

DID YOU KNOW?

South Africa will use its chairpersonship of BRICS in 2013 to vigorously pursue the potential for growing trade and investment, as well as intra-African trade and investment.



MY DISTRICT TODAY

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CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

For more information about similar programmes that are run across the country, contact one of the following provincial offices:

EASTERN CAPE

Ndlelantle Pinyana
043 722 2602 or 076 142 8606
ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za

FREE STATE

Trevor Mokeyane
051 448 4504 or 083 255 0042
tshenolo@gcis.gov.za

GAUTENG

Peter Gumede
011 834 3560 or 083 570 8080
peterg@gcis.gov.za

KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420
ndala@gcis.gov.za

Outcome 4: Decent employment through inclusive economic growth

Improved support for small business and co-operatives

Karen Fourie: GCIS Northern Cape

Speaking at the Businesswoman of the Year awards in Johannesburg in August 2012, President Jacob Zuma emphasised the need to empower women and female-owned businesses as they are integral to the growth of South Africa's economy. This signifies government's commitment to uplift the lives of the women to participate in social programmes and in building the economy.

Government support to co-operatives was introduced to make South African women active participants in the economy. A group of women from the Siyavuka Laundry and Dry Cleaning, a primary cooperative, took advantage of the programme. What started as a project in 1999, consisting of 30

women, became a co-operative thanks to government's support.

Unfortunately, 25 women left Siyavuka when the situation changed for the worst, leaving five women to struggle and fend for themselves. However, their efforts saw Siyavuka growing into a formidable co-operative, turning the owners into shareholders.

Government opportunities and help from the Siyanda District Municipality, the Independent Development Trust and Small Enterprise Development Agency the over the past 13 years cemented Siyavuka's success. They used the money to buy industrial washing and ironing machines and upgrade their electricity infrastructure.

To ensure sustainability of the business, members were trained in marketing and finance management as well as basic business skills.

Siyavuka has a permanent client base that sustains the business so that it can pay workers' and shareholders' salaries.

Hanna Buka, marketing manager and co-founder, said you cannot expect to sit back and receive; you have to work hard to succeed. She said they want to see the business grow in such way that they could buy their own property for the business. Break-ins and natural disasters are some of the challenges they have experienced, but these have not discouraged them.



Hanna Buka, co-founder and marketing manager, with her certificates.



Co-owners and shareholders of the co-operative.



Hanna Buka in front of the business premises.



Industrial machines bought with the donor funds.

LIMPOPO

Thanyani Rhavhura
015 291 4689 or 082 421 3461
thanyani@gcis.gov.za

MPUMALANGA

Tiisetso Ramotse
013 753 2397 or 072 219 5136
tiisetso@gcis.gov.za

NORTH WEST

Mareka Mofokeng
018 381 7071 or 083 382 5909
mareka@gcis.gov.za

NORTHERN CAPE

Marius Nagel
053 832 1378/9 or 083 778 9179
mariusn@gcis.gov.za

WESTERN CAPE

Ayanda Hollow
021 697 0145 or 083 255 7665
ayanda@gcis.gov.za

Outcome 1 I: Create a better South Africa and contribute to a better and safer Africa and world

Taking BRICS to the people

GCIS Western Cape has engaged Western Cape communities by discussing with local leaders what to expect from the BRICS Summit. The most important challenges raised at the meetings were unemployment and poverty.

The BRICS provincial roadshow was attended by approximately 700 people from metropolitan communities, non-governmental organisations, community-based organisations, civic organisations, faith-based groups, traditional leaders and business

chambers. The Deputy Minister of International relations and Cooperation, Mr Marius Fransman, and the Minister of Economic Development, Mr Ebrahim Patel, addressed the gathering held on 5 March 2013 at Swartklip Indoor Sport Centre.

They informed the community about the importance of the BRICS Summit and the role South Africa is playing in the global community.



Constituency offices, women, youth and GCIS officials discussed BRICS as part of the preparations for the provincial roadshow.



Community leaders from Khayelitsha and Mitchell's Plain discussed the content around BRICS, while GCIS Provincial Director Ayanda Hollow responded to questions.



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

Combatting HIV and AIDS and easing the burden of tuberculosis

Sikelela Zokufa: GCIS Western Cape

Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe, accompanied by the Minister of Correctional Service, Mr Sbu Ndebele; the Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi, the Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr Andries Nel and the Western Cape MEC for Health, Mr Theuns Botha were among those who commemorated World Tuberculosis (TB) Day on Sunday, 24 March at the Pollsmoor Correctional Centre, under the theme *Zero infections, death, stigma and discrimination from TB & HIV.*

Deputy President Motlanthe handed over six GenXpert machines to Minister Ndebele. These will help six correctional centres in the fight against TB.

Attending the event were about 1 700 inmates of the Pollsmoor Correctional Centre, as well as government officials, partner organisations and community stakeholders. In addition,

Goodwill Ambassador Yvonne Chaka Chaka encouraged inmates to speak out about their TB and HIV statuses. She said, "The stigma comes from ignorance To remove the stigma, you must speak out and appreciate what government is doing to help you."

Inmate Yolande testified about the support the Department of Correctional Services has given her after she found out her status. "I thought that by now I would no longer be alive, but I am in good health and taking my medicine," she said.

Deputy President Motlanthe encouraged inmates to read, saying, "Information and reading will help you to develop your thoughts and intellect." He added that each inmate must read one book a month and be able to summarise it.



Deputy President Kgalema Motlanthe addressed the stakeholders, inmates and invited guests.



Inmate Yolande thanked government and the Pollsmoor Correctional Centre for their support when she found out that she was HIV-positive.



Outcome 7: Vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities with food for all

Hard work pays off for pig breeders

Ephraim Malema: GCIS North West

Dedication to hard work has brought smiles and happiness for the pig breeders of Thusong Women Agricultural Cooperative at Six Pounds village in the Moretele Local Municipality North West.

The four women started the pig-farming project in 2009 after they received funds from the Department of Social Development. They bought 20 sows and two boars to kick-start their project and requested two men to help them run the project.

To run the project professionally, they studied animal production at an agricultural institution for seven months. The course gave them the necessary skills for breeding pigs. The project has resulted in establishing business ties with well-known pig breeding businesses in and around Tshwane.

They breed landrace pigs and sell the piglets at six weeks old, but they also sell adult pigs to the local market.

“There is a market for the pigs we breed, because they do not have a lot of fat. Landrace pigs have more meat than fat. People need meat, not fat. That is why we succeed in our business. We also look after our pigs,” said Thandi Matlhake.

Looking after pigs requires a lot of time and hard work. But Dikeledi Moganoe feels they are committed to their work, regardless of the circumstances. “It is our job to look after pigs and we enjoy it. Some people say it is a dirty job, but we do not care. After all, we are contributing to the economic growth of our country.”



Pig breeders at the Thusong Agricultural Cooperative with some of their landrace piglets.



Some of the landrace piglets at Thusong Agricultural Cooperative at Six Pounds.



The pigsty at the Thusong Agricultural Cooperative.



Some of the project's pigs.

