Launch of National Library Week
By Nontuthuzelo Jas: GCIS, Mpumalanga

People who attended the launch of National Library Week.

Learners with some of the information materials they received

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in partnership with the Mbombela Library and the City of Mbombela Municipality launched the annual National Library Week at Manzini Community Hall on 14 March 2019. The event was observed under the theme: “Collaborate at Your Library”. Three schools from Manzini were invited to form part of the launch with the aim of educating them about library services and the importance of reading books.

The launch was attended by managers from various libraries around Mbombela, home-based care representatives, the Independent Electoral Commission, Department of Arts and Culture and the Community Work Programme. Learners were allowed to render poems and perform various activities in support of National Library Week.

“National Library Week should be practised every day as reading helps in the different aspects of life, thus one should take it as a lifetime thing,” said an official from the Nalibali Home Based Care Centre. She encouraged learners to start book clubs and families or households to have reading sessions regularly to help children and adults to familiarise themselves with books and improve their vocabulary. She also challenged the audience to make
Kwanele Ntuli said:
“I personally love reading and I think people should read too. I love books because I am a writer, poet and I am also part of a book club. So, I am excited today as we are here for the launch of library week.”

Edward said:
“I am happy to be at this event and I appreciate that we are encouraging our children to read.”

Charmaine said:
“I am happy that our teachers brought us here. We are getting a lot of information about the kind of books we can find at the library.”

reading enjoyable by collaborating with libraries around them. Home-based care representatives and other guests were also given an opportunity to give a message of support to the learners in relation to books and libraries, and how they help promote the reading culture in communities. The GCIS further distributed government information and promoted the National Reading Coalition Programme.
Launch of Joe Gqabi WiFi Connect Project
By Lwando Helesi: GCIS, Eastern Cape

Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, Executive Mayor Alderman Dumzela and Mayor Nomvuyo Mposelwa at the event.

Communications Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams visited Sterkspruit, under Senqu Local Municipality, in Joe Gqabi District, where she launched the pilot Joe Gqabi WiFi Connect Project at the Sterkpruit Library. The Minister was joined by Executive Mayor Alderman Dumzela and Mayor Nomvuyo Mposelwa. The project aims to position the Joe Gqabi District for the Fourth Industrial Revolution and will benefit learners with research and learning material, and also entrepreneurs who will be able to market their products.

"The world is changing for the better. Access to the digital world is very important because you have information and opportunities right at your fingertips. There will be many opportunities such as job creation and increased/easier access to opportunities/markets. However, we need to caution our communities as well on the dangers of the digital world such as cybercrime and prohibited/harmful sites. Citizens are encouraged to explore and be weary of such dangers," said Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams.

A Grade 11 learner who attended the launch, Simbongile Tyesi, was appreciated the initiative. "The WiFi will assist us in many ways as we will have access to the Internet to do our research and projects after school. We will also be able to connect with other people so that we share information," said Tyesi.
OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP.

Community outreach in Mitchells Plain
By Marianne Williams and Sikelela Zokufa: GCIS, Western Cape

Marlene Africa said:
“I am very happy with the service I received today; multi services from government departments. I am unemployed but this gives me hope that government cares about young people.”

Government departments and other institutions led by the Department of Labour brought services and information closer to the people of Mitchells Plain on 9 March 2019, during an outreach campaign that was held at Spine Road High School, in Rocklands. Community members received services and information from the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration, educational institutions, Sector Education and Training Authorities, Government Communication and Information System, Cape Mental Health, financial institutions and Government Employees Medical Scheme which conducted health assessments, among other institutions.

This service-delivery initiative was a favorable environment for community members seeking assistance with registration on the job-seekers data base, Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) claims and enquiries, employment opportunities and registering complaints with labour inspectors.

Gertruida Jansen from Tafelsig in Mitchells Plain visited the exhibition stalls for assistance with her UIF claims. She appreciated the efforts made by the Department of Labour to render services within her community.

“IT is not always possible for us to go to the offices and many people in our area are not aware of all the services available to them. I came to submit my UIF claims and was surprised to hear that the Department of Labour offers help to people with disabilities who want to develop skills and find work,” said Gertruida.
Mahikeng clean-up campaign
By Thulaganyo Gaserotse: GCIS, North West

The North West Office of the Premier, in partnership with the Department of Human Settlements and Local Government together with the Government Communication and Information System embarked on President Cyril Ramaphosa’s call to participate in the Good Green Deeds campaign. The event took place on 8 March 2019 at Mahikeng taxi rank. North West Premier Job Mokgoro opened the cleaning campaign by thanking community members, civil society, business formations and government officials for coming together to clean Mahikeng. The Premier explained that charity begins at home and ensuring that citizens keep their cities clean is important. On the day of the campaign, people were broken into various groups to clean different segments of Mahikeng.

The Executive Mayor of Mahikeng Local Municipality, Betty Diakanyo, who was also part of the campaign indicated that with this initiative the municipality will be able to keep the town clean and the municipality by-laws will be implemented going forward. More than 1 000 of community members offered their hand in cleaning.

David Tau said: “A clean environment is good for the reputation of the town.”