




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Young people should improve their skills

By Willem van Dalen, GCIS, Northern Cape



A warm-up session on the netball field before they tackle the opponents later during the day's activities.



ABSA donated 45 000 litres of bottled drinking water to the community, old-age homes and the local hospital.



By the time the official Youth Day programme started, the pavilion was filled with the youth of Calvinia.

The Hantam Local Municipality and its stakeholders organised a Youth Day event to commemorate the 1976 Student Uprising against poor education.

The Mayor of Hantam Local Municipality, Roger Swartz, told the youth that while the youth of 1976 fought against poor education, the youth of today had to fight against illiteracy and the lack of skills. The youth of 1976 used bricks and stones to stop the oppressor but the youth of 2017 have to use skills to suppress poverty and unemployment.

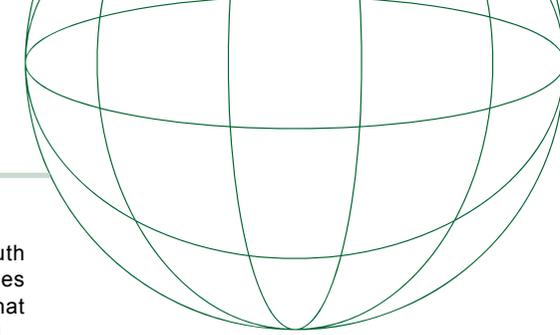
The youth of 1976 went into exile and were trained as soldiers, but the youth of today must get educated and become leaders in society.



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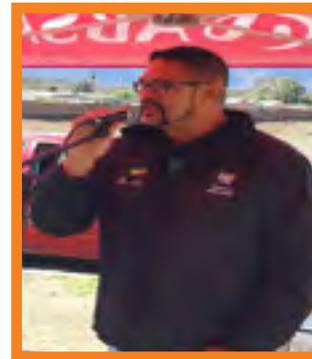
ABSA representative, Neo Martin, mentioned the bank supports the education and development of youth to improve their skills and employment chances. The youth were also told about the job opportunities that are available in the *Vuk'uzenzele* newspaper. They were encouraged to use this publication and that they should visit and like the Namakwa District Facebook page where many opportunities are shared.

Mayor Swartz said the youth should prepare themselves to become leaders of tomorrow.

An estimated 200 community members attended the event. Songs and netball matches were planned to entertain attendees.



A child who sang at the event.



Mayor Swartz delivering the keynote address.

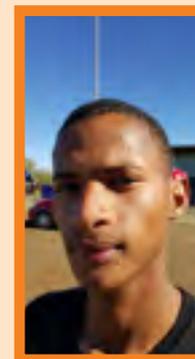


Some of the people attending the Youth Day event.



Darryl Jas said:

“There are opportunities out there and it is becoming easier to find out about these opportunities. The youth must put in a little extra effort to find jobs to enable them to better their lives so that they can also have a taste of success.”



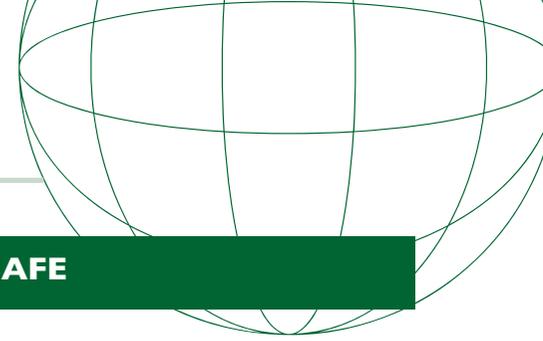
Shadrack said:

“The problem for the youth of Calvinia is that a large number of them pass matric, but they cannot leave Calvinia because of lack of funding. Unfortunately, there are not many opportunities in this small town.”



Marietjie Segel said:

“I think the future of each person is dependent on the friends you have; who your role model is, what you want from life and what dreams you have for your own future. I wish for the youth to stay away from the wrong lifestyle and wrong friends, to stay clear of drugs and alcohol and to maintain a healthy lifestyle. A healthy lifestyle will have as a result a healthy outlook on life and that will make the person optimistic. A positive outlook will bear a positive lifestyle.”



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

March and dialogue to tackle abuse

By Cholo Mothibi, GCIS, Free State



Anna Ntlathi said:

"I am grateful for the information we received on elderly abuse."



Isaak Michaels said:

"I feel very good about this march and dialogue. We all came together and stood as one against elderly abuse. I am thankful for this march."



Elderly persons marching against abuse.



A resident addressing the police about their grievances and Captain Tini Makhamba explains the procedures to be followed when reporting abuse.



The Department of Social Development (DSD), in partnership with the Government Communications and Information System and other stakeholders, held an elderly abuse awareness march and dialogue in Trompsburg on 22 June 2017. The event started off with elderly persons marching from the taxi rank in Madikgetla to the police station in town.

The purpose of the march was to spread awareness about crimes against vulnerable members of the community, especially elderly persons and children. Sello Motsoari, the chairperson of the Xhariep Older Persons District Forum, handed over a memorandum to the police stating the complaints and grievances of the elders.

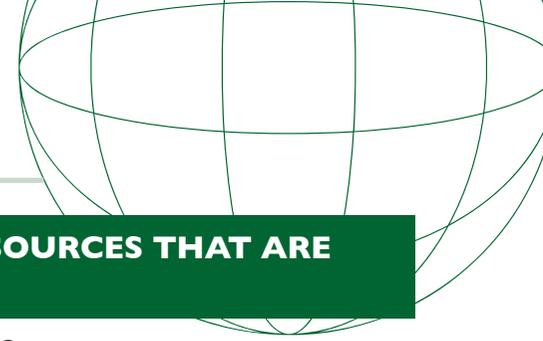
The march was followed by a dialogue at the Kopanong Thusong Service Centre, where officials from the DSD spoke about the abuse of elderly people. Manchopi Mophethe, a social work manager, said that elderly people should know their rights and speak out against abuse. She encouraged the elderly to stop protecting their children if they were abusing them and should not blame strangers for it.

About 450 elders from the Kopanong, Letsemeng and Mohokare municipalities attended the event.



Maria Mohajane said:

"I am happy that today's event emphasized that we should report abuse towards us as elders because there are still those who keep quiet."



Fundiswa Meje said:

“This is really hard on me and my family. I just started extending our home when this terrible incident happened. It is not the first time our home burned down. I am happy that the Mayor of Knysna promised to prioritise the rebuilding of our homes as a matter of urgency, and I also appreciate President Zuma’s visit.”



President Zuma addressing mourners during Bradley Richards’s memorial service. Bradley was a 24-year-old firefighter from the Bitou Local Municipality who died on duty during the Knysna – Plett fires.

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

President Jacob Zuma visits communities affected by the fires in Knysna

By Jethro Grootboom, GCIS, Western Cape



Political principals thanking the Working on Fire firefighters at Loeriepark in Knysna.

President Jacob Zuma and Western Cape Premier Helen Zille visited the communities of White Location and Knysna Heights on 14 and 15 June 2017, where recent raging fires caused deaths, injuries, large scale property damage and left scores of people homeless.

The President and Premier were accompanied by Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Minister Des van Rooyen as well as provincial leaders and other officials. The Premier also explained to President Zuma how the fires spread in the area.

More than 1 100 firefighters battled to contain the deadly fires, which ravaged one of South Africa’s premier tourist destinations. Some people lost their lives during the fire, which caused massive destruction.

While a lot of money has been invested and pledged to help the area, most residents are dependent on the tourist trade for employment and face an uncertain future while the region recovers.



Gill Marcus said:

“What I observed during the Cape storm disaster when it hit Knysna, is that everybody put aside their differences and worked together. We ordinary people stand together for the value system; we stand for humanity. The Department of Environmental Affairs started the Working on Fire programme in 2003. I know you are very tired, but I just want to thank you on behalf of the people of Knysna, for the terrific job you are doing. You have been absolutely fantastic.”



President Zuma visited Knysna and described the scene as the “the worst disaster I have ever experienced.”



Bernard Hessequa and Ntebiso Khozo said:

“We arrived here nine days ago. When we arrived at the fire site, it was devastating to see how strong the wind and fire were. We also saved two horses, which we took to an open field and gave some water. We came back and tried to salvage some houses. It was really devastating to hear people calling out for help while we were busy with the one house. I started in 2011 on this programme and left for two years to look for a job and came back again. If you have a passion for saving people and working on fire, you will definitely, like myself, go back to work on fire disasters.”



Some of the cooperatives and SMMEs from Mogale City attending the event.



Ladies from The Visionaries cooperative, Mpolokeng Rasmeni, Karabo Mthethwa, Madipuo Ngobeni and Sponono Khumalo.

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

Economic opportunities for Mogale City cooperatives

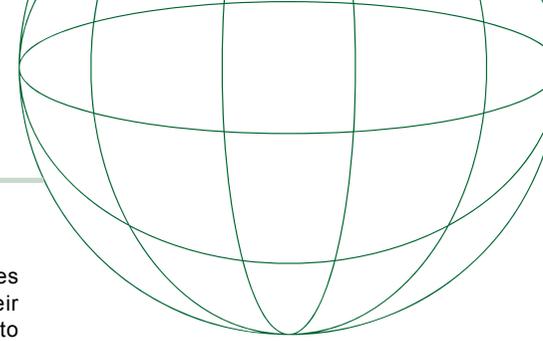
By Tshidi Mokoka, GCIS, Gauteng



Simangele Nkwinika from the EDD, Gloria Maserumule from GEP and Mmoni Suza from NERSA.

The Mogale City Social Upliftment Unit, in partnership with West Rand District Communication Forum, hosted an Economic Opportunities seminar targeting small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) and cooperatives operating in the Mogale City area. The seminar was held on 22 June 2017 at Burgershoop Community Hall, Krugersdorp West with stakeholders from the Gauteng Enterprise Propeller, Economic Development Department and National Energy Regulator of South Africa (NERSA).

One of the organisers of the event, Velry Lelaka, said, "This is an event that strives to empower people with information about funding and economic opportunities which they can access to assist in the growth of their businesses."



Simamnkele Macosa said:

“I learnt so much about being an entrepreneur and the best practices of managing a small business.”



Ongezilwe Zimba said:

“Today’s presentations informed us about places to look at regarding funding for a cooperative. I know what is needed and what to do when setting up a plan for your own business.”

Gloria Maserumule from the Gauteng Enterprise Propeller (GEP) encouraged people from cooperatives and SMMEs to use the services on offer, financial or not, as this would assist in expanding their businesses. “Our offices are open to provide business development support for people looking into growing their businesses. We also help businesses through the Township Business Renewal Model, where we buy equipment to the value of R40 000 for businesses operating in townships and that have been operating for more than two years,” she said.

The GEP also provides training for small businesses to empower them with skills needed to grow a business. Training provided ranges from pricing the products, purchasing stock, paying employees to ensuring that businesses do not operate at a loss. Mmoni Suza from NERSA encouraged businesses to operate with honesty by telling them about electricity regulations. She added that buying electricity illegally would destroy their businesses when they get arrested.

Most of the businesses targeted operate in rural areas, and at times cannot access relevant departments and agencies that could help them develop.

Ladies from a cooperative called The Visionaries were eager for information on growing their business. “We are happy with the information we received today. Stakeholders ensured that we all leave with relevant information which we are now going to use to expand our business. It is good when relevant departments visit us so that we do not spend money to travel long distances.”



An official from the GEP engaging with the audience during a question and answer session.