

Did you know?



Strategic support provided to 416 new emerging farmers through the Recapitalisation and Development Programme, in addition to the existing 595 farms currently being supported at a cost of R1,2 billion.

CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

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MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 78 / August 2013

OUTCOME 7: VIBRANT, EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES AND FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL

Moringa farmer scoops first prize

By Doctor Marebane: GCIS Limpopo

Mavis Mathabatha of Sedikong Organic Farming Cooperative is the Limpopo Woman Top Export Market Farmer of the Year. She received R60 000 first prize and a trophy from the Limpopo MEC of Agriculture, Rosina Semenya.

Mathabatha, who is a former educator, started the Moringa Oleifera Project after she realised that many children in Limpopo face hunger and starvation. Moringa is known to have vitamins, minerals, proteins and amino acids necessary for healthy, physical and mental development.

The project has since grown and she is serving more than 400 orphans and vulnerable children at Tooseng Village near Polokwane. She is also exporting more than 12 tonnes of the plant leaves to Indonesia, the Netherlands, Botswana and Swaziland. She said that there is a big demand for the product.

"Moringa possesses remarkable nutritious properties. We cultivate and distribute Moringa seedlings to the most economically disadvantaged house-



Mavis Mathabatha and her team preparing Moringa seedlings for the new season.

holds in rural Limpopo communities. Thus we are also responding to the global food crisis and the serious problem of food insecurity in southern Africa and aim to use locally available resources to meet these challenges," said Mathabatha.

She will be heading for the national woman farmer of the year competition to be held at O R Tambo on 22 August in Gauteng. She is also expected fly to China in September and in October she will be in Germany to market her products.

The products consist of capsules, teabags, powder, leaves and crushed Moringa. Mathabatha employs 25 fulltime and 142 seasonal workers. "Our Moringa leaves are added to the daily meals of the orphans that we are taking care of. The immediate social impact of people consuming Moringa leaves is naturally the improvement of their health, and ability to ward off illnesses, diseases and infections," said Mathabatha.

Moringa is endorsed by the World Health Organisation that its nutrition is the fundamental building block of health development.

Mathabatha can be contacted at 072 363 0885, info@sedikongorganicfarming.co.za or at mogasie@gmail.com



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Did you know?



The total number of grant recipients was 14.87 million as at March 2010.

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

Operation Sukuma Sakhe – Stand up and Build – brings relief and smiles to communities of rural Mkizwana

By Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS KwaZulu-Natal



Mrs Yedwana Bhengu, seated, beaming brightly as she is fussed over by eThekwini Mayor, Cllr James Nxumalo and Ward 2 Councillor, Mr Mkhize.

The smile on 84-year-old Mrs Yedwana Bhengu's face and the gleam in her eyes, spoke a thousand words of gratitude and appreciation as she received her wheelchair from eThekwini Mayor, Councillor James Nxumalo.

The occasion was the launch of the Operation Sukuma Sakhe Forum in Mkizwana, a rural area in the Upper Highway Region of eThekwini

Municipality. Departments rallied together to render much needed services to the community in this remote and picturesque little village with its rolling hills and natural vegetation.

Other speakers to grace the event were from the National Youth Development Agency; eThekwini Skills Development Unit; Department of Social Development; South African Social

Security Agency (Sassa); Department of Home Affairs and Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.

The ward Councillor, Mr Maxwell Mvikelwa Mhize, addressed the community and encouraged safe and healthy lifestyles. The youth giggled when he said that they should abstain from sex, drugs and crime. He encouraged the youth to organise

themselves into youth groups and engage in community development; sports, arts and culture as a way to develop themselves and the community.

Sassa and Department of Home Affairs officials were kept busy by the community who turned out in their numbers to access services, which would normally have to be accessed at their Pinetown offices. This is more than 30 km away and not easily accessible due to the high travel costs.

Grade 12 learners from the Nogunjwa High School, which is currently a project of the Expanded Public Works Programme, chorused a "Siyabonga" when Mayor James Nxumalo wished them all well in their exams.

Did you know?



There are 176 Family Violence Child Protection and Sexual Offences Units nationwide attached to all police clusters in the South African Police Service.



Community members turned up in their hundreds to attend and voice their concerns at the Women's Month JCPS Imbizo. The mobilisation programme was developed and implemented by the GCIS in partnership with the community development workers.



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

Women's Month Programme

By GCIS: Western Cape



Community radio interview with provincial heads of the departments of justice and correctional services organised by the GCIS.



A community member from the Zwelethamba Community spoke about her issues regarding the Criminal Justice System and how women need more protection from government.

Amidst the stormy rainy weather, hundreds of community members of the Breede Valley Municipal area attended the Crime Prevention Women's Month programme, which was led by the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster (JCPS).

The JCPS Cluster is entrusted to implement the Government's Delivery Agreement (Outcome 3) aimed at ensuring that "All People Are and Feel Safe."

Crime affects everyone but especially vulnerable groups such as women, children, older people and people with disabilities. Drugs and substance abuse are contributory factors to the violent nature of crime, and other social ills. There is a perception that the Criminal Justice System cannot deal effectively with criminals. This perception originates from the number of times the courts grant bail to the accused who sometimes, while being out on bail, commit further, and sometimes even more serious crimes.

It was announced in the imbizo by the Department of Justice, that Worcester has the highest incidence of reported rape cases in the Western Cape. Departments in the JCPS cluster, to ensure that a once quiet community will return to its former tranquillity, will implement clear programmes. The Breede Valley community spoke out about their concerns about crime and the Criminal Justice System. Key issues that the community raised were:

- When community members report crime and criminal activities, South African Police Service (SAPS) officials from the Worcester precinct do not follow up and ignore the whistle blowers.
- Community members wanted to understand why they should assist SAPS if the police are in some cases working with the criminals.
- The cluster commander invited community members to inform him about cases that they are aware of, where police do not follow proper procedure and invited the

public to take part in the structures of SAPS, such as the Community Policing Forum and the neighbourhood watches.

- The Department of Justice informed the community that they would arrange a road show with attorneys for one week to go to all the surrounding towns to give free legal service to the public.
- The community was also concerned about why police from one town like Worcester do not assist community members from townships, which is part of that same community.
- A specific request from the community was to hold more sessions in each area, so that people can become more involved in supporting the police and the justice system.

Did you know?



By March 2012, 814 victim-friendly rooms were created at police stations throughout the country to render better services to victims of crime.



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

GCIS gives young women a voice

By Lungile Mdluli: GCIS Mpumalanga



Recognising that August is Women's Month, the GCIS made a contribution to empower young women who felt trapped in unbearable situations.

This GCIS initiative targeted young female students drawn from MSC College, PC Training, Tshwane University of Technology and Agricultural College. Guest speakers were medical practitioner Ms Bongzi Baloi, Small Enterprise Development Agency official Mr Rodney, Buhle Ndlovu Ligwalagwala FM presenter and educator Ms Lillian Mdluli.

The GCIS Women's Dialogue event took place at the Pine Lake Inn in White River, on 16 August 2013, opening with a documentary programme, which introduced the topics lined up for the occasion, namely health, education, beauty, abuse, business and gender equality.

The event brought together 80 young women under the age of 30 from across Nelspruit, Mpumalanga.

Some of the women participating in the documentary spoke about their inner fears for the first time during the shooting of the documentary. Throughout the evening, there was laughter, some tears, and lots of applause. Most of these determined young women left the session feeling motivated by both the inspiring speakers and the incredible supportive environment.

The Government understands that more must be done to ensure that women feel safe. Looking at the daily reports of violence and abuse suffered by women government will continue to work hard to ensure a safer and more caring society.

The GCIS encouraged these young women to believe they have the potential to be great leaders; to

know themselves and what they stand for in order to guide their choices about their future.

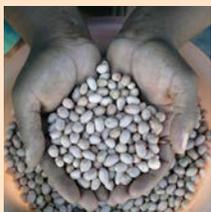
Fezile Sienga, one of the students who attended said, "I think this event was very educational. I now know as a young woman, I have no limits, no weaknesses; only my talents and capabilities can take me as far as I desire. It is a great initiative and I will say I am fortunate to be part of it."

The students' participation in this programme built up their self-esteem. They are now able to talk about their issues, be objective and can practically set to work and strive to accomplish great things.

Did you know?



1269 farms have been recapitalised between the 3rd quarter of 2009 and March 2013.



OUTCOME 7: VIBRANT, EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES AND FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL

Young farmers reap what they sow

By Mokgoma Nkopodi: GCIS Limpopo



The top winner of the young farmers awards Mr Relience Ntike (middle) with the MEC of Agriculture Mr Jacob Marule (extreme right).



Some of the young farmers of participated during the awards.

Young aspiring Limpopo subsistence and commercial farmers took part in the Limpopo Best Farmers Competition. All five Limpopo district municipalities were represented. The MEC for Agriculture in Limpopo, Jacob Marule accompanied by members of the provincial legislature, awarded the young farmers with trophies and cash prizes at a glittering event held in Groblersdal.

Twenty-three young farmers participated in the different categories.

In the category for primary schools, the first prize of R30 000 went to Metz Junior Primary School. In the secondary schools category, Makula Senior Secondary School came up tops by scooping the first prize of R30 000.

Top producer for household/backyard went to Emmanuel Modau from G Muofhe Trading who took home R50 000.

Top producer in informal market/small holder, Catherine Manganyi from Refentse Agricultural Project, took home R80 000.

The biggest prize of R150 000 was for the national and export market category, which went to Reliance Ntike of Patience Wellness Centre. According to M Notowa from the Agricultural Advisory Services, the event was the reflection of what most young farmers do in their respective gardens.

The event started with displaying a variety of food and animal products as well as innovations from young competitors.

"We had the opportunity to view goods and fresh farm products such as cabbages, tomatoes, onions, spinach, carrots and moringa herb products," said D Sekwati from Kopano Disabled Project.

He further said that the event unearthed dedicated young black farmers who previously did not get the opportunity to prove their potential. He said that all the projects create employment for the villagers and contribute in feeding their communities. "This also boosts the local economy," he concluded.

In his closing speech, the MEC thanked the National Youth Development Agency for contributing and making the event a success. He appealed to the young Limpopo farmers to take the lead in farming. Marule also pointed out that his department has opened the Tompi Seleka Agricultural College to train would-be farmers.

He concluded by urging communities to go back to farming, "Farming is not a retirement home. We need young people who are energetic and willing to work harder. *A re boeleng temong, lehumo letswa tshemong.*" Loosely translated it means, "Let us go back to farming, wealth comes from farming."