



# MY DISTRICT TODAY

Issue no. 1 January 2012

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## My District Today e-newsletter: Introductory letter – January 2012

Welcome to My District Today, an e-newsletter that will be available weekly from January 2012.

*Who doesn't like good news? We live in a world where, too often, powerful achievements and exciting local news are overlooked in our preoccupation with bad news and failures. After a while this begins to undermine our social fabric and self-confidence, even breaking down efforts at instilling national pride and nation building. Added to this, it often happens that the "little" stories from the far-flung corners of the country have to make way for "big" stories, many of which are sensational or controversial.*

*My District Today is a platform for celebrating those daily events detailing how government and communities are making headway in eradicating poverty and underdevelopment; and highlights areas where acts of service excellence and achievement against many odds are realised.*

*While the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) was consid-*

*ering the Medium Term Strategic Framework, our Big Five Priority Programme areas and the Outcomes Approach guiding the work of government, it became clear that there was much happening in the districts every week that could and should be reported. The challenge lay in identifying these news snippets and bringing them to light.*

*Luckily, the GCIS has a network of district-based communication officers who work with their colleagues in different spheres of government right across South Africa. This network provides direct contact and information to even the remotest corners of South Africa, which means that readers of the e-newsletter can gain insight into what is happening in a district even if they live on the other side of the country.*

*The concept of My District Today, an e-newsletter that shares articles about service delivery against the five key national priorities, was born with the purpose to reinforce identifiable, real-life stories and showcase the South Africans, both in and outside government, who make these sto-*

*ries happen. This e-newsletter is proud to show what is happening in the different districts regarding government's delivery against its Programme of Action.*

*My District Today will be circulated across the three spheres of government to showcase the impact of delivery of government programmes to beneficiaries. The newsletter will also be placed on the websites of the Thusong Service Centres and government, and the My District Today Facebook page.*

*The GCIS is proud to unveil this platform. The department looks forward to your participation to share ideas and spread the content of this newsletter.*

Nebo Legoabe  
GCIS Deputy CEO: Government and Stakeholder Engagement



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# MAKING EDUCATION A PRIORITY

Matshidiso Mokoka  
GCIS - Mohlakeng Thusong Service Centre: Gauteng

*As part of the Back to School Campaign, on 18 January 2012, MECs from all the Gauteng Provincial Government departments were deployed to different schools in the province to check on their readiness for the 2012 academic year. This year government has recommitted itself in making education a priority and provincial departments came on board by making sure that the first day of school started without any hiccups.*

The Gauteng MEC of Roads and Transport, Mr Ismael Vadi, was deployed to three schools on the Westrand namely, Tarlton Intermediate, Ithuteng Secondary and Maputle Primary School. Accompanied by executive mayors, MECs, MPs and officials from the District Department of Education, he conducted short meetings with school principals and the school governing bodies (SGBs). Afterwards, he went on a walk-about through each school to check its state of readiness; if learners were there on time to start their academic year; and to encourage a proactive

management system that includes parental participation. "It has been observed that parents, especially those living in rural areas, are never a part of their children's education. It is up to the principal, teachers and local councillors to make sure that those parents who are unable to attend meetings at school, are informed, and to ensure that the topic of education/parental involvement is part of the agenda during ward meetings," said Vadi. He also emphasised the value of reading and encouraged learners to start using libraries in their areas.

Government believes that schools must better prepare learners to read, write, think critically and solve numerical problems. These skills are the foundations on which further studies, useful employment, productivity and meaningful citizenship are based.

The Gauteng Department of Health and Social Development donated new uniforms to needy learners in these schools.



Recipients of new school uniforms at Maputle Primary, Bekkersdal



MEC with recipients of school uniforms at Ithuteng Secondary School