




MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 46 / November 2015

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OUTCOME 1: VIBRANT, EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES WITH FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL

Youth empowers himself and feeds community

By Cholo Mothibi: GCIS, Free State



Mbulelo standing proudly in his garden.



Some of the vegetables grown in Mbulelo's garden.

Mbulelo Mgqaliso, 32, from Springfontein in the Xhariep District, is an unemployed youth who has not lost faith in tackling poverty. Mbulelo has been unemployed for five years and he decided to use his grandfather's yard to start a vegetable garden. He currently owns a garden where he has planted different vegetables that he sells to community members. Mbulelo can now provide for his family with the profit that he makes from his garden.



Cynthia Toloti said:

"I am happy that the garden assists many households with vegetables and maybe in future it will also create jobs."



Lungile Jonas said:

"Mbulelo's idea will encourage many other unemployed young people to create their own job opportunities."



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OUTCOME 5: A SKILLED AND CAPABLE WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT AN INCLUSIVE GROWTH PATH.

Government programme brings hope to the people

By Nonhlanhla Sithole: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



The National Skills Fund (NSF) has been instrumental in helping persons with disabilities to gain confidence and hope for a better future through the training they received at uMthashana Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET).

The training helped the trainees to acquire plant-production skills to grow a variety of vegetables. The garden has been supplying vegetables to Pick n Pay and Spar supermarkets. Some of the vegetables are sold at the taxi rank and at various pension points around Ulundi, and the rest is consumed at the Zisize Care Centre for the Disabled.

The centre is situated at Dingaanstad near Ulundi within the Zululand District Municipality, and provides special care to persons with disabilities.

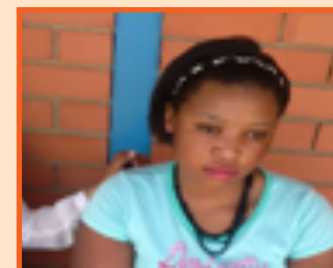
“Since the beginning of training last year when we started the garden, I have seen great cooperation and improved self-esteem from the participants, because even though they are people with disabilities, they can do many things when given the opportunity,” said Gabisile Msimang, project facilitator at uMthashana TVET.

The centre works closely with government departments that provide home-based care services to persons with disabilities and also cater for their needs.



Bandile Sithole said:

“We are grateful for the help we are receiving from uMthashana TVET. Our confidence is boosted. We are prepared to work so that we can succeed in life.”



Thembelihle Mathe said:

“The training has changed our attitudes. We are confident that we can do things for ourselves.”



Caithlin Andersen said:

“Our deepest fear is not that we are inadequate. Our deepest fear is that we are powerful beyond measure. It is our light, not our darkness that frightens us most. We ask ourselves, “Who am I to be brilliant, gorgeous, talented, and famous?” Actually, who are you not to be? You are a child of God. Your playing small does not serve the world. There is nothing enlightened about shrinking so that people won’t feel insecure around you. We were born to make manifest the glory of God that is within us. It is not just in some of us; it is in all of us. And when we let our own light shine, we unconsciously give other people permission to do the same. As we are liberated from our fear, our presence automatically liberates others,” – former President Nelson Mandela.

OUTCOME 5: A SKILLED AND CAPABLE WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT AN INCLUSIVE GROWTH PATH.

A bright future guaranteed

By Jethro Grootboom: GCIS, Western Cape

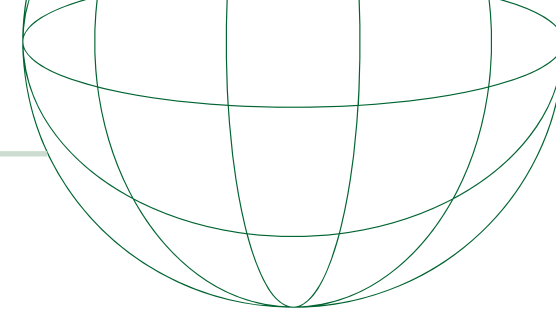


Young people from George who graduated through the Tourism Learnership

In the 2014/15 financial year, a budget was approved to train 540 learners in the Western Cape in a 12-month learnership programme called the Tourism Buddies Learnership. The training comprised 30% theory and 70% practical in which learners were placed at various hospitality establishments within the province. The enrolled learners were trained on one of the following qualifications:

- National Certificate Food and Beverages NQF Level 4
- National Certificate Accommodation Services NQF Level 2
- Skills Programme on Food and Beverages

On graduation day, graduates were awarded qualifications issued by the Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport Sector Education and Training Authority. The learnership forms part of the Extended Public Works Programme.



Alvene Rhoode said:

“There comes a time in your life when you have to make a decision. Either you will settle for what you have, and spend your days dreaming of what could have been, or you can take that step forward, and consciously decide that you want more. You want to go further, see new places, meet new people, and be the best that you can possibly be. I was in a dark place before starting this learnership, I had moved away from my family and friends. I have just recently removed myself from a lifestyle of drug abuse. Upon hearing about this programme, I made a decision that I would no longer play a victim in my own life, it was time for change and the only person who could make that a reality was me.”



Deputy Minister Xasa addressing the audience.

As part of the event, host employers who participated in the programme were given acknowledgement certificates during the stakeholder-engagement session. Host employers who have absorbed learners on permanent employment were also acknowledged.

A total of 232 learners, from the Eden District Municipality enrolled for the training; and 128 of them were permanently employed by host employers such as Fancourt, Bosun’s Pub & Grill, Point Village Hotel, Premier Hotel & Resort, Puzula Hotel & Resort, La Vista Lodge and Kurland Hotel.

“We are confident to say that the participation by civil society and government helped us to achieve Outcome 3, which is job creation. The media is not excluded from this, hence their presence here today. Tourism contributes about 10% to our gross domestic product, and this learnership programme contributed to job creation, with 128 learners receiving permanent employment,” said the Deputy Minister of Tourism, Tokozile Xasa.



Young people who graduated through the Tourism Buddies Learnership.



Deputy Mayor of George Municipality, Daniel Maritz with some of the graduates.



OUTCOME 5: A SKILLED AND CAPABLE WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT AN INCLUSIVE GROWTH PATH.

Economic opportunities for people with disabilities

By Karen Foutie: GCIS, Northern Cape



Lesego Banda said:

“It was interesting to see that even those of us with disabilities can also have these events. Now I know that I also have rights.”



Mariam Kortman said:

“I really appreciate the fact that I was invited to be part of the event. Now I know my rights and where to go to get help.”



Executive Mayor Mosikatsi presenting a tree to the manager of Ba'One Intellectual Disability Centre, with other dignitaries watching.



The Executive Mayor planting a tree.

About 100 people with disabilities attended the launch of the Disability Month programme under the theme: “South Africa – a free and just society inclusive of all persons with disabilities as equal citizens”. The event took place on 4 November 2015 at the Ba'One Intellectual Disability Centre in Seeding.

The Executive Mayor of John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality, Sophia Mosikatsi, said that they were aware of the many challenges faced by people with disabilities, but that the month is there to show them that they have equal opportunities as other people.

“People with disabilities can also contribute to enhancing the economy of the district by using all opportunities available to them,” said Mayor Mosikatsi.

Onica Pico from the Office on the Status of Persons with Disabilities in the Office of the Premier said that the database of people with disabilities would be made available for the district so that they can have equal opportunities to apply for government jobs. The database will also be updated after all the activities that were held during the month to highlight the challenges, rights and opportunities for people with disabilities are concluded.



Regina Maibere said:

“I have learned that we also have rights and it was good to hear that because sometimes we forget that we also have rights. Now I know that we can also contribute to the economy and I know who can help us and where we can go.”