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

KwaZulu-Natal launches its 20 Years of Freedom Campaign

By Mlungisi Dlamini: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Premier places flowers of remembrance as a symbol to honour the struggle. He said the Provincial Government would put measures in place to ensure that this very important site where Madiba was captured does not get vandalised.



The Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Senzo Mchunu, accompanied by MECs officially light the 20 Years of Freedom Flame.



MEC Ina Cronje (MEC Finance), officially handed over the 20 Years of Freedom Flame to the Mayor of Umgungundlovu Cllr YS Bhamjee, which would be the first hosting district.

The official launch of KwaZulu-Natal's 20 Years of Freedom Celebration Campaign on 10 March 2014 was characterised by the 20 Years of Freedom Flame, which will travel through the whole province. This historic event, which attracted a number of political principals from across the province, the amakhosi, senior government officials and the community, took place outside Howick where the late former President Mandela was captured in the 1960s.

During the media briefing the KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Senzo Mchunu outlined how the celebrations will unfold in the province. He said that the 20 Years of Freedom Flame's rotation would commence from 10 March to 27 April 2014. The Premier said, "The 20 Years of Freedom Campaign gives South Africans many reasons to celebrate because of the improvements to the infrastructure and provision of basic services. We have also realised that there is a need to acknowledge

those who fought for freedom in different ways, which led to imprisonment and unhealed wounds of many. We decided to launch a programme that will celebrate democracy and freedom, as there are millions of young people who find it difficult to identify with what happened in the past. We therefore want to educate the public at large that we are a country that has a particular past."



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Luvuyo Gqalane of the Department of Home Affairs explaining to a community member the processes to be followed when applying for an identity document.

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

Service delivery slowly improves for Mier Municipality

By Wally Cloete: GCIS, Northern Cape



Northern Cape Premier Sylvia Lucas (red dress) handed over the keys of the second brand new ambulance to the communities of Askham and Swartkop Dam. With her is Zelda Mjila, the Speaker of the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality, Rudy Visser and Leon Hayes from the emergency services and an elder of the community.



Members of the community of Askham listening to the feedback given by the Premier of the Northern Cape, Sylvia Lucas on projects that had benefited the community.

A follow-up visit to the Mier Municipality recently by the Northern Cape Executive Council and various government departments left many community residents hopeful.

Premier Sylvia Lucas and her team returned to the communities to monitor service delivery and provide feedback with regard to service-delivery issues outlined sometime in 2013.

During the visit Lucas handed over a second ambulance to the communities of Swartkop Dam and Askham for the improvement of health services.

The municipal region has been identified as a war-on-poverty area and relies on economic development projects such as social grants, farming, the Extended Public Works Programme and Community Works Programme to generate revenue.

Challenges surrounding unemployment, housing, land and funding for tertiary education were reconsidered. The departments of home affairs, health and GCIS rendered services.





Free State Education MEC Tate Makgoe, Deputy Minister of Water Affairs Rejoice Mabudafhasi, MTN representative, Mangaung Metro Deputy Executive Mayor Connie Rampai and Executive Mayor Thabo Manyoni.



Free State Education MEC Tate Makgoe reading what the first-time computer user typed on the screen.



OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Semomotela Intermediate School awarded with a media classroom

By More Matshediso: GCIS, Free State

Semomotela Intermediate School learners chanted songs of praise on 10 March 2014 when the Deputy Minister of Water Affairs, Rejoice Mabudafhasi, visited the school to officially open a media classroom worth R1,8 million.

The school put Botshabelo on the national map when it won first prize in the Music Category during the 2013 annual South African Youth Water Summit, known as Baswa Le Meetse (Youth In Water).

The media classroom sponsored by the MTN Foundation is fully furnished with 21 computers, a touch screen interactive board, three-in-one printer, data projectors and a subsidy of free internet access for two years. The school also received a cash prize of R6 000.

Computer illiterate learners from the Grade 6 class were selected to receive their first 30-minute computer lesson before the official opening.

Keabetswe Botsane (13), said she was excited to use a computer for the first time.

"I am going to learn a lot of things. I used to envy other people who knew how to use a computer. I will also encourage other learners to learn a lot from the media classroom," said Botsane.

Mabudafhasi said her department was amazed by the Semomotela learners' performance during

the competition when they sang about how to use water wisely and to conserve it.

"This media classroom will take teaching and learning to another level at this school as the pass rate will improve drastically. South Africa is a better country today than it was 20 years back," she added.

Semomotela, which accommodates more than 650 learners, will be among the schools that will participate in the Eco-schools Project across the country and it will be a model school in water and environmental management.

"Being an Eco-school will enable us to achieve water and environmental sustainability in the school and surrounding communities as well as supporting education for sustainable development in the national curriculum," said Mabudafhasi.

She said the South African Constitution stated that water is a basic human right and everyone has the right to clean and accessible water, adequate for the well-being of the individual and family.

"No one shall be deprived of such access or quality of water due to individual economic circumstance," said Mabudafhasi.

The Baswa le Meetse Competition is one of the projects of the 2020 Vision for Water Education

Programme, which links water and sanitation, arts and culture by encouraging learners to showcase their cultural heritage while respecting natural resources.

"South Africa is a water-scarce country faced with a challenge of rapidly increasing population and an increased demand for water by all sectors. Please note that the amount of our annual rainfall is not increasing as the demand increases. Most people are not aware of this situation and use water inefficiently and pollute our water resources," she added.

Mabudafhasi said the vision for sustaining resources would be realised only if South Africans were empowered with knowledge and skills that will enable them to use water efficiently.

The school's principal, Lebogang Motshabi, expressed how grateful he was for the award his learners won. He thanked the Department of Water Affairs and the MTN Foundation for the state-of-art media classroom.

The Free State MEC of Education Tate Makgoe, Mangaung Metro Municipality Executive Mayor Thabo Manyoni and Bloem Water also supported the event.



Mpumalanga's Premier, DD Mabuza, officially handed over the Izimbali Combined Boarding School in Amsterdam in the Mkhondo Municipality in the Gert Sibande District in Mpumalanga to the School Governing Body (SGB) Chairperson, Mr Thanjekwayo.



Back to school for the Mpumalanga MECs, the principal and Pixley Ka-Seme Municipality members experiencing the convenience of the newly built classrooms first-hand.



OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Premier DD Mabuza hands over the Izimbali Combined Boarding School in Amsterdam.

By Bongani Mazibuko: GCIS, Mpumalanga

Photographs by Vuyisile Cindi: GCIS, Mpumalanga

Learners living in the farming areas of Amsterdam, in the Mkhondo Municipality used to travel many kilometres to school. Some of these farm schools were lower-primary schools. Learners were attending schools that only offered up to Grade 4. In some schools one classroom had to accommodate all four grades. From Grade 5 onwards, learners had to travel very far to school. Some of the learners come from very poor family backgrounds. Many of them are poverty stricken, vulnerable orphans due to the prevalence of HIV and AIDS in this area.

The construction of this combined boarding school recognises education as a means through which the entire community can be developed.

As part of government's broader programme, the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP), which is aimed at developing rural areas, the Mpumalanga Provincial Government responded to the plight of learners living in the deep rural areas of Mkhondo.

Accompanied by the MECs for public works, roads and transport, Dikeledi Mahlangu, human settlements, Andries Gamede, and education, Reginah Mhaule, Premier DD Mabuza officially handed over the state-of-the-art Izimbali Combined Boarding School to the community of Amsterdam in Mkhondo. Among other things, the school boasts with a fully equipped laboratory.

It all the apparatus for science experiments will go a long way in training young scientists. If it were not for this Boarding School, knowing and using a laboratory would remain a dream for most of these learners.

The school also has a computer laboratory, 24 classrooms, dormitories, a First Aid consulting room, dining hall, Administration block, and sport fields. Currently the school accepts learners from Grade R to Grade 10. It will progress in phases to Grade 12 over the next two years.

Some of the farm schools were built during the apartheid era and only accommodated learners at primary school level up to Grade 7.

The current government administration introduced the CRDP, which is beginning to bear fruit since this is the second boarding school delivered in the same municipality since Minister Gugile Nkwinti launched the programme in October 2009.

A similar school has been constructed in Belfast in the Emakhazeni Municipality. This shows clearly the fast pace at which this Administration is working to address the neglect of the deep rural areas.

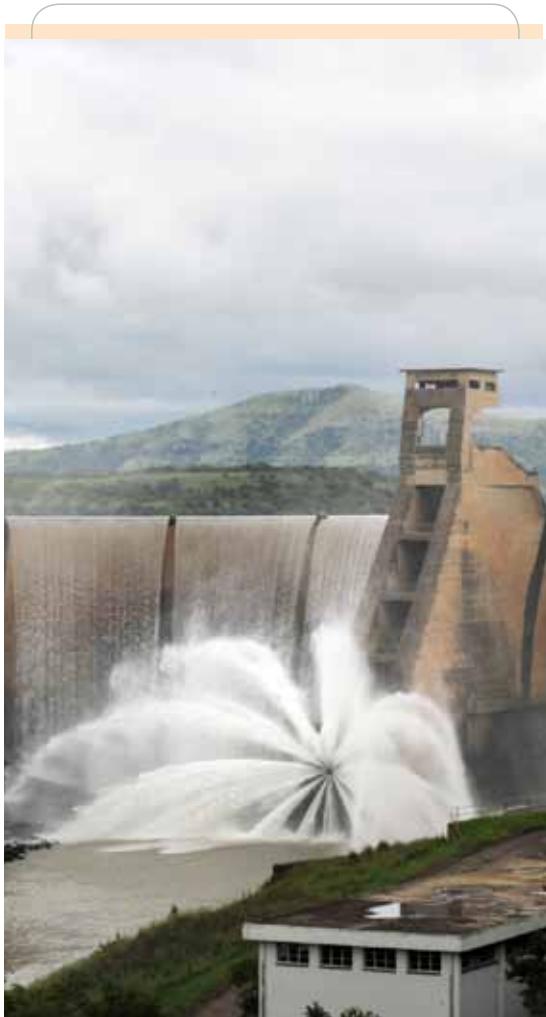
The lives of learners, and the people of Amsterdam and its surrounding rural areas will never be the same again.



Premier DD Mabuza and SGB Chairperson Mr Thanjekwayo planted a tree as a symbol of growth and prosperity.



"The Grade Rs will enjoy the swing as much as we do," said the Premier.



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

Precautionary measures during floods

Source: Government News

- Avoid crossing rivers or streams when it is raining.
- Check whether the water level is rising before crossing a flooded river.
- Do not cross bridges with a high water level.
- Parents are urged to look after their children and always know where they are.
- Motorists are encouraged to be cautious when driving on wet roads
- The Motorists are also encouraged to listen to the radio to be updated about the roads they travel on.
- Do not use dilapidated boats or water crafts when fishing.
- Avoid usage of alcohol when venturing into areas where there are dams, streams and rivers.
- Switch off electrical appliances in cases where homes are flooded.

