



# MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 21 / June 2015

## 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](mailto:ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za)

### FREE STATE

Trevor Mokeyane  
051 448 4504 or 083 255 0042  
[tshenolo@gcis.gov.za](mailto:tshenolo@gcis.gov.za)

### GAUTENG

Peter Gumede  
011 834 3560 or 083 570 8080  
[peterg@gcis.gov.za](mailto:peterg@gcis.gov.za)

### KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi  
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420  
[ndala@gcis.gov.za](mailto:ndala@gcis.gov.za)

## OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

### Minister fulfils the big promise

*By Thenjiwe Konono: GCIS, Northern Cape*

Learners in the Umsobomvu Local Municipality will no longer have to travel long distances to school. Transport Minister Dipuo Peters has donated 50 bicycles to learners of Novalspont Intermediate School and 140 shoes to Eureka Primary School learners. The Minister was fulfilling the promise she made when she visited the municipality earlier this year.

"My visit today is not to give a speech but to deliver on the promises I made in February 2015 when I visited this municipality," said Minister Peters. Learners who benefited from the Minister's donation used to walk for about 20km to school. Most of them stay in farms with their parents who do not that earn much to provide them with these necessities.

The Minister was accompanied by local councillors, different stakeholders and officials from the Department of Basic Education.



Minister Peters helping learners to fit their shoes during the handover process.

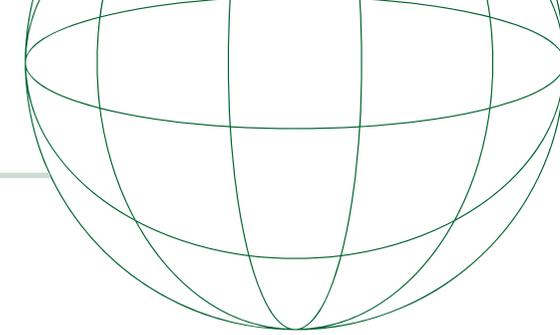


Minister Peters posing with beneficiaries at the school.



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](mailto:thanyani@gcis.gov.za)

**MPUMALANGA**

Tiisetso Ramotse  
013 753 2397 or 072 219 5136  
[tiisetso@gcis.gov.za](mailto:tiisetso@gcis.gov.za)

**NORTH WEST**

Mareka Mofokeng  
018 381 7071 or 083 382 5909  
[mareka@gcis.gov.za](mailto:mareka@gcis.gov.za)

Kagisho Meremetsi  
018 381 7071 or 084 318 9179  
[kagisho@gcis.gov.za](mailto:kagisho@gcis.gov.za)

**NORTHERN CAPE**

Marius Nagel  
053 832 1378/9 or 083 778 9179  
[mariusn@gcis.gov.za](mailto:mariusn@gcis.gov.za)

**WESTERN CAPE**

Louis Botha  
021 697 0923 or 083 965 1866  
[LouisB@gcis.gov.za](mailto:LouisB@gcis.gov.za)



**The Minister with other dignitaries.**



**Minister Peters, dignitaries and learners posing with the bicycles before the handover.**



**The Minister handing over five bicycles to learners.**



**Minister Peters addressing learners at Norvalspont Intermediate School.**



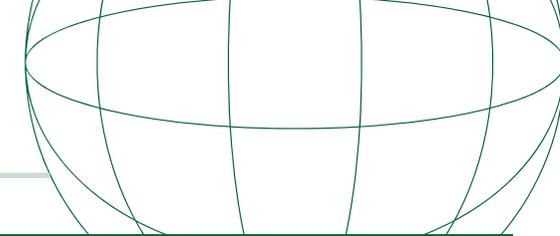
**Kievido said:**

“The bicycles will help learners to arrive at school on time. My other wish is for the learners to be provided with school uniform. There will be a need for monitoring to be done on the whole process because some of these learners can be bullied by other family members or relatives who may want to use these bicycles for their own benefit.”



**Puleyo said:**

“Most learners are from disadvantaged backgrounds and the Minister’s effort of giving them shoes is much appreciated.”



**GCIS's Robbie Senoelo (second from left) with Oma Grace and her neighbours after she received a new wheelchair.**



**Linky Mathabe said:**  
 "It is very important that young people take care of the elderly in their communities and refrain from neglecting or abusing them."



**Rachel Mashuluwane said:**  
 "As family we are very happy that she has received this wheelchair. We are very thankful."



**Elliot Dlamini said:**  
 "I am very happy and would like to thank the President for this wonderful gift."

## OUTCOME 8: SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENT AND IMPROVED QUALITY OF HOUSEHOLD LIFE.

### Government delivers on its promise

*By Robbie Senoelo: GCIS, Gauteng*

An old-age home resident, Jane Miller, from Eersterust in Pretoria received a belated Mothers' Day gift when the Government Communication and Information System, Mams FM and Sungardens Hospice joined hands and donated a wheelchair to her on 19 May 2015.

Affectionately known as Oma Grace, Jane is an 86-year-old woman living with her granddaughter and great granddaughter. She is described as a strong and independent woman; however, due to ageing she depends on other people to assist her.

Elaine, who works for an NGO called Concerned Parents in Eersterust, played the role of a super-hero when she raised concerns about Oma Grace's fragile state and her need for a wheelchair during President Jacob Zuma's Siyahloa Campaign held on 24 March 2015 at the Lodewyk P. Spies Old Age Home.

Oma Grace's granddaughter, Rachel Mashuluwane and a family friend identified as Zelda, were visibly emotional as they spoke of the struggles that the old woman faced before receiving a wheelchair.

"Life was really hard for Oma Grace, she is old and fragile now, which means she cannot move around like she used to or would like to, and has to depend on us for assistance. For instance, we struggle to take her to the clinic for check-up because she cannot walk for too long and we cannot afford to pay for transport to take her there.

"We are very happy that she has received this wheelchair because it will help her to move around easily and even going to the clinic will not be a challenge anymore. We are very grateful for your help, words cannot explain our happiness. Thank you very much," said Rachel.

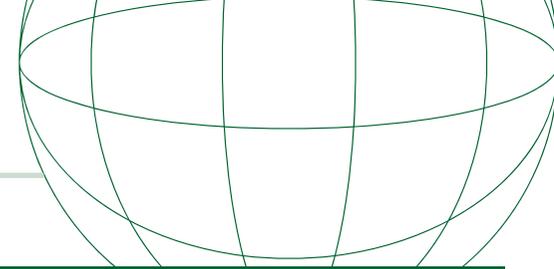
Sister Linky Mathabe from the Sungardens Hospice emphasised that young people should take care of the elderly in their communities and not abuse them. She also said that the relationship between government and the hospice was clearly beneficial to the community of Eersterust; and should not be a once-off thing but rather a nurtured relationship that will continue to benefit the elderly.

Elliot Dlamini, who is a resident at the Lodewyk P. Spies Old Age Home, also received a mobile wheelchair that was promised by President Zuma during the campaign.

"I am very happy I wish I could meet with the President and thank him personally for making my life easier. He has changed my life and I hope that he will continue to help others," said Dlamini, who is paraplegic.

The steps taken on that day to change the lives of the two wheelchair recipients show that government does care of its people, including the most vulnerable.

The old-age home has 95 residents and currently receives bedding, toiletries and linen from government. The building is also undergoing renovations, which will include the upgrading of its security system.



**Sindisiwe Ngaba (right) delivering a tribute on behalf of Mama Ruth's family.**



**Kaone Masilo said:**  
"Mama Ruth was a selfless leader. I came to bid farewell to her. Mama Ruth, we will remember you."



**Lebogang Seleke said:**  
"I am here to celebrate the life of Mama Ruth. We are proud of her work and contribution to our freedom."

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

### Struggle icon laid to rest

*By Fatima Modise: GCIS, North West*

Struggle icon Mama Ruth Mompoti was laid to rest at Huhudi cemetery next to Vryburg in the North West on 23 May 2015.

A month after the ANC stalwart and struggle icon was honoured when her sculpture was unveiled at Hayes Park in Vryburg, she was admitted to a military hospital in Cape Town where she passed on. Mourners came from all walks of life to pay their respects and also witness the sending off of the struggle stalwart. She was a selfless leader indeed.

Her grandchildren said that they will be able to face the world without her because they have learned much from her. They also said that she taught them to share the little that they have with those who do not have.

President Jacob Zuma said, "We testify without any fear of contradiction, that here lies a towering giant in the Struggle for freedom and democracy that we enjoy today, which came about through the blood, sweat and tears of thousands of our people, as well as many freedom loving people within Africa and the world. We salute you Mama Ruth."

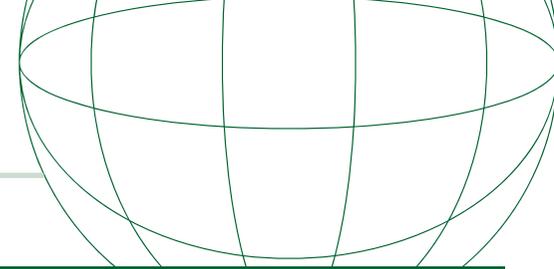
Mama Ruth has left the people of Vryburg with two beautiful gifts: the hospice which is caring for the ill and the Ruth Mompoti Foundation which is sending students from unprivileged backgrounds to study overseas.



**People standing next to a car carrying Mama Ruth's coffin.**



**President Jacob Zuma and other dignitaries who attended the funeral.**



**The Somali community attended the Imbizo.**



**Advocate Hisaam Mohammet from the DOJCD was one of the speakers at the Imbizo.**



**Ceaser said:**

“As a school principal in this community I am very concerned about the fact that seven foreign national learners will be deported. I request the Department of Home Affairs to assist in this regard.”

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

### **Africa Day used to preach peace**

*By Peter Titus: GCIS, Western Cape*

The recent violent attacks on foreign nationals in South Africa have claimed at least seven lives and threatened countless foreign nationals living and working in South Africa. The attacks also impacted negatively on the country’s image.

The Western Cape Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DOJCD) hosted a Service Delivery Imbizo in Worcester/Breede Valley on 25 May 2015. The event was done in collaboration with the Department of Correctional Services, South African Police Service and the Government Communication and Information System. The Imbizo focused on addressing the concerns of different communities in relation to violence against foreign nationals. It further created awareness in respect of equality rights, the right to dignity, safety and security, and also access to socio-economic rights.

The event was very positive and also allowed community members to raise their complaints. Communities were urged to end violence against foreign nationals.

It was suggested that smaller area-based forum be established to ensure better lines of communication between South Africans and foreign nationals. This forum will be led by community development workers in their respective areas. It was suggested that more Imbizo programmes should be organised to highlight better relationships between South Africans and foreign nationals.



**People registering to be part of the Africa Day Imbizo.**



**Various institutions set up stalls to provide information to community members.**



**Hundreds of people attended the event.**