

DID YOU KNOW?

The proportion of the population living below a R422 a month poverty line has decreased from 50% in 1994 to 34.5% in 2009.



MY DISTRICT TODAY

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OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Ex-offenders at Rooigrond Correctional Facility benefit from business starter packs

By Kaone Moshwela: GCIS North West



Regional Commissioner handing over starter kit (welding machine) to ex-offender.



Ex-offender Molaudi Matsime receives a business starter kit.

As part of wrapping up Mandela Month activities, the Department of Correctional Services awarded business starter packs to their parolees. This was done to empower the parolees so that they can start businesses when they arrive in their communities.

The event started with planting a tree – significant of a new life for offenders. The Reverend Matsane followed with a devotional message from the Bible, Philemon 1:9 – 12, where the apostle Paul urged and encouraged the community to welcome Onesimus who was a prisoner but went through a process of rehabilitation and correction and returned to his community as a changed person. This message was an appeal to the community to welcome ex-offenders in the society as people who

are changed and ready to be useful in the society. Ex-offenders often reoffend because their families and society reject them. He further said that the department has done its best, which is to rehabilitate and correct.

Ex-offenders benefited from equipment such as welding machines, sewing machines, building material, and car wash vacuum cleaners. The equipment was awarded according to the training they received during their rehabilitation process. Sponsors and stakeholders such as Nedbank, Dream Team Foundation and New Life made this possible.

Mr Netshisive from New life commended sponsors such as Nedbank who support them to assist

offenders. He said, "We can only conquer the challenge we are facing if we all take responsibility to help reintegrate offenders into the community."

One of the beneficiaries, Molaudi Matsime, whose initial sentence was for 15 years but served only nine years, appreciated the initiative of the Department of Correctional Services. He said, as a man of 41 years he has learnt his lesson and was returning home. He has committed himself to make a change by empowering youth with the skills he acquired while in prison. Taking into consideration the high rate of unemployment in the rural area where he comes from, the skills he plans to teach young people will go a long way in alleviating unemployment.



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

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DID YOU KNOW?

Between 2000/01 and 2007/08 there has been a significant decrease in the proportion of people in lower LSMs (1 to 3) and an increase in the size of the middle bands (LSM 4 to 6).

Tshwaraganang Barolong Women's Project brings hope to Motsitlane Community

By Pius Batsile: GCIS North West



Tshwaraganang Barolong women display the school uniform they designed for the primary school in Motsitlane.



Mrs Elizabeth Moraladi says that the existence of Tshwaraganang Barolong brought relief to Mokitlane village because people can access goods in their own village.



Tshwaraganang sewing machines.

The Tshwaraganang Barolong Project is a women's project that was established by a group of women in Motsitlane village in the Ratlou municipality. Their main objective was to reduce unemployment that was escalating in the village.

As part of women's empowerment initiatives the Department of Provincial and Local Government built the structure for the project in 1991. The National Development Agency bought the machinery for juice making, sewing and knitting, the production of cleaning materials and embroidery machines.

Since then the project brought poverty relief to the local community. The products are in high demand in the area.

The women produce various products such as fruit juice, school uniforms for the local school, and different cleaning products. The communities of Motsitlane and Madibogo also buy the products from this project because it is closer and cheaper.

According to a Motsitlane community member, Mrs Elizabeth Moraladi, the Tshwaraganang Barolong Women's Project has brought relief to the community because it supplies the school uniforms to the local school and they can also produce church uniforms for local churches.

People from the villages no longer have to travel to town to buy cleaning products and juice because they can buy them in their village.

As part of their social responsibilities the Tshwaraganang Barolong Women's Project pledged to donate school uniforms to needy children.

The project supplies local events with home-made juice, which is enjoyed by the local people.

To expand their markets, the treasurer of the project, Mrs Motlagomang Mogoera is negotiating to sell their products to big businesses in the area.

DID YOU KNOW?

19 887 undocumented persons were apprehended on our country's borders during the last year.



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

Smart card ID awareness in Cofimvaba Thusong

By Vuyani Sibene: GCIS Eastern Cape

South Africa will begin rolling out the new smart card IDs from September 2013, issuing them to all first-time and re-issue applicants. The Department of Home Affairs plans to issue the smart card ID to all South Africans over the next eight years as it phases out the current green bar-coded ID book. To begin with, 27 Home Affairs regional offices, three in each province, will process smart card IDs, with more offices to follow suit over the next three years. Containing microchips embedded with biometric data unique to each individual, and with the information laser-engraved on the chip to prevent tampering, the new IDs will be near impossible to forge, according to the department.

Cofimvaba Thusong Service Centre also promoted the smart card ID to the communities of Cofimvaba. This is what the community had to say about the smart card ID:



Name: Ms Nomazwi Apolis
Age: 24 years
Occupation: Unemployed
Ward: St Marks Ward 2

What will the smart card ID do for the community?

- I think the process of applying for the ID will be much quicker – maybe within minutes – which will prevent people from standing in long queues.

How will it assist the community at large to combat crime?

- The green ID books are used in identity theft. This will not be possible with the new card.

What are the low points about the introduction of the smart card IDs?

- The card is expensive. It should be free or no more than R50.

General remarks

- Will the smart card ID have an expiry date like the license card?



Name: Ms Nomaziyephi Peter
Age: 40 years
Occupation: Unemployed
Ward: Nomadambhe Ward 21

What will the smart card ID do for the community?

- I did not even know about the smart card ID. I only heard about it at Cofimvaba Thusong during the distribution of publications.

How will it assist the community at large to combat crime?

- I learnt today how it will reduce crime. My grandmother's ID was lost and money was borrowed at Capitec with her ID.
- I'm happy that it will reduce crime and fraud.

What are the low points about the introduction of the smart card IDs?

- The amount of R140 is expensive. It costs us R90 in transport costs to come to town.

General remarks

- As we are living in deep rural areas we did not know about the smart card ID. Cofimvaba Home Affairs also needs to be part of the roll-out.



Name: Ms Zizipho Vumazonke
Age: 17 years
Occupation: Grade 11 learner
Ward: Wood House

What will the smart card ID do for the community?

- It will have all the information in a small package. It will be more durable than the green ID book that gets torn very easily.

How will it assist the community at large to combat crime?

- Cofimvaba is a rural community. Criminals target our grandmothers by stealing their

IDs to commit fraud. This smart card ID will be safer.

What are the low points about the introduction of the smart card IDs?

- The roll-out is a low point. Why did it start with the ministers and the Deputy President? I turned 16 last year and got my ID book, now I must get the new smart card ID that I must pay for.

General remarks

The cost of R140 is too much.



Name: Mr Anele December
Age: 24 years
Occupation: Street vendor
Ward: Magwala Ward 14

What will the smart card ID do for the community?

- It will reduce the fraudulent transactions made with the green ID book.

How will it assist the community at large to combat crime?

- Many grandmothers and grandfathers lose their IDs. Criminals use these IDs to take out loans or open accounts. The new smart card ID cannot be tampered with because it has a microchip in.

What are the low points about the introduction of the smart card IDs?

- Everyone who already has his/her old green ID book should receive the smart card ID first.

General Remarks

- If you are applying for the first time the smart card ID is free of charge, but what about us who have the green ID book and cannot afford to pay the R140? How can we get the smart card ID without paying for it?

OUTCOME 3: ALL PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE AND FEEL SAFE

DID YOU KNOW?

1.6 million arrests were made by the SAPS of which 777 140 were for serious crimes in 2011/12.



The SAPS Free State Provincial Commissioner Mr Khehla Sithole, Free State MEC for Police, Roads and Transport, Mr Butana Khompela and the Deputy Minister of Police, Ms Makhotso Sotyu during the Imbizo in Makelekettle in Winburg.

Deputy Minister Sotyu visits Winburg

By Lehlohonolo Manoto: GCIS Free State



Female Police and Traffic officials conduct roadblock at the N1 road between Winburg and Bloemfontein during the Woman's Network Campaign.

As a follow-up to the recently launched Free State Crime Prevention Strategy where, as part of the strategy the youth will be expected to play a vital role in the fight against crime, the Deputy Minister of Police, Ms Makhotso Maggie Sotyu, visited Makelekettle, Winburg to address the youth on issues relating to gangsterism and substance abuse on 5 August 2013.

Her visit started with a roadblock by female South African Police Service (SAPS) and Traffic Department officials on the N1 road just outside Winburg. At mid-morning, Sotyu visited senior citizens' houses in Makelekettle where she was able to identify a father, his daughter (24) and grandson (7) who could not access social services grants because they did not have identity documents (IDs) and birth certificates. The Deputy Minister arranged for the family to be assisted with the IDs and for the grandson to receive a social grant. She further thanked the neighbours for their continued support to the family by always making sure that the family did not go to bed with empty stomachs.

A panel that consisted of the Deputy Minister of Police, Ms Makhotso Maggie Sotyu; the MEC for Police, Roads and Transport, Mr Butana Khompela; the Lejweleputswa District Speaker, Mr Nkosijani Speelman; and the Masilonyana Mayor, Mr Steven Koalane and his council members attended the imbizo where members of the community discussed their concerns and issues.

Some of the issues raised by the community were that the police station was too small and too far from the township; that people volunteered for long periods in the SAPS and then they are not even appointed; impound-

ing of vehicles without licenses; and access to clean water.

In response, the Deputy Minister informed the community that a building in the township will be identified, renovated and be used as a police station.

"The concept of volunteerism was misunderstood by the communities. People volunteer with the aim to be appointed as SAPS officials whenever the vacancies are advertised, though it's not how it works," said Sotyu. Reservists and other people have equal chances as they must apply for the advertised positions. In the future, SAPS will be working hand-in-hand with the Community Policing Forum (CPF) as the behaviour of the candidates is known to the CPF members and they will recommend suitable candidates.

Khompela responded by saying that vehicles are impounded because they are not road worthy or operate without proper documentation. He urged people to approach his department with their associations and the roadworthy vehicles and follow the right procedures to apply for the vehicle licences and permits.

Koalane concluded the question and answer session by telling the community that the water issue would soon be a thing of the past as the council set aside R4 million to drill three new boreholes to supplement the water supply the town is receiving from the two dams in the area.

On the issue of residential sites, he responded to say the municipality has identified sites but is awaiting the



Community members of Makelekettle during the imbizo meeting with the Deputy Minister of Police, Ms Maggie Sotyu, accompanied by the MEC Police, Roads and Transport Mr Butana Khompela.

approval from the Provincial Township Board. The municipality cannot allocate residential sites without the permission of the Provincial Town Board. He said that Masilonyana Municipality is concerned about employment and that 310 people are on the Extended Public Works Programme, 21 cooperatives are on the cooperative incentive of 350 000 and five young people will be trained as law enforcers for six months and after the completion of their training they will receive certificates.

The Deputy Minister's visit formed part of Women's Month. The programme included the roadblock conducted by female Police and Traffic officials. At the roadblock the officials checked that immigration permits were valid. Other activities included checking the validity of liquor licences at liquor outlets, and looking for wanted suspects.

Sotyu strongly emphasised that research has shown that crime is committed by youngsters under the age of 35. She reminded the youth that education is important and that the Government awards bursaries. She said that unemployment and poverty are not the reasons for people to get involved in criminal activities. People must not rape and blame poverty and unemployment. She also made a plea to the SAPS members to attend to the matters of the community and requested the support from the community as well. She advised the community to contact the Independent Police Investigative Directorate on 051 406 6800 during office hours to report police officials making themselves guilty of committing crime.

OUTCOME 3: ALL PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE AND FEEL SAFE

Gender violence is not a private matter

By Phumla Williams, Acting CEO: GCIS



The silence of the night is shattered by a barrage of abusive language, loud banging, glass breaking and pleading cries coming from the next door neighbour.

With shock you keep on listening as unspeakable violence and abuse takes place behind closed doors.

You have two choices: rationalise that it is a private matter and none of your business, or take immediate action and call the police.

Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe, speaking at the launch of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign last year, said every incident of abuse suffered by a woman or child reflects our failure to respond to the cries of the vulnerable.

He said: "It is in our power and within our means as individuals, even in the smallest of ways, to contribute to the fight against the abuse of women and children on a daily basis."

It could be your actions this Women's Month that help end the cycle of violence and abuse that many women experience.

While incidents of battery, domestic violence and child abuse often go undetected or under reported, statistics over the years continue to show disturbing trends. Particularly disturbing are figures on the rape of women and children.

These high rates of violence and abuse are a clear indication that more still needs to be done. In the now famous words of philosopher Edmund Burke, "the only thing necessary for the triumph of evil is for good men to do nothing."

Every South African can do something; we all have an important role to play in rooting out the scourge of gender-based violence.

First, gender violence and abuse can no longer be treated as a "private" matter. It is a crime and must be reported to the police so that victims can be helped and perpetrators can be brought to book.

Moreover, it is a crime that not only affects the person who has experienced the violence and abuse, but it also scars an entire community.

Second, the onus of reporting violence and abuse is not the victim's responsibility alone; it falls on all of us, as these incidents often taken place within our homes and communities.

When such crimes are reported, our legislation enables us to ensure that the rights of affected women and children are protected.

Our progressive legislation such as the Domestic Violence Act; the Criminal Law (Sexual Offences and Related Matters) Amendment Act and Equality Act deal with all forms of abuse, violence and discrimination.

The Government, through the justice, crime prevention and security cluster (JCPS), has committed itself to build a victim-centred criminal justice system that deals firmly with gender-based violence.

In a bid to stem sexual violence against women and children, the Government last week re-established the Sexual Offences Courts, dedicated to try sexual violence crimes against these vulnerable groups.

The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Jeff Radebe, said, "We have seen a rise in sexual violence against women and children and we cannot remain unmoved as government, but we can take steps to ensure that all those perpetrators of these heinous crimes must be brought to book and this is one of the ways of dealing with it."

The re-establishment of the Sexual Offences Courts will ensure our court system deals more promptly, responsively and effectively of sexual violence.

Research by the Department Justice and Constitutional Development found that these courts reduce secondary victimisation and contribute to the efficient prosecution and adjudication of sexual offence cases.

When the first Sexual Offences Court was piloted in 1993, it proved a huge success, with a conviction rate of up to 80% over a year.

DID YOU KNOW?

Some 2 000 forensic social workers were appointed to deal with crimes against children and to provide expert evidence in court. In 2012/13, 248 022 cases were finalised.

Some 57 regional courts have been identified for upgrading to operate as Sexual Offences Courts. The plan is to have 22 courts fully operational by the end of this year; the remaining 35 will be set up within the next three years.

Our fight against women and child abuse has also been strengthened by the re-establishment of the Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences Units in June last year.

During the last financial year, the units secured more than 363 life sentences, with conviction rate of 73% for crimes against women above 18 years of age and 70% for crimes against children under 18.

Moreover, our Thuthuzela Care Centres, situated in hospitals, are one-stop facilities that provide rape victims with the necessary support. They also work closely with the police on evidence gathering to ensure that perpetrators of sexual violence face the consequences.

Last year the government established a high-level Inter-Ministerial Committee on Violence against Women and Children to intensify our efforts against gender-based violence.

The committee focuses on preventing violence against women and children, holding perpetrators accountable for their actions and ensuring that women and children who experience violence receive support.

The establishment of the National Council Against Gender-Based Violence last year also takes the war against gender violence to a higher level. The council is implementing a 365 Days Action Plan and is working on strengthening our policy and intervention programmes.

More needs to be done to ensure that women in our society feel safe. We need to work with our communities, especially men and boys, to change the culture of violence.

We call on men across all sectors of our society to honour our hard fought-for freedoms and human rights by protecting and respecting the rights of women and children.

In celebration of Women's Month, let us renew our pledge to ensure the safety and well-being of all women in our society.