



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Government skills development programme benefits youth

By Jethro Grootboom: GCIS, Western Cape

The Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, addressed the 8th graduation ceremony of 338 participants of the National Rural Youth Service Corps (NARYSEC) at the South Cape TVET College in Oudtshoorn. The event took place on 10 August 2018.

Certificates were presented to participants who successfully completed courses in building and civil construction, community house building, engineering studies, animal production, welding, engineering fabrication and general security practices.

The NARYSEC programme is implemented by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform and seeks to contribute towards the state's broader skills-development initiatives for South African youth.

NARYSEC learners, from the previous 2010 and 2012 intake, presented their businesses through an exhibition at the event. They aired their views on how the programme has helped them to better their lives.



Some of the graduates of the programme.



Michael Sims said:

"We started our agricultural journey back in 2006. My father did research in herbal farming, in particular, Lavender and Rosemary. Soon after discovering the potential in the industry, through the NARYSEC programme, I engaged Thomas Sofat, from the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform with a proposal. We are based in Saron, in the Cape Winelands District and our business is growing. I am currently working on the production of essential oils."



government communications

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Portia said:

"I am from Ashton, and was part of the 2012 NARYSEC intake. I have been making door stoppers as a hobby, and had the privilege to sell them to one of the directors at the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform during my learnership with NARYSEC. I have received R250 000 to grow my business, where I currently design and manufacture evening gowns."



Clinton Cupido said:

"I was part of the 2010 NARYSEC intake. In 2011, I completed a community house building course at West Coast College, where I received some basic training in carpentry. After the course I started working at my father's construction company and acquired more skills in carpentry. In 2015, I decided to start my own carpentry company. I registered The Carpenter Boss in 2016. I never looked back and I am receiving various offers for work in Mossel Bay, where I live including outside towns such as Knysna, Plettenberg Bay and George."



Khuselwa Maqham said:

"I am from Plettenberg Bay in Bitou Municipality. I am one of the 2012 NARYSEC intakes. The learnership programme helped me to start my business in events management and catering. I started my business from my own pocket and I need assistance from the relevant stakeholders to grow."



Siyasisanda Sonabo said:

"I am the director of Build-Up Holding (Pty) Ltd based in Zwelithemba township in Worcester. The company was established in 2013 after completing my NARYSEC learnership programme in 2010. The company does construction, that is, building, steel and civil works. We have been doing business through tendering and have done successful building, construction and steel works for the Breede Valley and Cape Winelands Municipalities respectively. We are currently CIDB graded: 2GB."



Makhosonke Mazomba said:

"The company is called Kamvaletu Tunnel Farming. Our farming business started in 2014, with five people from Ceres, who established a cooperative. The business grows a number of vegetables that can be grown in tunnels. They include peppers, beans, peas baby marrows, cucumbers and butternuts. After completing the NARYSEC learnership programme in 2012, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, funded our venture in 2014. We currently employ 24 seasonal workers from our town, with six permanent workers. Our company supplies Fresh Market, Pick n Pay, Checkers, SPAR, Easy Veg, Cape Town Market and Shoprite. The company gives opportunities to graduates from the NARYSEC programme to learn how to run a business. We also receive students from TVET colleges, that do their practicals with us. I currently have a challenge to acquire refrigerated truck to transport our produce freshly to our markets and also to expand from the current eight tunnel we are having to a greenhouse with an extra eight tunnels to be able to fulfil the demand."

OUTCOME 8: SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND AN IMPROVED QUALITY OF HOUSEHOLD LIFE.

Minister hands over title deeds to residents

By Masego Mollo: GCIS, Northern Cape



Marie Meintjies said:

“I am very happy for all the beneficiaries who received their houses today. The only challenge that we have here is unemployment. It is not nice to be without a job, it is really not easy. We request government to create more jobs for the people.”



Anna Msiza said:

“I am glad that the Minister is here to see the living conditions of the residents of Diamond Park. I would love to see more developments here. Many people in this area have been living in shacks for more than 15 years, with no electricity or flushing toilets. These people need decent houses. More needs to be done to improve the quality of people’s lives.”



Premier Sylvia Lucas addressing the residents during the Imbizo.



The presentation of title deeds to beneficiaries.



Residents of Galeshewe at the event.

The Minister of Human Settlements, Nomaindia Mfeketo, handed over houses on 11 July 2018 to Diamond Park residents in Greenpoint, Kimberley, as part of government’s Imbizo Focus Week. The Minister also presented title deeds and home ownership certificates to Galeshewe residents.

Minister Mfeketo was accompanied by Premier Sylvia Lucas, Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs MEC Bentley Vass, Executive Mayor of Frances Baard District Municipality Wende Marekwa and Sol Plaatje Executive Mayor, Mangaliso Matika.

The Minister said housing developments cannot continue without the involvement of the community and that people must have a say in the building of their houses. Premier Lucas urged beneficiaries to take care of their houses and not sell them.

The delegates afforded members of the community the opportunity to engage with them and raise their concerns. The residents expressed their grievances, which included among others, the lack of basic services such as clean water and sanitation, blocked sewage, cracked houses, sports facilities and high electricity tariffs.



Nelly Seeme said:

“I am very happy to have received a proof of home-ownership certificate. I have been living in a shack since 2001. My shack was always flooded during rainy days.”

OUTCOME 6: EFFICIENT, COMPETITIVE AND RESPONSIVE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE.

Government leaders reach out to communities

By Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



The Deputy Ministers engaging with community members.



Government leaders accompanied by officials from MTN Foundation and KwaZulu-Natal TVET College at Mjele Senior Secondary School.



The handover of bicycles to learners.

The handover of bicycles and a computer centre to learners and students of Mjele Senior Secondary School and KwaZulu-Natal Coastal Technical Vocational Education and Training respectively by the Deputy Ministers the departments of telecommunications and postal services, economic development, and trade and industry kickstarted Women's Month in Umshwathi and Ndwedwe local municipalities. This was followed by a handover of a green project in Maphumulo Local Municipality on 6 August 2018.

The Deputy Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, accompanied by the Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Bulelani Magwanishe and the Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Madala Masuku, commenced their visit at the Bamshela taxi rank, engaging with businesses in the area. The delegation proceeded to Appelsbosch for another engagement with businesses. Some of the concerns raised by Small, Medium and Micro-sized Enterprises (SMMEs) were lack of access to market, financial aid and support from government.

Learners at the Mjele Senior Secondary School welcomed the gift of over 50 bicycles donated by government to learners from poor households. The bicycles were sponsored by MTN as part of their Yello Campaign. Their final stop was at the KwaZulu-Natal Coastal TVET College for the handover of the computer centre, which was sponsored by the National Applications Centre and Amadeus Group. Mzansi Connect, which is a 100% black-owned Internet service provider, supplies Internet services to the college. Carlos Msonza from Mzansi Connect attributed much of his success to the support and assistance received from government, especially the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services, Broadband Infracore and the uMgungundlovu District Municipality. Meanwhile, the Deputy Minister of Energy, Thembisile Majola,



The official opening of the Masisizane Early Childhood Development Centre and Senior Citizens Daycare Centre.



The Deputy Minister of Energy addressing the community at Masisizane Crèche.



A SANEDI official explaining the installation of water tanks and solar panels to Deputy Minister Majola.

handed over the Masisizane Early Childhood Development Centre (ECDC) and Senior Citizens Daycare Centre to the community. The Masisizane ECDC was built by the National Development Agency, which referred the centre to the Department of Energy after becoming aware of their lack of access to piped water and sanitation. This centre is one of two Green Projects led by the Department of Energy in KwaZulu-Natal. Through its entity, the South African National Energy Development Institute (SANEDI), the centre received a solar water heating system, water tanks that feed directly into the cisterns and a biodigester that converts human, animal and kitchen waste into methane gas that fires up the kitchen's gas stoves. In addition, the biodigester also nourishes the food garden yielding healthy crops of spinach and pumpkin. The centre is situated in an area of Maphumulo which does not have access to piped water or flushing toilets. With the water tanks feeding into the cisterns, the area now has flushable cisterns.

The project was led by SANEDI which skilled people from the Maphumulo Local Municipality to build the biodigester and implement the recycling and reuseable energy systems even in their own homes and communities. The manager of the ECDC expressed gratitude and appreciation to SANEDI and the Department of Energy for helping to improve their lives by making the tasks of taking care of children and senior citizens much easier.



Casedi Mali said:

“I learned a lot today about the different types of abuse and what women can do to protect themselves if they are being abused.”



Asemahle Dingo said:

“The session was very nice and it gave us some sort of motivation and education about abuse and gender-based violence.”



Lwazi Fede said:

“What I learned today is to respect women and to treat them with respect every day, not just on Women’s Day. I do not abuse women and I will never ever do that.”

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

Session tackles violence and abuse

By Natasha Peterson: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Cllr Thabo Grootboom addressing the learners at Pearston Secondary School during the session.



Pearston Secondary School learners listening to different speakers at the event.

On 8 August 2018, Government Communication and Information System led a gender-based violence awareness session at Pearston Secondary School. The scourge of crime against women in South Africa has reached devastating levels and is one of the key issues of concern for women, especially during Women’s Month.

While speaking at the 2018 National Women’s Day event in Paarl, President Cyril Ramaphosa said that “since the advent of democracy, we have failed to ensure that the women of South Africa are able to exercise their constitutional right to peace and security. I am here today to say that government has agreed that this national gender summit should take place on 31 August 2018 to forge consensus on appropriate approaches that should be taken on an urgent basis to deal with the crisis of gender-based violence (GBV), discrimination against women and gender disparities”.

This awareness session forms part of government’s commitment to raising awareness in communities that violence against women will not be tolerated. The youths form an important target audience for this message as they are the future women and men of this country. Valuable information on how to stop GBV and how to report abuse was also shared at the event.

Issues such as substance and alcohol abuse were highlighted as a major contributing factor in cases of rape. Ward councillor of Pearston, Thabo Grootboom, said that the municipality would ensure that taverns follow the laws and regulations. The councillor also mentioned that the law would deal with tavern owners who sell liquor to underage youth. The session was ended with a pledge to end violence.

Please contact the Gender-Based Violence Command Centre on 0800 424 424.