




# MY DISTRICT TODAY



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## CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

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## OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

### Lessons take place on the first day

*By Lehlohonolo Manoto: GCIS, Free State*



Learners ready for lessons.

Schools reopened on 17 January 2018. There were tears and smiles at the Academy of Excellence Combined School in Bloemfontein on the first day of school.

At Beisang Mabewane Primary School, lessons kicked off immediately. The school has admitted 103 pupils, compared to 120 during the 2017 academic year.

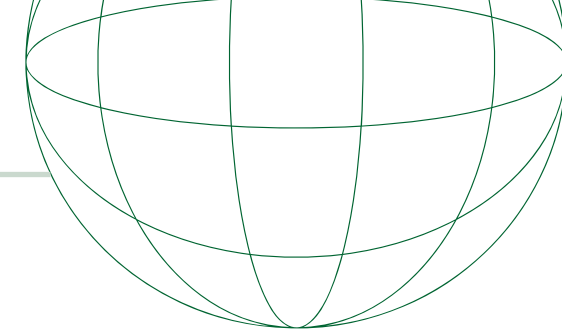
"The first day of the school started very well for the first group of learners in Grade R. Parents accompanied their children. We welcomed all the learners but in particular, the Grade R and Grade 1 pupils. I was impressed by the general attendance by both the pupils and the educators," said Moswatsi Shongwe, the school principal.



government  
communications

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





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**Moswatsi Shongwe said:**

"We pride ourselves by recognising best achievers. This initiative started in 2017. The school will continuously recognise and awards best achievers in all grades. We are overwhelmed by the greatest faith displayed by parents through trusting us with their children."



**Matshogane Lebakeng said:**

"I have received pupils from Grade 1 and my observation is that they know how to write already. They can even write their names."



**Lesedi Maema said:**

"I am very excited to be at school. I like the uniform and hope to make new friends. I am glad my mother is with me."



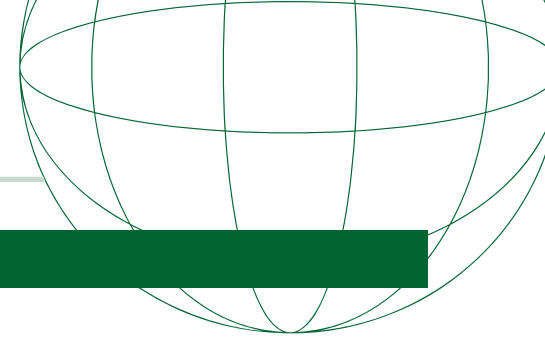
**Ntombi Nhlapo said:**

"It is nice to start a year in another class. It is also nice to be at school and learn new things."



**Dimakatso Sesing said:**

"I like being at school to learn and also play with other learners."



## OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

### Minister donates computers to school

By Pakeng Matsetse: GCIS, Gauteng



**Rethabile Taje said:**

“We appreciate government's effort to support our school. We will use the computer lab to further advance and engage with the world using digital platforms. We will become the best learners.”



**Naledi Seabelo said:**

“I have found the Minister's address inspiring and courageous. I will perform well to obtain the four distinctions so that I can benefit from her financial support programme.”



**Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane addressing Thusa Setjaba learners.**

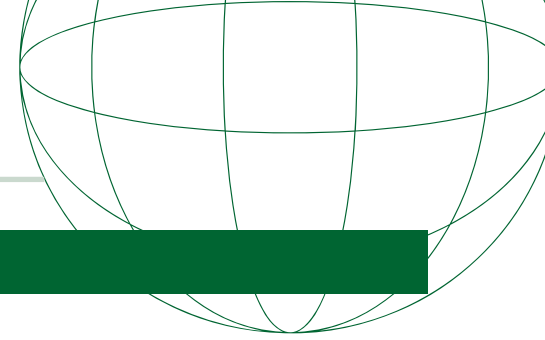


**The Minister with one of the 15 laptops donated to the school.**

The Minister of Communications, Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane, visited Thusa Setjaba Secondary School in Poortjie, Gauteng on 18 January 2018 as part of government's 2018 Back-to-School campaign to hand over 15 laptops and one set-top box and TV set.

“I will be supporting the 2017 top achiever so that she can further her studies at varsity. This is the programme I intend to continue with even in 2018. All I am asking from you is to pass with not less than four distinctions and you will not have to worry about funding for tertiary studies.”

The Minister also committed that the laptops would have Internet connection soon so that learners could use them for research.



**Sibusiso Maseko said:**

"This year I intend pursuing a career in Chemical Engineering at Wits University. Sasol will fund my studies."



**Showers Kapungu said:**

"I obtained seven distinctions in Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, Accountings, Englishs, Afrikaans, and Life Orientation. This year I will be pursuing a career in Actuarial Sciences at Wits University."

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

**Partnership for positive outcome**

*By Bongani Mazibuko: GCIS, Mpumalanga*



**Principals and educators also received awards for performance excellence.**



**Top achievers posing with their prizes.**

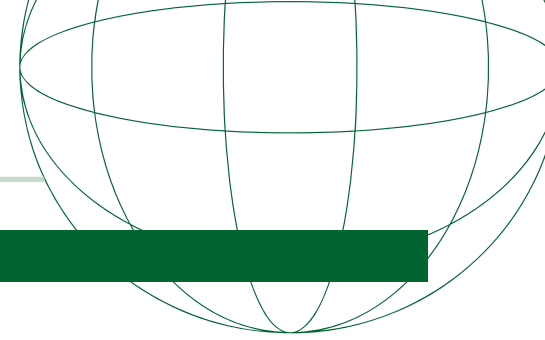
Sasol in Mpumalanga together with its flagship project known as Osizweni Science Centre held an awards ceremony for the 2017 Grade 12 Top Achievers. The Sasol Grade 12 Merit Awards recognise best performing learners in Govan Mbeki, Lekwa and Dipaleseng municipalities. The awards also acknowledge the best performing teachers and schools in these areas, particularly those who did well in mathematics and physical sciences.

These awards are given to learners who obtained between three and nine distinctions, overall top achievers from quintile 1 – 4 (non-fee schools). A total of 100 learners received Merit Award certificates and cash prizes for their outstanding performance. The Provincial Department of Education, Govan Mbeki, Lekwa and Dipaleseng Municipalities, Government Communication and Information System, Office of the Premier, school governing bodies, parents and other stakeholders supported the event. Nomsa Zulu from Sasol said, "The cash prize money will assist most of the learners from poor backgrounds towards registration fees at tertiary institutions of their choice." This celebration was a success and will unlock the absence of registration fees mostly faced by students from disadvantaged backgrounds.



**Lane Coetzee said:**

"I obtained seven distinctions in Mathematics, Physical Sciences, Life Sciences, English, Afrikaans, Engineering, Design and Graphics, and Life Orientation. This year I will be doing my first year in Medicine at the University of the Free State because I want to become a medical doctor. I have already secured a bursary from the Department of Basic Education."



**Nkhesani Chauke said:**

“It had a pleasant welcome to the school on my first day. The Minister told us to focus on our studies and stay away from alcohol, drugs and relationships. I want to study hard and emulate my aunt who is a police officer. My favourite subject is History and my aunt loved it too.”



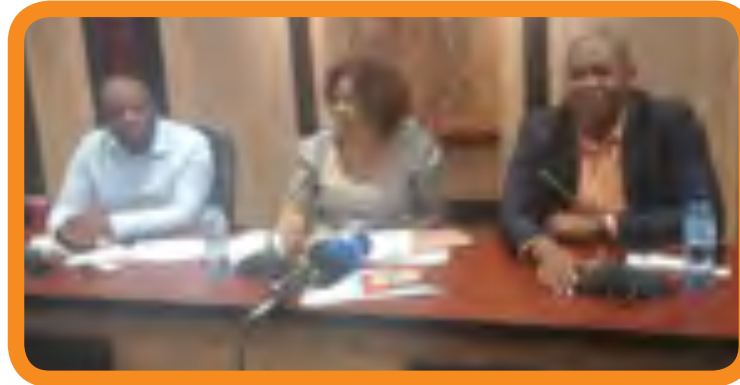
**Tswarelo Khosa said:**

“I did not want to go to the schools in the village I come from because I did not want to be influenced by friends. After listening to the Minister today, I am convinced that I made the right decision. I want to work hard in my studies and make my mother proud.”

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

**Minister encourages learners to work hard**

*By Doctor Marebane and Odas Ngobeni: GCIS, Limpopo*



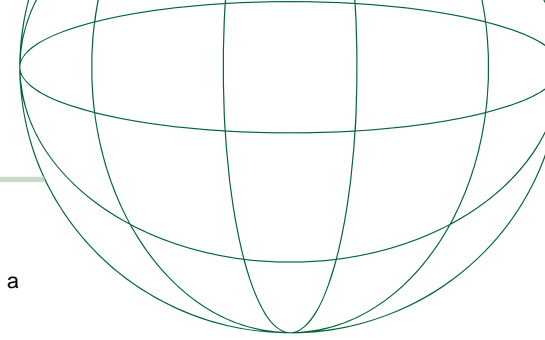
**Minister Hlengiwe Mkhize addressing the media after her visit at Capricorn College.**



**Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane being interviewed by the media.**

The Minister of Higher Education, Hlengiwe Mkhize, visited the Capricorn Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) college on 16 January 2018 where she addressed TVET principals and later local media houses regarding free education and NSFAS. Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Buti Manamela, also visited Capricorn TVET college and Tshwane University of Technology in Polokwane to monitor the registration process.

On 17 January, the Minister of Communications, Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane, visited two schools in the province as part of her Back-to-School campaign. The first school that the Minister visited is Basopa High School at Maphope village in Limpopo. She was accompanied by Chief Shilungwa Mhinga. The Basopa High School has an enrolment of just under 1 300 learners and recorded 82,9% pass rate in the 2017 matric results. Minister Kubayi-Ngubane said she passed her matric staying in a shack in an informal settlement. “My mother was unemployed when I went to university and my father had passed on. I was given money for registration by the church. I studied through NSFAS which, was called TEFSA then and I now hold a Master’s Degree,” she said.



**Mikateko Shirindzi said:**

“This school has hard-working teachers. All we need to do is to cooperate. The Minister has really motivated me to work hard. My dream is to be a businesswoman hence I am studying commercial subjects.”



**Mokgadi Mokgoara said:**

“I have aimed to work very hard this year so that I do not disappoint my principal and my teachers. The Minister motivated us and we will not disappoint her.”

The Minister also urged teachers and parents to be supportive to learners. She donated a cyber-lab, a television and Set-Top Box to the school.

Accompanied by Capricorn District Mayor John Mpe, the Minister then visited Masedibu High School in Seshego, outside Polokwane. The school achieved 79,5% pass rate in the 2017 matric results. Minister Kubayi-Ngubane motivated the learners and urged them to work even harder in 2018. She donated 15 laptops and a television set. The Minister urged the learners to start preparing for their exams on the first day of schools opening. She also motivated educators and told them to put the interests of learners first for the sake of the country’s future.



**The Minister of Communications Mmamoloko Kubayi and the Capricorn District Mayor John Mpe handing over laptops at Masedibu High School.**



**Learners of Masedibu listening to the Minister of Communications.**



**Lawrence Hlongwane said:**

“My plans for this year is to work hard and pass matric with good marks. We have good teachers and I anticipate to perform better.”



**Mafa Makati said:**

“Our school has the potential to achieve 100% pass rate and to achieve this, it begins with an individual learner and that person is me.”