




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS 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@gcis.gov.za

FREE STATE

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

GAUTENG

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

KWAZULU-NATAL

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

OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Rural schools receive mobile science laboratories

By Tabita Ngqunge: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams interacting with community members at the science lab at Thubalethu High School.



Ngangolwandle High School learners at the event.



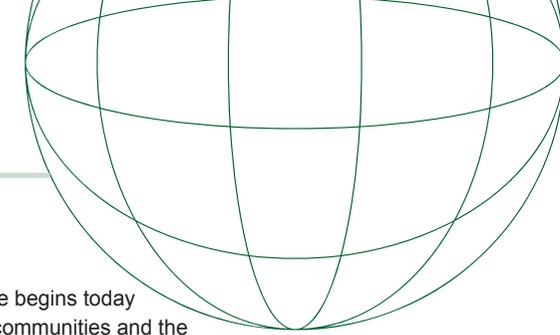
On 14 September 2015, Deputy Minister of Communications, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, opened two science laboratories at Ngangolwandle High School in Lombola village, Elliotdale and Thubalethu High School in Fort Beaufort. The science laboratories were donated by the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and will assist science learners to do their practicals. Speaking at Thubalethu High School during the handover of the science lab, the Deputy Minister said, "Our country needs young people like you who want to work hard to make our nation stronger and better."

Responding to why government was spending energy on a project focused on finding answers to the creation of the universe while the country is facing many socio-economic challenges, the Deputy Minister said, "The field of science and technology holds the promise of solving many of the challenges that we face. We will gain new knowledge that will lead to innovations that will accelerate economic growth and increase the country's competitiveness."



government
communications

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



LIMPOPO

Thanyani Ravhura
015 291 4689 or 082 421 3461
thanyani@gcis.gov.za

MPUMALANGA

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

NORTH WEST

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

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

NORTHERN CAPE

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

WESTERN CAPE

Ayanda Holo
021 697 0923 or 076 488 0634
holo@gcis.gov.za



The Deputy Minister also motivated the learners, urging them to work hard to realise their dreams. “Your future begins today and with hard work and dedication you will emerge with the skills and knowledge to make a difference in our communities and the country. I have no doubt that South Africa will, in the future, call upon your skills in mathematics and science that began right here in this science lab,” she concluded.

Through strategic partnerships, both schools have been beneficiaries of the state-of-the-art information technology equipment donations that were led by Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams. The visit provided an opportunity for government to monitor the usage of such equipment and assess the impact it has on improving the quality of teaching and learning in both schools. Proceedings ran concurrently with the Career Expo where various government entities exhibited and shared valuable information on available opportunities that young people could explore.



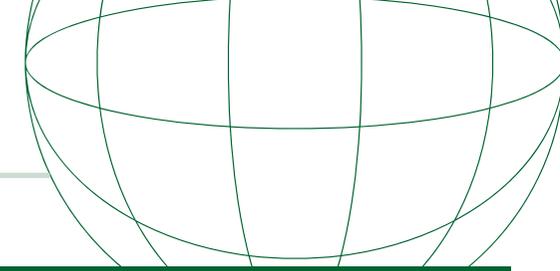
Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams, Angie Motsoahai of NYDA, Ngangolwandle High School learners and Wisizwi Billie at the science lab.



Olwethu Paka said:
“We appreciate the handing over of this science lab because it is really going to change our lives and we will produce good results and subsequently become future scientists. Thank you Deputy Minister for thinking of our school although it is in deep rural areas, this really shows that government cares.”



Zizipho Boo said:
“We thank you Deputy Minister for this lab and we promise that our results are going to improve this year. We are going to use the science lab to the best of our ability. We struggled a lot without the laboratory but now we are sure that this lab will make a difference in our lives.”



Thobekile Zulu said:

“I think the billboard will benefit young people. They are the ones who are mostly affected by many diseases because they ignore the call to have safe sex so that they can prevent infections. The campaign will inspire them to practise safe sex and not to have children at a young age.”



Sipho Nhlabathi said:

“Sometimes people need a daily reminder of the HIV and AIDS reality that we are faced with in this country. This billboard will serve as one of those reminders. The unveiling of the billboard demonstrates that government is committed to fighting against HIV and AIDS, and teenage pregnancy.”



Eugenia Mkhize said:

“I am happy that the campaign is not only targeting women who fall pregnant while at school and then leave school to look after their children as a result. It also focuses on men. They must get circumcised so that they do not contract STIs easily.”

OUTCOME 2: A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS

KwaZulu-Natal intensifies the fight against HIV and AIDS

By Nompilo Mchunu: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC Sibongiseni Dhlomo launched a dual-protection billboard campaign on 4 August 2015 as part of making inroads in the fight against HIV and AIDS in the province. MEC Dhlomo unveiled the first of the 69 billboards at the Mangosuthu University of Technology.

The MEC believes that since KwaZulu-Natal has the highest rate of HIV and AIDS, it must lead in advancing efforts aimed at creating an HIV and AIDS-free generation. He said the campaign is poised to enhance the fight against the spread of HIV and AIDS in the province.

On the day, 11 similar billboards were unveiled throughout the province’s 11 health districts while 57 would be posted at various sites in the coming weeks.

In the Amajuba District, the unveiling of the billboard was at KwaMathukuza township, led by the District Mayor, Councillor Jabu Khumalo.

The dual-protection approach promotes medical male circumcision and the use of female contraceptive methods such as Implanon, injections and the loop method while encouraging the use of condoms during sex. This ensures protection against both sexually transmitted infections (STIs) and unwanted pregnancies.

Councillor Khumalo was joined by the Amajuba District health managers, health organisations, civil society and interfaith leaders. She urged men to support medical male circumcision. “Statistics have shown that Amajuba District has a low circumcision rate compared to other districts in the province, we need to change that. Men should visit clinics and learn about circumcision and how it can lower the chances of contracting STIs,” she said.

She encouraged young women to use female contraceptives. “Do not be ashamed of carrying condoms in your handbags; consider it as a way of avoiding unwarranted and unplanned pregnancy,” said the Mayor.

Statistics show that South Africa’s unplanned pregnancies contribute significantly to the high drop-out rate at high schools and tertiary-education institutions. The statistics further reveal that approximately one million babies are born each year and 8% of them are born to teen mothers.

The health department was on site rendering health services and engaging with community members.



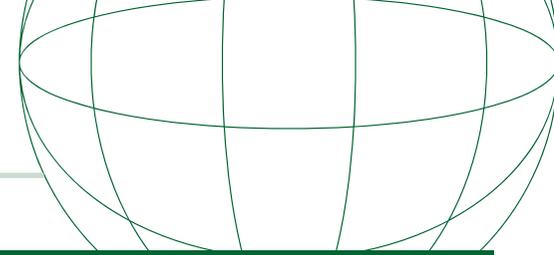
MEC Dhlomo at the unveiling of the dual-protection billboard in Umlazi.



Mayor Khumalo speaking at the unveiling of the billboard at KwaMathukuza.



The community of KwaMathukuza attended the unveiling of the billboard.



Shadrack Moabi said:

“I am happy and satisfied with the services that I received here today.”



Tebogo Motshebe said:

“This initiative is very important because it brings services closer to the people and it also gives us a chance to meet various government departments that do not have offices in our municipality.”

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

Government takes services to the people

By Ellen Letlhake: GCIS, North West

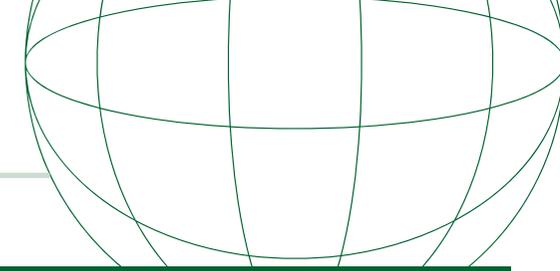


Boskop community members receiving services from government departments and the South African Police Service stalls.

The Setsokotsane programme was rolled out from 3 to 4 September 2015 at Boskop and Promosa villages in Potchefstroom Local Municipality. The programme is aimed at fighting poverty and unemployment in the province by delivering services to the community. Setsokotsane is an intensive high-level focused and dedicated intervention strategy led by North West Premier Supra Mahumapelo and his provincial cabinet. The objective of the campaign is to create a platform for government to take services to the people. The campaign will also help in building close relations between government and communities by addressing their challenges through direct and effective engagement.

Stakeholders that were present include government departments, parastatals and non-governmental organisations. They interacted with community members while providing services and addressing their complaints.

The event was a success and the community got a chance to visit the stalls and were very grateful that their district was granted a chance to host the event.



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

Thusong Service Centre Week exhibition

By Sikelela Zokufa: GCIS, Western Cape

The launch of the annual Thusong Service Centre Week took a form of an exhibition comprising ward councillors and members of ward committees who reached out to community members. About 500 delegates attended the event. Government materials such as leaflets, *Vuk'uzenzele* newspapers, Integrated Strategy on the Development and Promotion of Cooperatives, Western Cape transport newsletters and anti-corruption brochures were distributed at the exhibition.

Key achievements and positive stories of the Thusong Service Centre programme were shared with the public. Ward-committee members consisted of intersectoral representation from business, tourism, sport, health, early childhood development, construction, youth, entertainment, etc.

Government has implemented 120 Thusong Service Centre outreach projects, thus assisting 140 000 citizens to access government services and information. Over one million citizens access services through Thusong Service Centres in the province. A list of "Tell the Story Campaign" by beneficiaries was displayed at the exhibition. The programme demonstrated the impact that was made in ensuring that skills and training, adult education, job creation and other income-generating projects are initiated to benefit local people.

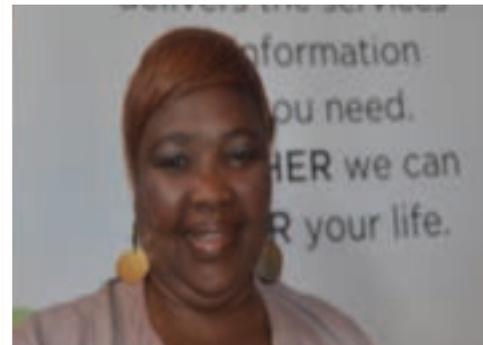


People accessing services at different stalls at the event.



Lorraine Surwame said:

"Our Thusong Service Centre has helped me in establishing my business called Kwa Lorraine Eatery, which is in the hospitality sector. The programmes have attracted more clients for my business and boosted my marketing plan. There are many opportunities created by the centre for the community. Today I am a proud businesswoman participating in the ward committee."



Zoliswa Phillips said:

"Oudtshoorn Thusong Service Centre has changed the lives of people in the area and home-based care workers operating from the centre. The Thusong Mobile programme supplemented the programme. Municipal services are also rendered from the centre, which makes it easier for residents to get electricity and refuse removal services in their proximity."



Emmerenthea Maneuil said:

"It gives the community necessary services such as application for grants, identity documents, etc. We no longer have to travel long distances to access government services. We used to travel from Prince Albert to Beaufort West but now we do not have to pay taxi fares anymore. We are getting services cheaper, easier and more conveniently."