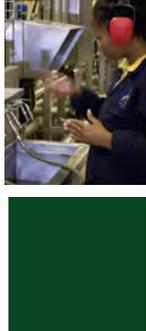


DID YOU KNOW?

THE BEAT AT AFRICA'S FEET

Orange Africa Cup of Nations 2013
Jan 27: South Africa vs Morocco, 19:00 Moses Mabhida Stadium.
Angola vs Cape Verde, 19:00 Nelson Mandela Bay.



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

For more information about similar programmes that are run across the country, contact one of the following provincial offices:

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Outcome 1: Outcome 1: Improved quality of basic education

It is back to school for Ekurhuleni

Tinyiko Molefe, GCIS: Gauteng

The Gauteng Provincial Government embarked on the Back to School Campaign by deploying members of the Executive Council (MECs) to schools throughout the province to visit and check on the schools' state of readiness for the new academic year as well as engaging with learners and stakeholders within the education sector.

MEC Mayathula Khoza was deployed to three schools in the Ekurhuleni southern region to check if the schools had necessary resources to perform at their best. MEC Mayathula said, "We are here to ensure that as learners you have the necessary resources for learning and to show that as government we care about your future. I therefore encourage you to work hard to have a bright future."

In expressing her views about the current education system and the manner in which government has contributed in improving the quality of education by working tirelessly with stakeholders, learners and parents, Thabisang Maile said, "The education system has changed for the better over the years because government is ensuring that parents get involved in the education of their children and get advice from educators on how to assist their children to perform well in class while providing all the necessary resources required for effective learning and teaching."

Learners need to be motivated so that they can improve their performance. The visit by MEC Mayathula Khoza ensured that the learners received the motivation they need on the first day. Tsholofelo Chapatso, a learner at Leratadima Primary School said, "I feel confident, proud and motivated to work harder especially because I realised that government is interested in my education."

A parent emphasised the importance of education as the basis for a successful future. Neo Mosheo, a school governing body member representing parents at the Leratadima Primary School said, "Education is the foundation of a bright future and we are happy and blessed because our children are in good hands and are receiving good education from the educators."



MEC Mayathula Khoza addressing education stakeholders at Eden Park Primary School

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Outcome 1: Improved quality of basic education

Government applauded for creating conducive environment for learning

Odas Ngobeni: GCIS Limpopo

Sevengwana High School is situated in Mavele village outside Tzaneen. The school was in 2008 described by the then MEC of Education in the province, Aaron Motsoaledi as “extremely dilapidated and needing urgent attention.” The school was rebuilt into a state-of-the-art school later that year as one of the flagship partnership programmes between the Department of Basic Education and the Independent Development Trust (IDT).

The school now boasts a state-of-the-art Science laboratory, Biology laboratory, computer centre, home economics centre, nutrition centre, library, 1 000-seater hall, fully equipped administration block and 24 modern classrooms. The IDT contributed R25 million to the cost of the project that totalled around R36 million.

The chairperson of the governing body, Mavele Mukeri says the Government’s prioritised programme of developing infrastructure and eradicating mud schools should be credited for the school’s improved matric results.

The school was one of the poorest and underperforming schools in the province with just a 38% pass rate in 2008. The then President of South Africa, Kgalema Motlanthe, officially opened the school in 2009, and the results have improved since then. The matric pass rate was at 62% in 2009, 64% in 2010, at 87,5% in 2011 and 89,5% in 2012.

Mavele Mukeri says, “Government should be commended for the infrastructural development programme because it has raised the quality of education at the school. We must also commend the educators and parents for the wonderful working relations.”

Eric Sambo, the school principal, echoed Mukeri’s statement saying, “We have a wonderful working relationship with the school governing body and parents. Whenever we call a parents’ meeting, the hall, which takes up to 1 000 people is always full. The support from parents is evident in the academic results.”

“It was important to set up proper systems and ensure execution. Our target was to get 80% in three years, but because of the hard work from educators and the support from parents, we were able to achieve that in just two-and-a-half years,” says Sambo.

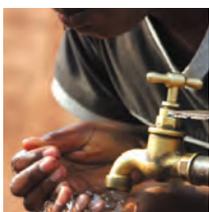
Rixongile Mbhalati, a 17-year-old Grade 11 learner says she relocated from her previous school in Nkambako village because of the good standard of education at this school. “I moved to this school in 2010 after hearing about the level of discipline and the commitment from teachers. My dream is to become a radiographer and this environment is perfect to help me realise my dream.”



Grade 11 learners at Sevengwana High School hard at work in the Science lab.



Mihloti Baloyi, a Grade 11 educator at Sevengwana High School offering lessons to learners during Computer Application Technology (CAT).



Outcome 1 I: Create a better South Africa and contribute to a better and safer Africa and world for all

Football match for peace

Alexandra Thusong Service Centre: GCIS

The New Partnership for Africa's Development (Nepad) in conjunction with the African Union (AU) Confederation of African Football (CAF) and the Alexandra Football Association hosted a special "Football Match for Peace" with a select team of 22 boys and girls at the Alexandra Stadium on Thursday, 17 January 2013. This was part of the AU's Make Peace Happen Campaign, which was introduced in 2010.

The aim of the exhibition match, which preceded formal presentations at the Sankopano Community Centre, was to use the Orange Africa Cup of Nation (Afcon) South Africa 2013 as a platform to refocus Africa's attention on peace. Key guests included Oscar Pistorius (the AU's Peace Ambassador), Hicham El Amrani (CAF General Secretary), AU officials, Dr Ibrahim Mayaki (Nepad Chief Executive Officer), Mr Maisha Molepo (President of the Alexandra Football Association) and Mr Moss Selolo (Alexandra Football Association's Life President and member of Safa Gauteng).

The children who played in the match have been selected to participate in the Make Peace Happen parade during the opening ceremony of the Afcon South Africa 2013, on Saturday, 19 January at the National Stadium.

"Sport is a tool for development and football can contribute to Africa's development," said Dr Ibrahim Mayaki, the CEO of Nepad. "The youth's enthusiasm for football provided a perfect opportunity today to combine the game with educational measures and promote equality, inclusion, respect and responsibility through the use of football," concluded Dr Mayaki.

Speaking in his capacity as the AU's Peace Ambassador, Oscar Pistorius, "the blade runner," called on everyone to join Bafana Bafana for the 2013 edition of the continent's ultimate soccer showpiece – the Afcon tournament. "Eyethu, be part of it. Enjoy the beat at Africa's feet!" said Oscar Pistorius.



Alexandra youngsters lining up for the special Football Match for Peace.



Oscar Pistorius with AU, Nepad and CAF officials at the Alexandra Stadium.



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

Mpumalanga catches Afcon fever.

Robbie Senoelo, GCIS Gauteng

South Africans dance to the Afcon beat.

Afcon is the latest buzzword in all parts of the country. Even the wet weather conditions could not deter South Africans to go out and blow their vuvuzelas to show their pride and patriotism as they did in 2010.

Excitement was everywhere.

The community of Daveyton, in Ekurhuleni, stormed the Afcon mobilisation truck, which was coordinated by the GCIS, on Saturday, 19 January, to show their love for football and some even displayed their skills.



Afcon fever grips the KwaZulu-Natal metrorail commuters.



Excited members of the community at Mangosuthu Section in Piet Retief in Mpumalanga.



Hlompho Mokoena, showcasing his ball-juggling skills during Daveyton Afcon 2013 activation.



Afcon build-up programme in Namakwa District and Springbok, Northern Cape.



Daveyton residents at Afcon public viewing Zenzele sport grounds on 19 January 2013.

