




# MY DISTRICT TODAY



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## OUTCOME 10: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS AND NATURAL RESOURCES THAT ARE WELL PROTECTED AND CONTINUALLY ENHANCED.

### Community members urged to preserve water

By Robbie Senoelo: GCIS, Gauteng



Some of the stakeholders at the launch of the Water and Environment Library Shelf campaign in Mamelodi West.

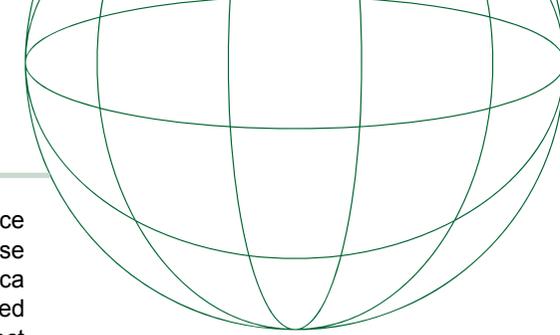
The Water Research Commission (WRC) in partnership with Outlook Foundation & Edbook Media, the Tshwane Office of the Government Communication and Information System, and the City of Tshwane launched the Water and Environment Library Shelf campaign aimed at raising awareness about water and environmental issues that affect communities. The event took place on 2 September 2016 at Mamelodi West Community Hall in Tshwane.



government  
communications

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The campaign is aimed at sharing the latest water research studies with libraries and Thusong Service Centres, offering specific information relevant to the towns, cities and catchment areas in which these information centres are situated. The need for these resources has become more urgent as South Africa faces severe water shortages, which are further exacerbated by extreme weather events associated with climate change. The country is prone to such severe weather conditions, which can be a direct threat to the lives and properties of citizens. This includes, among others, hazards associated with heavy rain and flooding, lightning, drought and water scarcity, high temperatures, thunderstorms, hail, fires, severe cold and environmental degradation.

“Water is life, use it sparingly and save it,” said Mandla Msibi, General Executive: Innovation and Impact at WRC. He emphasised the importance of using water sparingly.

The participants’ attention was captured by Curtis Mabena, Director of Transformation at the Department of Water and Sanitation. He said that community members are drinking water from their sewage system. “If you see people dumping rubbish in our water systems such as rivers, dams, drainage systems, be concerned because you are going to drink that water one day,” he said. He continued by saying that people are throwing hazardous objects such as soiled baby nappies, menstrual products, dead animals, human excrements and fetuses unaware that the very same water will be processed, chemically cleaned and returned for re-use including human consumption. “Water is precious, use it, love it and preserve it because there is no substitute for it,” he concluded.

Through this intervention, knowledge generated by the current water research will be made easily available for the benefit of communities and decision-making authorities.



**Mme Modiehi said:**

“I fully endorse this campaign. Saving water is the responsibility of all of us. I wish people running car-wash businesses could embrace the campaign as well as those at the hostels. Let us all report irresponsible usage of water.”



**Bongzi Mthembu said:**

“The launch was enlightening as people are less informed about the water cycle. People do not realise the length and efforts involved in cleaning and delivering water to various households. Let us take ownership and responsibility to preserve water.”



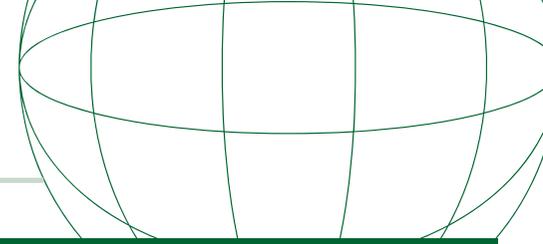
**John Thubakgale said:**

“I am glad that I came here because I have learned a lot about how the scarcity of water in our country is but I also want to urge authorities to respond quickly to burst water pipes to avoid tons of clean water from going down the drain.”



**David Thongwana said:**

“I am proud to be part of this launch but I need more information on adopting a river because I want to be a water ambassador who looks after burst pipes, leakages and care for our wetlands and catchment areas.”



**Nothando Mvubu said:**

“I sell shoes and clothes and I want my business to be successful because it is my only source of income. That would help me to ensure that it continues to do well and become profitable.”



**Londiwe Mnguni said:**

“I cook and sell food at the taxi rank. I heard rumours about a funding programme for businesses. I wish my business could do well so that I can



**Sindi Sibiya said:**

“I am running a small business but I want to grow it. I am thinking about a programme that would help me to grow my business. I am a single mother and I want my business to prosper so that it can support my family.”

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

### Government programmes changing women’s lives

*By Nonhlanhla Sithole: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal*

Government Communication and Information System partnered with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (DARD) to commemorate the 60th anniversary of the 1956 Women’s March under the theme: “Women United in Moving South Africa Forward”. The event took place on 29 August 2016 at Nongoma Community Radio and was aimed at profiling the achievements of women in business to fight against poverty. The session profiled chairpersons of women cooperatives and also the Best Female Farmer of the Year.

The National Development Agency funded the building of a structure and provided goats to help Sizanani Cooperative to start up. The women are now farming goats and producing vegetables as a viable business, which has benefited 15 women under uSuthu Traditional Authority who were previously unemployed.

The DARD has been supporting this cooperative ever since its inception in 2009 with bankable business plans, farming skills, animal production and the daily requirements of the cooperative. This has resulted in the growth of the cooperative to such an extent that it supplies vegetables to wholesalers such as Boxer, Arizona and local businesses as well as the community.

The women have also found and sustained a profitable local market for their goats. Many families have managed to put food on the table and are able to provide education to their children as some of them are at tertiary institutions.



**Ndiya Mbatha, Ntombi Zulu, Nozipho Chonco and Nozipho Fakazi said:**

“We have benefited from government departments and we started with the small-scale agricultural operations. Some of us started vegetable gardens while others ventured into poultry and pig farming despite the difficulties. Sebenzuthokoze’s vegetable garden was supplying Pick n Pay and Spar but we were hit by drought. Government is however promising to drill boreholes for us, which will help with water supply for our vegetable gardens, although the drought is still persisting. They have built a chicken coop and a piggery structure for Sukumaphansi. We are doing our best despite the inconvenience of the continuing drought conditions, and we are hoping that other departments will also support us.”



**Keneilwe Motswane said:**

“I recently joined this project and I am still learning but my wish as a bookkeeper is to see this project being able to save for retirement and to increase its profits.”



**Sylvia Chabaetsile said:**

“I am so happy about this project that I am even speechless because it puts food on the table for my family.”



**Masego Sephola said:**

“This project completes me because I started to love sewing since I was young and I am happy that I do what I like for a living.”

## OUTCOME 5: A SKILLED AND CAPABLE WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT AN INCLUSIVE GROWTH PATH.

### Sewing project changing lives for the better

By Fatima Modise: GCIS, North West



Members of Ikgodiseng Sewing Project.



Ikgodiseng members displaying their equipment and some of the materials.

Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality visited a sewing project called Ikgodiseng Sewing Project in Vryburg under Naledi Local Municipality on 19 August 2016. The aim of the visit was to profile the project and also share the profile with other women within the district.

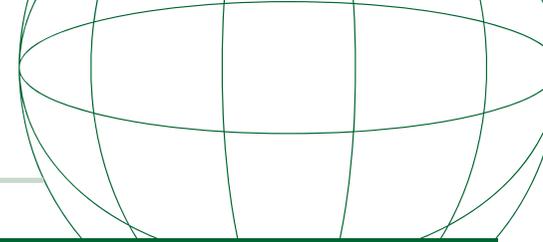
Every year in August the GCIS disseminates information that leads to the empowerment and development of women, and also share success stories to alleviate unemployment.

Ikgodiseng Sewing Project is a cooperative that was started by nine women from around Vryburg in 2012 and registered as a cooperative. They took over from a project that started some few years ago but could not continue. They continued to use the previous project's equipment until they received a R670 000 grant from the Department of Social Development in 2014. The following year the project received assistance of R100 000 from the National Movement of Rural Women and also R50 000 from Nozala Trust. They specialise with sewing school uniform, curtains, underwear, bedding and also do altering.

The project has grown and it now has 11 members, including a gardener who is male.

The project is governed by a board of directors, which consists of five people: Daphney Sephola (Chairperson), Sylvia Chabaetsile (Deputy Chairperson), Mpho Danster (Secretary), Masego Sephola (Deputy Secretary) and Segomotso Mokwena (Treasurer). They also have recently appointed the bookkeeper, Keneilwe Motswane.

Members of the cooperative are happy about the project and are grateful for all the assistance they have received from different structures and institutions. Their only plea is to receive capacity building on how to sustain the project and how to save for retirement as a project.



**Palesa Ngogela said:**

“I am already working in the mine, I would like to see myself owning a mining business one day. The information I received today really encouraged me to start my own business.”



**Lebohlag Moloji said:**

“I now know that the National Empowerment Fund funds franchise business. I also got to network and share ideas with other aspiring entrepreneurs.”

## OUTCOME 6: AN EFFICIENT, COMPETITIVE AND RESPONSIVE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK.

### Government encourages entrepreneurship

By Ntombi Mhlambi: GCIS, Free State



**An official from the Department of Energy presenting on analysis of licensing applications.**



**One of the guest speakers presenting on economic transformation.**

The Department of Energy hosted an event in Welkom, where it presented Petroleum Products Act, 1977 (Act 120 of 1977) and made all its amendments and regulations. The event took place on 19 August 2016 at Gold Dust Guest House in Welkom and was aimed at creating awareness on licensing processes that govern the petroleum industry as well as compliance issues. The event focused on opening doors for those who want to participate in manufacturing, wholesale and retailing of petroleum products while emphasising compliance to those who are already licence holders. The event also presented an energy project earmarked for poverty alleviation through the establishment of Integrated Energy Centres.

An official from the department focused her presentation on economic transformation: how women are given first preference by government on this new regulation of licensing. The official mentioned that it was about time women use their powers correctly to do things that are financially benefiting and always read contracts before signing them.