



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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OUTCOME 6: AN EFFICIENT, COMPETITIVE AND RESPONSIVE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

Creating jobs through infrastructure development

By Geoffrey Merwe
GCIS, Northern Cape

The Minister of Transport, Ms Dipuo Peters, officially opened the Keimoes bridges along the R27 route on 2 April 2014. The R27 is an important local and national strategic route as it provides access from the south to Namibia and Botswana.

The flooding of the Orange River three years ago damaged several bridges near Keimoes. The South African National Roads Agency (Sanral) therefore undertook to carry out safety improvements and widening the structures on the R27 near Keimoes.

Sanral ensured that the road and bridge cross-section allowed for pedestrians and cyclists, improved the horizontal curves, new road pavement and surfacing as well as drainage elements. The cost of the upgrades, which lasted from January 2011 until October 2013, was about R159,3 million.

In terms of job creation a good story can be told. There were 404 people employed per month of which 60% were local. Twelve training courses were offered to 144 individuals in areas such as traffic accommodation, traffic safety, environmental law, environmental awareness, gabion construction, steel fixing, laboratory material testing, safety representatives and scaffold inspecting.

Five small, medium and micro enterprises were used to render the following services: steel fixing, gabion construction, restricted backfill to abutments and bridge

deck, accommodation of traffic, road signs, guardrails and temporary road markings as well as fencing and finishing of slopes.

Ms Alidien Goedeman, one of the locals and employed by Botes & Kennedy Manyano said, "I love my job and I am good at what I do. It was a privilege to be a part of this project. Those bridges put us on the map as bridge builders."



Upgrading of the Keimoes Bridge.



Minister Dipuo Peters officially opens the bridge near Keimoes on the R27.



Some of the community of Keimoes listening attentively to Transport Minister during the launch of the new bridge.



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OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Travelling to school is made easier

*By Karen Foutie
 GCIS, Northern Cape*

The long walk to school for learners in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District has been shortened after a donation of bicycles.

The schools received bicycles to enable learners who walked 10 km to school to cover the distance with ease.

The 100 bicycles, with helmets for the eligible learners of the 10 primary and intermediate schools was the intervention of Nedbank. The institution's Public Sector Manager, Stephen Molate, said they needed to give back to the community.

"We opened an office in Kuruman, but did not have the opportunity to give back to the community. We saw young children walking to school every day and decided to donate the bicycles to those who had to walk five to 10 km to school.

"We called the Department of Education for the donation and that is how the project came about. By donating these bicycles, we are giving back to the community and we will not be stopping here," he said. The project saw the departments of education, sport and recreation, arts and culture and Nedbank working together to enable young learners to get to school on time by removing their day-to-day challenges.

The bicycles were handed over by the MEC for Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Norman Shushu, at an event held in Seven Miles, a rural community in the John Taolo Gaetsewe district. Shushu said learners would have the means of using their bicycles to school if their transports do not show up. He said riding the bicy-

cles would also serve the purpose of keeping the learners healthy. "The bicycles will reduce late coming and ensure that learners pay attention better as they will not be as tired from the lengthy walk," said the overjoyed teacher Dichabe, of Maikaelelo Intermediate School in Magojaneng.

Later on the same day, Government Communications hosted MEC Shushu at Kurara FM to further share the 20 Years of Freedom achievements with the public.



The Mayor, Cllr Ga-Segonyana the Speaker, Cllr Modise the Acting Mayor, the MEC for Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development Norman Shushu, the Ward Councillor Motingwe and Mr Stephen Molate of Nedbank.



Learners and parents attending the event.



The recipients of brand new bicycles.



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

The Sakhile Thusong Comuptor Centre

*By Vuyisile Cindi
GCIS, Mpumalanga*

Sakhile Thusong Computer Centers is one of the first Thusong Service Centers in Mpumalanga. The centre is located in Sakhile township in Standerton, in the Lekwa Municipality. Through the Private Public Partnership between the Universal Service and Access Agency of South Africa (Usaasa), Mthinte Communications, the local municipality, and the Mpumalanga Provincial Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, members of the Sakhile community and surrounding farms will have the opportunity to access information and communication technology (ICT) a lot cheaper than the usual price.

On 19 March 2014, the Lekwa Municipality Speaker, Cllr Linda Dlamini, accompanied by representatives of all the role players officially opened the Sakhile Thusong Computer Centre. Officials from the Mpumalanga Provincial Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and centre managers, Mr Tsietsie Mokoena and Ms Brenda Magudulela attended the official opening. Also among the dignitaries was Pastor Dr SD Gumbi, a motivational speaker who brought an inspiring message and prayer for the centre's progress.

The computer centre is open to all members of the community, who were encouraged to use the services, which are aimed at skills development to correspond to the needs of the municipal dynamics.

Mthinte Communications will render services such as selling air-time at a discounted rate. Members of the community will no longer to travel long distances to pay for their municipal service as these can be paid at the centre. DStv clients will also benefit from the project because they will also be able to pay their accounts without additional transport costs to town.

The centre has been fitted with high-end ICT equipment to enable

communities to access Internet services more efficiently. Other services such as computer training will be provided at low cost. Institutional clients such as the University of South Africa will be able to provide support to their students through the computer centre. Community members were happy to receive a community computer centre closer to their homes. The launch of Sakhile Computer Centre will ease the skills burden for members of the community in the area. Community members also had to travel long distance to access ICT services in the past.



Community members attended the official opening and were happy that they would be able to access services closer where they live.



The opening of the computer centre created a job opportunity for Ms Jabhile Nkosi as the centre's Administrator.



The Speaker of the Lekwa Municipality, Cllr Linda Dlamini, pledged the municipality's full support to all the programmes that are aimed in developing the community of Lekwa. He further pleaded with the community members to protect government buildings.



"Wow, fast Internet service, low computer fees and close to the people of Sakhile," said the dignitaries during the official opening of the Sakhile Computer Centre.



Access road to Ga-Kgatla maintained by the Department of Roads and Transport

OUTCOME 6: AN EFFICIENT, COMPETITIVE AND RESPONSIVE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

Ga-Kgatla village bears testimony to improved lives since 1994

By *Reneilwe Moningi*
GCS, Limpopo

Travelling approximately 160 km north east of Polokwane in Blouberg Municipality, driving in along the mountainous areas, on a tarred road from Senwabarwana to My Darling there is a far away village called Ga-Kgatla. But driving to that area today, from a distance you will notice a huge difference in comparison to what it used to be in the past whereby the village was isolated with no road infrastructure, no basic service delivery and no network coverage.

When the President of South Africa delivered the State of the Nation Address on 13 February 2014, he said, "We have a good story to tell." Ga-Kgatla village is a testimony that indeed life has changed for the better for many South Africans.

The lives of Ga-Kgatla people have been transformed for the better through the War on Poverty Programme launched by Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe in 2009. Stakeholders gathered in their thoughts on how best to intervene within the poverty stricken village, Capricorn District Municipality as the water service authority also had a crucial role to ensure provision of water to this community.

Water is life, and our daily lives depend on this precious commodity. The people of Ga-Kgatla are experiencing the joy of having this commodity. Walking into the village every household has two 5 000 litres Jojo tanks. The tanks were installed to ensure that during the rainy season they are able to harvest more water. Every household has taps inside the yards and the pump operator ensures that there is sufficient water supply for the village.

The access road is continuously maintained by the Department of Roads and Transport, toilets were built for the schools and additional mobile classrooms were provided. The cellphone network services

are fully functional, a mobile clinic visits the village fortnightly, the village is electrified, and there are community development projects that have been launched and functioning with various stakeholders giving support and technical training to ensure sustainability.

Mr Madiboya, one of the beneficiaries of the War on Poverty programme said, "Ke na le RDP, ke na le dijojo tse pedi, pompi ka jarateng, mohlagase. Ge re founa ga re sa namela thaba le dinamelwa tsa bohle di a tsena ka mo motseng ka ge tsela bjale e hlokomelwa. Re leboga mmušo wa rena." Translated this means that he has an RDP house, two jojo tanks, taps in the yard and electricity. The town has access to cellular networks and transport due to continuous road maintenance.

Life has indeed changed for the better in Ga-Kgatla.



Mr Madiboya displaying his jojo tank.





OUTCOME 6: AN EFFICIENT, COMPETITIVE AND RESPONSIVE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

Paul Roux residents excited about Bulk Water Project

*By: More Matshedisio
GCIS, Free State*



Me Arleta Lekgwaba and Mr Ngaka Motaung impressed by Free State Premier Ace Magashule’s speech during the Paul Roux Bulk Water Project launch.



Dihlabeng Local Municipality Mayor Tjhetane Mofokeng, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and Human Settlements MEC Ollly Mlamleli, Premier Ace Magashule and Social Development MEC Sisi Ntombela turning sods to officially launch the Bulk Water Service Project in Paul Roux.



Arleta Lekgwaba is a born and bred senior citizen of Fateng Tse Ntsho, Paul Roux who attested that South Africa is a better country to live in today than it was before democracy. Me Lekgwaba reminisced about the times in her life during her early-youth when she and her peers fetched water from boreholes to do house chores. She spoke to the GCIS on Wednesday, 16 April during the official launch of the Paul Roux Bulk Water Project that is set to benefit more than 2 800 households in the rural township.

“Water has always been a problem in our community. We grew up fetching water from boreholes... there were three of them in and around Fateng Tse Ntsho. Even my children used to fetch it there,” said Me Lekgwaba.

“It was only over 10 years ago when government streamed water through pipes into our community, only then our children and grandchildren ran with wheelbarrows to queue for water with buckets on street taps... life began to change,” she added. Me Lekgwaba went on to say she was excited to see yet another water project developing in her town through government’s efforts in creating better lives for all. The total cost of the project was R51 million.

“I am very happy. I thank the Government and current administration for hearing our grievances and addressing our lifelong struggle of water scarcity,” said the mother of two daughters and two sons, who worked as a Afrikaans/Sesotho translator at a private surgery in Paul Roux during apartheid. Me Lekgwaba studied until standard six (now grade 8). “I was a genius. I passed with first class then worked in the kitchens for about five years before becoming a translator. My

husband, Pastor Lekgwaba was a technician for 27 years at Telkom so we did not struggle much at our home. We worked hard for our children to have a better life,” said Me Lekgwaba. Speaking at the launch held at Paul Roux Stadium, Free State Premier Ace Magashule said the project will help government to eradicate ventilated improved pit (VIP) toilets and bucket system in and around Paul Roux.

“There is nothing VIP about those toilets. They just steal our people’s dignity. We will also build houses in Dihlabeng Local Municipality and other parts of the province. The types of houses that government builds now have bathrooms and kitchen basins that required water, our people have it,” said Premier Magashule. The provincial government partnered with the Department of Water Affairs in support of the Dihlabeng Local Municipality to implement the Regional Bulk Infrastructure Grant Programme. The bulk water scheme transports water from the Saulspoort Water Treatment Works via the newly built Morelig pump station to Meyerskop pressure break tank, whereby water is fed under gravity through a 30-km pipeline along the N5 high way to Paul Roux. At Paul Roux, a new 48-hours reserve reservoir is also built.

Paul Roux residents will no longer use ground water, which was found to be high in manganese and iron and posed health risks to the inhabitants. Human Settlements MEC in Free State Ollly Mlamleli echoed Premier Magashule’s sentiments and announced that a similar project will be established in Rosendal.

“We know that the life of humankind, animals and plants depend heavily on water,” said MEC Mlamleli.



WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY

SOUTH AFRICA CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF FREEDOM

FREEDOM DAY 2014

Union Buildings
Sunday, 27 April, 9:00

WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY

SOUTH AFRICA CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF FREEDOM

All sectors of society, in partnership with government will benefit from our hard-fought freedom, by working together to address outstanding challenges.



WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY

SOUTH AFRICA CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF FREEDOM

Together South Africans can remove all obstacles and barriers that divide our society and build on the many similarities that we share.

South Africa: a better place to live in

WE HAVE COME A LONG WAY

SOUTH AFRICA CELEBRATING 20 YEARS OF FREEDOM

In honour of the memory of countless patriots who fought for all South Africans to be free, vote for the party of your voice on 7 May.

South Africa: a better place to live in

