




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Tourism Imbizo to boost economic development

By Sikelela Zokufa: GCIS, Western Cape



Deputy Ministers at the event.

Hundreds of people from Khayelitsha and surrounding areas came in numbers to attend and listen to government leaders on how they could help and advise them to grow their businesses. The Imbizo was organised and led by the Deputy Minister of Tourism, Tokozile Xasa, accompanied by Deputy Minister of Small Business Development, Elizabeth Thabethe, Deputy Minister of Human Settlements, Zou Kota-Fredericks, and Deputy Minister of Communications, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams. It took place on 1 March 2017.

This was a response to a call for a radical economic growth transformation, which was announced by President Jacob Zuma on the State of the Nation Address.

Deputy Minister Xasa told the community members that the purpose of the Imbizo was to engage people on the issues pertaining to youth skill development initiatives and employment. It was a two way interactive platform where the community interacted with local leaders and members of the Western Cape Tourism executive in an effort to promote active participation in tourism initiatives. She also shared information on how government was working to develop sector, upskill the youth and create employment opportunities that will ultimately alleviate poverty.

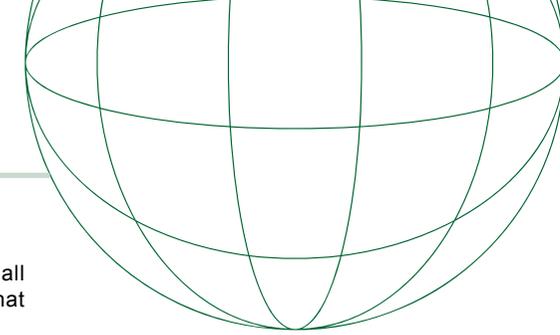
"We want to boost a township economic growth and township tourism," she said. She further emphasised on partnership and collaboration of local businesses with other sectors so that the money can circulate among ourselves.



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Deputy Minister Thabethe also explained the role of her department in supporting the local and small businesses. "The department was established in 2014 after recommendations by the President so that we can support the business ideas, also the cooperative businesses," she said.

Deputy Minister Kota-Fredericks was happy to see the collaboration between her department and the Tourism department. She said that tourism never left human settlements behind.

The Department of Communications committed to walk with the Khayelitsha community to ensure better communication and marketing of their products. Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams said, "We are going to take 30 young people in Khayelitsha and train them on the website design, this is not a promise but a commitment".

The Western Cape Provincial Government has committed to connect WiFi to the townships.

One businesswoman, who was supported by government, encouraged people to stand up, do things for themselves and government will do its part. "What is important is the team work and collaboration. People must be willing to get their hands dirty in order to become successful," she said.



Community members at the event.

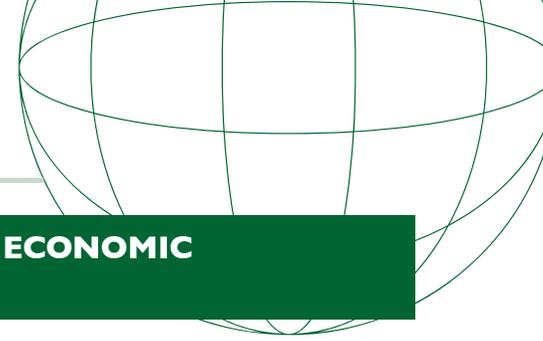


Government leaders and community members at the event



Vovo Mzomba said:

"I am very happy and excited by the visit of the government principals to our businesses, they really show their support to the small local businesses not only talking in Parliament, but coming to us as well. They saw our good designs and also how we work as cooperatives. We accommodate unemployed and people with disabilities, they make quality products with us. This shows that government cares about the people of South Africa. I got the order now my African products will be shown in Parliament hoping that I will get more orders from Parliament."



OUTCOME 6: AN EFFICIENT, COMPETITIVE AND RESPONSIVE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

Marketing event to empower entrepreneurs

By Willem van Dalen: GCIS, Northern Cape



Bernadine Losper from SEDA in Springbok, organised the marketing day for the small business owners in the area.



Audrey Cloete said:

“I love the idea where we can market and sell our products. We really appreciate the support we have received from the people of SEDA. They assisted with drafting a business plan, assisted with marketing and helped us to secure funds to start our businesses.”



Old magazines were used to make household items at a very reasonable price.



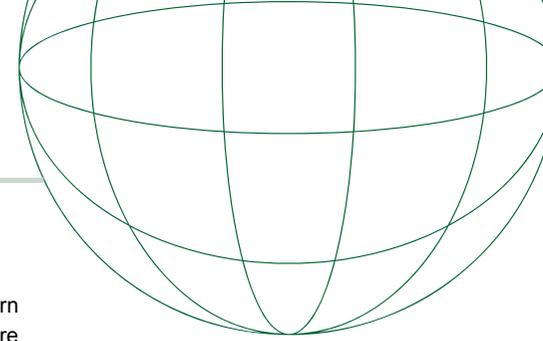
L'Afrique Boutique from Port Nolloth at the event.



Wedding dresses and jewellery displayed at the event.



Useful trivets and ornaments that were made from pieces of wood and other items that are normally thrown away.



AloeVera products on display.



Johanna Osborne said:

“I am the owner of the spinning and weaving business in Komaggas. I am so thankful towards SEDA for the opportunity that they have organised for us to assist us to market our articles today. The people are very interested in our spinning wheel – the only working wheel in the Northern Cape! We brought carpets and other household items that were totally handmade by us for sale today. Currently we do not have a very large number of products for sale, as the business is still in baby shoes. SEDA helped us on our feet with their excellent service.”

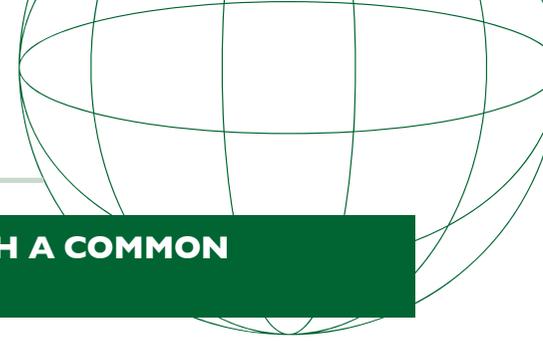
The branch of the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) in the Namakwa District of the Northern Cape organised a number of small businesses to Springbok taxi rank to showcase their products and share lessons on how to market them. The event took place on 27 February 2017.

Stalls ranged from natural beauty handmade products, woodwork items, dressmakers, a spinner and weaver to everyday necessities in the house made from recycled paper. Orders were taken by some entrepreneurs for personalised items. Many visitors who came to the event said that they would like the marketing event to be held regularly.



Robert Macdonald said:

“We requested SEDA to assist us in marketing the items that we produce with our hands from everyday items that other people do not want anymore. We make tyre chairs, “riempie” chairs, ornaments and small furniture. We usually struggle to market our wares. Today is a wonderful opportunity to do marketing in a busy town. We shall use SEDA in future to assist us in expanding our business.”



OUTCOME 14: A DIVERSE, SOCIALLY COHESIVE SOCIETY WITH A COMMON NATIONAL IDENTITY

GCIS hosts Human Rights capacity workshop

By Tinyiko Molefe: GCIS, Gauteng



Sonto Ntuli said:

“As a South African citizen I know I have rights. It is also my responsibility to respect other people’s rights.”



Velile Dlamini said:

“Democracy does not give us the right to disrespect other people’s rights. We must protect and promote human rights for everyone.”



Phillip Molekoa from the South African Human Rights Commission engaging and sharing information about human rights with stakeholders.



Stakeholders noting and discussing important information on the South African Human Rights Commission.

In ensuring that stakeholders get empowered on human rights issues, Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in partnership with the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) hosted a capacity-building workshop with an effort to educate and share knowledge on human rights policies. The event took place on 21 February 2017.

“South Africa is a constitutional democracy therefore the Constitution is the supreme law of the country. Everyone should therefore promote and respect the values of the Constitution,” said Phillip Molekoa, SAHRC at Thokoza capacity building workshop.

Furthermore, the Bill of Rights sets out fundamentals for all South Africans to respect and promote human rights as enshrined in the Constitution. “The State must respect, protect, promote and fulfil the rights in the Bill of Rights,” said Amogelang Motlokwa.



OUTCOME 10: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS AND NATURAL RESOURCES THAT ARE WELL PROTECTED AND CONTINUALLY ENHANCED

Government takes economic transformation to the mines

By Ntombi Mhlambi: GCIS, Free State



Glen Phajane said:

"I request that government takes such information to townships where the information is still needed the most."



Edgar Mokoena said:

"I would like to see the department blocking mine unions and ensure that they stop interfering with adjudication panels in the tendering processes."



Zindela Ndlelenhle from Department of Mineral Resources addressing the entrepreneurs.



Free State entrepreneurs in the mining sector who attended the event.



The Department of Mineral Resources (DMR) conducted a mining consultative workshop in partnership with local municipalities affected by mining activities. The event took place in Welkom on 15 February 2017. It targeted entrepreneurs involved in the mining sector in the Free State and empowered them with essential information on available opportunities in the industry. Different mining houses presented opportunities that are available and the processes on how they can be accessed.

Fani Tsitsi from De Beers said they do not need soft services such as gardening and catering but mostly need engineering field staff.

Ndlelenhle Zindela from the DMR said the aim of the programme was to ensure that the entrepreneurs in the mining industry have access to opportunities, hear about the challenges that entrepreneurs encounter when accessing the industry and also discuss how government can assist them.



Jacob Ramakarane said:

"I own a rock-drilling company, I have written many emails without anyone responding to my enquiries, as I qualify for most jobs that are available within the mines but I never get any. I request the department to follow up on the procurement processes of mines."