



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

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

EASTERN CAPE

Ndlelantle Pinyana
043 722 2602 or 076 142 8606
ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za

FREE STATE

Trevor Mokeyane
051 448 4504 or 083 255 0042
tshenolo@gcis.gov.za

GAUTENG

Peter Gumede
011 834 3560 or 083 570 8080
peterg@gcis.gov.za

KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420
ndala@gcis.gov.za

Ekurhuleni Southern District Career Expo

Compiled by: Tinyiko Molefe: Senior Communication Officer, Thokoza Thusong Service Centre

In her speech at the *Closing the Skills Gap* Workshop, the Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Prof HB Mkhize, said: "This *Green Paper on Post-School Education and Training* that is in its discussion phase aims, among other things, to align the post-school education and training system with South Africa's overall development agenda, with links to various development strategies. The *Green Paper* equally recog-

nises the fact that the two subsystems – basic education and post-school education and training – should work in a seamless manner to produce learners and students that will be functional citizens that play a productive role in the social and economic development of the country. Initiatives in the area of career guidance information dissemination have already started as the education system has identified a gap in this area. Learners tend to make uninformed career choices and thereafter fail to complete their studies."

expo was Grade 12 learners from the Ekurhuleni Southern District region.

One of the major causes of late registration at institutions of higher learning is the fact that learners do not get appropriate career guidance.

The learners appreciated the expo as it gave them the opportunity to register at various institutions.

A learner from Buhlebusile Secondary School said, "It really helps to have access to this information. We are able to register on time for our further studies."

Mduduzi, one of the exhibitors said, "It is gratifying to see the eagerness with which these learners receive this information to further their studies. Registration will be a pleasure at institutions if these kinds of events are held nationally to assist learner that do not get career guidance at their respective schools."

Moroesi Mokobi, a social worker from the Ekurhuleni Community Development Unit emphasised the importance of taking learners for career guidance early in the year to avoid confusion and overcrowding when learners have to register at the various institutions of higher learning. "There are schools that are still hesitating to provide such opportunities to learners," she said, "We are hopeful that more partnerships such as the ones we have here today, offering proper guidance to learners would be rolled out across the country."



government
communications

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

LIMPOPO

Thanyani Rhavhura
015 291 4689 or 082 421 3461
thanyani@gcis.gov.za

MPUMALANGA

Tiisetso Ramotse
013 753 2397 or 072 219 5136
tiisetso@gcis.gov.za

NORTH WEST

Mareka Mofokeng
018 381 7071 or 083 382 5909
mareka@gcis.gov.za
Galebonwe Diokana
018 381 7071 or 082 559 167
galebonwe@gcis.gov.za

NORTHERN CAPE

Marius Nagel
053 832 1378/9 or 083 778 9179
mariusn@gcis.gov.za

WESTERN CAPE

Ayanda Hollow
021 421 5070 or 083 255 7665
ayanda@gcis.gov.za

Government prioritises early childhood development

Compiled by: Anthony Bower, Provincial Manager: National Development Agency (NDA) in the Free State



Kids at the centre having fun with their newly donated toys

By prioritising education, government has signalled its intention to take a leading role in the provision of early childhood development (ECD) now and into the future. Government supports an integrated approach to ECD and believes that every child has the right to the best possible start in life and early childhood represents the most critical phase of development.

The establishment, registration and management of the ECD centres are regulated by the Children's Act, 2005 (Act 38 of 2005 as amended) and its regulations, at national and provincial level. The Department of Social Development is the custodian of this Act and its main responsibility is to ensure proper implementation and compliance with the Act by all relevant stakeholders.

It is against this background that the National Development Agency (NDA) has pledged R436 080 to establish and provide day-care and edu-care services at Thembaletu Day Care Centre to 65 children in Donkerhoek in Jacobsdal in the Free State. Jacobsdal is one of the war on poverty sites covered by the War on Poverty Campaign, which was launched by Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe in August 2008. The

campaign seeks to bring together all stakeholders, government, business, labour and civil society in the fight against poverty.

The funds were used to construct a centre with classrooms, a sick bay and a storeroom; a kitchen to ensure a hygienic and healthy environment; office equipment and furniture; purchasing edu-care material; and the installation of play-gym equipment. The NDA is also offering training on care giving and ECD while the management committee will undergo organisational development and governance training.

"We are happy with the contribution from the NDA. We operated under difficult circumstances before the crèche was built," said the centre manager, Matron Shirley Shuping. "The children and the community are excited about this development."

The Department of Social Development is funding the feeding scheme, and is providing a dedicated social worker to look after the overall well-being of the children.



The Mayor of Letsemeng, Me Thandi Reacheable, and the Head of NDA Dr Anthony Bower unveiling the plaque of the new Centre

ECD is key to and a critical part of the NDA's strategy. The NDA wants to ensure the best development opportunities for children of the Donkerhoek community at an early age. The crèche is a pilot in the area and its success will make a difference in the children's future.

