



MY DISTRICT TODAY

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95% of households now have access to running water.

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

New school for Umzimkhulu

By Mlungisi Dlamini and Nomzamo Zondi, GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Before



After

Ginyiqhinga Senior Secondary School in Umzimkhulu.

Ginyiqhinga Senior Secondary School in Umzimkhulu is living proof of government's commitment to improve the infrastructure of schools in KwaZulu-Natal and the country as a whole.

Since 2003, learners and teachers at the school faced the intolerable challenge of studying and teaching in a tiny Dutch church that was donated and that was not able to accommodate the volume of pupils in the area. This had a negative impact on the enrolment and pass rate of the school, and parents were uncertain about its registration status. "In 2003 we only had 23 Grade 12 learners and we only obtained an 11% pass rate," explains

Mr Zilungisele Robert Mbanjwa, principal, adding that they only had volunteer educators who were not qualified as teachers at the time.

This situation prompted the principal to engage with the governing body and parents to build a school with money from their own pockets. They built three classrooms between 2004 and 2005.

Following the incorporation of Umzimkhulu into KwaZulu-Natal, the provincial government prioritised the school, and in 2011 turned it into a modern structure consisting of six classrooms, an administration block, computer laboratory and

science lab. The school, which now has an enrolment of 467 and a matric pass rate of more than 70%, has attracted learners from as far as Rietvlei, Msdukeni and Sehole. "Parents from the area no longer have to carry the burden of paying a transport fare to take their children to other schools," Mbanjwa said.

During the official opening of the school on 13 July 2013, the MEC for Education, Senzo Mchunu, said that there is a need to further expand the school. The principal confirmed this, saying that there are plans to accommodate Grade 8 and Grade 9, but there is currently a challenge with space.

Lucky Mhlakwa, a Grade 12 student who wishes to study medicine next year, said he enjoyed being a student at Ginyiqhinga because the teachers work as a team and they are always willing to assist them when they have challenges. "We are also getting the kind of support that we need as science students because our chemistry lab is fully equipped," concluded Lucky.

The Government outcome for basic education aims in Output 1 to improve the quality of teaching and learning. Ginyiqhinga seeks to achieve the output for the sustainable livelihood of future generations.

LIMPOPO

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

MPUMALANGA

Tiisetso Ramotse
013 753 2397 or 072 219 5136
tiisetso@gcis.gov.za

NORTH WEST

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

NORTHERN CAPE

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

WESTERN CAPE

Ayanda Hollow
021 697 0145 or 083 255 7665
ayanda@gcis.gov.za



The total number of grant beneficiaries was 15,5 million as at March 2012.

OUTCOME 10: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS AND NATURAL RESOURCES THAT ARE WELL PROTECTED AND CONTINUALLY ENHANCED

Clean-up campaign to celebrate World Environmental Day

By Mlungisi Dlamini and Makhosi Nyawo, GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Ingwe community held a one-day clean-up campaign in commemoration of World Environmental Day.

The Sisonke Municipality, Department of Agriculture and Environmental Affairs and Ingwe Municipality held a one-day clean-up campaign in commemoration of World Environmental Day. The event, which targeted people in Bulwer who received RDP houses, took place on Tuesday, 15 October 2013 under the theme “Emerging environmental health risk and challenges for tomorrow.”

According to Zwelakhe Dlamini from Ingwe Municipality, Bulwer village has the potential for better development if the proposed incorporation with Kwa Sani Municipality becomes a reality. He said communities should notify the municipality if

there are any areas where the municipal waste removal trucks cannot access. This campaign will ensure that environmental assets and natural resources are well protected and continually enhanced.

While cleaning up, the volunteers discovered that there are no dumping sites and people use a nearby open space to throw away waste. This poses a serious threat to human life, especially children, as they like to play there. “A recommendation has been made following the visit that the illegal dumping site be converted into a communal garden, which will assist the community and provide them with fresh vegetables,” said Bulelwa Mchunu, an

environmental health manager from Sisonke, when she explained the purpose of the campaign.

Meanwhile, Deputy Mayor Ntuseng Duma said illegal waste dumping costs government a lot of money that could have been used for other projects. She stressed that government takes environmental conservation very seriously and advised the community to transform waste into business opportunities like the Collect-a-Can Project. In her closing remarks, she assured the community that if they start businesses with waste, government can assist them with transporting it to the relevant companies.



Government has sustained its delivery of housing to the poor, reaching a cumulative target of 3,38 million houses.



OUTCOME 8: SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND AN IMPROVED QUALITY OF HOUSEHOLD LIFE

Residents in Winterveld get their title deeds

By Robbie Senoelo, GCIS, Gauteng



Gauteng's Premier during the handing over of title deeds in Winterveld.



Members of the public visited the GCIS stall for information products during the handing over of title deeds in Winterveld on Wednesday, 23 October 2013.



Gauteng's Premier, and Community Safety MEC Faith Mazibuko with the recipient of a title deed.

The Government's effort to ensure the delivery of sustainable human settlements and improved quality of household life received a boost from the Gauteng Provincial Government in Tshwane on Wednesday, 23 October 2013.

For many households in Winterveld, it was a very special day when the Premier of Gauteng, Ms Nomvula Mokonyane, handed over title deeds to the homes of many of its residents. Housing – or Human Settlements as it is now referred to – is core to human dignity and social stability and is a key enabler of health, education and social cohesion outcomes. In most instances the inhabitants of the properties have lived in the houses for more than 20 years while making sustainable payments to acquire full ownership of their properties.

Ms Mokonyane was accompanied by the Chief Whip, Cllr Jabulani Mabona, and the MEC for Housing and Human Settlements, Cllr Joshua Ngonyama. The proceedings were led by the Community Safety MEC, Faith Mazibuko.

The day started with an Exco meeting at the Winterveld Council Chambers, while exhibitions, distribution of information products and mobile services were rendered by the GCIS, Department of Home Affairs, South African Social Security Agency, Community Safety, Health, and the City of Tshwane's Housing Department.

The recipients consisted of child-headed households, older persons and people with disabilities. Upon receiving her house's title deed, Minenhle Kubisi said that she refers to herself as physically challenged rather

than disabled. This statement proved to be a winner with the crowd and she received great applause from the community.

Ms Kubisi was very thankful for the house and wanted to use the opportunity to prove that physically challenged people can live alone and look after themselves. "I don't have a problem to stay alone because I am physically challenged and not disabled," she said as she received a hug from the premier.

The occasion was also used to encourage local residents to register for the upcoming general elections. "Please go and check with the IEC if you are registered to vote in next year's elections," said Cllr Mosito. "Remember, your vote is your voice, make it count; register and vote," he concluded.



The crime ratio per 100 000 of the population in respect of all the categories of contact crime continues to decrease.



OUTCOME 11: CREATING A BETTER SOUTH AFRICA AND CONTRIBUTING TO A BETTER AND SAFER AFRICA AND WORLD

“Salute” as members leave the country

By Eunice Nkuna, GCIS, Limpopo



Members of 7SAI BN during their farewell parade at Namakgale Stadium on 16 October 2013.

The South African Government continues to play an active role with regard to peace and security matters around the continent. The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) has been at the forefront of peacekeeping missions in Africa.

Despite the scorching heat of Ba-Phalaborwa – which often reaches above 40°C – members of the community of Ba-Phalaborwa came out in large numbers to the farewell parade of 7SAI BN to wish them well with their next assignment. Troops from 7SAI BN will be leaving South Africa for Sudan on 11 November 2013 on a peacekeeping mission.

In his speech, the acting mayor of Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality, Cllr Malatji said, “As part of its mandate under a democratic dispensation, the SANDF continues to play a crucial role in supporting the South African Government’s foreign policy by being ready to respond to calls to promote and support peace and stability on the continent, whether at a bilateral or multilateral level.”

Community and family members of the soldiers also attended the parade to give support to their loved ones. The atmosphere at Namakgale Stadium was joyful as some mothers broke out in ululation as their sons and daughters

displayed their beautiful skills in parading.

Lt Col Vusi Maseko promised the audience that they wouldn’t lose or leave any man or woman in Sudan; they would all come back home safe. He also thanked stakeholders and family members who came to support the troops.

“As a fully-fledged member of the international community, South Africa will fulfil its responsibility to participate in international peace support operations.” This is according to the *White Paper on National Defence for the Republic of South Africa (1996)*.



According to a survey, housebreaking and theft is perceived by 60% of the population to be the most common crimes.



The Minister of Police Nathi Mthethwa addressing the community of Mboyi and Enkanyezini during the Imbizo, with the local police commander and cluster commander.

OUTCOME 3: ALL PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE AND FEEL SAFE

Minister Mthethwa urges Maqongqo community to partner with police in tackling crime

By Bonginkosi Gumede, GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

Maqongqo, Pietermaritzburg, 08 October 2013 – Police alone cannot reduce crime, because the success of any operation depends on the active participation of residents. It is indeed the duty of every citizen to report any criminal activity and for police to respond on time when called upon.

This was the message of the Minister of Police, Nathi Mthethwa, during a crime awareness event held at Embhoyi Sports Ground in Maqongqo outside of Pietermaritzburg. He stated that, when it comes to issues of crime, many of the criminals who terrorise people are known to the community.

Residents expressed their frustration about various acts of crime that has increased in the area and their subsequent impression that not much is being done by the police. In particular, they raised the issue of the rape of women, and abuse of children and the elderly. They also complained about the long distance they travel to report crimes, suggesting that there should be a police station nearby.

“We are here today to reaffirm government’s commitment to eradicate violence against women, children and the elderly. We understand that crimes such as rape and sexual offences affect all communities, irrespective of their socioeconomic status and background,” said the Minister.

He said government will intensify the war on crime against children, including adults who influence and abuse children to commit crime for their benefit. “Although crimes against women and children have decreased, we are now seeing a trend where young children are being targeted and abused. We further want to strengthen our efforts in fighting sexual offences because, in most instances, people who get robbed in their homes or in the street are victims of rape, assault and murder. I am here today to say to the police – let us have less talk and more action in protecting our residents. This is not a suggestion but a direct order, which must be adhered to,” added the Minister.

The community also raised concerns about the treatment they receive at the local police station. “The local station must become the face of our policing effort as we seek to improve and ensure the safety of all law-abiding citizens. The treatment we give to people who visit police stations in search of help leaves a lasting impression – not only about the particular station but about the SAPS as a whole,” said Mr Mthethwa.

The Minister emphasised that government alone will not be able to address the problem. He urged communities to form part of efforts to address crime and corruption by participating in community policing forums and more directly

by reporting crime to the police.

“We have in the past emphasised the point that our battle against crime cannot be separated from the war on want. In the main, incidents of contact crime such as murder, grievous bodily harm and rape occur among acquaintances in poor communities where living conditions do not allow for decent family and social life.

“To the criminals who have been terrorising this community: the party is over now. I have instructed the police to ensure that they harden their approach in the fight against crime because we do not negotiate with criminals. The only language we will engage in is the arrest and punishment of perpetrators. But arresting criminals is not enough; we now want more convictions and prosecutions,” stated Minister Mthethwa.

As a way forward, the Minister tasked the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Commissioner, Lieutenant-General Mamomonye Ngobeni, and her team to address the concerns raised at the meeting, immediately. He gave the team a three-month deadline to report on progress. He reiterated that there has to be a change in the lives of residents when it comes to their safety.



In general, South Africans are increasingly feeling safe.



OUTCOME 3: ALL PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE AND FEEL SAFE

MEC Carlisle launches Pedestrian Safety Week

By GCIS, Western Cape

The Western Cape Department of Transport and Public Works has set aside R3 million in the current financial year to focus on a high-intensity pilot pedestrian safety project. The project will focus on two of identified high-risk areas where a large number of pedestrian deaths have been recorded, namely Lansdowne Road and Nekkies in Knysna. Lessons learnt from these two projects will be rolled out to the rest of the province.

As part of the UN Global Road Safety Week (6 to 12 May 2013), dedicated to pedestrian safety, the Minister of Transport and Public Works, MEC Robin Carlisle, participated in pedestrian safety demonstrations on 6 May 2013 at Imbasa Primary School and Dr Nelson Mandela High School in Philippi. Both schools are situated just off the very busy Lansdowne Road.

“In the Western Cape, the leading class of fatalities among road users are pedestrians, accounting for nearly half of the total road deaths recorded in the province. What we also know is that, according to the World Health Organisation, road deaths are now the leading cause of premature deaths among young people aged 15 to 29 and rank high among the leading causes of deaths globally. A sobering reality for us all,” said Mr Carlisle.

As part of the launch, road safety demonstrations were conducted at Imbasa Primary School teaching learners to

- make use of designated pedestrian crossings
- be alert and careful when crossing roads, particularly intersections as busy as those on Lansdowne and New Eisleben roads.

The learners were also provided with reflective vests that will make them more visible to motorists, as mornings begin to stay darker for longer.

“Lansdowne Road has been identified as one of the province’s hazardous locations (HAZLOCs) for pedestrians, meaning that a high number of pedestrian deaths are recorded on this very long and busy stretch of road.

“My department will set aside R3 million in this financial year for focused interventions at these identified HAZLOCs. Interventions include:

- installing and/or upgrading crosswalks, sidewalks, raised medians, road signs, lighting and signals
- employing “speed-calming” measures such as speed bumps and rubble strips
- restricting or diverting vehicles from pedestrian zones
- providing education and training to all road users and the general public through various means.

“HAZLOC interventions will also be extended to areas such as Nekkies in Knysna, where a high incident of pedestrian deaths has also been recorded,” added Mr Carlisle.

MEC Carlisle also participated in a “Long Short Walk for Road Safety” at Dr Nelson Mandela High School, along with the learners at the school, who were all issued with reflective vests to increase their visibility when using the roads.



MEC Carlisle addresses pupils at Dr Nelson Mandela High School.