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

Honouring women in agriculture

By Natasha Peterson: GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 26 June 2019, the Eastern Cape Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (DRDAR) in conjunction with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development and Old Mutual, held the Female Entrepreneur Awards in Jansenville. This is an annual event aimed at celebrating women entrepreneurs in agriculture. Categories included the best female worker, best subsistence farmer, best smallholder farmer and best overall winner.

Although the event celebrates those who are already in farming, more women were encouraged to venture into farming or turn their small farms into businesses.

The Bafazi Phambili Project from Jansenville won the best smallholder and overall winner prizes. The Masibambisane Vegetable Project from the Nelson Mandela Metro won the award for best subsistence farmer. Prizes ranged from R5 000 to R30 000. Contestants also received an award each for their continued hard work. The DRDAR encouraged women to take farming seriously, as it is an important part of the economy that can help to reduce unemployment.



Members of the Bafazi Phambili Project holding their awards.



The Masibambisane Vegetable Project members.



**government
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Francis Martins said:

"Today's event is very exciting and I truly appreciate everything the department and my company has done for me. My motivation to other women would be that they should grab every opportunity that has lots of growth potential, even in farming."



Cynthia Dingani said:

"I am so grateful for today and for the award I have received. I think if more women could see the potential of farming, they would go far. I urge women not to be afraid to start."



Babalwa Nkomo said:

"Today's event has encouraged me a lot to continue farming and to grow in it. I will definitely encourage other women to start farming."



Katriena van Schalkwyk said:

"We have to live the way Nelson Mandela lived, he was a selfless man and always had other people's interest at heart. We have to help others and look after the aged and the young. We must love each other like the Bible instructs us to. If we do that, South Africa will be a great country."



Jaco Muller said:

"It is great to be part of the team that is renovating this house. It is unfortunate that we only do good deeds like this once a year. We should devote our lives daily to serve those who are around us. No one should be asked to do this, it should be an act that is embedded in our hearts. That was what Madiba wanted us to do."

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

Mandela Day commemoration at Loeriesfontein

By Willem van Dalen: GCIS, Northern Cape

Mandela Day is commemorated annually on 18 July. To celebrate the day, the Government Communication and Information System and various stakeholders within the Namakwa District Municipality embarked on a community service quest in Loeriesfontein.

Senior officials and political principals in the municipality identified three schools that needed renovation. Stakeholders devoted their time and efforts to clean the three schools. They also donated school uniform vouchers. Learners at the schools were afforded an opportunity to make a pledge to uphold Nelson Mandela's legacy as they are today's generation.

After visiting the schools, the officials proceeded to local neighbourhoods where they did home makeovers for houses that needed improvements. They painted houses and repaired broken windows. They also donated household necessities such as blankets.



Officials handing over school uniform vouchers at one of the primary schools visited.

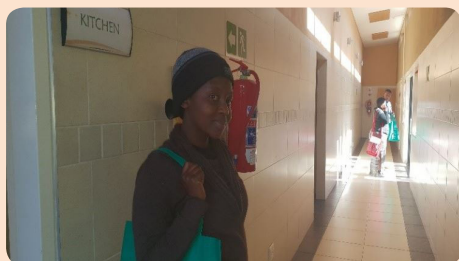


A volunteer replacing broken windows at one of the houses.



Mpumelelo Sibuyane said:

“Today’s dialogue brought a lot of views, comments, and opinions from community members. It also gave us an opportunity to look at our legal system as well as how things could be tightened up for effectiveness. I feel that now that we were given a platform to voice out our concerns, if some of the views raised here could be implemented much would change in terms of tackling the abuse of drugs in communities.”



Antoinette Ngoco said:

“Today’s session was good and we appreciate government for the initiative to come up with ways that will address the abuse of drugs in our communities. We also appreciate that we were given an opportunity to express our views on the matter.”

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

Community dialogue on drugs and substance abuse

By Reki Skosana: GCIS, Mpumalanga

On 10 July 2019, the Government Communication and Information System in partnership with the Department of Social Development and the Nkangala District Municipality hosted a dialogue to share best practices and seek solutions in fighting the scourge of drugs and substance abuse. The dialogue, which was held at Thembisile Hani Local Municipality in Moloto village, was supported by Khulisa Social Solutions, Love Life, the Health Design and Technology Institute (HDTI), Isibindi Project and other local organisations.

A representative from the HDTI said: “it is very crucial to recruit more young people as ambassadors in the fight against substance abuse, they know the real issues and they are critical in finding possible solutions to the challenges they face.”

Discussions also covered alternative sentencing measures that could be explored to toughen up existing measures regarding criminal acts and how the government can contribute towards increasing rehabilitation centres or services for those who need them.

The session served as a build-up event towards the main dialogue for all sub-districts within the Nkangala District Municipality. Recommendations from the dialogue will be shared at the main event.



Stakeholders and community members attending the dialogue on drug and substance abuse.

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

Mandela Month initiative for Mbonje High School

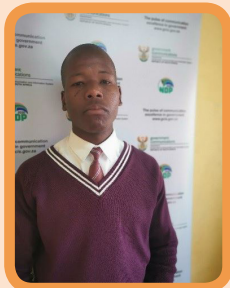
By Thandinkosi Zulu: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

On 17 July 2019, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), through its uMzinyathi District Office, held a successful Mandela Month initiative at Mbonje High School.

This followed a commitment made by the department at a Community Development Workers' (CDWs) meeting – as part of the Operation Sukuma Sakhe initiative. During the meeting CDWs presented challenges faced by the school and shared the need analysis with a local task team. The GCIS then offered to approach local businesses to seek donation for school uniforms for 10 learners identified by the school.

Speaking at the event, the Msinga ward Councillor Lungisani Ntuli expressed joy and channelled community members and learners to the nearest "War Room" where their challenges can be addressed. "I am proud to have people like GCIS official Mr Thandinkosi Zulu within Msinga Municipality. We reported this issue with my CDW and it was noted in our last meeting and today we are all smiling because of his effort," he said.

The event was also attended by officials from the Department of Labour, the LIMA Rural Development Foundation, Community Work Programme, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, CDWs and members of the school's governing body.



Mhlonishwa Njapha said:

"We are very pleased to hear that they are donating school uniforms to us. We hope they will continue to look after our needs as our parents."



Nothando Mzila said:

"It is very exciting to get a full set of school uniform from our leaders. We will never disappoint them. We will work hard and continue with our studies as they have encouraged us today."



Zinhle Ntuli said:

"Mandela Day is such a phenomenal day for us since we have received school uniforms. Our confidence will be restored."



Councillor Lungisani Ntuli and Department of Labour official Nondumiso Mbatha addressing learners during the event.



Learners and their parents receiving school uniforms during the handover ceremony.