



MY DISTRICT TODAY

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

Inmates build houses for the needy

The Department of Correctional Services is placing rehabilitation at the centre of all departmental activities through the promotion of social responsibility and the overall development of people under correction. The department has also geared all its activities to serve a rehabilitation mission that ensures – through delivery of appropriate programmes without compromising security – that the people who leave correctional centres have appropriate attitudes and competencies to enable their successful integration back into society as law-abiding and productive citizens.

Inmates of the correctional centres in Oudtshoorn and George used the skills that they learnt while in prison to build two houses for needy households. This initiative was led by Ndikela Booij, the Commissioner of Correctional Services for the Southern Cape area, in partnership with members of various units within the department who collected funds and procured sponsorships to build the houses.

Female members from different units cleared a plot in Conville, George, where the first house was built. The house was built in record time by inmates and handed over to Andries Hendricks, a disabled community member. The second house is currently under construction in Thembaethu.

The handing over ceremony coincided with a visit to the Southern Cape by the Western Cape Commissioner of Correctional Services, Delekile Klaas, together with several senior Correctional Services officials.



One of the inmates building the house.



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Outcome 8: Sustainable human settlements and improved quality of household life

At last – a shelter for the Mashele family

Eunice Nkuna

One of the outputs of Outcome 8 is the upgrading of 400 000 accommodation units in informal settlements. As part of implementing this output, the Mayor of Ba-Phalaborwa, Councillor Anna Sono, handed over a long-awaited house to Ms Nkhensani Mashele of Lulekani Kurhula Village in Limpopo, who lost her house in a fire in 2009.

According to Ms Nkhesani, at the time of the fire she was attending a funeral when she was alerted by community members that her house was on fire. By the time she got home, there was nothing she could do to save it.

Ms Mashele is an unemployed mother of three and also has a grandchild. The family depends on a social grant to make ends meet. Since her ordeal three years ago she has been attending every public meeting to ask political principals to assist her in acquiring a place to stay.

In one of the public participation meetings (PPPs), Cllr Sono heard her plight and promised to attend

to the matter. Emanating from the PPP, the Mayor made it her priority to ensure that Ms Mashele received a house.

Ms Mashele and her family members, Gift and Nancy Shipalana, were thankful to the Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality.

“I am overwhelmed with joy. My plea has been heard after three years of crying for a house. I am very grateful. May God bless all the helping hands,” said Ms Mashele.



Nkhensani Mashele and the Mayor of Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality, Cllr Sono, during the official handover of the house to the Mashele family.

Outcome 5: A skilled and capable workforce to support an inclusive growth path

Edition 31 of My District Today misplaced names of the writers of the articles. We apologise for the error.

Women economic development seminar

TP Molefe, Thokoza Thusong Centre

The GCIS, in partnership with the Department of Social Development, hosted a women economic development seminar in Thokoza. The purpose of the seminar was to provide a platform for women to discuss and share ideas with other women who have benefitted from the policies and programmes of government and to share success stories.

Women in the 21st century enjoy freedom and power. However, there are still women who are economically disadvantaged due to their socio-economic status and lack of information. The seminar addressed economic factors that women face every day, and the unemployment of young female graduates.

Ms Rebecca Dwyili from Ntsu Skills Development and Training took the opportunities provided to

her by the Government to empower herself and other women. "Our organisation is committed to empowering communities, women and the youth. We provide them with skills, and help groom them, market and prepare themselves for the work environment," she said.

Goal six of the National Skills Development Strategy is about encouraging and supporting cooperatives, small enterprises, worker-initiated non-governmental organisations and community training initiatives.

Skills development is not just about training people for employment; it must also empower people to create opportunities to make a living for themselves. Low levels of education and training, as well as a lack of standardised, appropriate

and accredited training, are key constraints in the quest of enabling people to create their own opportunities.

Most young women are unemployed because of a lack of skills, as well as low self-esteem, negative attitude and lack of interview skills; hence, the organisation provides life coaching and training in interview skills. Portia Tshabalala is one of the beneficiaries of the services offered at Ntsu.

She is now working for Standard Bank. "I never had confidence, which was one of the reasons why I couldn't find a job. But through the training I received I now have self-confidence and I am able to work in a high-profile environment," said Portia.





Sister Fourie gave information to the youth in Touwsriver on the prevention of sexually transmitted infections.



Representative of Northlink College informed the youth on how to further their careers at FET colleges.



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

Government's Mobile Thusong Programme is reaching thousands in a short period of time

The Western Cape Provincial Department of Local Government, in partnership with the GCIS, ensures that thousands of community members are reached through the Mobile Thusong Programme.

In March 2012, community development workers were requested to conduct a needs assessment in identified areas (Touwsriver and De Doorns).

One of the outcomes of the needs assessment was that the people in the identified areas lacked access to government services. An event was organised to take the Mobile Thusong Programme to the people.

The Mobile Thusong Programme visited the Touwsriver community on 13 and 14 August 2012, and serviced 1 363 community members in need of government services. On 16 and 17 August the programme visited De Doorns and serviced 1 551 people.

The event took place at the Community Hall, where residents could access various services.

The Department of Health offered TB and glucose testing, as well as pap smears and HIV and AIDS testing.

The South African Social Security Agency (Sassa) assisted community members to apply for grants, while the Department of Home Affairs assisted with identity documents, birth and death certificates.

The National Youth Development Agency gave advice on career opportunities, as well as the development of small, medium and micro-enterprises.

Northlink College offered advice on bursaries and the Department of Labour gave community members the opportunity to register on the database for employment.

Nedbank, a relatively new partner of the Thusong Mobile Programme, has joined to offer community members the opportunity to open a bank account.

Ms Ncumisa Sibulwana from De Doorns indicated that a lot of people do not have enough money to travel to the nearest government offices in Worcester, as the transport cost is R60.

The platform gave youth the opportunity to voice their views on government services and for government to profile programmes available to the youth in the Touwsriver and De Doorns areas, including access to Further Education and Training (FET) colleges.



Hundreds of needy community members from De Doorns accessed the services of Sassa.