

[ACCESS TO ICT]

i-Community project “eclipses expectations”

DIPHICHI, the first beneficiary of the HP i-Community’s ‘least-developed village’ (LDV) programme, came under review last month during a visit by President Thabo Mbeki and government Ministers. According to Clive Smith, i-Community project director, the Mogalakwena HP i-Community project has “eclipsed all expectations”.

Successes to date include the training of over 4 000 residents in PC literacy and 60 in business development programmes, and the promotion of 25 small businesses at the i-Community’s business resource centre. Rural ICT learnership programmes were run

along with Isett Seta. The programme also resulted in call centre and contact management training, as well as the founding of an open source software centre with the CSIR.

i-Community is the result of a three-year private-public partnership between HP, the Limpopo Province and the Mogalakwena Municipality.

The debut LDV programme is investigating potentially innovative solutions for the delivery of water, sanitation, food, security, alternative energy and ICT-enablement to the least-developed villages in the Mogalakwena district.

–Staff Reporter

