BACKGROUND ON THE RLCP

• Libraries have to contribute to bridging the digital divide in our country and for this reason, the Rural Library Connectivity Project was established.

• Many households in our Province do not have access to computers or the internet and the RLCP in various libraries throughout the Province aims to address this imbalance.

• The Rural Library Connectivity Project started in 2008/2009, with a rollout to 20 libraries.
BACKGROUND ON THE RLCP

- These libraries are in various municipalities, outside the Metro (City of Cape Town – Smart Cape).

- One of the first libraries selected to go live was the Cloetesville Public Library in the Stellenbosch Municipality.

- The RLCP soon gained momentum and as the demand grew, the roll out to various libraries increased.
BACKGROUND ON THE RLCP

• The first roll out took place in the 2008/2009 financial year:
  - 2008/2009: 20 libraries
  - 2009/2010: 20 libraries
  - 2010/2011: 20 libraries
  - 2011/2012: 21 libraries
  - 2012/2013: 20 libraries
  - 2013/2014: 20 libraries
  - 2014/2015: 79 libraries (The Library Service is part of the Broadband Initiative of the Western Cape Government)
  - 2015/2016: 15 libraries will to be connected
RLCP TEAM:

Deputy Director: Municipal Support Services: Pieter Hugo

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Municipal Funding
1 Asst. Director: Mbulelo Simema
1 Admin Officer: Craig Williams (Finance)
1 Admin Officer: Vuyokazi Ngxubaza
1 Admin Clerk: Walter Ngcibi

ASSISTANT DIRECTOR: Public Library Enhancement
1 Asst. Director: Bronwen Erasmus
1 Admin Officer: Amina Ajam
1 Admin Clerk: Nancy Visagie
1 Project Co-ordinator: Omar Williams
1 Project Assistant: Patrick Filander
4 ICT support officers:
   a) Conrad Simpson
   b) Ryan Kessner
   c) Nadeem Moolajie
   d) Lendl Sauls
MEET THE RLCP TEAM
RECEIVING THE RLCP AT PUBLIC LIBRARIES

• Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding between the Western Cape Library Service and Municipalities.

• Arrange for the installation of furniture, electrical points, security and burglar bars paid for by the Municipality and refunded by the RLCP.

• Dedicated wall plugs (red plugs) are no longer required for the installation of the RLCP.
RECEIVING THE RLCP AT PUBLIC LIBRARIES

• Support and training for staff are provided by the ICT Support Officers.

• The ICT Support Officers give librarians a complete ‘walk through’ of the RLCP.

• Fault logging procedures are explained to the librarians.

• All hand over documents are signed and copies kept on file at the library and at head office.
CHALLENGES, RISKS AND OTHER ISSUES:

CHALLENGES:
• Staffing – only 4 ICT Support Officers servicing 200 sites
• Turn around time for technical support

RISKS:
• Secure internet connections
• Security of equipment

OTHER ISSUES:
• Identifying new sites (remote areas)
IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES:

• The RLCP has had a positive impact on communities in the Western Cape.

• Children now have access to more information via the internet to complete tasks, assignments and research projects.

• School projects, assignments and research can be done and even be produced in electronic format.
IMPACT ON COMMUNITIES:

• Small businesses are growing through online advertising.

• On line job applications are completed, addressing unemployment.

• Communities are able to connect with loved ones abroad via e-mail.

• Communities can make more informed decisions on a number of aspects such as education, health, finances, etc.
SOME VISUALS OF VARIOUS RLCP SITES
SOME VISUALS OF VARIOUS RLCP SITES
SOME VISUALS OF VARIOUS RLCP SITES
Western Cape Government
Cultural Affairs and Sport

THE MZANSI LIBRARIES ON-LINE PROJECT

14 AUGUST 2015
MZANSI LIBRARIES ON-LINE PROJECT

- Project is funded by the Bill & Melinda Gates Foundation.

- Each Province has 3 pilot libraries, Western Cape libraries are: Paarl, D’Almeida and CJ Langenhoven libraries.

- ICT equipment include: computers, laptops, printers, scanners, tablets and e-readers, X-Boxes and Play stations
MZANSI LIBRARIES ON-LINE PROJECT

• Over thirty countries have benefitted from similar projects.
• The project aims to enhance the existing resources and spaces and alleviating the growing demand by increasing work stations and providing other ICT’s.
• Exposing communities to various forms of ICT equipment and training them and library staff on how to use the equipment optimally.
• The project also aims to strengthen public libraries and make them information hubs.
MZANSI LIBRARIES ON-LINE PROJECT

• Some of the benefits of the project would include early childhood development, youth services, family directed programs, primary women’s health care and local businesses.

• The project contributes to bridging the digital divide and thus bringing more communities to public libraries.

• A team is currently working on a proposal for the country wide grant, which will see the project roll out to all or most public libraries in South Africa.
Conclusion

The success of any project is dependant on a number of factors such as human resources, budget, time constraints, resources, Supply chain management, etc. A project incorporating all or most of the above will in most cases result in a successful project.

The RLCP will expand and it is hoped that eventually all libraries and communities will benefit, even in the most remote areas.

The Mzansi Libraries On-Line Project is in its final pilot stage and it is envisioned that the project will enhance connectivity in libraries and ultimately empowering communities to work better together.
Visuals of Mzansi Libraries On-line Project

D’ALMEIDA LIBRARY, MOSSEL BAY
Visuals of Mzansi Libraries On-line Project

D’ALMEIDA LIBRARY, MOSSEL BAY
Visuals of Mzansi Libraries On-line Project

PAARL LIBRARY, DRAKENSTEIN
Visuals of Mzansi Libraries On-line Project

PAARL LIBRARY, DRAKENSTEIN
Visually of Mzansi Libraries On-line Project

CJ LANGENHOVEN LIBRARY, OUDTSHOORN
Visuals of Mzansi Libraries On-line Project

CJ LANGENHOVEN, OUDTSHOORN
QUESTIONS?

ANY QUESTIONS?
END

THANK YOU

DANKIE

ENKOSI