




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Road safety for free and safer communities

By Tabita Ngqunge: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Government employees and community members distributing information products to the public.

Freedom Month commemorates the historic occasion in 1994 when South Africa achieved democracy, where all its citizens became free from racial discrimination and oppression. The first democratic elections were held in South Africa on 27 April 1994, resulting in an unrivalled milestone in the history of South Africa. On this day, citizens celebrate and reflect on the progress that government has made and recommit itself to work together to move South Africa forward.

As part of contributing to free and safer South Africa, Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) and the community development workers of East London joined the safe school road patrol programme at Pefferville road intersection. The programme took place on 24 October 2017 and was led by the Department of Transport to distribute Freedom Month leaflets to school children and motorists. One of the motorists said, "We appreciate this information as sometimes people tend to think that we know everything yet it is not the case". The GCIS is committed and continues to share government information that will improve people's lives for the better.



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OUTCOME I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Launch of the Centre for Entrepreneurship

By Ntombi Mhlambi: GCIS, Free State

The Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA), departments of small business development and higher education, and Goldfields Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) college, partnered to establish a Centre for Entrepreneurship in Welkom. The centre is located at the Goldfields TVET college in Thabong aims to provide entrepreneurship education and business development services to college graduates. About 15 students are already using the centre services, more especially those who graduated in qualifications related to renewable energy sector, in particular Solar Water Heating. "I am very thankful to our freedom fighters that today we have an opportunity to be part of growing the country's economy," said Neo Lebona, one of the beneficiaries.

The Minister of Small Business Development, Lindiwe Zulu, officially launched this centre on 21 April 2017. She said this is exactly what government means by radical economic transformation, that those who were not given an opportunity in the past to contribute to the economy must be given access now.

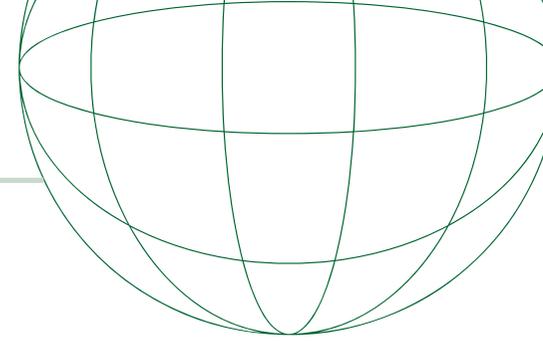
SEDA Chief Executive Officer, Mandisa Tshikwatamba, said the centre was about bringing reality to the people through urging them to create their own jobs, thus rescuing them from being job seekers.



Minister Lindiwe Zulu addressing different stakeholders at the event.



Minister Lindiwe Zulu officially opening the centre.



Jacky Jacobs said:

“I appreciate all the work that our leaders are doing to ensure that we create jobs for ourselves.”



Thabo Pedi said:

“Through the centre I have been able to register a business and it has taught me a lot about being an entrepreneur.”



The interior of the centre.



OUTCOME 14: A DIVERSE, SOCIALLY COHESIVE SOCIETY WITH A COMMON NATIONAL IDENTITY

Freedom Day celebrated with games and activities

By Masego Motshidisi: GCIS, Northern Cape



Players warming up before their respective matches.



Ryan van Schalkwyk of Manne Dipico Thusong Service Centre giving the purpose of the day.



Registration table for learners who were going to participate in the games.



Residents bowing their heads for the opening prayer.

The community of Roodepan in Kimberley celebrated Freedom Day on 27 April 2017 with games and activities. Organised by various government structures and non-governmental organisations (NGOs), the event was aimed at exposing the youth to available economic opportunities.

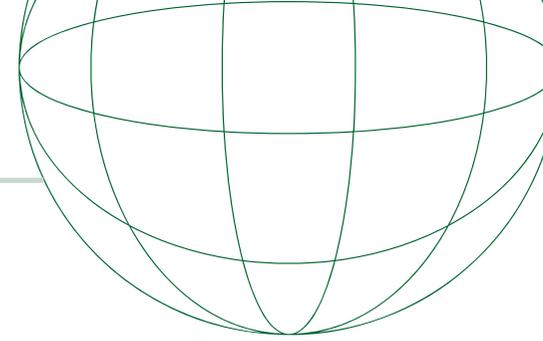
The formal programme began with a prayer and saw various presenters conversing about the importance of being free in the current democracy and the responsibility that comes with it.

Ryan van Schalkwyk, Centre Manager for Roodepan's Manne Dipico Thusong Service Centre, shared government's strategies to invest in communities through skills development programmes and joint partnerships with NGOs.

He encouraged community members to participate in government projects and support NGOs that have developed and skilled people.

Speakers advised that the youth to take their education seriously, pursue their dreams and partake in sporting activities to stay away from criminal activities.

Residents enjoyed sporting games such as netball, football and rugby, played by learners from surrounding schools and students from the Sol Plaatje University. An estimated number of 300 people were present at the event.



The *Vuk'uzenzele* newspaper and *Public Sector* magazine were distributed at the event.



Children registering for modelling classes.



Naomi Saul said:

“Freedom Day, to me, means that our freedom should not be taken from us, and that we should also not abuse it.”



Sheryl Moon said:

“Being free, to me, means that we are free from many struggles, including poverty, hunger and racial abuse.”



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

Deputy Minister hosts an Imbizo on shale gas

By Peter Titus: GCIS, Western Cape



Acting Mayor of Beaufort West Magdalena Slabbert speaking at the event.



David Jantjies said:

"I am not sure about the meaning of fracking and even do not know what shale gas is, but I hope to learn about these things this morning. If it is about job creation, I want to be part of it."



Andre van der Westhuizen said:

"I do understand about the programme of fracking in the Central Karoo. I am glad that the programme came to the Karoo as unemployment is currently at 35%. This will create jobs especially for unemployed youth in the area."



Mineral Resources Deputy Minister Godfrey Oliphant addressing citizens at the event.



The District Mayor of the Central Karoo, Koos Klink, welcomed the people from the Central Karoo and the Deputy Minister to the Central Karoo District.



Community members from different areas in the Central Karoo at the event.

With an almost unnaturally bright and startling blue sky and the most amazing landscapes with nature at its best, the Beaufort West Region boasts a healthy climate and beautiful weather all year around. The endless horizon gives the feeling of complete isolation from the rest of the world. With no cellphone reception in some areas, one can almost touch the silence! A feeling of inner peace and relaxation that recharge senses.

South Africa is one of the most sophisticated and promising emerging markets globally, mainly because of abundant natural resources and exploration prospects. Following the United States Energy Information Administration, Council for Geoscience and Petroleum Agency South Africa estimated technically recoverable resource of gas in the Karoo Basin. Government took a decision to pursue the development of shale gas. This is based on the evaluation of prospective shale gas occurrences discovered in the sedimentary rocks of the Karoo.

When shale gas was discovered a few years ago, concerns regarding possible implications of this resource were raised. Government ensured that before the processing of any applications, a socio-economic and environmental assessment of shale gas development was conducted. This was necessary to enable a process of data and information collection for informed decision-making on shale gas development. Based on the balance of available scientific evidence, government took a decision to proceed with the development of shale gas in the Karoo.

This initiative is in line with the objectives of the National Development Plan, which defines a fabric of society that the country aspires to achieve by 2030. Since 2004, government has introduced major regulatory reforms, which marked a significant shift from private ownership of mineral and petroleum resources to custodianship by the State, on behalf of the people of South Africa.

The State exercised its right to govern the development of these resources and to ensure that it optimises their development in an orderly manner that benefits the people of the country. The Department of Mineral Resources shared information on the importance and benefits of developing the gas resources, and also listened to people's concerns as the communities where this resource could potentially be found. It is also in government's interest to see all the people of South Africa benefiting both socially and economically from the mineral wealth of the country as well as in the Beaufort West.