

DID YOU KNOW?

July is Mandela Month and Mandela Day will be celebrated on 18 July. The objective of Mandela Day is to inspire individuals to take action to help change the world for the better, and in doing so build a global movement for good.



MY DISTRICT TODAY

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Outcome 5: Improved quality of basic education

A much needed donation to Masiza High School

By Eunice Nkuna

In June 2013, the South African National Parks (SANParks) officially handed over a computer laboratory consisting of 32 computers as part of its Corporate Social Investment (CSI) Programme to the Masiza High School in Mbaula, a disadvantaged rural village outside Phalaborwa. "The programme forms part of the Kruger National Park's broader strategy of economic empowerment and social responsibility programmes, which focus on communities around the Parks," said Mr Abe Sibiyi the Kruger National Park's Managing Executive.

The MEC for Education in Limpopo, Mr Dickson Masemola, expressed his appreciation to SANParks for the great investment towards learners and education. "We are a representing government and we want to see this country with educated people. Most learners from rural areas reach universities without any computer knowledge or skills. The computer lab will assist in the development of learners and for teachers to access information." Mr Masemola urged the learners of the Masiza High School to obtain good results and become one of the prestigious schools in the province.

The Principal of the school, Mr Mabunda Mfundisi was grateful, as his school was one of the first beneficiaries of the SANParks CSI Project in Limpopo. "I will make sure that learners will get more educated through these computers and we will take good care of the computers," he said.

Speaking on behalf of the learners after rendering a musical item, Khanyisa Chauke thanked SANParks for the good work. She said although their school is in a remote rural area, they were recognised. "It shows that we are special and important learners. Our way of giving back to SANParks will be by producing good results. Thank you once more, SANParks."



The MEC of Education of Limpopo, Mr Dickson Masemola and some of the learners trying out the new computers during the handover at the Masiza High School. The computer lab including the refurbishment of the building and the installation of 32 computers amounted to R800 000.



From left is, the Mayor of the Greater Giyani Municipality, Mr Pat Hlungwani; Managing Executive: Corporate Services, SANParks, Ms Wanda Mkutshulwa; Mopani District Executive Mayor, Councillor Joshua Matlou; the Principal of the Masiza High School, Mr Mabunda Mfundisi; the MEC of Education in Limpopo, Mr Dickson Masemola; and the Managing Executive of the Kruger National Park, Mr Abe Sibiyi at the official handover of the computer lab at the Masiza High School outside Phalaborwa.



The Masiza High School choir sang songs of appreciation to SANParks during the handover.



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FET students, operating some of the equipment for the Minister at the Vhembe FET College.

Outcome 5. A skilled and capable workforce to support an inclusive growth path

Eskom equips Vhembe FET College with engineering equipment

By: Doctrine Netshikweta

In June 2013, Vhembe FET engineering students were over the moon with the state-of-the-art engineering equipment, which Eskom donated. The Minister of Public Enterprises, Mr Malusi Gigaba handed over the equipment at the Vhembe FET College on the Makwarela Campus in Thohoyandou.

According to Eskom's Chairperson, Mr Zola Tsotsi the donation forms part of activities, which are planned to commemorate Eskom's 90 years of existence by giving back to the communities in which it operates. "Eskom is not only focusing on electricity supply to communities. We also aim at equipping youth with scarce skills needed in our country. That is why, as Eskom, we volunteered to equip Vhembe FET, which is focusing to develop youth from deep rural communities," he said.

During his address Minister Gigaba acknowledged the good work done by Eskom and urged other state-owned enterprises and private companies to follow suit. "We are overjoyed by the fact that Eskom is making this contribution to the college at a time when the country is celebrating Youth Month," said Minister Gigaba.

He added that the contribution not only demonstrates Eskom's commitment to youth empowerment but also goes a long way in addressing the ongoing issues of unemployment and shortage of scarce skills in the country. According to Mr Gigaba the commitment was in line with government's objective to create an enabling environment for all FET colleges in the country so that the institutions could deliver quality education.

The acting CEO and Principal, Dr Gogome Tshifularo expressed his appreciation of Eskom's initiative by saying, "This will surely impact positively on our teaching and learning activities and help us in the improvement of our results, thereby producing more artisans in our country." According to Dr Tshifularo the initiative will benefit 874 electrical engineering students. He urged students to take care of the equipment.

Chief Gole Mphaphuli, senior traditional leader in the area supported the contribution when he said, "Students we are aware of democratic rights, which allow you to strike but do not be tempted and exercise your rights by damaging such valuable equipment. You will be like other commuters who burnt five trains when one train failed to keep time but the next day five trains failed to make it."



Minister Gigaba and Premier Mathale shake hands during the unveiling while Chief Mphaphuli and acting CEO Gogome Tshifularo look on.

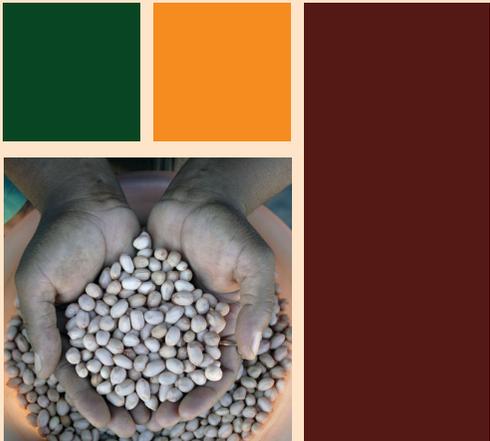


An engineering student demonstrates to the Minister how the equipment works.

Outcome 5. All people in South Africa are and feel safe

Children's safety and protection is everybody's responsibility

By: Eunice Nkuna



Learners from BN Ntsanwisi Primary School share messages during the Child Abuse Awareness Campaign held at Majeje recently.



Under the theme, *Working Together to Protect Children* and the subtheme, *Your child is my child*, the Maphuta Malatji Hospital, together with the Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality, hosted a child abuse awareness campaign at Majeje. Child abuse prevention messages, which educated children on how to act when faced with abuse and violence, were spread during the campaign.

The event was part of the National Child Protection Week Campaign, which also educated parents and empowered the public to take action against child abuse.

A large number of school children reported having been bullied verbally and physically. Every day, many children are forced into prostitution, human trafficking and pornography. Some boys and girls

have suffered sexual abuse as children. Reports from Crime Research and Statistics of the South African Police Services (SAPS), reported crimes against children amounted to 50 688 in 2011/12, 6,5% lower than in 2010/11.

Speaking during the event, Ba-Phalaborwa municipality's acting mayor, Councilor Richard Makasela said, "It takes a village to raise a child, your child is my child and my child is yours. But the phrase changed because men of today are not ashamed to remove a two-month-old baby's diaper for sex."

He further continued to say, "Where is the spirit of ubuntu? Where are our morals? Let us not allow our frustrations to convert us to become monsters to our own children. Mothers don't sacrifice your

children's safety in the name of loving your partners even though they abuse your children."

In his closing remarks Councilor Makasela encouraged community members to come together to support the campaign by reporting child-abuse cases, child negligence and exploitation to social workers and police officers.

Advocate Edward Malefahlo of Lulekani Regional Court gave the following tips on what to do after being raped:

"You need to report the matter, either to your parents or the police within a reasonable period. Don't take a bath or change clothes before being examined by a doctor. A DNA test will be done to help identify the perpetrator."

Outcome 1: Improved quality of basic education

Ekurhuleni Youth exceeds target for the Career Expo.

By: Tinyiko Molefe, Thokoza Thusong Centre



The youth of Ekurhuleni queuing at Alwyn Taljaard Street in front of the Alberton Civic Centre.



Johanna Leew, a public relations graduate, visiting different stalls for information.

As part of the Youth Month commemoration the City of Ekurhuleni hosted a three-day career expo, which started on 10 June 2013 at Alberton Civic Centre. This was to provide a platform for the youth to receive information on how to improve their employment chances. It also gave them the opportunity to interact with representatives from different companies, government departments and educational institutions. The expo was the city's effort to address the high rate of youth unemployment.

More than 5 000 young people attended the career expo. This exceeded the estimated target by more than 3 000. The youth came in their numbers as if they were arriving for a protest, but this time they were all out for development opportunities that were provided by the municipality. They were eagerly waiting on the streets to get into the Civic

Centre to get their hands on employment and educational information.

On the last day of the expo, recognising and applauding the youth who showed interest in improving their lives, Mayor Mondi Gungubele said, "The long queues forming each day from the early hours of the past two cold mornings, was enough to convince me that we have a lot of work to do to improve the lives of our young people. Thousands of young adults flocked to the south western point of Ekurhuleni, armed with only a CV in hand and hopeful hearts of finding doors opening to a better future."

The expo allowed the youth to receive professional assistance in drafting their CVs, as a tool to provide potential employers with information that they require for a job.

Acknowledging the important information that the expo provided, one of the youth, Masentle said, "I am very impressed of the effort that the city has made to ensure that we get professional advice on the proper way to draft our CVs. Most of us have qualifications and experience that could boost our chances of employment but we fail to draft a detailed document."

The availability of different companies ensured direct interaction between the youth and potential employers. "I have learned a lot from this session because I received information that gave me hope that someday I will get employed or maybe start my own business," said Johanna Leew, a public relations graduate.