

DID YOU KNOW?



STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS
by President Jacob Zuma

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Broadcast live on television and radio.

Working together we can do more!



MY DISTRICT TODAY

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Outcome 1: Improved quality of basic education

Soccer is about calculations

Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga

Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) surprised many people when they demonstrated innovative ways of teaching Mathematics and Statistics by using football at the Valencia Combined School as part of the Soccer4stats Programme. Soccer4stats forms part of Stats SA's Isibalo Capacity-Building Programme.

The event was led by Stats SA's Soccer4stats ambassador and South African football legend, John "Black Sunday" Masegela. It received a much-needed boost from Nigeria's football team, who took time off from their busy training schedule ahead of their crucial clash against the reigning Afcon champions, to lend their support to Stats SA's soccer clinic, which is aimed at exciting pupils about Mathematics and Statistics.

"We are delighted to support this programme. Linking education, maths and sport in this innovative way is amazing," said Nigerian goalkeeper, Vincent Enyeama.

The Nigerian superstars descended on the Valencia Combined School, where Statistician-General, Mr Pali Lehohla, who was wearing his Bafana Bafana jersey, welcomed them.

"This initiative would also help the learners to love soccer and maths at school. We have some items here, which explain how soccer has to be played on the field," John Masegele said. The Valencia Combined School learners enjoyed their time with soccer aces from Nigeria who also gave them advice.

Nhlanganipho Zitha, a 16-year-old learner who would like to pursue soccer and do engineering when he completed his matric said, "This is a good initiative, I think the ideas we learn here will assist most of us."

"This is a brilliant initiative and I believe the school can produce future national soccer players. They all look motivated. When they approached me with the initiative, the school management liked the idea," said Mr Daryl Moonsamy, the school principal.

Statistician-General, Mr Pali Lehotla said, "We need the learners to know that soccer is about calculations. This is an outside maths lesson, and ongoing initiative."



From left: John Masegele of Stats SA; Statistician-General, Mr Pali Lehotla; Valencia School Principal, Mr Daryl Moonsamy; Nigerian vice-captain, Vincent Enyeama; assistant coach, Daniel Amokachi; and Nigerian coach, Stephen Kheshi.



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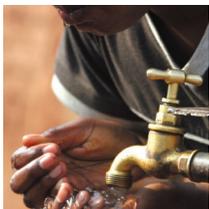
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Outcome 12(b): An empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship

People of Ntabankulu excited about Afcon

Ndyabo Kopo: GCIS, Eastern Cape

The people of Ntabankulu are upbeat about South Africa hosting the Afcon 2013. During the Afcon activation, which was held in Ntabankulu at a taxi rank in town, the residents were treated to local, kwaito, house and Maskandi music coming from a GCIS truck.

The truck is travelling to all the Afcon 2013 hosting provinces to create a vibe and awareness and mobilise South Africans to buy tickets and support

this spectacular tournament. The GCIS working in partnership with the district-based Office of the Premier, the Alfred Nzo District Municipality and Ntabankulu Local Municipality coordinated the event.

Some of the local people shared their views during the activation about Afcon 2013 and Bafana Bafana.



Azile Mpongwana of Ntabankulu in Lubala said, "I am very happy with us hosting the tournament because it gives us an opportunity to interact with other people from African countries that are here to support their national teams."



William Mlahlwa of Ntabankulu in Cacadu Village said, "I am very happy because in the past South Africa did not get opportunities to host big tournaments such as the Afcon and this will create other opportunities for the country."



Khuthala Mgwebi of Ntabankulu in Mzalwaneni Village said, "This shows that our country is progressing and the tournament will create more job opportunities."



Simphiwe Mduyelwa of Ntabankulu in Sikhulu Village said, "I am very happy with South Africa hosting the Afcon tournament and I hope this will position the country to be among the best in the world."

Outcome 1: Improved quality of basic education.

Minister opens new premises for top DCS School



Phumlani Mazibuko receiving his top performer trophy from Minister Sibusiso Ndebele while Commissioner Tom Moyane looks on.



Minister Sibusiso Ndebele officially opening the Usethubeni Youth School, assisted by Commissioner Tom Moyane.



“We are extremely proud to be here today at the official opening of new premises for the Usethubeni Youth School.

“The objective is to ensure that the environment is conducive for teaching, learning, towards assisting the department in achieving its objective of offender rehabilitation. We also want to congratulate our inmates on achieving a national 79,25% pass rate in the 2012 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations, compared to 68,06% in 2011. Chris Phumulani Mazibuko, our best performing inmate from Usethubeni Youth School here at Durban Westville Youth Centre, achieved five distinctions,” the happy-faced Minister said to a packed marquee.

Hailing the importance of partnerships, the Minister expressed his gratitude to the National Application Centre (NAC) that donated 500 books for the library and secured a bursary for the 2012 top learner. The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) donated 350 t-shirts for learners, 50 golf shirts for educators, six plasma screens for life orientation, 10 computers (five for the library and five for administration), library books as well as a floating trophy for the top performing school.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education also donated 30 computers for the computer centre; will train two educators on how to manage a library; assigned a librarian to set up a library processing. The Liberty Foundation donated Maths and Science Learning and Teaching support material for grades 10 to 12.

Minister Ndebele said Usethubeni Youth School has been correctional services’ torch bearer in formal education since 2004, boasting an average

of 91,79% matric pass rate to date. It obtained 81,3% pass rate in last year’s results. A result that’s just 2,5% short of the 83,8% it obtained in 2011. Despite the decline in percentages the school always produced high quality-results year after year. Fourteen learners passed with university entrance, five with diplomas and twos with certificates in the last round. Of the 27 who sat for the exams, 22 passed.

One of those was those was Mazibuko, the star performer with distinctions in IsiZulu, English, Life Orientation, Business studies and Economics.

Mazibuko attributed his achievements to self discipline, hard work and good support from educators who played mother, father, teacher, counsellor and mentor roles to all the students. Speaking to the department’s media team, Mazibuko said, “I want to say thank you to all the people who gave us support throughout the years. We could have been swallowed by the prison walls but those around us kept us on the straight and narrow. They enabled us to focus and persevere. We have climbed many mountains but there are still more to climb. In life you trip and fall but you must always strive to pick yourself up.”

He lamented failing Maths not because of his own doing but because of the lack of support in that discipline. “I failed Maths, not because of my inability but because of the lack of background. We don’t have a Maths teacher at the school. Minister, please assist,” he pleaded with Minister Ndebele, who nodded.

As the Minister, who agreed to assist the school to find the Maths teacher, the National Commissioner of Correctional Services pledged to,

in the meantime, assist the class of 2013 with the Algebra and Trigonometrics syllabus.

With 2013 dubbed The Year of the Official at the department, the staff members at Usethubeni will be relieved now that they will start the new year by working in a proper school. The school’s deputy- principal Ms Nelly Mkhize, said everyone is more pumped-up this year now that they will be working at an enabling environment, not the four cells they had converted into eight classrooms with no proper offices.

When asked how they managed to remain consistent and achieve results year after year, Mkhize said, “It is through God’s grace, hard work and a team of dedicated officials. We sometimes work weekends without pay in order to reach our goals.

“We give guidance to these boys. We counsel them and encourage them not to participate in gangsterism. We treat them like people and don’t label them as only offenders.”

Mkhize added that though her school came second in terms of aggregates with 81,48% pass rate to Johannesburg Correctional Centre’s 94,11%, her school’s focus is mainly on the quality of results. “We are not going to challenge Johannesburg. We have been doing this for nine years and they have just entered the education fray. We pride ourselves with the quality of results we produce year after year. It’s all about quality for us, not quantity,” she enthused.

The school has enrolled 45 learners for the 2013 matric class, its biggest since it was established.

Outcome 11: Create a better South Africa and contribute to a better and safer Africa and world

Showcasing Afcon

South Africa is proud to be the host of Orange Afcon 2013, despite the exit of the national team from the tournament. With only few days left before the end of the Afcon tournament, South Africans – young and old – continue to support Afcon, which is regarded as a way of unifying the African Continent.



Residents from Msukalingwa Local Municipality in Ermelo, Mpumalanga, showing their support.



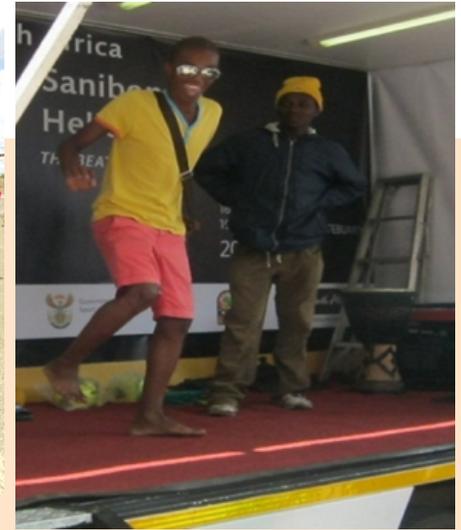
KwaZulu-Natal dancing to the Afcon beat.



People in Theunissen in the Free State in front of the stage listening to the presentation.



Children from Gembok in Northern Cape showing their patriotism.



A warm welcome for a mobilisation truck branded with images representing Afcon 2013.