

# Four schools join Telkom Adopt-a-Project initiative

Three Eastern Cape schools and one school in the North West Province have joined the fortunate group of organisations to have been adopted by Telkom senior managers as part of the Telkom Foundation's Adopt-a-Project initiative. The Project gives Telkom executives and managers the opportunity to roll up their sleeves and adopt a deserving project of their choice which fits with the Foundation's investment profile.

North West newcomer to the Telkom Adopt-a-Project initiative, Keagile Middle School in Ikageng Potchefstroom, will enter the world of digital communication, thanks to Mr Oupa Magashula, Telkom Group Executive for Human Resources, who adopted the school recently. Keagile has received 10 computers, a server, a printer and internet access from Telkom. Another 10 computers will be installed next year, converting the school into a fully fledged Telkom SuperCentre. Educators will also receive training in line with the SuperCentres Project philosophy.

Magashula, a former pupil at the school, said that he chose Keagile because this is a school close to his heart and that one particular educator, a Mr Letsie, played a "big part in moulding him as a person". He also hopes that the donation will give Keagile's learners a fighting chance in the outside world. "Computers won't revolutionise the school, but they will give them access to the world. When I attended the school, we didn't even have a library."

Mnyaka and Nyukile Junior Secondary Schools in the Eastern Cape are getting

a boost of a more literary kind. The Foundation donated reading books to the value of R50 000 to the schools after Telkom Chief Sales and Marketing Officer, Ms Nombulelo Moholi, adopted them in line with the Foundation's support for the Rally to Read initiative. Moholi said that she could see "no better way to build a solid Information Communication and Technology (ICT) foundation, than by an introduction to reading from an early age".

Another beneficiary of Adopt-a-Project is a school on the outskirts of Port St John, adopted by Mr Mike Mlengana, Managing Executive for Public Services. The donation to Port St John's Junior Secondary School included practical training for educators and learners to ensure that the Foundation's aim of demystifying maths and science through using technology is achieved.

Mrs Nkhetheleng Vokwana, CEO of the Telkom Foundation, said that without these subjects, many pupils will remain in the cold when it comes to accessing future job opportunities. "The Foundation is specifically focused on bridging the digital divide between rural and urban schools when it comes to the awareness and usage of technologies," she said.

## Here is how you can contact your project heads:



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# Foundation

## newsupdate

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## A year of achievement for the Foundation

By Nkhetheleng Vokwana, CEO Telkom Foundation

The end of the year is upon us and the first year of our operation as an autonomous legal entity is drawing to a close. At the Foundation, we feel that we can look back with a certain satisfaction at how the year has gone. Our new status has enabled us to focus better on our core business: achieving an ICT-literate society and demystifying science and technology.

One of the hallmarks of this year has been the increase in the involvement of the Telkom executive and management team in corporate social investment via the Adopt-a-Project initiative. To date we have launched 15 Adopt-a-Projects ranging from donations of printers and other computer equipment to entrepreneurial training.

Our aim is to have 25 such projects up

and running by 31 March 2003. In general the passion and enthusiasm shown by those who have stepped forward to adopt projects has been exceptional and very encouraging (see page 4 for news on Adopt-a-Project).

Our other goals are that we hope to have 35 of the 102 Maths and Science Dinedi Project schools rolled out by 31 March 2003 as part of our Education and Training portfolio, and nine special-needs schools fully networked by the same date as part of our Empowerment portfolio. We will also be awarding the remaining three Telkom Foundation bursaries to deserving students wanting to study engineering and ICT at university level before 31 March 2003. Two bursaries have already been awarded this year to Tshepang Rafout to study Engineering at Wits and

Luyanda Nimrod Ngwexa to study the same at UCT.

For the longer term, the Foundation now has a five-year plan in place which lays out our objectives for the future in line with our new status and vision. Currently the Foundation has 446 projects in its portfolio. Within the next five years we hope to have restructured these projects, dropping some that no longer fit our investment profile and gaining others that do. We hope eventually to have 450 core projects, 50 per province, which are geared towards putting our mission of "adding value to the communities we serve" into action.

We have exciting years ahead of us. But for now, I'd like to take the opportunity to wish you all the very best for your exams and a relaxed holiday season.

## Funds for disaster relief

The Telkom Foundation has donated R40 000 to Buffalo City Municipality in East London for humanitarian relief for the victims of recent floods in the city. This is the first time that the Foundation has embarked on this type of assistance. Mr Alli Alli, Executive for the Telkom Foundation, made the donation on 20 September 2002.

The city of East London was hard hit by one of the worst floods in years in August of this year. Six people lost their lives, five others went missing and approximately 2 741 people were displaced. The eventual damage was estimated at R70-million.

## Getting behind IT in the Eastern Cape



From left back, Mr Stone Sizani, MEC for Education in the Eastern Cape, Minister Jeff Radebe, Minister of Public Enterprises and Mrs Nkhetheleng Vokwana, CEO of the Telkom Foundation (seated front, trying out one of the new computers with children from VM Kwinana High School at the October launch of 10 Telkom SuperCentres in the Eastern Cape. See page 2 for the full story.

# “Manna from heaven” for Kwinana High

Ten new SuperCentres have been launched in the Eastern Cape

The Telkom SuperCentres Project is like “manna from heaven” says Mr Dumisani Thono, Principal of VM Kwinana High School in KwaNobuhle, Uitenhage. Thono was speaking at the official launch of the Eastern Cape SuperCentres held at Kwinana in October 2002.

As a result of the SuperCentres Project, Kwinana and nine other Eastern Cape schools are the proud owners of 20 networked computers with internet access. The Project not only provides schools with the much needed computer equipment, but also gives educators the necessary support and training to ensure that the equipment gets used to its full potential.

“This is a blessing in disguise. Many of the children live in informal settlements and have never seen a computer before. Now they have the opportunity to work on them and this will help to prepare them for life after school,” said an elated Thono at the launch of the Centres by Minister of Public Enterprises, Mr Jeff Radebe.

Telkom Foundation CEO, Mrs Nkhetheleng Vokwana, said that it is always difficult to decide which school is part of the project and which loses out, but that VM Kwinana with its 881 learners was chosen as one of the SuperCentres in the Eastern Cape because of the dedication of its staff and learners to teaching and learning. She added that the school’s location was also a factor as the area has an extremely high unemployment rate.

VM Kwinana is one of 10 schools in the Eastern Cape and 100 countrywide that have been selected to take part in the SuperCentres Project. The other Eastern Cape schools are: Philemon Ngcelwane High School in Mdantsane, Sterkspruit Secondary School and Ebenezer Nyathi High School, both in Sterkspruit, Hector Peterson High School in King Williams Town, Nqweba High School in Graaff-Reinet, Newell High School and Ukhanyo Secondary School, both in Port Elizabeth, Cala Village Junior School in Cala, and Ngangelizwe Secondary School in Umtata.

## Explore science this holiday season



If you are in Cape Town this summer break, get yourself to the Telkom Exploratorium where there are several new displays as well as old favourites to be explored.

The “I Remember” display, the latest at the Exploratorium, in particular is causing quite a stir. It sports 145 old telephone instruments for visitors, both young and old, to marvel at.

Exploratorium staff report that it is quite noticeable how many remarks are received from visitors who say “My parents had a phone just like that one”. Educators and chaperones also say that they have memories of the antique phones.

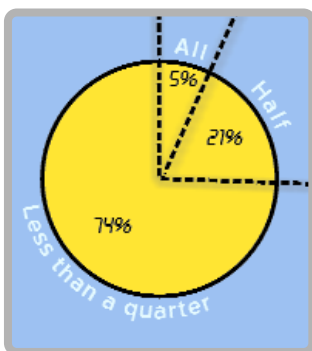
But if you can’t get to Cape Town, don’t despair. Some of the Exploratorium exhibits now form part of the ISSET SETA Technology Bus. Developed by The Gateway Discovery and the Telkom Centre for Learning, the bus, with various science and technology displays on board, travels from school to school in rural areas of the Eastern Cape.

The objective of the campaign is to promote careers in Information Technology and make students aware of Telkom bursaries in this field of study. It is estimated that the bus will reach 3 000 learners every year.

Other exhibits at the Exploratorium include the gyroscope, distorting mirrors, a Van Der Graaf generator, optical illusions and a host of more sophisticated interactive displays. Admission to the Exploratorium is R7 per child and R12 per adult. Discount rates, or even free entrance, are available to schools unable to pay the required fee.

### SuperCentres gets thumbs up from educators

Telkom and SchoolNet SA have been given the thumbs up from educators involved in the SuperCentres Project according to a recent survey conducted by the South African Institute for Distance Education (SAIDE). SchoolNet SA contracted SAIDE to evaluate the SuperCentres Project in order to help measure its benefits as well as to learn for future projects.



This graph shows how many educators knew how to use computers before their SuperCentres training.

Most highly rated by those interviewed was the actual training process. The majority of responses indicated that more than half of the educators found the face-to-face module training useful. The distance learning via modules was also well received with 77% saying that it was very useful. Also scoring high marks was the SchoolNet helpdesk. Sixty-four percent of respondents found the helpdesk to be “very helpful” and a further 27% said they were “helpful”.

Most schools were in agreement that the Project has had a huge impact on ICT literacy in schools. Before the Project, 74% of schools responding said that less than one quarter of educators at the school knew how to use computers.

# Telkom honours top teachers at annual awards

Stiff competition at this year's Maths and Science Teacher of the Year Award held in October meant that the popular practising category award was given jointly to Ms Maryna De Lange and Mr Steve Maditjane. The awards, which are sponsored by the Telkom Foundation, Sowetan Nation-Building Project and education NGO, Protec, honour maths and science teachers who have excelled at disadvantaged schools around the country.

"The teachers we celebrate tonight are among those teachers in depressed areas who are producing shining stars in the darkness," said guest speaker and project patron, Deputy Education Minister Mosibudi Mangena. "We need to inculcate a love and appreciation of mathematics in our children and make them aware of the potential that it holds. Children start life ambitious; we need the right teachers to hold their hopes up high."

De Lange, a teacher at Saldanha Bay Primary in the Western Cape, is the first

woman to take home the accolade and incorporates many unorthodox methods of teaching in her classroom, the least of which is playing classical music while lessons are in session.

*"We need to inculcate a love and appreciation of mathematics in our children and make them aware of the potentials that it holds. Children start life ambitious; we need the right teachers to hold their hopes up high."*

*Deputy Education Minister Mosibudi Mangena*

"I love both children and the subjects and once you pay attention to their emotional sides, children learn through discovery," says De Lange who has been teaching for more than 20 years.

Fellow winner, Maditjane may be a bit green in relation to De Lange's years, but over the last six years his passion for his vocation has inspired not only the learners, but fellow educators alike.

"Teaching brings positive things to me, especially the fulfilling of the dreams of my learners," said Maditjane who teaches at Tsamma Secondary School in Klerksdorp.

The Retired Maths and Science Teacher of the Year Award went to Mr Felang Gibson Pebane from Bushbuckridge, Limpopo Province. Pebane – a teacher for 29 years – is still involved in education, and is currently introducing a physical science model in schools in the Bushbuckridge area with Protec.

The gala function was attended by Telkom CEO, Mr Sizwe Nxasana, Chairman of the Nation-Building Project, Dr Aggrey Klaaste and Telkom Foundation CEO, Mrs Nkhetheleng Vokwana.

The national winners each won four computers for their schools (practising national winners shared the prize) after already having won a cash prize and desktop computer for themselves in the provincial section of the competition.



Garth Cambrey celebrates his award for Best Export Opportunity at the recent EnterPrize Business Plan competition.

## Enterprising businessmen walk off with the honours

Five businessmen have strolled off with R500 000 in prize money after being declared winners at the final EnterPrize Business Plan competition at a gala event in Johannesburg recently. The competition, sponsored by the Telkom Foundation, aims to assist budding entrepreneurs in developing viable business plans to start or extend their businesses.

For **Mr Mark Beagle** of Kwazulu-Natal, the only route for him to take after winning the **Best Start-Up Business Award**, is straight to the top. Beagle has patented his Pop-King concept, an ingenious automatic microwave popcorn vending machine, and hopes to launch the concept in both local and international markets.

Other winners included **Mr Theos Vilakazi**, who has developed a valet service system that makes vehicle cleaning possible in locations where it would otherwise be near impossible, if not very impractical. Vilakazi won the **Best Job Creation Potential Award**. **Mr Gavin Tonks** of Gauteng won the **Best Expansion Award** for his unique series of African Christmas baubles based on traditional Zulu and Xhosa beliefs, mythology and images. **Mr Herman Mokgatle**, also from Gauteng, uses natural and recycled building material in his construction business. His idea to provide extensive and leading designs, prototypes and construction services has won him the **Best Empowerment Award**. The Eastern Cape's **Mr Garth Cambrey** won the **Best Export Opportunity Award** for his idea to commercially produce the traditional Xhosa alcoholic drink known as IQhilika.

This will be the last year that the Telkom Foundation sponsors the competition. Regrettably, the Foundation has decided to withdraw its sponsorship as the project is no longer in line with its investment profile. "Our fundamental goal is to make a meaningful contribution to the enhancement of knowledge, skills and a positive attitude towards maths, science and technology in South Africa, and all future sponsorships will be based strictly along those lines," said Mrs Nkhetheleng Vokwana, CEO of the Telkom Foundation.