



MYDISTRICTTODAY

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The TB treatment defaulter rate was 18% in 1994 and to dropped 7,9% in 2009 to 6,1% in 2012/13.

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OUTCOME 2: A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS

Medical students off to Cuba

By Kaone Moshwela: GCIS North West



Ditsobotla Local Municipality dignitaries and the 17 students who are leaving for Cuba at the end of October, to study medicine there.



The Ditsobotla Municipality and the Matlape Primary School in Coligny hosted a farewell function for 17 young medical students on 4 October 2013.

The students come from different areas of Ditsobotla and are part of 180 aspirant doctors from North West who were given bursaries by Department of Health.

The students will be leaving for Cuba at the end of October.

“The municipality is also excited because students will invest their skills in the municipal areas when they return as doctors,” said the speaker, Cllr Pogisho Maitshotlo.

MEC Hoffman Galeng presented the students with blankets as a token of appreciation. He committed more support for the students to ensure that they achieve their objectives of becoming doctors.

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

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Strategic support provided to 416 new emerging farmers through the Recapitalisation and Development Programme, in addition to the existing 595 farms currently being supported at a cost of R1,2 billion.

Macadamia nuts creating lifetime opportunities for Ncera villagers

By Tabita Ngqunge: GCIS Eastern Cape

Ncera Macadamia Farming (NMF) located outside East London is benefitting the community in the area. It has secured a market for macadamia nuts in various countries around the world, including Italy, Australia and China. The nuts are mainly used in chocolate and for oil.

The plantation is an initiative that was created with the long-term vision of developing a world-class macadamia farm and to help improve the living conditions of the people of the Ncera communities. The company upholds social development ideals, especially the development of sustainable black farmers, and has committed itself to invest-

ing in other social upliftment projects. The Ncera community is rich in human and land resources. With that in mind, NMF believes that the way forward for all stakeholders is through sharing these resources and developing community assets in a sustainable manner. The government has supported the project with infrastructure to develop land and make it attractive for private sector investors to partner with the community.

Key players in the project include the TKG farming group, Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform, Department of Economic Development, Buffalo City Metro Municipality,

Vulindlela Investment Trust and Kula Development and Business Solutions, all fulfilling different roles. The project received R36 million from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform during Minister Gugile Nkwinti's visit on 11 September 2013. The money will be used to bring water to the project, which is currently the main challenge.

This is what Wayne Simpson, Sithembele Dyasi and Nozuko Dyasi, who are all involved in the project, had to say about it:



Nozuko Adam, committee member representing the community in the Board of Directors: "I represent the community and ensure that community issues are communicated to partners of the project. The project has changed everything; it brought jobs, which have resulted in a drop in unemployment and the crime rate in the area. Skills transfer and training are other benefits of the project. What is most exciting is that community owns the majority share in the NMF through the Vulindlela Investment Trust. The project includes a plantation, nursery and processing factory. All nine villages of Ncera are represented and benefitting from the project."



Wayne Simpson, NMF's Managing Director: "This project has been good for the community of Ncera, and having worked with them from the beginning I have to say, I am very proud of the progress and development made so far. This is the first community-owned macadamia plantation in the Eastern Cape. The community owns the full macadamia value chain, namely the nursery, plantations and processing plant. The overall goal of the project is to utilise the land to create long-term, sustainable economic opportunities and jobs in Ncera and surrounding areas. The Ncera plantations have created 90 permanent jobs and 14 seasonal jobs thus far, and are poised to create 400 jobs at full production, perpetually injecting a salary bill of R9 million per annum into the local economy."



Sithembele Dyasi, NMF Operations Manager: "There were only 21 people working here when the project started. I started working as a general worker, pushing wheelbarrows and digging holes. The project has without question changed the lives of the people of Ncera. Through the day-to-day skills transfer and training – which include effective planning and organising, controlling workers, scheduling tasks, handling grievance, management skills and horticultural skills – I have developed and become the operations manager. Also, the ongoing formal training in various skills has contributed to my personal growth and development. I have acquired a driver's licence and have a company car. I am currently doing Business Management through Damelin College, which also teaches me other business skills. This project is a glowing example of how rural communities, government and the private sector can work together to alleviate poverty. We appreciate this initiative; our lives have changed for the better."



Overall life expectancy of South Africans has increased from 54,9 in 2001 to 56,5 years in 2009 and 59,6 years in 2011.

A community dialogue was also held at Lillian Ngoyi Sports Centre in KwaZakhele, where the public had an opportunity to interact with the Minister and share their thoughts on solutions and a way forward for sport in the municipality. The session was closed with the handover of equipment for various sporting codes, and the Minister's commitment to the upgrading of sport facilities.



KwaZakhele community at Lillian Ngoyi Sport Centre.



Media briefing session and SABC interview.

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

Minister Mbalula graces the shores of Nelson Mandela Bay

By Phatheka Ntanta: GCIS Eastern Cape

As part of the Imbizo Focus Week, the Minister of Sport and Recreation, Mr Fikile Mbalula, graced the shores of Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality to find ways of resolving issues related to sport in this area. His visit included a briefing session at the City Hall in Uitenhage. This is where members of sports federations in the Bay came together to inform the Minister of challenges the community is facing.



Minister Mbalula and Deputy Executive Mayor, Cllr Ngcolomba during the briefing session

In his opening remarks, Deputy Executive Mayor Chippa Ngcolomba said, "We are here to welcome the Minister and to work with him for the benefit of the community of this metro." He further stated that the aim was to bring hope to the community by integrating sport, and collaborating with the three spheres of government to combat challenges regarding service delivery to communities.

Mr Mbalula made use of this platform to emphasise the vital role of sport in the future of our country. He said the community needs to come up with programmes that will specifically address the needs of the

municipal area. Every school should be turned into an inductor for education and sport. The schools in the Bay need to participate in national sports championships. The Minister stated that the focus of this particular Imbizo was to have a strategic plan to ensure that the Schools Sports Programme is managed effectively. He encouraged teachers to nurture the sport talent in their schools.

During the engagement session, sports federations had a chance to raise issues affecting this area. Sicelo Mleve, convener of the ANC's REC Sports, urged the Minister to introduce sports awards to the metro

to motivate the youth and give them an opportunity to be recognised in their fields. Challenges such as a lack of training and sports facilities, and vandalism were discussed. In this regard, Minister Mbalula pleaded with the community to take care and be responsible for the facilities that are built for them. That was followed by a media briefing, where members of the media had an opportunity to interact with the Minister.



By March 2012, 814 victim-friendly rooms were created at police stations throughout the country to render better services to victims of crime.



The SAPS single quarters accommodation in Keimoes is nearing completion. It will include two flats for people with disabilities.



Community members of Keimoes during Imbizo Focus Week with Public Works Minister Thulas Nxesi.

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

Minister of Public Works inspects new police building during Imbizo Focus Week

By Wally Cloete: GCIS Northern Cape



The Minister of Public Works, Thulas Nxesi, during his quality inspection of the Keimoes Police Station construction site with some of the construction workers.



Minister Thulas Nxesi addressing the community.

The Minister of Public Works, Mr Thulas Nxesi, and the MEC of the Northern Cape Department of Public Works, Mr Dawid Rooi, visited Keimoes where they attended a public meeting, door-to-door visits and a site inspection of the newly built police station with single-quarters accommodation which is nearing completion. This was part of the Minister's walkabout during the Imbizo Focus Week.

The Minister used the opportunity to interact with different stakeholders who will benefit from the police station, including businesses, local community members and the municipality.

People expressed their happiness about the new station as they feel it may improve the morale of the police, but they indicated

that government should also upgrade the court building.

The construction of the R65-million police station by the Department of Public Works is an example of government's commitment to building safer communities. Once completed, the facility will enable the police to effectively manage crime over a wide territory, incorporating rural locations characterised by commercial farming – which is the mainstream of the region's economy.

Increases in economic activity and migration have however led to unintended social consequences such as an increase in crimes such as robbery, domestic abuse and stock theft in the region.

Mr Frans Koopman, foreman at the construction site of the police station, said, "I'm very glad for the job opportunity the Government has created for me and I would love to see my son working as a police officer at this station in future."

Altogether 110 jobs were created through the construction of the police station. Local subcontractors including bricklayers, electricians, plumbers, carpenters, machine operators and general workers are benefiting from the construction of the station. 75 Expanded Public Works Programme beneficiaries, of which 31 were women, received practical training on the site in brick-laying, plumbing, tiling, paving, carpentry, occupational health standards and environmental awareness.



87,8% of 2012 Grade 1 learners in public schools attended Grade R compared to 80% in 2009.



Mpumalanga Premier David Mabuza (middle) appreciating the donation of 21 tablets and three laptops to Mafemani High School by Cell C, while Mr Mandla Ndlovu, Bohlabela ANC Regional Secretary Mandla Ndlovu (far left) and Bushbuckridge Executive Mayor Renias Khumalo look on.

OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Premier promises to reward students for good results

By Joy Themba: GCIS Mpumalanga



Premier Mabuza assists Bombani High School principal in signing the "Thulamahashe Accord."



Premier Mabuza with the three principals from Orhovelani, Bombani and Mafemani after signing the "Thulamahashe Accord."

Mpumalanga Premier David Mabuza has assured three Bushbuckridge high schools that he would build brand new schools for them if students attained a 100% pass rate in this year's examinations.

Premier Mabuza made this written commitment to the principals of Orhovelani, Bombani and Mafemani high schools in Thulamahashe when he visited them to hand over computers donated by a mobile phone operator and some emerging contractors.

Cell C donated 24 tablets and three laptops to Mafemani High School; while Malibongwe Construction and Mayor Construction each donated 10 computers to Orhovelani and Bombani high schools respectively. Appreciating the donation, Mabuza said it was encouraging to see both government and the private sector working together for

education and the future of children from rural areas. He said it was a good development and the private sector should continue to invest in the future of these children.

After hearing about the schools' previous performance, which averaged 70% for three schools, Mabuza was shocked that these schools all aimed at getting only 85% this year. The premier expressed his concern that they are deliberately planning for 15% of students to fail, and further said that he appreciates the efforts they have made thus far but he did not expect less than 100% from them.

"I am aware that we come from different and painful backgrounds. You probably did not have breakfast this morning when you left home, and the Government might be giving you not-so-nice food. What will uplift you from poverty is nothing but your educa-

tion. Make use of this time to the fullest, and one day you will definitely buy your own nice food with your own money."

He further said that being at school is part of the interesting journey of growing up; it is full of excitement and has many challenges. "You must navigate this road very carefully. If you pretend to know everything, you are bound to fail in life. Leave marriage to the old people. It will create even bigger problems for you. Our hope is in you. Stop wandering around the streets during school time; concentrate on your studies. If you are educated, you will lead this country correctly one day. As parents, we will also reap the fruits of the investment we are making in you. If you don't attend school, you will be poor until you die," said Mabuza.



Learners with access to workbooks and textbooks increased from 64% in 2009 to 99,4% with access to textbooks and 98,0% with access to workbooks in 2013.



The learners from the neighbouring schools and community members attended in great numbers to witness the official opening and handover of the classrooms and other items to the school, and the community at large.

OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

The doors of learning will be opened

By Bongani Mazibuko: GCIS Mpumalanga



The six timber-framed classrooms built and donated by the South African Forestry Company SOC Ltd (Safcol) and Komatiland Forests (KLF).

Various stakeholders donated towards the school:

- Safcol donated six classrooms, the fence, a jungle gym, and 60 chairs and 30 desks.
- Transnet donated the principal's office with air-conditioning, a notice board and white board, the Jojo tank, and 10 rose bushes.
- Eskom donated the electricity installation, and early childhood development educational toys.
- South African Airways donated the principal's office furniture
- Denel donated a computer with software installed and a printer.



Learners from the neighbouring Magotshwa High School sang, performed and entertained the audience.



MEC for Education Ms Reginah Mhaule also thanked the various stakeholders for their contribution to the development of education.



OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

It is a dream come true

By Sabelo Kakaza: GCIS Eastern Cape

The proportion of people who completed higher education has increased from 7,1% in 1996 to 12,1% in 2011.



The new structure of Sizane Junior Secondary School.



Zandi Domfula (learner) – “This is just a miracle. Our school developed and grew in an unbelievable way from Grade 5 to Grade 9. The infrastructure is better than those in urban areas – we have computers, a library, and science laboratory. One would almost want to fail deliberately. We now have all the support material. Our government is caring a lot and we are grateful. The school is also fenced now, which used to worry me a lot before.”



Nomhle Ngudle (The school principal) – “God has answered our prayers because it has been a long way to get where we are today. The community built rondavels with sticks and mud. One teacher was responsible for four classes. Today the school has been built with everything in it. We thank our government very much. We have a computer laboratory, science laboratory and library. Life in our school has indeed changed – it feels as if we are in town.”



Mntakabawo Siteyi (SGB Chairperson) – “The school started in a church hall with the assistance of church members who were also tasked to teach the learners from this village. I did my sub A here in this school sitting on stones. We appreciate what government has done for us. There are enough teachers and classrooms now with additional equipment we never thought of. Before the school was built learners had to travel five kilometres.”



Sivile Dlokola (learner) – “We thank government for the furniture. We were struggling. Now there are toilets so we no longer have to go into the bushes and get attacked by snakes; we have water inside the school, which is like a dream for us. The environment has improved and is more conducive to learning. We thank the people who initiated the school because without them we might not have this today.”



Noqondile Khenana (parent) – “It has taken us many years to get where we are today. For the future of our children we built a school with mud huts. The children were travelling 10 kilometres a day to reach Madolo Junior Secondary School but now life has changed. Government has relieved us from this burden we have been carrying. We see town now when we look at our school. We are very happy.”



Usenathi Fulakakhulu (learner) – “I thank government for the new school. We will not feel cold anymore. We will attend school from home until Grade 9 unlike before. Having a science laboratory will mean having scientists from our poor community. Nobody knew that we will operate computers here. We only saw this on television. We are very happy.”