




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

South Africa commemorates Youth Day

By Abigail Batala: GCIS, North West



President Jacob Zuma, Minister of Arts and Culture, Nathi Mthethwa and North West Premier Supra Mahumapelo with other dignitaries at the event.

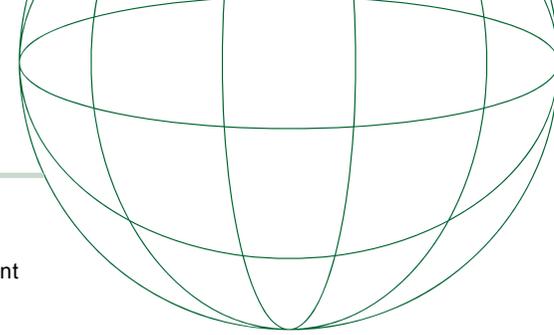
National Youth Day commemoration took place on 16 June 2017 at the Tshing Ext. 2 Sport Grounds, Ventersdorp in North West under the theme: "The Year of OR Tambo: Advancing Youth Economic Empowerment". The theme for this year's commemoration is dedicated to OR Tambo as it coincides with the celebration of the centenary of his birth. The event was attended by young people from across the province and beyond



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despite challenges faced by the youth. Young people throughout the country are faced with different challenges such as drug abuse, high unemployment rate and HIV and AIDS.

During his keynote address, President Jacob Zuma emphasised that young people should seize opportunities provided by government and start their own businesses. He further encouraged young people to take advantage of government programmes aimed at supporting young entrepreneurs and cooperatives to ensure the full participation of young people in the mainstream economy. In his closing remarks, the President urged young people to study, read and be knowledgeable as education is key to a brighter future.



Attendees of the Youth Day event at Ventersdorp.



Veronica Marekwa said:

“I have learned that South Africa has many opportunities for the youth and that it takes an individual to make South Africa a better place to live in. I will take all the information provided and use it to my advantage as I am going to participate in an oral history competition.”



Mpho Ntjipela said:

“I have learned that government has employment opportunities compared to the olden days.”



Blondie Lethwane said:

“We are really inspired to learn that we can still realise our dreams even if we come from poor families. I hope to pursue a BCom degree next year.”



Clinton Machipi said:

“Today we have learned a lot about other career opportunities outside of the university environment. Many people are undermining the career courses offered at TVET colleges.”

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

Government conducts career expo at Senwamokgope

By Odas Ngobeni: GCIS, Limpopo



MEC for Sports, Arts and Culture, Onica Moloji, addressing delegates at the launch of Youth Month in the Greater Letaba Municipality.

The Limpopo Provincial Government in partnership with the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) hosted the launch of this year’s Youth Month commemoration at Senwamokgope village, in the Greater Letaba Municipality. The launch took a form of a career expo and was addressed by the MEC for Sports, Arts and Culture, Onica Moloji. The launch was held under the theme: “The year of OR Tambo: Advancing Youth Economic Empowerment”.

The expo provided career guidance and information on further education and training opportunities to learners who are in Grade 10 to 12 and also unemployed youth.

The expo hosted exhibition stands, which provided youths with valuable information on career guidance and further education and training opportunities. Institutions of higher learning that offered career guidance on the day included the University of Venda.

MEC Moloji used the platform to urge learners and unemployed youth to think about skills that the country’s economy needs. “Young people cannot afford to be choosing Human Resources and Marketing when our economy is in need of engineers,” she said.

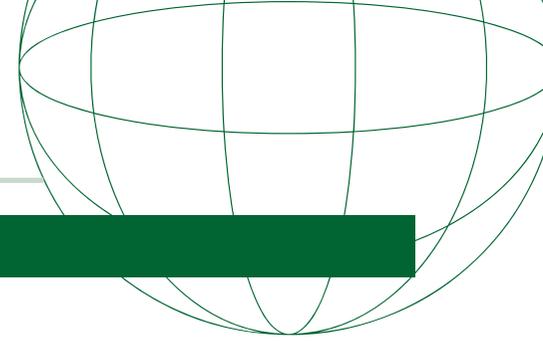


Young people accessing government services at the event.



Mhlatse Maimela said:

“This career exhibition has assisted a lot in understanding various study opportunities offered through TVET colleges. I have a lot to think about in relation to what I wish to study for next year.”



The Deputy Minister presenting learners with shoes.



Phumla Msindwana said:
 "I am very happy that my grandchild has received shoes. She used to wear very old shoes and I could not afford to buy new shoes for her."



Athabile Mbetu said:
 "I am grateful for the new shoes and would like to thank the Deputy Minister. My shoes were very old and because I walk a long distance between home and school they get torn very quickly."

OUTCOME I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Deputy Minister reaches out to community members

By Ndyebo Kopo: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Deputy Minister Buti Manamela during the site visits in the area.

Mahamane Junior Secondary School pupils could not hold their excitement when the Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Buti Manamela, handed over more than 100 school shoes to underprivileged pupils in Mahamane village, KwaBhaca.

The Deputy Minister also handed over sanitary towels to schoolgirls, which he said, will bring dignity to them.

The visit, which occurred on the 1 June 2017, was part of Deputy Minister Manamela's charity programme, which he receives donation through his marathon running.

"We are here not only to hand over shoes but we would like to encourage you to stay at school because education is the future. Stay at school and stay away from drugs and as government we have taken a conscious decision to invest in education and by so doing, we want to produce scientists, engineers and doctors among you," said the Deputy Minister.

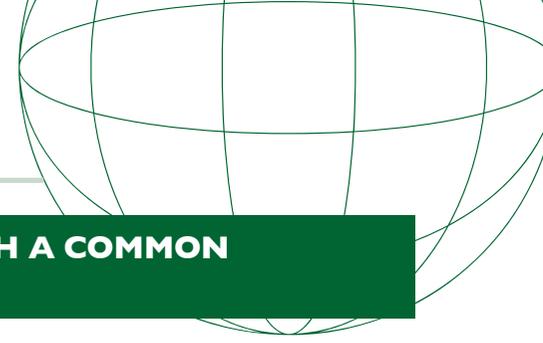
A visibly overjoyed Phumla Msindwana, a grandparent of one the children who received a pair of shoes could not hide her excitement . She is from Mahamane village and is a part-time worker at a road construction project in the area.

Mahamane Junior Secondary School has 1 432 learners and it is one of the schools that service children from underprivileged households of Mount Frere. Most learners live with their grandmothers who depend on social grants for a living and to support their families.

The Deputy Minister also urged the Premier and the MEC for Education to follow up on the commitment made for the construction of a new school for Mahamane Junior Secondary School. The infrastructure at the school is not good and the principal bemoaned overcrowding in classes, which affects the process of teaching and learning.

The Acting Executive Mayor thanked the Deputy Minister for this humility, dedication and for staying true to the commitment made by government to make education an apex priority and also asked him to pass their gratitude to the President as well.

The visit to Mahamane was preceded by unannounced visits to the Department of Home Affairs and Mount Frere Police Station to assess the quality of service delivery and also to get a sense of the needed sustainable interventions for the facilities.



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

Entrepreneurial opportunities for Nkangala community members

By Livhuwani Todani: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Offenders entertaining the audience during the event.



Laurens Moshitwa said:

“I thank the NYDA and Correctional Services for the programmes that they offered to us when I was still serving my sentence today. I am a qualified mechanic and I employ people. I also applied the grant from NYDA to enhance my business and today the grant me R50 000.”



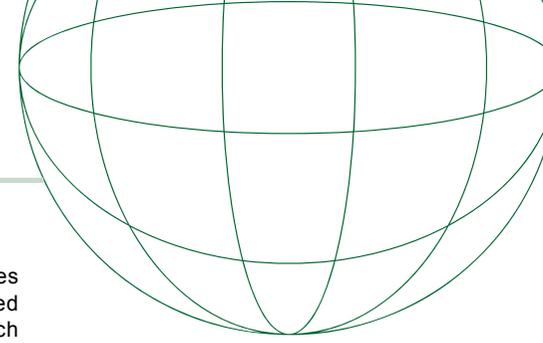
Jabulile Mkhwanazi of the NYDA with the beneficiaries of the grant.



Beneficiaries of the grant and offenders who won prizes during the event.

Witbank Correctional Centre celebrated Youth Month with 200 young offenders. The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and Government Communication and Information System together other stakeholders joined together to bring hope to young offenders. The programme started in 2015 after realising that the ex-offenders were not getting much support when they are released from correctional centres after serving their sentences. It was realised that most of them regress and end up committing crime again as they feel that communities are not welcoming.

The NYDA saw the need to train the offenders in the Entrepreneur Development Programme while they are serving their sentences at correctional services to prepared them with entrepreneurial skills so that when they are released, they can also apply for grants from the NYDA to start their own businesses.



Offenders and stakeholders attending the event.

Ex-offenders who are now NYDA ambassadors were also part of the event to share of their successes from the skills that they acquired when they were still at the correctional centre. The NYDA handed over the grant, which they applied to enhance their business. Jabulile Mkhwanazi, the NYDA Branch Manager, said, “We do not have much as the NYDA but we felt that we have to give tex-offenders their grant cheque here in front of you so that you know that there is life after jail.”

An official from the Correctional Services encouraged the society that rehabilitation is a societal responsibility and community must not discriminate against former offenders when they are released. He also encouraged offenders to acquire skills such as mechanical engineering, plumbing, carpentry and many more, so that when they are released, they can work on their own.

Media houses were also present to cover the event. Croswell Libazi from EYASA Youth Centre thanked the stakeholders and media houses and encouraged them to do more to change the life of young people and also encourage offenders to have respect, be discipline and perseverance so that they are easy to rehabilitate.



Wisdom Cindi said:

“I am an ex-offender here at Witbank Correctional Services and I want to thank the NYDA. The Correctional Services about the skills that I acquired when I was serving my sentence. I am now working at MQ Engineering and when I came out of jail I started a spaza shop with the help of the skills I received from the NYDA and I applied for grant from NYDA and today I receive R10 000 grant. To you the offenders, there is life after prison.”



Sphesihle Mashilwane said:

“I am an ex-offender and some of you here know me as we use to share the same cell. I am here to encourage you that there are lots of opportunities outside. When I was released, with the entrepreneurial skill I acquired here, I started my own business of washing sneakers, and polishing shoes. To date, I have employed people and I have applied for grant from the NYDA. Today, the NYDA granted me R49 849.00. Do not let the orange uniform to determine your future, but make education fashionable when you are serving your sentences.”