



Access to healthcare services has steadily increased with more than 1 500 healthcare facilities built since 1994.



MY DISTRICT TODAY

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OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE GROWTH

Youth benefit from Community Work Programme

By Kgalalelo Motsage: GCIS, Northern Cape



Participants in the CWP in Mapoteng at the information sharing session.



Participants in the CWP hard at work.



The youth unemployment rate in Mapoteng in the Northern Cape will soon subside following the employment of 180 youth for the Community Work Programme (CWP).

The CWP is a government initiative aimed at tackling poverty and unemployment.

The programme provides an employment safety net by giving participants minimal numbers of regular days of work, thus providing a predictable income stream.

Employees' duties range from cleaning crèches, fixing school fences and cleaning graveyards. They also assist in the repairing of rundown tarred roads.

The CPW also comprises agricultural and environmental projects and home-based care services. Vincent Eiland, a beneficiary said, "life has changed since joining the CWP. Besides acquiring the skills to repair tarred roads and potholes and mend broken fences, I am now able to sustain myself".

The group recently attended an information sharing session which focused on crime issues related to domestic violence, substance abuse, and the abuse of the elderly.

A human rights campaign concentrating on the victims of crime and crime in general, was also held to give the group additional information and insight to help them deal with crime from a position of knowledge.

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OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP

Post-SoNA and 20 Years of Freedom Ministerial Lecture and Youth Dialogue

By Phatheka Ntanta: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Minister Chabane addressing the audience.



Members of the audience at the session.



GCIS Provincial Director and Deputy CEO Legoabe addressing the audience.

The Minister for Performance Monitoring, Evaluation and Administration in the Presidency, Collins Chabane, addressed the youth of Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality on 27 March 2014 through a lecture and dialogue on 20 Years of Freedom under the theme South Africa: a better place to live in. The aims of this youth dialogue were to reach young critical opinion shapers, to address issues of youth development, and to pave a way forward. This was the start of a series of strategic dialogues and lectures to be rolled out nationally around the 20 Years of Freedom Review.

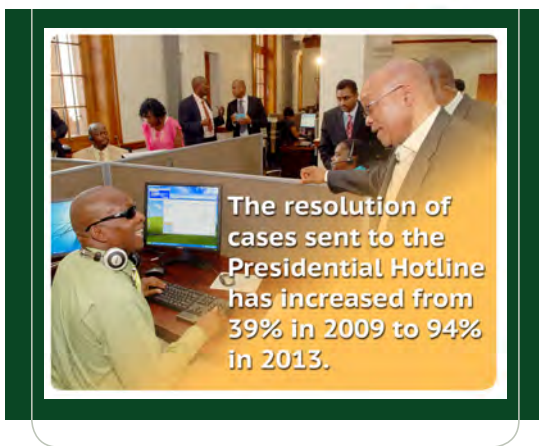
Through this session, the Minister further unpacked the 20 Years of Freedom Review launched by President Jacob Zuma on 11 March 2014, which provides detailed evidence of progress made in all sectors of government since 1994.

GCIS Deputy CEO Ms Nebo Legoabe provided background information and discussed the aims of the 20 Years of Freedom communication activities. Minister Chabane delivered an overview and reflected on the 20 Years of Freedom Review. He said President Zuma took a bold step by introducing the National Planning Commission and the Department of Performance Monitoring, Evaluation and Administration, which has made it easy to monitor the progress of the country so far. "We will build more academic institutions to improve the options available to our youth, thereby improving the economy," said Minister Chabane.

The youth engaged with the Minister while raising issues regarding education in academic institutions; demanding the implementation of free education for all; quality of basic education; decentralisation of NSFAS; student

accommodation and alignment of FET college education within university faculties. In his response, Minister Chabane said more schools and universities would be built particularly in rural areas to ensure increased access to education. Representatives from the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality Youth Council, Nelson Mandela Bay University, Transnet, Coega and the Department of Transport were panellists at the session and provided information about the various opportunities they have for youths in their institutions. Information from Coega the NYDA, and various government departments including labour, economic development, environmental affairs and the GCIS was displayed at exhibition stalls.





Minister Collins Chabane addressing stakeholders at Westcol during the Post SoNA Youth Dialogue.

OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP

Westcol Post-SoNA Youth Dialogue

By Matshidiso Mokoka: GCIS, Gauteng



Learners were given a chance to raise issues during the dialogue.

On Friday 14 March 2014, GCIS Gauteng hosted a post-SoNA Youth Dialogue lead by Minister Collins Chabane at Westcol Corporate Park Office with a select number of learners from various campuses in the West Rand. The event provided an opportunity for learners from Westcol to interact with the Minister regarding issues raised during the State of the Nation Address (SoNA) delivered by President Jacob Zuma on 13 February.

“As a government we strive to make sure that communities are well informed of programmes of government that are contained in the President’s address. It is against this background that ministers will engage with different groups in societies to try and unpack the speech of the President and allow the public the space and platform to raise issues concerning them,” said Ms Nebo Legoabe Deputy CEO from GCIS. She added that government welcomes inputs from the public and that

people must also come up with suggestions that can be used to improve on some of the programmes of government.

During his address Minister Chabane informed students of the Solomon Mahlangu Bursary Fund that was launched in Sandton to assist families who can’t afford a better education for their children. He also encouraged the youth to take ownership of their lives, demand a better education, and to play a role in improving the government and making the country a better place to live in. “Earlier in the week, the President released a presidential 20 years review that outlines what the country has achieved and how the country has changed over the past 20 years. As government we expect people to participate robustly in discussing the review and how it will ensure a better future for all of us,” he said.

He added that the dialogue was not only about giving speeches, but interactive discussions about where the country comes from and how young people see it in the next 20 years. “It is imperative that you as youth develop partnerships with government for a brighter future for yourselves and your families. It is in your hands to better your education, to focus on the critical skills which are needed for the economy because this economy depends on you as young people going forward.”

Knowledge Lukheleni, SRC president from the Carletonville Westcol campus, said the dialogue was fruitful and that they appreciated the fact that they were given a platform to address challenges and issues they encounter as students of higher learning. “With us raising these challenges, we believe that government will now be aware of what our lives are like and that the Minister will relate these matters to the relevant department so that we get proper feedback”, he said.





The audience listening attentively to a presentation at the event.



MEC N Shushu addressing the audience.



Women taking part in the marathon nearing the finish line.

OUTCOME 2: A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS

A marathon for Human Rights Day and healthy living

By Karen Foutie: GCIS, Northern Cape



The march that also took place on the day.



Services and exhibitions by government departments, SASSA and the GCIS.

The communities of Olifantshoek and Deben in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District, Northern Cape, celebrated Human Rights Day with life-changing and positive prospects as part of the event's theme.

The event was formulated around the call for citizens to live healthier lifestyles by celebrating 20 years of democracy through human rights.

Members of the community took part in a three-kilometre marathon, which included all age groups. People up to 64 years old took part in the marathon to kick-start their journey to a healthy lifestyle.

The MEC of Agriculture and Land Reform, Norman Shushu, addressed the crowd of nearly

300 people on human rights and provided some insight into what it means when people talk about "the long walk to freedom and democracy".

He also highlighted some of the sacrifices made by people to participate in celebrating historic events such as Human Rights Day.

"We must remind ourselves of where we come from, particularly when we had no dignity, and thus it is very important that we honour human rights, because it celebrates our human dignity," he said.

Shushu handed over certificates to all those participants who finished first and second in the marathon. They were awarded for their achievements in the different categories.

Juanita De Koker, who attended the event expressed her delight: "It was noble for such an event to be brought to Olifantshoek, after its long period of service delivery protests in the past." She said there were signs that things were starting to change for the better in her community.

Services were rendered at the event by the Departments of Home Affairs and SASSA, while the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), the departments of education, transport, safety and liaison held exhibitions.

The event was attended by a number of the province's dignitaries, including mayors and councillors.





Part of the crowd during the launch of the Passport to Future project at Mapodile Thusong Service Centre on 9 April.



COO of TCTA Maeketso Ntsoli, Sekhukhune Executive Mayor Mogobo David Magabe, and Kgoshi Rantho during the launch of the Passport to Future project at the Mapodile Thusong Service Centre.

OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP

Youth passport to future launched

By Doctor Marebane: GCIS, Limpopo

The voice of beneficiaries



Verah Mothupi and Salmina Choma, who are beneficiaries of the project, said: "we have been struggling to find work, we are pleased that this course will help us a lot in finding jobs."



Jeffrey Sebelela said the course came at the right time. "it will open some job opportunities for me as it is accredited with recognised institutions."



Kabelo Kgolane said he could not further his studies because of financial constraints, but he was confident that the course would open up new opportunities for him. "I'm looking forward to a very interesting new learning experience and I'm going to do my best to achieve."

Unemployment and lack of information are among the major challenges faced by South Africa's youth today. This leads to criminal activities and other social ills. To help reduce unemployment and fight crime, Construction companies and engineers appointed to build De Hoop Dam in Sekhukhune, Limpopo, namely Basil Read, Aurecon Ndodana Joint Venture, and Caledon Tunnel Authority (TCTA), have joined forces to launch one of the biggest youth-empowerment projects in the Sekhukhune area. The project called Passport to Future, will assist more than 300 young job seekers to improve their chances of finding work.

Based in the Mapodile Thusong Service Centre, the project will run for a year with an intake of 100 participants per session.

According to Jimmy Mnisi, the project coordinator, they have realised that although the area of Sekhukhune is booming with economic development, local youth are still unemployable.

"This is partly because of their inability to take advantage of the job opportunities that become available. The Passport to Future project therefore aims to provide 300 job-seekers with the necessary resources, skills and tools to increase their chances of finding work," he said.

In his keynote address, the Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune, Cllr David Mogobo Magabe, spoke about milestones the country has reached 20 years into democracy. "During the State of the Nation Address in February this year, President Jacob Zuma alluded to the notion that 'we have a good story to tell'. I therefore wish to reiterate

his words and confirm that indeed we have a good story to tell. We say this precisely to salute the 20 years of our freedom and democracy and to celebrate the immense gains we have made as government, society and the business sector", he said.

One of the milestone achievements that we can proudly talk about, is this historic event that all of us have gathered here to witness today," he added. Also present were seven local tribal authorities, and Sekhukhune councillors, who came in numbers to support the event.

Some of the local street vendors said that they were excited as they would be able to make money at the centre.

