



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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OUTCOME 7: VIBRANT, EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES AND FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL

Crop production workshop for food security
By Itumeleng Bogatsu: GCIS, Gauteng



Belinda Nxumalo from the Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development sharing information with the small farmers.



The audience that attended the workshop.

The Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in partnership with Government Communication and Information System, departments of social development, and cooperative governance and traditional affairs hosted a workshop on crop production and small farming development in Ivory Park on 12 June 2018. The aim of the session was to teach beneficiaries on how to start small gardens in their yards and plant different vegetables. They were also informed about sustainable crop production, which is a way of producing food in an ecologically, sustainable and ethically responsible manner. This included adhering to agricultural and food production practices that do not harm the environment.

Agriculture provides employment opportunities not only for rural communities but also for people in urban areas. It is also an important source of livelihood and food security. The rising agricultural surplus caused by increasing agricultural production and productivity improves social welfare. When a community invests in a small garden or a farm, its long-term viability and security as a food production (and social) system is supported. Producers benefit from market and price stability when communities support their farmers through shared agricultural programmes, markets and local distribution networks.

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Crop production depends on the successful implementation of the soil, water and nutrient management technologies. Crops fall into six categories: food crops for human consumption such as wheat and potatoes; feed crops for livestock consumption such as oats and alfalfa; fiber crops for cordage and textiles such as cotton, hemp; and oil crops for consumption or industrial uses such as cottonseed and corn.

An official from the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Lucky Lesufi, said, "Agriculture is the art and science of cultivating the soil, growing crops and raising livestock. Agriculture provides most of the world's food and fabrics." He encouraged communities to group themselves and form cooperatives, adding that there are competitions such as the Female Farmer of the Year that comes with prizes that can boost people financially, and even assist them to become better entrepreneurs.



Nomasonto Mabena said:

"I am very happy with the information we received today. I have a small garden in my back yard where I grow tomatoes and other crops. With the seeds we are going to receive, I think one will never go to the shops for vegetables again as they are expensive in the streets. Government has always concentrated on rural areas when it comes to farming and crop production while we also need it here."



Melita Matlala said:

"The information was good, it is just unfortunate that the chemicals we have been advised to use to protect our crops against rats and moles might harm our grandchildren, but it is good that we know. I did not know that ash can serve as a fertiliser, surely we will reap good vegetables. We are very thankful for this workshop, and we need the full training very soon."



Fortuin and Goeda said:

“We are both in Grade 12, and came here today to apply for tax numbers, which we need to register to write Grade 12 final exams. We will also need these tax numbers when we further our studies next year in becoming teachers. Thank you to SARS officials for assisting us with the relevant information, in order for us to apply.”



Gelandt said:

“I thank government for bringing these services to our doorstep, through the Oudtshoorn Thusong Service Centre. We used to travel 70 kilometres to George for the services.”

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

Government hosts information-sharing session

By Jethro Grootboom: GCIS, Western Cape



Community members who were in attendance.



SARS officials assisting community members.

Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) visited the Oudtshoorn Thusong Service Centre on 1 July 2018, and informed community members who visited the centre that the South African Government has declared 18 July 2018 a National Day of Service, which is also aligned to the centenary celebration of Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu.

The GCIS emphasised that South Africans ought to tap into Madiba’s values and aspirations for the type of a South Africa he would have wanted to see. Nelson Mandela, who died on 5 December 2013, at the age of 95, would have turned 100 years on 18 July.

On the National Day of Service, citizens are encouraged to make this day extra special by giving back to the community. Attendees were informed of government’s key priorities, which include the fight against gender-based violence, the drought (to use water sparingly), the anti-corruption campaign (urging the community to report corrupt activities), job creation, digital migration, the Nelson Mandela International Day campaign, the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and its partnership with the South African Post Office (SAPO) for social grant payment. They were also notified of the planned Portnet career exhibition expo, which will be hosted on 24 July. The South African Revenue Services (SARS) also visited the Oudtshoorn Thusong Service Centre to assist community members with its services.



Swart said:

“Thank you for the information on the digital migration campaign. My father, who stays on his own, cannot get by without his television. I will assist him to apply for the top set-top box at the post office.”

OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Jozini career expo

By Jacob Mkhize: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Londiwe Ndlovu said:

“I wanted to get information on how start a business as I would like to be either a fashion designer or a social worker. I hope that the NYDA will assist me with information in starting a business. With regards to funding for my education, I hope NSFAS will support me.”



Mayor Delani Mabika said:

“As municipality, we decided not to host just a commemoration instead create platform that will make a difference in young people’s lives. Young people must know where they come from and then use present information to prepare themselves for tomorrow. As municipality, we have set aside a budget to assist learners to register at tertiary institutions. For this financial year, we offered registration fees to 300 learners at the value of R1 million. Beside the above, we also budgeted R1 million to hosting youth sporting day and R2 million for SALGA games.”



Learners accessing information at the exhibition stalls during the Jozini Career Expo.



Officials engaging with the youth.



Learners and parents in attendance at the career expo.

On 20 June 2018, Government Communication and Information System in partnership with the Jozini Local Municipality hosted a youth career expo for Grade 12 learners and the youth at Mange near Mkhuze. The career expo aimed to host all the schools from Ward 1 of the Jozini Local Municipality. The event was attended by the local Mayor, Cllr Delani Mabika and 16 ward councillors.

Exhibitors presented their services at the expo and young people visited the stalls to access more information. Institutions that exhibited were the University of Zululand, Durban University of Technology, Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs together with Umkhanyakude Municipality Tourism, Department of Labour, LGSETA, HWSETA, Nedbank, ABSA, National Youth Development Agency, Tshwane University of Technology, Ritchie Ford and the Jozini Local Municipality community services.

The speaker of the Jozini Local Municipality stated that the municipality created the platform to give learners the opportunity to choose right careers early. “Start now to position yourself as young people, and you must have lots of opportunities, which are available out there. We want learners to note that career choice is not about white-collar jobs such as teachers, nurses and managers, but there are also other avenues that one can acquire,” she said. The main purpose of the expo was to share information that will to help young people to make informed career choices.

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

Mall activation promotes Mandela and Sisulu legacy

By Ndyabo Kopo: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Cllr Zithobile Mhlwazi engaging with young people during the activation in Mbizana.



Community members receiving information products.



Some of the information materials that were distributed at the event.

The Mayoral Committee of Mbizana Local Municipality, Portfolio Councillor for Governance and Intergovernmental Relations, Cllr Zithobile Mhlwazi, and Portfolio Councillor for Budget and Treasury, Cllr Lulama Makholosa, hosted an awareness campaign to educate young people about the legacy and centenaries of Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu. The activation took place at Mbizana Square on 22 July 2018.

“It is important to engage young people about the legacy of the two iconic freedom fighters as they are on of the people who fought for today’s freedom,” said Cllr Mhlwazi. He further stated that young people need to be educated about their leaders and what they went through. Mzwanele Ludidi, a young person from Mbizana in Ludeke, said they appreciated the contribution made by the Struggle stalwarts. He urged government to ensure that young people in rural areas are kept informed and access to information is ensured.

The mall activation was a joint initiative between Government Communication and Information System and Mbizana Local Municipality to promote the Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu centenaries. The event wa also used to prepare for the State of the Municipality Address, which was to be delivered by the Mayor of Mbizana, Cllr Daniswa Mafumbatha.