



# MY DISTRICT TODAY

Issue no. 4 / January 2014

Over seven million learners are in no-fee schools, up from five million in 2009.

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## OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

### Premier pledges support for quality matric results

By Doctrine Netshikweta, GCIS, Limpopo



Premier Stan Mathabatha led the delegation of the Back to School Campaign at Thengwe High School.

The Limpopo Premier, Stan Mathabatha, urged Thengwe educators and the school governing body (SGB) to put in more effort for better matric results in 2014. This was done during the Back to School Campaign at Thengwe High School.

During his keynote address Premier Mathabatha shared his dream of Limpopo achieving the very best matric results in 2014. He has pledged the province's readiness to provide any support needed to improve quality results. "As a province we want to be ahead of the rest of the country with the best matric results ever. Despite being a deep-rural province we want to prove that quality results have nothing to do with modern lives from cities and towns. It only needs people's dedication and commitment," he said.



Thengwe learners receiving words of wisdom and encouragement from the Limpopo Premier Stan Mathabatha.

The premier urged learners to study more and play less. Stakeholders were encouraged to support the culture of learning. "This is not a one-man show. Let us all join hands and support our learners for the benefit of our province and the entire country," he said.

"South Africa is facing a scarce skills challenge. Let's encourage and support our learners to follow the streams of maths and physical science. We are in need of engineers," he said. Learners were told to follow the example of Ntsundeni Ndou from the Vhembe district who became the best learner in the province in 2013 and was rewarded with a brand new Toyota Etios. "Next year it will be different. I will engage with different stakeholders in the province from now on to do something



Premier Mathabatha (second from left) addressed the learners of the Thengwe Secondary School.

for any learner with the highest quality results," committed Mathabatha.

The principal of one of the top schools in the province, Nkhangweleni Nemudzivhadi, promised the Premier to take action to put Limpopo on the map. "2014 will be the year of Thengwe Secondary School," he promised.

According to Nemudzivhadi the school is working toward 100% subject pass rate not only matric pass rate. This was supported by the former Thengwe Secondary School principal, Seth Nethengwe, a chief of Thengwe.

**Further Education and Training enrolments, doubled from 345 566 in 2010 to 657 690 students in 2012.**

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*The executive mayor (in the black suit) and Sadtu's provincial assistant secretary (in the white golf shirt) congratulating Rantobeng High School during the Back to School Campaign of 2014.*

**OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION**

**Makhuduthamaga's bright class of 2013**

*By Mokgoma Nkopodi, GCIS, Limpopo*



*Learners of the Rantobeng High School listening to the executive mayor.*

Rantobeng High School in Diphagane village in the remote Sekhukhune area is the pride and joy of the area.

The school had a staggering 100% pass rate in the 2013 matric results. This has moved the Sekhukhune District executive mayor and his entourage to visit this "shining star" school to show how proud they were of the learners' achievements and to show their support for the school.

The Limpopo assistant provincial secretary of the South African Democratic Teachers Union (Sadtu) Tjebane Sewela, the circuit manager of Lobethal Lesufi Nkgato, and two members of the mayoral committee accompanied the mayor.

In his welcome address, the circuit manager, was

very excited. He said that it was not the first time learners from the school achieved such good results. This school is always doing well.

"This is a school of performers," he said to loud applause from the learners and educators.

In his congratulatory address, the Sekhukhune District executive mayor congratulated the school for obtaining 100% pass rate. He gave special thanks to educators, the management, the school's governing body and parents for the support they gave the learners. He quoted the late Dr Nelson Mandela who once said that education is a good weapon to be used to change the world. He indicated that Sekhukhune District is one of the districts that produce respectable leaders.

The late Mahwibi Phala who was a member of Parliament came from the area. "We need engineers in the district as we have many mines. We encourage learners to study hard."

The representative of the Council of Learners, Samson Mogashoa was also given the opportunity to give the commitment on behalf of the class of 2014. He assured the mayor that they are going to work harder than the class of 2013.

The acting principal, Mr MW Moatse indicated that everybody at the school was working very hard with limited resources. He thanked the circuit for its unwavering support. In conclusion he promised that the 2014 Grade 12 class will also achieve 100% matric pass rate.



The matric pass rate increased from 60,6% in 2009 to 78,2% in 2013.



Manualita have another 12 years to decide what she wants to do after school.



In the adjacent class, roll call was taken.

## OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

### Kevin Nkoane Primary School ready for 2014

By Willem van Dalen, Northern Cape



Learners arrive at school by taxi, full of smiles and ready for the day.



Before the bell rings some of the boys at Kevin Nkoane Primary School pass the time by playing marbles.



While the boys play marbles, the girls make use of the cooler morning temperatures to skip rope.

Ten days after the schools opened for 2014, I visited one of the schools in Kimberley to meet some of the Grade 1 learners in their new, sometimes a little too large (mothers call it "buying for the future"), school uniforms.

The Kevin Nkoane Primary School was chosen. Although the school starts at 07:30 I was surprised to see a very large number of learners already at school when I arrived there at 06:50. Girls were skipping a rope, boys were chasing each other while some learners were just standing or sitting in groups, chatting.

My mission was to find out how the Grade 1 learners were settling in and if the school was

ready to face 2014. After asking around I found the Grade 1 learners in a shady spot – more than 200 of them – already in their rows, waiting for the bell to ring and eager for the school day to start!

When asked what they wanted to be, they were excited to respond. "I want to be a teacher," said Nadine Hugo. "I want to be a policewoman," said Lesego Tshipe. Nosipho is looking forward to becoming a medical doctor, while Manualita still has to decide on her career.

Principal Debbie Langford says that everything is running smoothly at the school. The school was designed to handle about 800 learners

but currently there are 1 350 learners who are taught by 37 teachers. Planning ahead, the school is ready for grades R and PR. To accommodate all the learners the principal requested extra classrooms from the department, but the school is still waiting for a response.

In the classroom I was greeted politely. The class began with the teacher checking if the homework of the previous day was done.

At this school the learners and teachers are ready to hit the ground running.



Teacher education has expanded the number of new teacher graduates doubled from 6 000 in 2009 to 13 000 in 2012.



## OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

### Mvezo community's new Science and Technology school

By Ndyebo Kopo, GCIS, Eastern Cape, North Eastern Region



*There is hope for young people in the rural community of Mvezo, the birthplace of the late former State President, Nelson Mandela, to contribute to the economy of South Africa as scientists and engineers, as Siemens invested a R100 million in a state-of-the-art Science and Technology School.*

President Jacob Zuma officially handed over the Mandela School of Science and Technology on 17 January 2014 in Mvezo. The school is a tribute to the late former President Nelson Mandela, and it is the only high school in the area. President Zuma, addressing dignitaries, learners and members of the community said, "This is the realisation of Madiba's dream. It is his legacy and it means the children and teachers should work to preserve and continue with it."

The state-of-the-art R100-million facility has three double-storey classroom buildings. The buildings house 25 standard classrooms; three laboratories (Science, Biology and agricultural); a resource centre, which has two computer laboratories; an engineering design laboratory; a library; school hall; administration building;

ablution facilities; renewable energy (wind and solar); complete electrical infrastructure and an emergency standby generator; water infrastructure with borehole water supply, water pumps, tanks and water filtration systems; intercom system; and a CCTV security system.

This Grade 8 to 10 school is the result of a dream to build a high school in his birthplace that the late former President Nelson Mandela expressed in 2010 to the former CEO of Siemens. The partnership between Siemens, the Mvezo Development Trust and the Department of Basic Education ensured that this dream was realised. Siemens covered all the costs associated with the construction and initial operations of the school.

The school currently has about 463 learners. Grade 11 will be incorporated in 2015. From 2016, 700 learners will be enrolled from grades 8 to 12.

"This school was inspired by uNkosi Dalibhunga Rolihlahla Mandela through his emphasis on education," said Nkosi Zwelivelile Mandla Mandela.

The wider community of Mvezo benefited during the construction phase of the school with about 150 people employed in the project. People were trained in bricklaying, plastering, carpentry, plumbing and building construction. The CEO of Siemens, Sigmar Proebst, said that the school was a weapon for the future and he hoped that the school would produce scientists and engineers who will contribute to the economy of South Africa.

"The school is much, much better compared to other schools in rural areas and what I like most is that the discipline is entrenched," said Sihle Phaliso of Elliotdale, a learner at the Mandela School of Science and Technology.

"We are very encouraged with the new school and believe our children will get good quality education due to the facilities in the school and the dedication shown by teachers," said Mrs Nozukile Mofu a parent of one of the learners at the school.



Colesberg communities at a meeting hosted by the Minister of Water Affairs.



Engagement between the public and the Minister of Water Affairs.



Members of the community engaging with the Minister of Water Affairs.

## Supply of water, sanitation scaled up in Colesberg

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Members of the community expressing concern about the water supply.

For the communities of Colesberg in the Northern Cape, water shortages and lack of proper sanitation will soon be a thing of the past. The Minister of Water Affairs, Edna Molewa announced multimillion rand water projects for the region.

A lack of water and proper sanitation has been a problem for communities in the region. In some instances, local communities fetch water from dams, while others complain of dirty water coming out of their taps.

Addressing the communities in Colesberg about water issues, Molewa assured residents that government will do everything in its power to ensure that they get running water.

"Plans are also in place to address part of the sanitation backlog in Colesberg with the provision of water-borne sanitation," she said.

Molewa said work has been done to look into the cost estimates for the water projects in the region. "Our responsibility as government is to serve you and we will ensure that you benefit from the water projects."

According to Molewa, the water projects will include upgrading the old water infrastructure, which was initially designed to supply water to small communities. "Our focus now is working towards increasing water availability in Colesberg," she said.

Prior to Molewa's address, the community shared with the minister the challenges they face with water supply in their areas.

Colesberg is known for the low levels of rain it experiences, thus its dependence primarily on the flow of the Orange River that runs through it.

Molewa told the local communities that they were receiving the same attention as everybody else in the country with regards to water services.

However, she expressed concern that the Umsobomvu Municipality was not monitoring and reporting on non-revenue water and water losses.

Northern Cape Premier Sylvia Lucas, on behalf of the Minister, officially launched the Colesberg Waste-Water-Treatment Works in the Umsobomvu Local Municipality.

The plant, which was completed last year, was built at a cost of R23 million. This is going to help to purify sewage from the local communities.

Speaking at the launch, Lucas said government will continue to ensure that people have clean water in their areas.

"As government, we will respond to water shortages and ensure that people have clean water in their communities. Water and sanitation are placed high on government's agenda," she said.

Umsobomvu resident Maria Salmaan told SAnews that she was happy that they were going to get clean water in the area.



## Saving water in and around the house / business



EVERY  
DROP  
COUNTS

*Change begins with you*



- Turn the tap off when washing your face, brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Don't over-fill containers such as cooking pots, as this may result in using more energy to heat the water.
- Fix a leaking toilet otherwise it can waste up to 100 000 litres of water in one year.
- Use a bucket rather than a hose to wash your car. If you have to use a hose, use a sprayer that can be turned off in-between spraying the car. Using a garden hose could use as much as 30 litres of water per minute.

