



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Youth dialogue on youth development

By Natasha Peterson: GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 20 June 2019, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) hosted a youth dialogue at Kenton-on-Sea. The event was attended by approximately 90 young people and the programme was led by the Speaker of Council for Sarah Baartman District Municipality, Cllr Mzimkhulu Njadayi. The session enabled community members to receive information on employment, skills development and small business development.

Various stakeholders such as the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform and the GCIS made presentations to empower the youth who were in attendance. The NYDA shared information on business training, employment seekers' database and grant funding that it offers to young people under the age of 35. The Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform encouraged youngsters to consider Maths and Physical Sciences at school and explained about the bursaries offered by the department, for horticulture, veterinary science and many others. The department also mentioned that it assists farmers from small backyard farming to commercialised farms. Community members were encouraged to consider a career in agriculture.



Community members listening to presentations during the youth dialogue.



Stembele Mphokeli talking about opportunities from the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform.



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Cllr Njadayi also announced that the district municipality has allocated R750 000 to assist young people in business. He mentioned that the fund would work similarly to the NYDA grant funding but that it would be much easier and quicker to access. He, however, reminded the youth that they need to have passion for business. The event took place a few hours before President Cyril Ramaphosa delivered the State of the Nation Address, and the youth anticipated to hear him speak about youth development and job creation.



Ntombozuko Daka said:

“I was very happy with today’s programme although I wish there were more departments to interact with.”



Sakhekile Blom said:

“It was a good event. Expectations were met and I am happy with the information I received.”



Nosphiwo Tyukela said:

“I have been in many meetings like today’s engagement so I hope that something tangible will happen after today. I also wish the departments can become more accessible to us and we really want an agriculture college for the Sarah Baartman District.”



Linah Mahlangu said:

“We appreciate today’s session. On the issue of drugs, there are children who are known to be taking drugs within our communities and they belong to our communities,, however most parents do not take it upon themselves to arrested and ensure that people who sell drugs to these children are brought to book. My appeal is that if in any way parents are aware of these people, they must report them to the police.”



Masuku said:

“May all cases that are being opened in Delmas be investigated because most of them are being attended and investigated without fear or favour. The police must liaise with victims of crime concerning developments in the case. Community members must report crime so that the police can investigate.”

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

Community dialogue on fighting crime

By Reki Skosana: GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Government Communication and Information System in partnership with the South African Police Service, Community Policing Forum (CPF), Department of Correctional Services, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and the Victor Khanye Local Municipality conducted a community dialogue on 4 June 2019 that sought to address crime in and around Delmas.

Community members, together with the Justice, Crime Prevention And Security (JCPS) Cluster met and discussed the escalating crime rates in Delmas. The community members were afforded an opportunity to state their views and solutions.

Delmas Police Station Commander welcomed all inputs, comments and suggestions made during the session. He encouraged the community to work well with the CPFs in their area and also committed to do everything possible to reduce crime in the municipality.



Community dialogue between the JCPS Cluster and community members.



A community member raising his concerns.



Pume Ngcobo said:

“The march was successful in creating awareness about issues faced by people living with HIV and AIDS. It was good as it also addressed gender-based violence, sexual violence, child abuse and the rights of the LGBTI and sex workers. The Human Rights Strategy is very much needed, but in order for it to be a success, communities must be educated about HIV and AIDS, gender and child-based violence, and the diversity in respect of sexual orientation and gender classification.”



Dennis Mthembu said:

“I am a nurse by profession. This event was very good as it had a huge participation from wide range of stakeholders and was also successful in creating awareness. The launch of the strategy is welcomed as it will help prevent discrimination and stigmatisation of people living with HIV and AIDS, the LGBTI community and sex workers. We are all human beings and must learn to respect one another.”

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

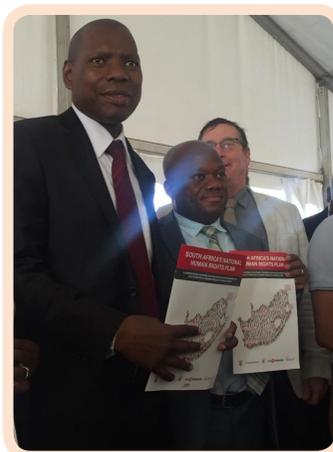
National Human Rights Strategy launch

By Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The Human Rights Strategy was launched on the eve of the 9th International AIDS Conference that took place at the Durban International Conference Centre from 12 to 13 June 2019. The strategy serves to strengthen the rights of women, children, people with disabilities, people living with HIV and AIDS, and the Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender and Intersex (LGBTI) community, prevent discrimination, human rights violations and stigmatisation.

Preceding the launch of this strategy, stakeholders together with community organisations staged a march from King Dinizulu Park to Gugu Dlamini Park. The park was named after an HIV and AIDS activist who was murdered after publicly declaring her HIV status 21 years ago. The march raised awareness of the protection of human rights for all people regardless of the diversity of sexual orientation, gender, type of work, HIV and AIDS, and other health status and physical abilities. Of concern was the numerous human rights violations suffered by people living with HIV and AIDS, women, children, people with disabilities and sex workers. The launch paid tribute to the courageous Gugu Dlamini and asserted that no other human being shall be subjected to the pain and suffering she went through.

The march was led by the Minister for Health, Zweli Mkhize, Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Sihle Zikalala and the MEC for Treasury, Ravi Pillay together with members of the South African National AIDS Committee and United Nations agencies, ambassadors, and the Global Fund. Participants included various civil society organisations, faith-based and community-based organisations. They entered the Gugu Dlamini Park, carrying powerfully worded placards about non-discrimination, de-stigmatisation, self-stigmatisation, respect for diversity, respect for women and children and also respect for human rights. The march achieved its objectives through the wide stakeholder participation and placards in raising awareness, speaking against human rights violations and educating the public about the right to dignity and respect for other people’s human rights.



Minister Zweli Mkhize, and Premier Sihle Zikalala receive the Human Rights Strategy on behalf of government.



Marchers carrying placards.



Bongwiwe Nala said:

“I am happy that I attended the career expo as I learnt a lot about different departments and what they offer.”



Lebo Mofokeng said:

“It is very humbling to see our Premier paying special attention to young people as the unemployment rate is very high in our province.”



Dibuseng Phakwa said:

“I am more focused on the entrepreneurial side of this whole career expo and I am more open-minded than ever before.”

OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH.

Government exposes youth to career and economic opportunities

By Selloane Mokoena: GCIS, Free State

The Free State Office of the Premier in collaboration with various institutions engaged the youth through a career expo that was held at the Dr Petrus Molemela Stadium from 27 to 28 June 2019.

Young people were happy to receive information on careers and business opportunities from various stakeholders. Many young people grabbed the opportunity with both hands and fed their minds with knowledge of how to create jobs for themselves. While others were more interested how government provides funding for small businesses in the province.

“Young people will be liberated and empowered”, said Premier Sefora Ntombela, while addressing the audience.

This was the first of its kind career expo in the province this year and young people graced the occasion. Some of those who attended included a young qualified doctor from Hertzogville, who was given an internship at this event by the MEC of Finance to start working immediately. These opportunities are aimed at eradicating unemployment and poverty among young people as government plans to create jobs and empower them with entrepreneurial skills.



Youth visiting exhibition stalls at the career expo.



Young people who attended the career expo.