MINISTRY
COMMUNICATIONS AND DIGITAL TECHNOLOGIES
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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MEDIA STATEMENT

To	**: All media**
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TURNING SCHOOLS INTO DIGITAL RESEARCH CENTRES: CYBER LAB LAUNCH IN MOKOPANE

The Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Hon Mondli Gungubele, has officially handed over a Cyber Lab to teachers and learners of Ramogabudi Senior Secondary School outside Mokopane in Limpopo as part of the National Cyber lab Programme aimed at advancing learning beyond the classroom, and bridging the digital divide.

The programme is an initiative of the State Information Technology Agency (SITA), the leader in Government ICT and an entity of the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT).

The Ramogabudi Senior Secondary School from Limpopo joins other schools from KwaZulu- Natal and the Eastern Cape provinces that have recently been digitally connected through these Cyber Labs. The Cyber Labs are cutting-edge computer laboratories equipped with state-of-the- art technology and digital tools including laptops, digital screens, servers, and internet connectivity.

"This will empower learners to improve their computing capabilities, ensuring inclusivity of the 4IR while preparing them for the digital revolution and economy of tomorrow," said Minister Gungubele, adding that these labs guarantee that learners, even those in remote areas, are afforded the same resources as those in urban areas.

The Minister further stated that this broadens the minds of learners to dare to find solutions to personal problems, challenges in their communities and in the global village.

"We in the rural areas, because of affordability, are usually overlooked when it comes to the digital world. However thanks to this Cyber Lab, we will be able to download research information from outside of our boarders and also do our homework a lot easier," said one of the school learners.

Minister Gungubele reiterated the vision of the DCDT is one aimed at bringing digital transformation to South Africa.

Learners at the schools where Cyber Labs are introduced are taken through lessons in different digital technologies, including Robotics, Coding, Digital Skills and Artificial Intelligence. A session on cyber security was held with the learners to equip them with skills and knowledge on how to be responsible digital citizens and navigate the internet safely.

End.

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