



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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PRIORITY3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH

30 Years of Freedom Back-to-School campaign

By Lilly Mohlosana; GCIS, North West

On 16 January 2025, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), Rustenburg Local Municipality and the North West Department of Education, embarked on a 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy Back-to-School campaign to donate 152 pairs of school shoes to learners at the Vuka Primary School, a village school in Boshhoek.

The atmosphere was a jubilant one, filled with songs and smiles on the bright little faces of the learners, as the Democracy Bus entered the school premises. Vuka Primary School is a small village school with about 150 learners, located within the Rustenburg Local Municipality.

The Acting School Principal, Ms Kgomotso Mokgatle, thanked the government for supporting them throughout the multiple challenges they faced as a

village school. She thanked the Executive Mayor, Cllr Sheila Mabale-Huma, for securing busses for the learners to travel to school, as most of them had to walk long distances daily. While addressing the learners, Cllr Mabale-Huma, thanked the Chairperson of the School Governing Body for being present and supporting the principal and the learners.

The Mayor encouraged the learners to take care of the school shoes and stationery that the municipality donated to them, as these would help them in their schooling journey. The day ended with the learners taking a ride in the Democracy Bus, escorted by the local traffic department.



Cllr Mabale-Huma handing over school shoes and stationery to the Principal of Vuka Primary School, Ms Mokgatle.



Ms Mokgatle and Cllr Mabale-Huma posing for a picture with learners after taking a ride in the Democracy Bus.



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GCIS officials talking to learners about 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy.



Learners of Vuka Primary School waiting to get onto the Democracy Bus.



Cllr Shiela Mabale-Huma said:
"The government is calling on all members of the SGB to work with the school to ensure that the learners receive quality education."

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH

Eastern Cape Provincial Government honours Matric Class of 2024

By Nandipa Sondati Thawa; GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 14 January 2025, the Eastern Cape Provincial Government (ECPG) led by Premier Oscar Mabuyane, held a Top Achievers Awards ceremony to honour matriculants who performed well in the 2024 academic year. The ceremony held at the East London International Convention Centre under the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, was also graced by the Minister of Basic Education, Ms Siviwe Gwarube and the Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Prince Zolile Burns Ncamashe.

The province's Class of 2024 obtained an 84.9% pass rate, which is a 3.56% improvement on the 81.4% pass mark of the Class of 2023. Eleven districts performed above 80%, with only one district remaining in the upper 70%. Compared to 2023, six more districts reached the 80% benchmark. The Chris Hani East District secured first position at 88.5% – a 4.5% improvement from 84% in 2023; followed by Amathole East at 87.8%; with third place going to Alfred Nzo West at 86.9%; Nelson Mandela is number four at 86.7% and Alfred Nzo East position five at 85.9%.

The 2024 National Senior Certificate examinations catered for about 117 767 candidates, comprising 102 073 full-time registered candidates with 99 739 writing in 965 centres. About 15 694 registered part-time candidates sat for the exam, of which 9 498 wrote in 135 centres.

Addressing the media at a structured briefing, Eastern Cape Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Education, Mr Fundile Gade, indicated that in an effort to improve the results, extra classes were planned and managed at school level by the heads of departments and teachers concerned. "These classes were conducted to extend educator-learner contact time. The focus during terms 1 and 2 was on pacing up content coverage, and during terms 3 and 4, the focus was on consolidation and practise. Subject advisors had a duty to play an oversight role and also monitor and support the programme," said MEC Gade.

The Government Communication and Information System spoke to two top achievers: Kwazi Sitsheke from Tutor Ndamase Secondary School in the O.R. Tambo Coastal, who obtained seven distinctions and wishes to pursue studies in engineering; Sivikele Makebe from Xolilizwe Secondary School in the Amathole district, also got seven distinctions and will be studying Actuarial Science.



Eastern Cape top achievers from various schools attending the Provincial Top Achievers Awards ceremony.



Premier Mabuyane and officials from the ECPG with the top achievers.



MEC Gade presenting a report on the performance of the Class of 2024.

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH

Deputy Minister Mohai conducts monitoring of schools in Lejweleputswa

By Ntombi Mhlambi; GCIS, Free State

The Lejweleputswa District Municipality welcomed the Deputy Minister (DM) of Planning Monitoring, and Evaluation, Mr Seiso Mohai, for a frontline monitoring initiative and a Back-to-School campaign. He was accompanied by the Acting Executive Mayor of the Lejweleputswa District Municipality, Cllr Veronica Ntakumbana; the Executive Mayor of Matjhabeng Local Municipality, Cllr Hlobohang Mokhomo; members of the Mayoral Committee; Ms Phaello Zonke from the Free State Department of Education (FSDoE); various stakeholders and government officials.

The first visit was to Kgauhelo Primary School in Ventersburg, Matjhabeng Local Municipality, where the Programme Director, Ms Phaello Zonke, engaged with learners on the importance of education. In her opening remarks, Cllr Ntakumbana congratulated the Class of 2024 for their outstanding Grade 12 results. She emphasised the importance of collaboration among stakeholders, stating boldly that for the district municipality to excel, they needed to work together with various stakeholders to drive growth. She also highlighted the significance of education as a powerful tool to combat poverty.

DM Mohai spoke about the significance of education and government's pledge to support the citizens of South Africa. He identified the obstacles confronting local schools and stressed the importance of a collaborative approach to resolve these challenges. Ms Zonke from the FSDoE Lejweleputswa District, delivered an in-depth report regarding the educational landscape in the area. She praised the best performing schools, especially those that achieved a 100% pass rate in their 2024 National Senior Certificate examinations. In addition, she unveiled initiatives to assist struggling schools and interventions to elevate them to the highest standards in the province.

The Principal of Kgauhelo Primary School, Ms Jeminah Khumalo, presented a short overview of the school's accomplishments in both academics and athletics. DM Mohai reassured attendees that government would continue supporting the district, especially the education sector, which he considers vital to the nation's progress. The delegation also visited Mamello Secondary School in Virginia, where they continued to interact with learners and teachers, emphasising the significance of education and inspiring them to aim for excellence.



Mamello Secondary School learners in attendance at the Back-to-School campaign.

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH

Back-to-School campaign in the Northern Cape

By Mpho More; GCIS, Northern Cape

On 15 January 2025, learners from across the Northern Cape arrived back at various schools for the commencement of the new academic year.

The Government Communication and Information System, in collaboration with the Northern Cape Legislature and the South African Police Service (SAPS), supported the Department of Basic Education (DBE)'s Back-to-School campaign by visiting the Floors Comprehensive School and the William Pescod High School in Kimberley, Frances Baard District, to monitor school readiness. Principals from both schools were pleased that most learners returned to school on the first day.

The Principal of Floors Comprehensive School, Mr Roy Fredericks, welcomed the new learners and explained the school's mission and vision. He encouraged them to concentrate on their studies and congratulated those who passed their grades well in the previous academic year, especially the matriculants of 2024, who achieved a pass rate of 84.75% – an improvement from 2023. A former

matriculant from the William Pescod High School, Cornell Willemse, who obtained position six in the Northern Cape Class of 2024 Matriculant Top Achievers with eight level 7s, motivated the learners: "Doing your work everyday is very important, because if you do extra revision, you will see where you do not understand or where you might have missed something." She added that the educators at the school were always willing to help, and that learners should take advantage of that.

The Director of Human Resources Utilisation at the DBE, Ms Claudette Wood said, "I am here today to monitor the opening of the schools on day one, making sure that all systems and policies are in place and the school is ready to operate."

The Station Commander of Kimberley SAPS, Brigadier Nicolas Mtongwane, welcomed the learners and warned them not to be on the wrong side of the law. He appealed to them to guard against drugs, bullying and other criminal activities, as having a criminal record could jeopardise their future.



Learners at William Pescod High School assemble in the hall to listen to the speakers.

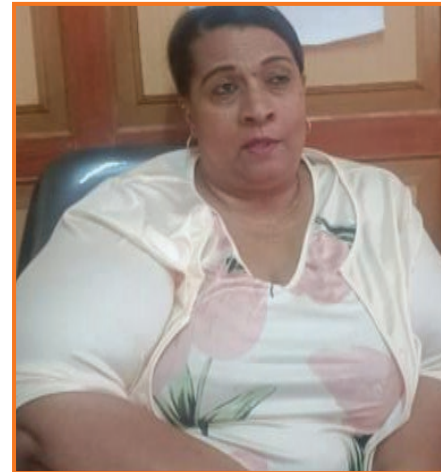


Floors High School learners listen to motivational talks from former learners of the school.



Mr Fredericks, Principal of Floors High School said:

“I am a former learner and teacher at this school. My aim is to make the school community-based, to assist wherever it can. We want all the learners to achieve the best. Our school got 84.75% for matric results, because of the dedication of the educators and learners. I would like to thank the educators for going the extra mile and putting in the effort for our learners.”



Ms Wood from the DBE said:

“I am here today to monitor the opening of the school on day one. Making sure that all systems are in place and the school is ready to operate.”



Venessa Gool, Principal of William Pescod High School said:

“It is the beginning of the 2025 academic year. Even though our matric results for 2024 were not what we expected, we are willing to put in more effort this year.”