

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

Orphans and fatherless boys encouraged not giving up hope

By Mosidi Mohlakela: GCIS Free State



MEC Makgoe spends time with orphaned boys

Meeting the Free State MEC for Education Tate Makgoe is a moment the orphaned two Keketsi brothers will never forget.

Tshepo Keketsi (17) and Sabata Keketsi (19), Grade 11 learners from Tsoseletso High School spent three life-changing days with MEC Tate Makgoe as part of the provincial Take a Boy Child to Work Initiative to inspire orphans and fatherless boys and giving them hope for the future.

This initiative targeted 100 boys in grades 11 and 12 who are orphans or are raised by single

mothers. The boys shadowed the Premier, MECs, HODs, mayors and other senior government officials for three days.

Life for the two orphans was never the same since the death of their mother in 2012. They were left to fend for themselves and live in a shack with no electricity. They receive help from their church and kind community members to make ends meet.

Despite their heart-breaking background the Keketsi brothers are hopeful about the future especially after the three days they spent with MEC Tate Makgoe.

Both boys would like to be mechanical engineers and Sabata dreams of also being a sports commentator.

"This is life-changing moment for us. We are so happy that we have someone we can look up to," said the Keketsi boys.

On the first day, the boys accompanied their host to learn more about the work environment and on Saturday and Sunday visited their host's home. The MEC wanted to show the boys what they could have in future if they don't give up working hard to achieve their dreams.

MEC Makgoe promised to take care of these boys and make them his extended family members.

"The expected outcome of this programme to give hope to fatherless boys and create positive role models out of them despite their hardships," said Mr Makgoe.

Xolisa Madi, another orphan, spent time with Free State Premier Ace Magashule. Xolisa is a Grade 11 from Lereko High School. Talking about his experience, Madi said the Premier is an ideal role model for him.



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OUTCOME 7: VIBRANT, EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES AND FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL

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Macena Community Garden feeds the people

By Collins Ndlovu: GCIS Limpopo



Maria Sithole, Chairperson of Macena Community Garden Project, harvest vegetables for members of the communities who are waiting to buy.



Members of the Muyexe community buy vegetables from the project.

The Macena Community Garden is a product of the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) launched by President Jacob Zuma in Muyexe in August 2009. This project was established with the intention to fight hunger and poverty, which is in line with government's strategy for food security.

Agriculture is an integral part in the Muyexe CRDP with backyard community gardens established for every household.

Government views farming as an effective activity to get rural people to participate in producing their own food and possibly create self-employment.

Thirty-six women, who report to the project site every day to ensure that the garden achieves its objectives, which is to fight poverty and address hunger, run the Macena Community Garden Project.

"We are no longer waiting for government to buy us seeds and equipment for the project. We do all this by ourselves and also manage some savings out of what we generate here," said Maria Sithole, Chairperson of Macena Community Food Garden.

The project has also attracted the attention of some supermarkets in Giyani, which is 40 km from Muyexe. Although there is no formal service level agreement with Spar Supermarket, there are times that Spar Supermarket buys vegetables from the Macena Community Garden.

Members of the community simply walk to the garden at any time during the day to buy vegetables at an affordable price.

"With R7 you get a bunch of vegetables, which you normal pay R12 for when you buy in Giyani, so there is a big difference," said a member of the community.

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is the main funder of the Macena Community Garden Project. Members of the project received training from the department and are now doing their work with minimal supervision from the extension officers. The project also created the opportunity for 15 young people from Muyexe to participate in the learnership programme where they gained more insight in the field of agriculture.

The project experiences a water shortage. Despite three boreholes that were drilled in the garden, only one borehole is working. In general, Muyexe has a shortage of water. Since the inception of this Presidential Project 26 boreholes were drilled. The Minister of Water Affairs, Ms Edna Molewa, assured the members of the project during the Siyahloha Campaign that relief for this problem would be implemented by the end of July 2013 because of the water reticulation project that is underway in Macena.



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

Learamele Special School, caters for learners who are differently abled

By KJ Foutie: GCIS Northern Cape



A learner busy with domestic skills development in the kitchen.



The luscious garden cultivated by the learners.



Some of the Learners with the John Taolo Gaetsewe Speaker, Clr Seweditswe Gaobusiwe (red top) and some of the educators with Ms Modisha, the principal, far left.



Learners busy with a tapestry.



Crafts and paint work done by the learners.



Omphemetse assisting Ms Modisha, the principal to find a document on the computer.

The Learamele Special School comes as a welcome relief to the families of 136 learners who are registered at the school that only focuses on the development and social integration of learners living with disabilities.

“This is a school for severely impaired learners”, says Principal Modisha, who has been with the school for more than three years.

This school, which is in Mothibstad, in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District, provides an adapted curriculum of skills development, and extracurricula and occupational therapy sessions. Learners receive multidisability programmes, which include physical disabilities, deafness, autism, epilepsy, behavioural disorders, attention deficit disorder and others.

It has 10 educators including the principal and it teaches foundation and senior phase.

The learning curriculum focuses on basic skills development such as woodwork, tapestry,

embroidery, gardening, domestic (cleaning and cooking), art, pottery and beadwork.

Sport activities available to learners are soccer, netball, volleyball, table tennis, floor hockey and athletics.

The special school boasts a luscious vegetable garden that is cultivated by learners. Produce from this garden caters for the school’s hostel and feeding scheme.

The institution currently caters and hires out its hall in order for learners to gain experience. The income generated is used to upgrade school programmes and projects.

Learamele will soon open a mobile kitchen. Graduates older than 18 will have the opportunity of working in the kitchen and earn an income.

The Head Girl, Omphemetse Mcumi will benefit from the Mobile Kitchen Programme once she has completed her schooling. She cannot read,

write or speak English. Omphemetse is good with computer programmes. She excels in Power-Point and can import pictures and videos. She is currently the school’s photographer and manages the camera with great ease.

Learners are hands-on at physical activities according to Ms Modisha and while they are academically disadvantaged because of their disabilities, they have great artistic potential.



Omphemetse, the head girl, with the head boy of the school.



President Zuma, Minister Tina Joemat-Pettersson and Limpopo's MEC for Education Dickson Masemola at Muyexe during the President's monitoring visit on 25 June 2013.



The GCIS exhibition stall at Muyexe during the President's monitoring visit on 25 June 2013.

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

Zuma calls for better cooperation in Muyexe

By Odas Ngobeni and Collins Ndlovu: GCIS Limpopo

President Jacob Zuma says he is happy with the progress in Muyexe, but lack of cooperation among departments may lead to the appointment of a single service provider to implement the project.

President Zuma, accompanied by eight ministers was in the village as part of the President's monitoring visit called – *Siyahlola*. The President declared Muyexe a pilot project for the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme during his first State of the Nation Address in 2009.

"My observation during the walk-about in the various projects in the village is that things have changed since the last time we were here. Lack of cooperation between departments is delaying progress. There's a need to rearrange the development and maintenance plan of this project," he said.

The President said he was unhappy with the Provincial Government's failure to give the Presidential Monitoring Team a progress report on Muyexe.

"You are lucky we don't have enough time today. Otherwise we were going to ask questions here in public and demand answers," he said.

President Zuma told thousands of community members gathered at the sports field that his decision to establish a few new departments in 2009 was beginning to bear fruit. He said the establishment of the Department of Monitoring and Evaluation in The Presidency has made government work better.

"We devised a means to know whether government works or not. We introduced a system wherein ministers signed performance agreements. We have tried to perfect the system in such a way that there can be nobody in government who is messing up, and we don't get to find out," said President Zuma.

He said the establishment of the Department of Rural Development was very important for accelerating rural development.

"This government has been talking of rural development since 1994, and I thought instead of just talking it's better to establish this department."

The chairperson for the Muyexe Council of Stakeholders, George Mabasa said that there was indeed progress at Muyexe, but the infrastructure projects were not benefiting local contractors or cooperatives.

"It is only the labourers who are benefiting from these projects. Even the catering contracts for this event were awarded to people outside this village," he said.

The Minister for Rural Development and Land Reform, Mr Gugile Nkwinti said his department has trained 50 youngsters through the National Rural Youth Service Corps (Narysec) Programme and will be starting work in July.

"They will be working through a cooperative. One group to manufacture paving bricks, the second group to deliver the bricks while the third group will lay the paving. We are in the process of recruiting a further 50 to join this group. Our plea is for this group to take good care of the machines," said Minister Nkwinti.

The Minister for Water Affairs, Ms Edna Molewa said her department has drilled 26 boreholes in the village, but plans are in place to provide more water to the village.

"We have installed pipelines from the Nsami dam to Muyexe. By the end of July this year, the pipeline will be giving additional water to the village through the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Scheme," she said.

The Minister for Social Development, Ms Bathabile Dlamini, said that 609 people from Muyexe were beneficiaries of the Government's social grants. Minister Dlamini said her department would be making renovations at Muyexe Early Childhood Development Centre and at the drop-in centre.

"The department will also replace the small stoves at the community bakery with bigger stoves before the end of July this year. This will be done as promised. Ask the people of Tzaneen if you don't believe us," she said.

The then Minister of Cooperative Governance, Mr Richard Baloyi said his department would increase the number of participants in the Community Works Programme.

The Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Ms Tina Joemat-Pettersson said her department would leave behind 25 kg of maize-seed fertilizer to be used in the Muyexe garden. The Minister of Basic Education, Ms Angie Motshekga said she was pleased with the results recorded by the school at Muyexe, from 35% in 2009 to 75% in 2012.



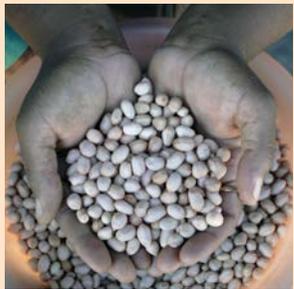
Narysec students during the President's monitoring visit to Muyexe.



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

Drama about Youth Against Alcohol and Substance Abuse

By Reneilwe Moningi: GCIS Limpopo



Young people of gaKgatla watching the Streetwise drama.



The cast performing the drug and substance abuse drama.

The South African Police Service (SAPS) reported that gaKgatla, like many villages, is experiencing the same problem of the local youth abusing substances and alcohol.

The GCIS conducted community and stakeholder engagements with the community members, local headman and ward committees regarding the problem of substance and alcohol abuse in the area.

The headman, Mr Kgatla said, "We as parents are worried about the fact that there is no bottle store

around the village yet there is too much alcohol and substance abuse in the village, therefore no one knows how do such things end up among their youth."

Together with the local shop, Verdig Store, the GCIS agreed to host the drama on *Youth Against Alcohol and Substance Abuse* as most young people hang around the shop during their spare time. Working together with the ward committees, a ward councillor, community development workers, a social worker and the SAPS satellite office, the

GCIS mobilised young people and their parents to watch the Streetwise drama. The purpose was to create awareness on the dangers of alcohol and substance abuse while sharing key messages for Youth Month.

After the drama one of the community members, Philemon Selomo said, "I wish this drama could be performed every week, so that our youth can be reminded on how they are wasting money on alcohol and dagga."

OUTCOME 7: VIBRANT, EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES AND FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL

Youth in Agriculture

By R S Moshwang: GCIS North West



Keoagile S Jood and Kenneth Shuping with the products they are selling at the project.

The Rethabile Youth in Agriculture Cooperative received R150 000 from the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries' Comprehensive Rural Development Programme in November 2011.

The youth cooperative was started by a group of five unemployed young people – two females and three males – from Morokweng Village in the Kagisano Molopo Local Municipality.

Morokweng is one of the Presidential nodal points. It is vast and rural and most people depend on livestock and farming for a living.

The youth cooperative supplies local farmers in the area with medicine for livestock and this saves a lot of expenditure for the farmers because they no longer have to travel 300 km to Vryburg, which is the next town, to acquire medication for their livestock.

The Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries is constantly giving non-financial support such as skills development, financial management support and marketing advice to the project.

"The project has indeed assisted us as we were unemployed. Now our lives have changed for the better. We are also happy to be assisting our village," says Keoagile Jood.

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

Community dialogue seeks to eliminate social ills

By Jabulani Mkhonza: GCIS KwaZulu-Natal



Mrs SF Mkhize of the Office of the Premier flanked by the Okhahlamba Mayor, Cllr T Sibeko and Ward Cllr Ndaba on the right. Seated on the left is Captain Hlalele.

In response to government's call to rebuild the fabric of society and rebuild the nation that is torn apart by various social ills, the Operation Sukuma Sakhe (OSS) stakeholders in partnership with the Office of the Premier organised a community dialogue that was held in the Mamfemfetheni area, Winterton on 10 July 2013. Senior management and staff members from the Office of the Premier also attended the event.

The Okhahlamba Mayor, Thulani Sibeko who started by explaining the role of OSS in the community gave welcoming remarks. He told the audience that OSS is the call for the people of KwaZulu-Natal to be determined to overcome the issues such as poverty, unemployment, crime, substance abuse, diseases, and abuse of women and children that have destroyed communities.

He mentioned that government has invested a substantial amount of money in this programme so people should play their part in making it a success. The Mayor also spoke about *ukuthwalwa* (young girls being forced into marriage while they are still attending school) and said it is a crime, so it should be reported to the authorities. He said this practice was very rife in Okhahlamba.

Mrs SF Mkhize, Senior Manager in the Office of the Premier encouraged the community to talk about social ills in order to make it right.

"The purpose here is to talk openly about social ills in our community, particularly the issues of alcohol and drug abuse by our youth; rape; teenage pregnancy; and diseases. Women must sit down with young girls and talk about women's issues to instil the culture of parenthood," said Mrs Mkhize.

She reiterated the Mayor's words on the issue of *ukuthwalwa* by mentioning that according to

statistics, the area has the highest incidences of this cultural malpractice. Mrs Mkhize said this not only deprives young girls of their right to education but also their freedom of choice. She urged parents to protect their children from such disgraceful practices.



Community members at the OSS Community Dialogue.

"OSS will be engaging on a massive campaign against substance abuse, child abuse, teenage pregnancy, and HIV and AIDS awareness," she concluded.

Mr Sibisi, Deputy Manager in the Office of the Premier said, if the community has no access to government services, it is another form of poverty. He said the Premier strives to bridge the gap between government and the public through the War Rooms, where various government departments and the public engage on issues of development.

"The public should be informed about OSS and War Rooms. Officials should therefore account for their role in War Rooms," said Mr Sibisi.

Captain Hlalele from the Bergville South African Police Services (SAPS) said alcohol and substance abuse were the main common causes of crime in the area. He clarified the terms of the Liquor Act to the audience. Rape, domestic violence, drug abuse, (particularly dagga), and even murder were the crimes mostly committed in the area. The captain urged the community to start creating social values at home; respect for each other; and respect for each other's property.

The UThukela District Task Team Chairperson, Mrs T Zulu, told the community that the Health department has three mobile clinics in Okhahlamba that are used for outreach programmes. The department also took over the Bergville clinic from the municipality. She warned young girls from becoming the prey of sugar daddies.

"Sugar daddies destroy the lives of young girls as they will not use condoms. Health teams are readily available to visit various schools to talk about this issue," she said.

Inkosi Menzi Hlongwane of the Amangwane tribe summed it all up when he said young mothers who do not support their children but instead use the money for their own benefit were misusing child support grants. He mentioned that he would prefer it if the grant was received by grannies instead because they are the ones actually looking after their grandchildren. The Inkosi strongly condemned the practice of *ukuthwalwa* as uncultured and clearly outlined its origin. He was also concerned about the way dagga was being traded in his area.

