

- [The Telkom Foundation rallies the team to read](#)

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As part of the Rally to Read programme, the Telkom Foundation team in conjunction with Bidvest recently spent time in Giyani, Limpopo, visiting the 12 schools that are part of the Connected School Programme.

Telkom, which hosted the events in Limpopo, spent R3 million on the ICT for the 12 schools and also donated educational material such as books for the libraries, educational toys and sports equipment for the smaller children.

"Telkom would not be able to conduct programmes like this without the support of the schools in the various provinces," says Enzo Scarcella, chief marketing officer for Telkom.

The 12 schools Telkom supports in Limpopo have had no incidents of theft or damage to the donated equipment and that is due to the sterling work done by the ICT coordinators on the ground. It is because of this support that each one received a gift from Telkom at the final function.

After the long weekend in Giyani the team rallied once more and spent the 17<sup>th</sup>, 18<sup>th</sup> and 19<sup>th</sup> May in Queenstown in the Eastern Cape. A further 12 schools, also part of both the Rally to Read and Connected Schools Programmes meant that a further R3 million has been spent on these schools.

The Rally to Read programme consist of a three year course, where kids are taught, from how to read to basic computer literacy to how to use the educational content that comes with the computers. The visit provided Telkom with an opportunity to monitor progress and improvements made at the schools through the programme. The schools visited in both provinces were in their final year of the programme. However, Telkom has committed a further three years of ICT support, integration and education to the 24 schools.

This is what some of the Telkom volunteers had to say about this campaign:

*"I want to thank Telkom for giving me the opportunity to attend RALLY TO READ in Limpopo. It is a great pleasure to experience how rural schools at Limpopo appreciate what Telkom has done for them."* Minah Dimpe

*"A very humbling and touching experience but at the same time, a very enjoyable one. Knowing that you are making a difference is just so special. The organization of the whole trip and activities around it were superb."* Michael Maphutse

*"Rally to read was very wonderful and the experience we have developed is amazing."* Babalo Mvula

