong Centre. During one of these sessions, one of the elderly woman who attended said, “Our centre, our services”.

The centre remains a testimony on how excellence can be achieved through this integrated service model. The people of Viedgesville have expressed their appreciation for the centre, saying it changed their lives for the better. Challenges do arise from time to time, but they always find solutions.

