




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Cooperatives workshop to empower women in business

By Itumeleng Bogatsu: GCIS, Gauteng



Dikgang Legoale from the Consumer Affairs making a presentation during the Cooperative Workshop.

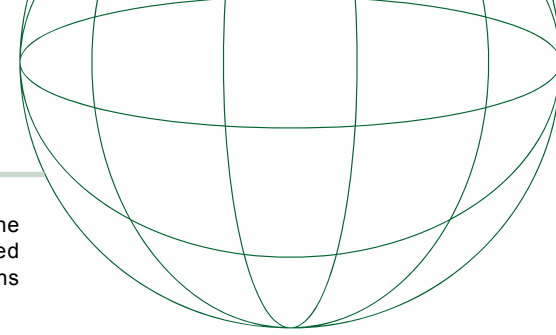
Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) together with the Department of Trade and Industry, Gauteng Department of Economic Development, Ekurhuleni Metro Social Development cooperatives unit and other departments held a cooperative workshop as requested for by women in business. The event took place on 26 September 2017 in Tembisa.



government
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Legally, and by composition, cooperatives are vehicles for sustainable economic development for the benefit of their members, often described as businesses owned by their beneficiaries. Run and controlled by the will of the majority of its members, the cooperative invests its pooled resources and then returns profits to its members and to the cooperative reserves for future investment.

Government and all its agencies have the responsibility to support cooperatives through technical guidance, financial assistance and other services to enable them to develop into viable and responsive economic enterprises.



Matefo Morakeng displays her product, Mimi Sanitary Pads.



Women who were part of the Cooperative Workshop posing with their presents.



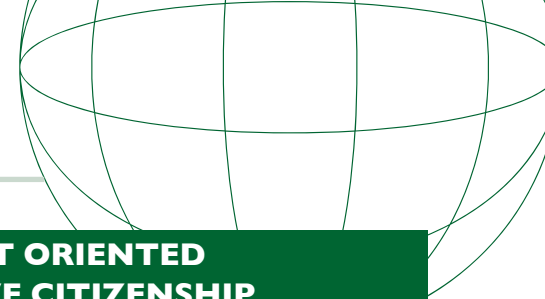
Nthabi Morata said:

“As women, we have to stand up and showcase our ability, if you go through the stalls you will realise that we can, but the problem is sustainability. So, I urge all ladies here today to go through all government doors and seek assistance in terms of sustaining their businesses.”



Alice Ndlovu said:

“I think this is the best opportunity. Today's session was so informative and I think forming cooperatives is the best option to become entrepreneurs. When the business is flourishing we can then go our separate ways and with the experience gained I doubt if there's anyone who wouldn't make it.”



Bontle Moumakwe said:

“I have never seen so many departments in one place before. I have learned so much about services rendered by government departments and I wish they could come here regularly so that many people can benefit.”



Petrus Matjeke said:

“I have been struggling to get information and assistance from the Road Accident Fund as I did not have money to pay for lawyers. I hope my problem will be solved.”

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

Exhibition day takes services to the people

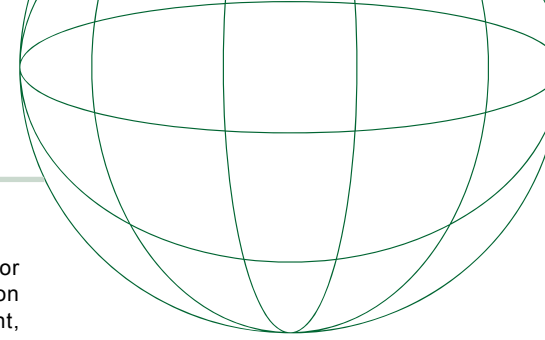
By Robbie Senoelo: GCIS, Gauteng



Members of the community receiving information products from different departments during the Government Exhibition Day event.

Government's efforts to extend its reach in terms of services and information received a boost when GCIS Marketing and Distribution unit in conjunction with GCIS Gauteng and the City of Tshwane coordinated the Government Exhibition Day at the Atteridgeville Community Hall on 28 September 2017. Community members attended the event in large numbers. They were happy that government brought information products to them and that they would not have to travel long distances to access these products. They also requested that government conducts more community outreach programmes regularly.

The GCIS's initiated community outreach activation saw more than 34 government departments from all three spheres of government and entities exhibiting and distributing government materials. This was an effort to bring government services and information closer to the people and was aligned with the Public Service Month theme: "Moving Public Service forward". It was preceded by the 2017 Thusong Service Centre Week, which was observed from 18 to 22 September. The week was commemorated under the theme: "The Year of OR Tambo" – "Advancing Small Medium and Micro Enterprises at Thusong Service Centres" and also showcased services offered by the Thusong Service Centre mobile concept.



Maggie Rakale said:

“I am glad I came here today, I have learned so much especially from the Department of Higher Education and Training but my concern is that many people are not aware of this event, I was also passing by here. Please create awareness before so that many people can come.”

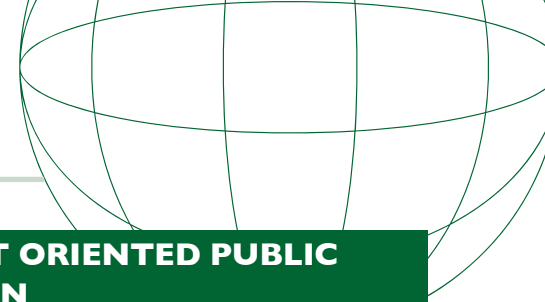
The objectives of the exhibition day were to disseminate developmental government information for the empowerment of the society, promote integrated one-stop platforms for government information and services, and also provide a platform for departments from the three spheres of government, state-owned entities and agencies to market their products, platforms and services directly to the public at no costs.

The Government Exhibition Day targeted services that are normally not available at the Thusong Service Centres such as the Road Accident Fund, National Credit Regulator, Small Enterprise Development Agency, National Lotteries Commission, Independent Police Investigative Directorate, Department of Higher Education and Training, etc.

As part of the community engagements, exhibitors were afforded the opportunity to address the attendees and interact with them.



Some of the service providers at the event.



The construction of a tar road from R61 to Nkantolo village is in progress.



Nomphumzile Khele said:

“We cannot wait for it to start, our children will get jobs. Life has been very difficult for us in the past years, especially for those of us with children who still attend school.”



Vuyisile Gwejana said:

“I am overjoyed with the announcement of this water project for our area. Life is difficult without clean water to drink. It is indeed an important project for us.”

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

Water and road projects to change lives

By Ndyebo Kopo: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Community members of Ezitapile at the event.



The work done during the construction of the 13km road from R61 to Nkantolo.



The community members of Ezitapile were overwhelmed with emotions of jubilation when they received the news that a contractor has been appointed to construct a R3.4-million water infrastructure project.

The community will receive clean running water for the first time in that area with about 250 households benefiting from the project.

The project is expected to last for three months and will create about 20 labour-intensive jobs during the construction phase. It will consist of a borehole, reticulation and between 10 and 15 communal taps to service the entire area.

The project will leave the community members with the much-needed skills development as they will also be trained by the appointed consultant. Currently, people fetch water from the river and streams. Sharing drinking water with animals will soon be a thing of the past for the people of Ezitapile.

Portfolio Councillor, Simthembele Kulu, said, “The project is as a result of the 1955 Freedom Charter”. He lauded OR Tambo as a person who, despite being a qualified lawyer, left all the benefits that came with his profession to live all of his life to fight for the total liberation of people of South Africa.

The Ezitapile water scheme development is one of the many water and sanitation projects across the district adopted by the council to honour the legacy of OR Tambo for his contribution in the liberation struggle. The Inter Mayoral Committee on OR Tambo Centenary has reached out to all four local municipalities in the Alfred Nzo District and handed over water and sanitation projects to the value of R16.8 million for the benefit of close to 800 households.

“What was always at the centre of OR Tambo and others who fought during the days of the liberation Struggle was the restoration of human dignity for black people. That is what characterised the Struggle. The sanitation facilities that we are handing over to our people represent the restoration of dignity,” said Sixolile Mehlomakhulu, the Executive Mayor.

The lives of the people of Mbizana, in Nkantolo, where OR Tambo was born will also not be the same as government is busy with infrastructure projects as part of the Eastern Cape Infrastructure Plan Vision 2030, which includes a series of projects with access to roads, a bridge and housing.

The Access Roads Network will link Nkantolo and surrounding communities with the N2 wild coast road from Kwa-Zulu Natal to East London and Nelson Mandela Metropolitan Municipality.



Acting GCIS Chief Director: Training and Development, Tiisetso Ramotse, conducting a workshop on media engagement.



Lerato Mnculwane said:
 “I have realised how much one needs to team up and improve on how government communicates.”



Sibongile Mabuza said:
 “I have realised the importance of the communication prescripts and legislative framework in tackling issues when challenged by journalists.”

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

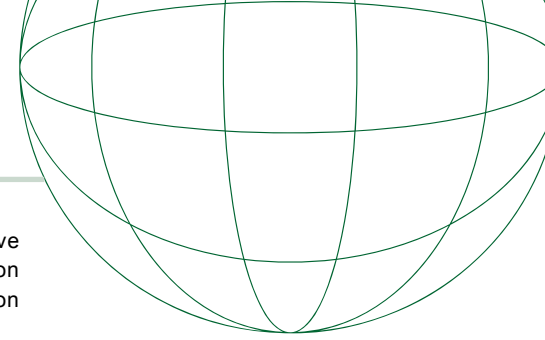
Mpumalanga hosts a workshop for new communicators

By Vuyisile Cindi: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Communicators who attended training, during a media tour at the Lowveld Community Newspaper offices.

Over the past four years, Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) Mpumalanga Provincial Office, has facilitated one-on-one induction sessions for newly appointed communication entrants in Mpumalanga. Before and after the 3 August 2016 Local Government Elections, more communications personnel have been recruited in various municipalities across the province on either permanent or acting capacity, thus creating a need for intense induction sessions.



CoGTA Deputy Director-General, Legadima Leso, engaging with the new communication entrants at local government.



Lungisizwe Mkhwanazi said:
 “This workshop has taught me that we have to build relationships and maintain them in order to be able to communicate effectively and efficiently.”



Robert Kubheka said:
 “The induction workshop was very informative especially how the SABC operates in the province, which will lead to maximum utilisation by local municipality.”

For this reason, the Provincial Core Team, comprising the GCIS, Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), and the South African Local Government Association held a two-day induction programme targeting the newly appointed communicators. It took place on 27 September 2017.

The main objective of the workshop was to introduce the new entrants to the systematic functioning of the government communication system and the national communication framework. The event also sought to enhance and strengthen their communication capacity and also instil a culture of working together for an effective inter-sphere government communication system. Furthermore, the workshop, aimed at positioning communication as a strategic tool for service delivery and better coordination of the government communication system at a local-government level and to forge a common understanding in the application of the Local Government Communication System within the context of back-to-basics.

During the workshop, officials were taken on tour to the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) and Lowveld Community Newspaper offices.



GCIS Mpumalanga Provincial Deputy Director, Poppy Maluka, introducing GCIS staff members attending at the event.



SABC Mpumalanga Office General Manager, Quintin Lenyai, introducing various SABC sections based in Mpumalanga.



A visit by communicators at the Lowveld Community Newspaper offices.