



MY DISTRICT TODAY

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For more information about similar programmes, which are run across the country, contact one of the following provincial offices:

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Outcome 12: An efficient, effective and development-oriented Public Service and an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship

Government extending access to information

Nangamso Ngceke, GCIS Eastern Cape

Nomhle Theodorah Xulubana, a councillor at the Lukhanji Local Municipality, was the first person to receive government information publications from GCIS in a mall activation implemented by Nangamso Ngceke, working together with Lukhanji Communicators. "If we can prove our commitment to the people we serve, we are destined to gain back their trust. It is through this type of interventions that our society may grow in knowledge, stay abreast of governmental issues and take part in the fight for a better life for all," said Xulubana.

The mall activation aimed to extend the reach of tailor-made government information to all the people in the district. Information covered key government priorities such as job creation, rural development and the fight against crime; and addressed challenges faced by local economic development. Information products such as *Vuk'uzenzele*, an Act Against Crime leaflet and leaflets on economic opportunities were distributed, along with a Lukhanji brochure containing all the information on all the municipal services available to community members.

"It is very exciting to read our stories in *Vuk'uzenzele*. We look forward to each issue that comes out," one of the community members of the Kwamagxaki-Mlungisi township in Queenstown explained with remarked. The distribution activation saw more than 500 people receiving government information.



GCIS officials were on hand to explain the content of the information publications.

For more information on government programmes, contact Nangamso Ngceke on 073 931 2639.

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Outcome 4: Decent employment through inclusive economic growth

World land-speed record creates jobs for Mier

Wally Cloete, GCIS Northern Cape

Job creation is one of government’s five key priorities. In his 2012 State of the Nation Address, President Jacob Zuma emphasised government’s commitment to creating jobs – thereby affording the unemployed an opportunity to put bread on the table. This commitment saw the Northern Cape investing R7 million through the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). The project is aimed at creating the world’s best land-speed track.

The project entails at clearing obstacles at Hakskeenpan in the Mier Municipality in the Northern Cape, in preparation for an attempt at the land-speed record on a track known as the Bloodhound. The Bloodhound Project aims to break the world land-speed record, and Hakskeenpan was chosen as the best pan in the world to prepare to reach a speed of 1 000 miles per hour.

The work that could be done by bulldozer in a short space of time 317 members of the community from Rietfontein, Philandersbron, Loubos, Groot Mier and Klein Mier an opportunity to benefit through the EPWP.

The scope of the project includes the manual clearing of all stones and debris from the main track. It also includes the removal of the elevated dirt causeway, filling of borrow holes, grading of the area where the causeway was, and filling all indentations and grading all elevations on the track surface in order to provide a perfectly level and smooth running surface for the Bloodhound vehicle.

The Northern Cape will also benefit from worldwide media exposure and will become a

travel destination for international tourists and first-time visitors. The Bloodhound competition is expected to take place in 2013, depending on the rainy season. Rainfall has great impact on the smoothness of the racing track. About 10 000 tourist from all over the world are expected to converge to Hakskeenpan during the racing period.



Andy Green meeting with the workers at Hakskeenpan.



Beneficiaries of the project working early in the morning at Hakskeenpan.



Outcome 12(b): An empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship

Government committed to building a caring society

Tabita Ngqunge, GCIS Amathole District

The Moral Regeneration Movement seeks to promote local commitment to the development of a caring society through the revival of the spirit of ubuntu. To realise this, we have to understand the values and ideals enshrined in the Constitution and make use of all the available resources and initiatives of government, business and civil society.

Amathole District Municipality held a moral regeneration dialogue in Ngqushwa, with a special focus on the following issues: social development and enhancement of sound families, rights of foreign nationals and xenophobia, justice, crime and peaceful co-existence, and the promotion of positive values. In attendance were faith-based organisations, non-governmental organisations, business, traditional leaders, foreign nationals and political principals from district and local municipalities.

Community members supported and participated in the programme and recognised that morality requires that individuals should be of good moral standing, which will result in moral communities.

The South African Police Service (SAPS) highlighted the prevalence of crime and high levels of corruption, which manifests in a deep loss of respect for human life and lack of care for others. Communities were urged to join hands and work with the SAPS, to report criminal elements and



Some of the foreign nationals that attended the session are business owners in Peddie.

to be honest. The issue of illegal foreign nationals renting houses from locals, especially in rural villages, to sell drugs was raised as a concern by the community.

In his keynote message, Councillor Madikane encouraged communities to take responsibility for the promotion and harnessing of a collective spirit of ubuntu.



Attendees of the moral regeneration dialogue in Ngqushwa.



Outcome 3: All people in South Africa are and feel safe

“Phantsi with rape, phantsi!”

The Jouberton Community Policing Forum (CPF), community members, the South African Police Service (SAPS) and government departments recently joined hands for an anti-rape campaign aimed at reducing the spate of rapes in Jouberton, Klerksdorp in the North West. “Just like the women of 1956 marched against inhumane laws and passbooks, we begin our campaign by marching against the inhumane and barbaric crime called rape,” said a spokesperson for the Jouberton CPF.

The fight against crime is one of the five key priorities of the South African Government. It aims to ensure that all people in South Africa are and feel safe. In the national crime statistics of 2010/11, the North West province was reported to have the third highest number of reported rape cases; with Jouberton the township with the most reported rape incidents in the province.

In the most recent anti-rape campaign held around the Jouberton area the community, government, non-government organisations, faith-based organisations and the private sector came together to share knowledge, information and experiences at the Jouberton Community Hall.

“The Sexual Offences Act enables our courts to deal decisively with rape offences,” said Klerksdorp Chief Magistrate, Abram Nkomo. “We have 220 rape cases on our court roll. In September alone we handed down two life sentences and six people received 25-year sentences each for rape.”

In their presentation, the Department of Justice appealed to the community to refrain from logging cases with the police only to withdraw the charges

later on. This wastes tax payers’ money and also allows criminals to roam the streets. “Why do you open a case and then withdraw it? This must stop! Let justice take its course,” said Mr Nkomo.

During the campaign at the community hall, a heartbreaking yet reality-provoking testimonial was presented by a rape survivor to a half tearful audience. “The rape happened to me in June 2012. It was a boy from our community whom I knew as a youngster. He lured me with a promise that I would get a job,” said the middle-aged lady. “It was extremely tough getting over the incident, but thanks to the Thuthuzela Care Centre and the Department of Social Development, today I am no longer a victim but a survivor.”

Kgorogo Social Investment is an NGO established and run by ex-offenders residing in the Matlosana municipal area. Their objective is to provide aftercare for parolees, ex-offenders and the community in general in order to stop re-offending and criminal acts in the community of Matlosana. “Young ladies, please stop going to taverns. Most rapists see these venues as easy target areas. Their (rapists) excuse is that you wanted to drink their alcohol for free,” warned Leshole Tata, a member of Kgorogo.

Members of faith-based organisations pledged their undivided support to the SAPS and community and their commitment to the fight against crime and rape in Jouberton. Bishop Voster prayed for victims and motivated everyone during the campaign proceedings.

It was announced that the SAPS in Jouberton has established the Men for Change Forum. The forum’s objective is to eradicate wrongful acts performed

by men, especially those under the employ of the SAPS. “We are fully against rape and the abuse of women,” said Captain Stevens, a member of the forum. Community members can get more information and assistance relating to rape issues and cases at their local SAPS, Thuthuzela Centre, Department of Justice, Social Devevelopment, or other government and stakeholder partners.

“We aim to work together to make our streets safer,” said Maureen, a community development worker who works in Jouberton. The mobilisation of stakeholders and the community in the anti-crime campaign involves grassroots and development communications tactics such as word of mouth, distribution of leaflets, loud-hailing and announcements at community meetings, radio and churches. “These campaigns make us feel safer and proud of our streets, brothers and environment,” said Lesego, a young scholar.

In his address, Councillor Matsipe called upon all community members to unite in the war against rape and crime. “Rape is a crime against humanity. Let’s stand together in support of those who are on the forefront of this war!”

Colonel Makuudi thanked the Jouberton communities’ enthusiasm, tenacity and determination in the fight against crime. In thanking all who made the day possible, she focussed, among others, on the GCIS for always being available to coordinate and assist the SAPS to effectively communicate with the communities they serve. The colonel urged the community to continue the fight against crime and to use the SAPS emergency line (10111) whenever they are in distress.

