

DID YOU KNOW?

August is Women's Month. Theme for this year's celebrations is "A Centenary of Working together towards Sustainable Women Empowerment and Gender Equality"



MY DISTRICT TODAY

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Outcome 1: Improved quality of basic education

Mandela park community receives a new school

By Ndyabo Kopo: GCIS Eastern Cape



Learners in the newly refurbished school hall during the handover ceremony.



Mandela Primary School in Mthatha.

On International Nelson Mandela Day, the Mandela Park community received a brand new state-of-the-art school from the Arcelor Mittal Foundation. The Minister of Basic Education, Angie Motshekga officially handed over the school to the community of Mandela Park in the King Sabatha Dalindyebo Municipality, in Mthatha. The school was built by steel company ArcelorMittal as a result of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Department of Basic Education and the ArcelorMittal Foundation.

The Mandela Park Primary School has 1 066 learners who used to be accommodated in an old hall with dilapidated partitions. "It used to be chaos because lessons of the one group was interrupted by the other group on the other side of the hall," the school principal recalls. This was not at all a conducive learning environment the principal, Mr Xolisani Neti, recalls.

The construction of the new school celebrated the use of steel in construction and it was designed to accommodate 1 100 learners.

The new school has everything a modern school has to offer learners such as a science laboratory to allow for a conducive learning environment. The new school consists of an administration building with meeting rooms; offices for the principal and two vice-principals; a staff room; reception; kitchen; toilets; ablution building near the sports fields; a delivery yard; workshop; store; and sick room. The media centre includes a computer room and library. The nutrition centre includes a kitchen and storeroom, and vegetable tunnels to augment the Department of Basic Education's feeding scheme. The sports field boasts a fully restored terrain with indigenous landscaping. The Grade R play area uses natural elements and provide the children freedom to play in a secure environment. The old school hall has been upgraded and refurbished.

"I am happy and excited. From now on I want to focus on the performance of the school. I hope this improvement in our school will also improve ethics, which will reflect on our performance," said the school principal.

The Minister urged the community of Mandela Park to look after the school as the future of their children depended on it. These children will be the leaders of tomorrow – leaders such as Nelson Mandela.



government
communications

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Outcome 5: Skilled and capable workforce to support an inclusive growth path

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Nimble fingers ensure steady income for Kuruman women

By GCIS: Northern Cape



The women show off some of their beautiful hand work.

A group of women from Danoon in Kuruman decided to not just accept the meagre conditions in which they were living and started making a living for themselves.

They saw the opportunity of generating money by sewing – making clothes, shoes and bags.

The lack of employment opportunities in villages where most community members do not earn an income and as a result cannot support their families, convinced the women that having control over their earnings can help them invest in the health, education and well-being of their children.

These women also inspire other women to make something of their lives, creating a powerful multiplier effect that will benefit the entire society.

Among the challenges they are faced with, is the lack of resources and opportunities to improve their business and management skills. Efforts to provide current and future business women leaders and entrepreneurs with corporate development opportunities are critically needed.

These women purchase their own material to fashion clothes, tracksuits, shoes and other accessories that they sell to communities. They do beading, knitting and alterations using old sewing machines to do all the work.

Aspiring entrepreneurs wishing to join the venture are welcome to approach them. The Ward 9 women revealed that they were more than willing to teach interested individuals, especially the disabled, wanting to hone their talents.

The group consists of the young and elderly. Elsie Gaboutlwele said she was inspired to join the team and enjoys what she does. She said working with the other women keeps her busy and enables her to contribute towards the welfare of her family. People wanting to purchase or place orders can find them at pension paypoints in the area.

Outcome 1: Improved quality of basic education

Needy learners receive life-changing gifts from Mandela

By Bongani Mazibuko: GCIS Mpumalanga

Needy learners from the Highveld Secondary School in Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality in the Gert Sibande District Municipality, Mpumalanga, also shared in Nelson Mandela's legacy during Mandela Month.

This legacy is continuously changing people's lives. This was witnessed when needy orphans and vulnerable learners from the Highveld Secondary School, were given new school uniforms. The children were excited about the new uniforms and the added benefit for them was the relief from the pressure of being an orphan and needy child and at the same time boosting their self-esteem. Their lives will never be the same again.

During the event some learners read Mandela's biography so that all the children could learn about this international icon's legacy. Afterwards, the learners sang a special birthday song for Mandela.

Adding to the excitement was cutting the huge Mandela birthday cake by the Premier DD Mabuza, the Speaker of Mpumalanga Legislature SW Lubisi, and some learners. In his address, the Premier urged learners to study and pursue careers that will help them lead the country forward in future. Miss Mpumalanga, Ntandoyenkosi Kunene, also graced the activities with her presence.



Top: Standing at the blue podium is Premier DD Mabuza. Bottom: The learners of the Highveld Secondary School.



Left: A learner sharing a piece of cake with one of the dignitaries.



Right: A learner enjoys a piece of the birthday cake while the Premier looks on from behind.



Left: Handing over personal hygiene items to young girls is the Mayor of Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality, Cllr Busisiwe Shiba and the Mayor of Gert Sibande District Municipality, Cllr MPP Nhlabathi.



Right photo: Two of the learners wearing the new school uniform handed over to them.



Cutting the birthday cake is the Premier DD Mabuza, the Mayor of Gert Sibande District Municipality Cllr MPP Nhlabathi and a learner from Highveld Secondary School.



The Mayor of the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, Councillor Dikeledi Mmetle with the Provincial Deputy Police Commissioner, Major-General Ntombi Dladla and the Tzaneen Cluster Commander, Major-General Maggy Mathebula at the closing event for the Anti-Rape Campaign at Dan Village.



Outcome 3: All people in South Africa are and feel safe

Police urged not to lose heart

By Odas Ngoeni: GCIS Limpopo



Members of the Zion Christian Church (ZCC) brass band perform during the closing event of the first phase of the Anti-Rape Campaign at Dan Village on 19 July.

Quoting from the Bible at the closing event to mark the end of the first phase of the Anti-Rape Campaign in Dan Village in July 2013, Pastor Serero Mokoena said to the Police, "Do not be afraid, do not be discouraged. Go out and face them. The Lord will be with you."

Pastor Serero Mokoena of the Church of Nazarene in Lenyenye urged the Police not to lose heart in their fight against the abuse of women and children. Mokoena told police led by the provincial deputy commissioner, Major-General Ntombi Dladla, that they must confront the rapists head-on.

He also called on churches to unite and pray for the Police. "My message to all the churches is that we should put our differences aside and pray for the Police not to lose hope," said Mokoena.

The five-month long Anti-Rape Programme led by Tzaneen Police Cluster Commander, Major-General Maggy Mathebula, was initiated in February this

year after a wave of rape cases were reported at the seven police stations in Tzaneen, including the rape of the two-year old toddlers at Tickyline and Relela villages.

Mathebula said the campaign had been a huge success, and thanked churches and business people for their support. "During the campaign, we visited 25 schools as part of our outreach awareness wherein we were giving them safety tips.

"We also visited 19 villages as part of our door-to-door campaigns. During our door-to-door campaign at Bolobedu South, we were told of an incident where a five-year old has been repeatedly raped by her biological father while her mother was at work," she said.

Police also arrested a wanted armed robber during one of the door-to-door campaigns in Khujwana Village, about 20 km outside Tzaneen.

Dikeledi Mmetle, the Mayor of Tzaneen Municipality called on the youth to stay away from liquor outlets. "The abuse of alcohol is not only a danger to our society, but also a hazard to your own future," she said.

Meanwhile, the Nkuna Traditional Council has put a moratorium on all new applications for liquor outlets in its area of jurisdiction.

Council spokesperson, Joel Mukhawana said they had written to the Limpopo Liquor Board informing them of the decision, and also to request them not to grant licences to applicants from Muhlava.

He said the Royal Council was concerned about the escalating rate of substance abuse among young people. "The future of our children is in education, not alcohol," said Mukhawana.

Outcome I: Improved Quality of Basic Education

Winter School improves matric pass rate

By GCIS: Northern Cape



Northern Cape Premier Sylvia Lucas handing over an award and a trophy to the St Anna Private School.



Learners on their way to the Burger Winter School in Stellenbosch.



From left are Nataschka Cloete, Amoré Blom, Magdel Cloete, Jaylee Van Staden and Lesmore Saul.

For the second consecutive year, the Namakwa District Municipality sent deserving learners from the district's best performing schools to one of the most popular winter schools in South Africa.

During the 2011 Namakwa Skills Summit hosted by the Namakwa District Municipality, role players in Namakwa and the Northern Cape identified several skills gaps and shortcomings in the region, which hindered growth and development.

The Annual Namakwa District Best Schools Awards and the Winter School Programme emanated from that summit. The best performing schools in the province were recognised.

Northern Cape Premier, Sylvia Lucas and a delegation from the Northern Cape Executive Council attended this year's event.

Schools were awarded for outstanding performances according to the Northern Cape Department of Education's guidelines.

The top schools were: High School Namakwaland, the overall best; Kharkams High, first runners-up; and Alexander Bay High, the second runners-up.

Protea High School, Sutherland High, St Anna Private School, and Fraserburg High all received 100% passes.

The top students of the schools were sent on an all-paid excursion to the Burger Winter School in Stellenbosch during the June holidays. Classes were facilitated by curriculum experts.

The five-day training comprises intensive academic sessions, which focus on key subjects including

Mathematics, Life Science, Physical Science, Business Studies, Afrikaans and Accounting.

Classes are conducted at the Bloemhof Girls School, another of the country's prominent institutions.

Learners on this year's trip were Jaylee van Staden from High School Namakwaland, Lesmore Saul from Kharkams High, Nataschka Cloete from Alexanderbaai High, Dominique Bantom from Protea High, Magdel Cloete from Sutherland High and Amore Blom from St Anna Private School.

**From the CEO's desk,
Phumla Williams – Voice of Government**

Forging a common identity

President Nelson Mandela was one of the volunteers and leaders who defied apartheid laws in 1952 and participated in the largest non-violent resistance ever seen in South Africa, known as the Defiance Campaign. The campaign was in response to a number of unfair and discriminatory laws, such as the pass laws.

In 1956, thousands of women also defied the apartheid government by marching to the Union Buildings in protest against the brutal apartheid pass laws. The pass laws compelled black people to carry identity documents at all times. Failure to produce it on demand by police was punishable by short-term imprisonment or expulsion to a Bantustan.

Similar to a passport, this document restricted black people's right to access resources and services such as the right to vote and freedom of association. It contained information on the individuals such as fingerprints, photograph, details of employment, whether he or she was allowed to be in a particular area and classified them on tribal and racial lines.

This historic march against the discriminatory and unjust laws played a significant role in mobilising opposition to apartheid and attracting global attention to the scourge of apartheid.

In 1994, the democratic government began a process to restore the dignity of the majority of South Africans and to build a democracy based on the ideals of fairness, justice and respect for human rights.

It repealed all laws that were discriminatory and unjust. Black people were no longer expected to carry identity documents at all times. Even more importantly, the Department of Home Affairs introduced the green bar-coded identity document (ID). The green bar-coded ID was the first step in forging a common identity as it was issued to all South Africans irrespective of their race.

Since then government has made significant progress in ensuring that human rights are respected, with Chapter 9 institutions specifically established to support and strengthen our constitutional democracy.

Outcome 12: An efficient, effective and development-oriented Public Service and an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship

As part of further consolidating our common national identity the Department of Home Affairs announced it was transforming South Africa's old IDs to the high-tech smartcard ID.

The smartcard ID was launched to inculcate a spirit of patriotism among all South Africans and pride in our common identity and nationhood.

The smartcard will use sophisticated and secure technology systems to manage identity in South Africa and is a precursor to creating a paperless Home Affairs, which will eliminate opportunities for fraud and corruption. According to the department, the card has various forms of security features, such as holograms and laser engraving. The ID card also contains personal details, which will provide visual verification of the card. ID cards that have been tampered with will also be easy to identify.

Other security features include fingerprint biometrics and biographic data, which is embedded on the 80 kilobytes card chip.

The department used the 95th birthday of our former President and anti-apartheid icon, Nelson Mandela, on 18 July to roll out the smartcard ID for South Africans. It issued new cards to a few well-known citizens of the "Mandela Generation" in honour of their fight for democracy and freedom. These included President Jacob Zuma, Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe, former President Thabo Mbeki, former President FW de Klerk, Archbishop Emeritus Desmond Tutu, Mrs Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Mrs Sophie de Bruyn, the Rivonia trialists Mr Andrew Mlangeni, Mr Dennis Goldberg, Mr Ahmed Kathrada and former Speaker Frene Ginwala.

Speaking at the smartcard ID handover ceremony at the Union Buildings, the Minister of Home Affairs, Naledi Pandor said, "This smartcard ID is symbolic of the struggle. We are giving them firstly to those who laid the foundation to our democracy. To Mandela, we are proud of you. You are an inspiration to the world and will continue to live in our hearts and minds."

The introduction of smartcard IDs will also help the Department of Home Affairs clean up the National Population Register, ensuring that it is secure and reliable. "This will be a major step towards creating a modern, reliable population register," the Minister said.

The full roll-out to the general public will begin in August to first-time applicants and senior citizens. The department has prepared 27 regional offices to issue the new card. Minister Naledi Pandor said that it would take between six and eight years for all South Africans to be issued with smartcard IDs. This means that we will have smartcard IDs and the old identity books coexisting alongside each other for several years.

On 9 August 2013, South Africa marks the 57th anniversary of the 1956 Women's Anti-pass March and in honour of the women who led the march to the Union Buildings the four machines that will produce smartcard IDs will be named after them.

Minister Pandor said, "...we will commission four machines that will produce the smartcard IDs and will name them Helen Joseph, Lilian Ngoyi, Sophie de Bruyn and Rahima Moosa in honour of the brave and selfless women who led the women's march to the Union Buildings on 9 August 1956."

The smartcard IDs is a significant breakthrough that will benefit the general public and business. It will enable the Department of Home Affairs to provide credible, reliable and accurate information, which will enable the State to better plan and implement service delivery.

This initiative is one of the biggest projects undertaken by government since 1994 and all South Africans are called upon to help make it a success.