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OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION.

Back to school dialogue in Thabong
By Ntombi Mhlambi: GCIS, Free State

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) and other stakeholders organised a Back-to-School dialogue on 15 January 2019, to engage learners on these issues and help them plan effectively.

The dialogue was hosted for the Grade 12 learners of Lebogang Secondary School in Thabong, as the matric learners from the school always perform well, yet they end up sitting home not going to institutions of higher learning. Sam Weyers, a career counsellor from the Department of Labour said being in Grade 12 is a very important stage in any youth as it provides direction on where one will be in the future and it is memorable. Learners were also engaged by the National Youth Development Agency and the GCIS provided information on how the learners can plan better for their future.

Samuel Weyers from the Department of Labour engaging with the learners.

Nicholas Mutsi from the NYDA addressing the learners.
**LIMPOPO**
Thanyani Ravhura
015 291 4689 or 082 421 3461
thanyani@gcis.gov.za

**MPUMALANGA**
Jerry Nkosi
013 753 2397 or 082 316 5295
Jerry@gcis.gov.za

**NORTH WEST**
Boitumelo Mosadi
018 381 7071 or 073 245 0906
boitumelom@gcis.gov.za

**NORTHERN CAPE**
Marius Nagel
053 832 1378/9 or 083 778 9179
mariusn@gcis.gov.za

**WESTERN CAPE**
Geraldine Thopps
021 697 0145 or 081 281 2200
Geraldine@gcis.gov.za

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**MYDISTRICTTODAY**

Thato Ncoza said:
“The dialogue was very beneficial to me as I learnt the importance of looking at careers that are sustainable from which I will be able to create employment.”

Ncolosi Chuma said:
“Even though the dialogue discuss my career of choice, which is commerce, I learnt that we need to take careers that have to do with technology as it is taking over the world.”

Kelebogile Koai said:
“The event taught me that I need to have plan A, B and C for my career, which I did not have as I only see myself as a doctor.”
The Grade 12 class of 2019 in Mosedi Secondary School started their schooling with much enthusiasm, encouraged and motivated by the class of 2018, which achieved improved results. The Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality conducted a Back-to-School campaign on 15 January 2019, motivating learners to work hard. The initiative was led by the Acting Mayor of Fetakgomo Tubatse Local Municipality, Councillor Dorah Mphethi, accompanied by other EXCO members, the circuit manager of Dilokong and the ward councillor.

Mosedi Secondary School is one of the most improved school as far as the Grade 12 results are concerned. The school moved from 21% pass rate in 2016 to 50% in 2017 and 85.7% in 2018. "We are here to rejoice with you for this great achievement which showed a major improvement of the Grade 12 results," said the Acting Mayor. She also donated sanitary towels to girls at the school, to the loud applause of the learners and staff.

The principal of the school thanked the support from the parents and the cooperation and discipline that the learners are displaying. He also thanked the support they received from the local mine with the building of the new school although they still need other facilities and equipment to better their teaching and learning activities.
In efforts to raise awareness on the voter registration weekend which is to take place on 26 to 27 January 2019, Government Communication and Information System conducted an activation on 18 January 2018 at Mafikeng Museum. The government officials encouraged citizens to register and informed them about their democratic rights to vote in the upcoming general elections for 2019.

Members of the public were informed that voting stations will open from 08:00 to 17:00 on 26 January and 27 January 2019 to allow first-time voters to register and existing voters to update and to check their registration details.

The public can also SMS their ID number to 32810 to receive an SMS containing their registration status and the address of their voting station. Unregistered voters were told they can insert their address in the Voting Station Finder application on the website http://maps.elections.org.za/vsfinder/ to find their correct voting station or call the contact centre 0800 11 8000.
As part of the Back-to-School programme, the Gauteng Provincial Government deployed various MECs to schools in the province to check on their readiness ahead of the 2019 academic year. MEC of Finance, Barbara Creecy, was deployed to Mohlakeng Primary School on 9 January 2019 to hand over a new administration block and a computer laboratory.

Accompanied by the Randwest City Executive Mayor, Mzi Khumalo, and members of the Mayoral Committee, MEC Creecy thanked Altron, the company that provided both facilities at the school for their contribution to schools in Gauteng. “We appreciate the partnership that we have with this company in making sure that schools have good facilities and tools to make sure that learners receive the best education that they deserve. The primary school is the most important phase of a child’s life and investing in this and making sure the right resources such as computers are made available put them in a better position to access information to help improve their lives,” MEC Creecy said.

Teachers and learners were encouraged to take care of the new administration block comprising a kitchen, enough rooms to host all teachers and space to accommodate visitors or parents to the school instead of the old two-roomed administration block. During the walkabout around the school, MEC Creecy and her entourage were taken on a tour of the new revamped school toilets and informed on how the computer lab will be used. One of the parents, Pinkie Segametsi, was happy with the new developments. “With all these facilities, our children have an opportunity to learn more of what we never had a chance to do during our time. All parents want to see their children pass and become important people in life and all these will help them achieve that,” she said.