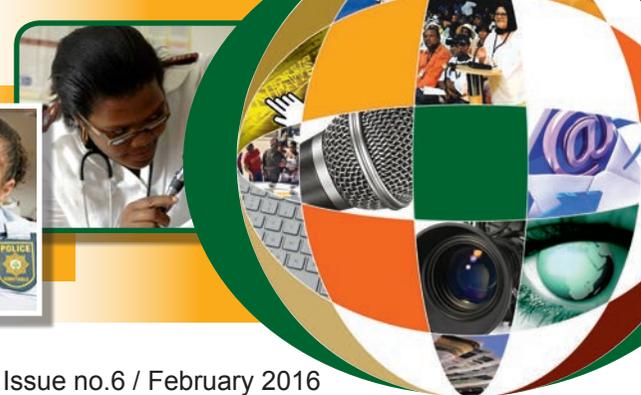




MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no.6 / February 2016

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:

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GAUTENG

Peter Gumede
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KWAZULU-NATAL

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

Government takes development to the people

By Xolani Mndaweni: GCIS, North West



Dr Kenneth Kaunda WiFi homepage displayed during the launch.

More than 200 young people and community members gathered at the Ikageng Stadium on 19 February 2016 to witness the launch of a WiFi programme at Dr Kenneth Kaunda District. The event was attended by the Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services, Dr Siyabonga Cwele. "It is confirmed, Dr Kenneth Kaunda District is one of the trendsetters of district and metro municipalities that are bridging the digital divide," said the Minister.

The buzz phrase for the launch was "data fees must fall." This was echoed by Thami from GALELA Communications when he said, "Data fees have fallen! By providing free WiFi, government is delivering services."

The launch follows President Jacob Zuma's announcement during his State of the Nation Address in 2015 that Dr Kenneth Kaunda District was one of the pilot districts for the national broadband roll-out programme.

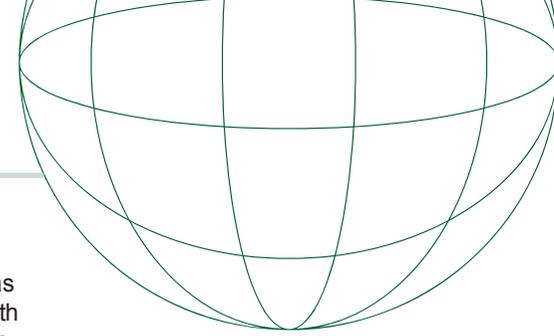
"Broadband roll-out is part of the Nine-Point Plan by government. Students can access e-learning and bursary sites; while entrepreneurs can access supply chain and economic opportunity information," said the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Executive Mayor, Pinky Moloi.

One of the youth who attended the launch said: "I am extremely excited by this new development, now I am able to research and gather information using my phone. I do not have to visit the library or Internet café where I would have to spend money."



government
communications

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Community members were also treated to government services rendered by stakeholders such as departments of home affairs and social development, Universal Service and Access Agency of South Africa, South African Post Office, Postbank, Government Communication and Information System, South African Social Security Agency, Tshwaraganang Disability Centre and community media.

“This revolutionary WiFi roll-out programme will give small, medium and micro enterprises the opportunity increase their competitive advantage. This confirms that government is committed to ensure a better life through the knowledge economy and the creation of e-wise communities,” said Minister Cwele.

There are currently 15 high-speed WiFi hotspot stations and on completion of the project, there will be 35 of them in the district.



Some of the stakeholders rendering services at the event.



Community members attended the event to witness the launch.



Minister Cwele addressing the community members.



Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Executive Mayor Molozi addressing the community.



Deputy Minister Candith Mashego-Dlamini said:

“Community members are encouraged to treat farming as business as it will contribute to income generation. Farmers should learn to sell livestock earlier than to sell at maturity. A very matured ox has less income compared to a heifer.”

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

Government rescues farmers

By Jacob Mkhize: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Farmers waiting to sell their livestock at the auction.



Cattle that survived drought waiting to go through auction.

KwaZulu-Natal is one of the provinces that is hard stricken by severe drought. Umkhanyakude is among the districts that are affected, where subsistence farmers lose an enormous amount of livestock every day. Some of their livestock die along water streams and make the environment to be unpleasant to live in.

The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform together with the Provincial Department of Agriculture, created the platform for subsistence farmers who still have livestock to sell the animals at an auction. This initiative was introduced to curb the situation so that farmers do not lose all they had due to drought.

The animals had to be tested for foot-and-mouth disease before they could be sent to be auctioned.

Deputy Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform, Candith Mashego-Dlamini, mentioned that auction sales will grant the farmers an opportunity to sell their livestock to different farmers other than selling them to individual buyers.

From the feed lot, a farmer can go home with more than R20 000, which may be difficult to raise under normal circumstance.

The auction was well received by farmers since cows brought in for auction were more than 400. One of the subsistence farmers in the area sold most of his livestock during the auction sale. He was delighted to having his livestock sold through a government initiative.



Nkaba Project leader said:
 “We are very excited to have received drought relief today from Minister Zokwana and MEC Gamede. Agriculture is our only source of income. And we depend on it to survive.”



About 300 animal feed supplements were delivered on the day.



The effects of drought in Moiplaas.

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

Government engages farmers

By Vuyisile Cindi: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Minister Zokwana giving a keynote address to farmers at Silindile community hall.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Senzeni Zokwana visited Mooiplaas, which is situated at Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality in the Gert Sibande District on 26 January 2016. Reports indicated that 14 municipalities in Mpumalanga were already severely affected by the drought conditions and that the trends were indicative of a protracting dry season. The geographical scope of the drought and the physical and economical damage it has caused affect thousands of agribusiness, households and farmers in Mpumalanga. Drought losses in the livestock sector affected farmers through changes in the supply and prices of stock.

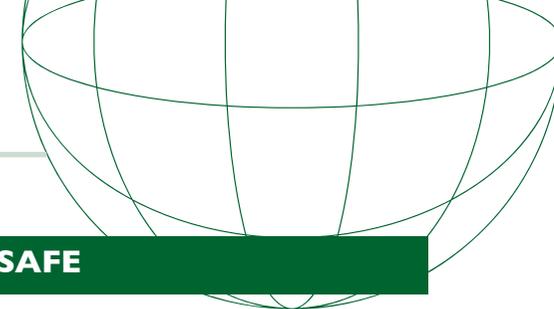
On 11 November 2015, the Mpumalanga Premier David Mabuza in consultation with his Cabinet, invoked Section 41 of the Disaster Management, 2002 (Act 57 of 2002) and declared drought experienced in the province as a disaster. Subsequently to the declaration, the Provincial Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration allocated R33 million to address the problem.

The allocated funds account for 20% of the Comprehensive Agricultural Support Programme budget and prioritised for farmers in the critically drought-affected farms as per the Drought Relief Assistance Framework.

Mooiplaas cattle project consists of 385 beneficiaries who own a combined 2 579 cattle and 1 240 goats. The livestock graze in a tribal communal land, which is 5 400 ha, with carrying capacity of seven ha per livestock units. The area has four dipping areas with good livestock handling. The Mooiplaas area lost 89 cattle due to drought and 163 to stock theft.



Minister Zokwana, MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration, Andries Gamede and Executive Mayor of Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality, Busi Shiba, engaging with farmers affected by drought in Mooiplaas.



Yolanda Makade said:

“I enjoyed listening to the Deputy Minister’s speech and also learned that I can be anything I want to be in life as long as I get good marks. I have also learned the importance of abstaining from drugs and sex, and only focus on my studies because if I fall pregnant, my studies will be affected.”



Athabile Sikiti said:

“I loved the programme and I was happy that the Deputy Minister came to address us. I have learned that there are centres that assist those who are addicted to drugs. I also learned that there is financial support for young people who cannot afford to pay for their studies.”

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

Deputy Minister reaches out to young people

By Zusiphe Mtirara: GCIS, Western Cape



Deputy Minister Manamela addressing attendees.



School learners listening to the Deputy Minister at the event.

Young people from Crossroads and surrounding areas gathered at Nyanga Sports Centre on 22 February 2016 to listen to the Deputy Minister in the Presidency, Buti Manamela. The event was aimed at tackling the scourge of drug and substance abuse.

The Deputy Minister said that the purpose of his visit was to encourage young people to plan their future and abstain from drugs and sex.

“We are here today to motivate you on the importance of education because if you want to be anything in this life you must first finish your matric and you can not do that if you are using any kind of drugs because drugs hinder your development and prevent you from reaching your true potential,” he said.

The Deputy Minister also encouraged all matric learners to be dedicated to their school work and get more distinctions so that they can get funding and open space for the younger ones coming behind them. He then encouraged them to apply for university earlier and wished everyone the best of luck.

The event also gave young people a chance to learn about different opportunities that they can take advantage of in order to develop themselves. An official from the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, Xolani Gobela, gave an insight on how to apply for financial support and the criteria that is used to select beneficiaries.

The National Youth Development Agency was also present to give advice to young people on how they could equip themselves with skills and knowledge to start their own businesses.



Thabo Macozoma said:

“The Deputy Minister’s speech was short and brief but it was received well by the people it was targeting.”