

Broadband access for EC school

PRETORIA: In a continued effort to provide broadband connectivity to more schools in South Africa, the Department of Communications and Vodacom on Friday, 25 January 2013, handed over a mobile computer centre and free data to the previously disadvantaged Jonguhlanga Secondary School in Mthatha.

The initiative, which is a partnership between the Department of Communications and Vodacom, means that the Jonguhlanga Secondary School will now have access to a functional mobile computer centre equipped with 21 work stations, a server and multimedia projector for use by learners to gain basic computer skills that will help improve their learning.

Speaking at the event, Deputy Minister of Communications, Stella Tembisa Ndabeni-Abrahams said she hoped that this initiative will enhance learner education and help make their lives and their community better.

"In our efforts to provide broadband connectivity to unconnected schools, the department has partnered with Vodacom because we believe that well-resourced and equipped learners will perform better and will improve the matric pass rate. Such partnerships are critical if we are to offer quality education to our learners and to schools, particularly those that have previously not been exposed to such learning opportunities.

"We are delighted to be handing over the computers as it is part of our schools connectivity initiative. We are committed to connecting schools nationwide through both public and private partnerships," said Ndabeni-Abrahams.

Vodacom's Chief Officer for Corporate Affairs, Maya Makanjee, said the centre was not only expected to improve learner pass rates, but also ensure that learners have had some exposure to ICTs by the time they reach tertiary level.

School Principal Nombuyiselo Boya said she was humbled by the donation.

"Our school had no computers. We are humbled to be recipients of the mobile computer centre specifically for our learners. This will expose our learners to the internet and will also help improve the quality of education we offer our learners," she said.