



MY DISTRICT TODAY

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Outcome 12b: An empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship

Tšate Heritage Site

Doctor Maribane – GCIS Limpopo

When King Sekhukhune of the Ba-Pedi tribe defeated the Boer commandos, impis and the British Army about 133 years ago, his vision was to unite the different tribes into one of the most formidable empires in the world. His dream was shattered when he was finally conquered by the British troops led by General Sir Garnet Wolseley and Swazi warriors in 1879.

Today his lonely statue stands three metres high on the hills of Ntswaneng near Tšate Village in Sekhukhune. At the foot of the statue is the mass grave of 13 British soldiers who were killed by Sekhukhune's warriors.

It is for this reason that the area was identified as a national heritage site in 2007 and since then, tourists from all over the world frequented the site. It is customary that each year in September during Heritage Month cleansing rituals and offerings are performed here.

This year, 10 curious volunteers from Germany, performing voluntary service of one year at the Kgautswane Thusong Service Centre, visited the site to learn more about the history of Sekhukhune. They wanted to witness and celebrate Heritage Month in true South African style.

The 2012 Heritage Month was characterised by activities aimed at creating awareness of liberation heritage through oral history narrations, exhibitions, poetry, dance, songs and site visits in order to preserve South Africa's collective memory and promote national identity.

The group said they enjoyed the visit, especially walking into the cave, which Sekhukhune and his soldiers used as a hideout during tough times. "We were stunned by holes in the cave, which looked like beehives, the stone formations and the old graves of the British soldiers.

"The area has a very rich and interesting history and could attract lots of tourists if it is properly marketed. We have been inundated with calls from our peers back home after we sent them photos of this place. We also intend engaging *Deutschlandfunk*, which is a national radio station in Germany, for an interview about this interesting place," said Wassily Nemitz, one of the volunteers who is also a journalist.



The German volunteers who visited Tšate Heritage Site during Heritage Month.

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Outcome 2: A long and healthy life for all South Africans

Taking HIV and AIDS Counselling and Testing (HCT) Campaign to another level

Robbie Senoelo – GCIS Gauteng

Health is one of government’s key priorities. The roll-out of the campaign is an effort towards the realisation of Outcome 2, which seeks to strengthen health care towards a long and healthy life for all South Africans.

The fight against the scourge of HIV and AIDS received a major boost in Alexandra when the Department of Health (Region E, of the City of Johannesburg) in conjunction with the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) and health-related service providers and non-governmental organisations conducted the HCT Campaign at the local Methodist Church.

The main objective of the campaign was to bring health services closer to the people, encourage

people to know their health status by undergoing HTC and encouraged people to lead healthy lifestyles by eating properly and getting enough exercise.

Mrs Maria Mabunda, a member of the Methodist Church said, “I would like to thank the people who brought this campaign to our church. I went through harrowing moments while waiting for my test results, but once I was given a clean bill of

health, I felt relieved.” She also urged the GCIS and other stakeholders to repeat the campaign every second month.

Communal points such churches are key to bring government services closer to the people.



The Young Men’s Guild of the Methodist Church of Southern Africa, Amadodana ase Wesile, were also tested.



People waiting to be tested at the mobile clinic.



Outcome 12b: An empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship

Embracing diverse cultures

Sikelela Zokufa – Western Cape

The Gugulethu Community Centre in partnership with the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), Sub-council 14 and community development workers joined forces to celebrate Heritage day under the national theme, “Celebrating the heroes and heroines of the liberation struggle in South Africa” at the Gugulethu Civic Hall. During the celebration, the first of the native yard street names, NY1, was changed to Stephen Biko Drive.

The community members from Gugulethu and surrounding areas such as Nyanga, Langa, Phillipi, Delft and Khayelitsha packed the Gugulethu Civic Community Hall dressed in their different traditional outfits, which identified their respective cultures. The centre, which had not been in use,

recently, housed people of different cultures from the Cape Metro townships.

One of the organisers, Xolile Somdaka said, “This event was planned at the Community Centre after we noticed that the facilities were not being used for any recreational activities, but only for funerals and church services.

This is a pilot project to give communities access to the community centres in Gugulethu.” He continued to say, “We are using this event to unite the people of Gugulethu after a hard time of gangsterism.”

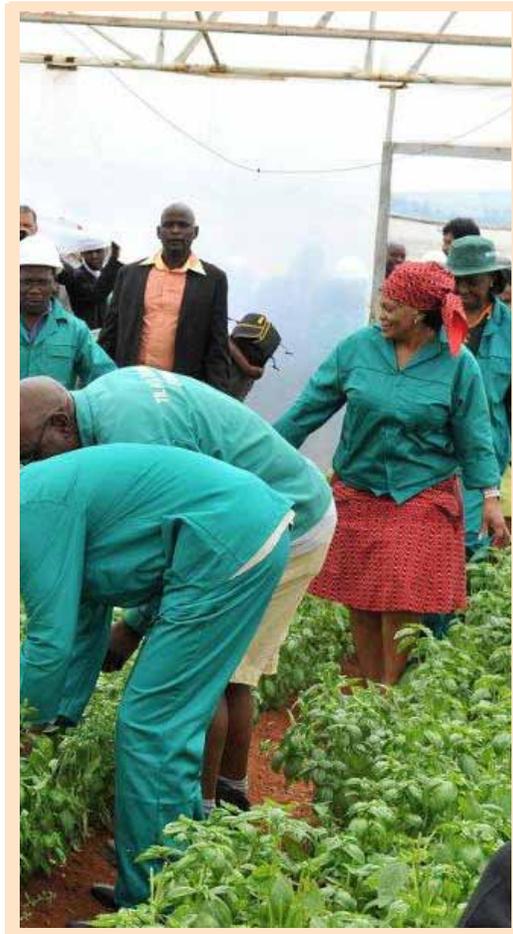
Ward councillor, Luvuyo Zondani also encouraged people to know their culture. “The youth must join

cultural groups to learn about their heritage. This will also assist to keep them away from criminal activities,” he said.

A pleased citizen, Lulama Makie said, “This is a significant day for our country; it reminds us of where we come from as a country we are also using this event to showcase our diverse cultures to the younger generation.”

The 2012 Heritage Month was characterised by activities aimed at creating awareness of liberation heritage through oral history narrations, exhibitions, poetry, dance, songs and site visits in order to preserve South Africa’s collective memory and promote national identity.





Outcome 1: Improved quality of basic education

Apply Now! Campaign

In September, more than 500 grade 12 and post grade 12 students, visited the Apply Now Career Expo at the Oudtshoorn Thusong Service Centre (TSC).

The Apply Now Campaign is an initiative led by the Department of Higher Education and Training in collaboration with the South African Qualifications Authority (SAQA).

The campaign seeks to encourage learners to apply early for admission to post-schooling institutions of their choice, to avoid late applications. The aim of the campaign is to reduce the long queues and some of the chaos that generally take place at most of the universities at the beginning of each academic year.

The Apply Now! Campaign therefore seeks to create awareness of career options and application

procedures to be followed for post-school education and training.

The Government Communication and Information System, the Oudtshoorn Municipality's Youth Advisory Centre, the departments of social development and home affairs, the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, the Small Enterprise Development Agency and the South Cape Further Education and Training (FET) College came together to bring this much-needed development communication platform to the Oudtshoorn TSC, through a career exhibition and information sessions.

The South Cape FET College showcased their various career and bursary opportunities in preparation for the 2013 intake. The Department of Social Development registered unemployed youth on their unemployment database.

The youth attending the expo were also able to apply for recently advertised positions by the Department of Home Affairs, the South African Defence Force and South African Police Services.

The Small Enterprise Development Agency informed youth on the important aspects they need to consider when starting a business.

The campaign complements the current Saqa-driven Khetha Radio Programme, which can be accessed through 10 SABC African language radio stations. Khetha is a targeted educational campaign that is managed by SAQA on behalf of the department.

It features industry experts and skilled advisors who give learners all the information they need to plan for their future after leaving school.

