



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH.

Career exhibition for learners

By Moahlodi Maphori: GCIS, Head Office



The learners from Makelepeng and Phutikwena who attended the career exhibition.



Learners accessing career information material at the career exhibition.

More than 60 Grade 12 learners from various schools around the village of Ga-Matshatsha in the Greater Sekhukhune District, braved the cold weather on 8 September 2018 to attend a career exhibition at Phutikwena Secondary School. The exhibition was hosted by the Thuto Career Expo (TCE) in partnership with the Department of Higher Education and Training (DHET), and the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS).

The TCE is an initiative of young dynamic graduates and visionaries who aim to empower the rural youth by exposing them to career opportunities available in various institutions of higher learning. The guest speaker of the day, Lebo Masemola, a dietician, provided a brief on career opportunities that are available within the health fraternity. She encouraged the learners to show dedication to their studies in order to achieve good results at the end of the year.



government communications

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Mokomo Nkopodi from the GCIS encouraged the learners to use government bursaries from various departments. He highlighted that the Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality also offers bursaries to deserving pupils residing within the area. He encouraged learners to consider careers that are linked to the agricultural sector as government is in the process of fast-tracking the land restitution programme.

Karabo Machacha, a Grade 12 learner from Phutikwena Secondary School, was excited that she managed to attend the exhibition and it was very beneficial to her. However, she wished that coordinators should have touched more on career paths that are commerce related. Learners received information on various careers, bursaries and financial assistance for higher education.

Sekgopotso Ditlare from the DHET said career exhibitions are in line with the department's mandate of Khetha, as it targets schools from the rural areas. Ditlare advised learners to consider careers that they love and they are excelling in subjects linked to them. The DHET provides financial support for learners through the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS). He further said that students must apply for admission at varsities concurrently with the NSFAS for 2019. President of the TCE, Christopher Nkadimeng, and the Treasurer-General, Prescilliah Mashabela, thanked everyone who made the exhibition a success.



Sekgopotso Ditlare from the DHET addressing the learners at the event.



Lebo Masemola providing a keynote address.



Luxole Komane said:

“This has been a very informative session. It has enlightened me especially with key aspect of local government communication. I really appreciate the knowledge I obtained from it today.”



Samkelisiwe Sikonje said:

“Much of what has been unclear for me are now clear. This has really been an eye-opener for me and I appreciate what the provincial core team has put together for us.”



Yonela Diko said:

“This session was really worth attending. The ball is now in our court to go and implement what we have learnt in these three days. It has given me a better understanding of what local government communication is.”

OUTCOME 9: RESPONSIVE, ACCOUNTABLE, EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM.

Induction for new government communicators

By Dibandlela Nkume: GCIS, Eastern Cape



People who attended the training.



An engagement session with Algoa FM representatives during the studio tour.

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) partnered with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) and the South African Local Government Association to conduct an induction session from 22 to 24 August 2018. The event sought to sharpen the skills of new government communicators. The session was held in the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality.

This was the 6th annual induction and was attended by 29 government officials from the Senqu Local Municipality in Joe Gqabi District and Matatiele Local Municipality in Alfred Nzo District.

The programme consisted of practical elements of media handling skills and an exposure visit to different media houses such as the South African Broadcasting Corporation. Newspaper House in Baakens street was the first point of exposure wherein a tour in the newsroom as well as a run-through their daily operations was made. Commercial radio broadcaster Algoa FM was also visited.

The last leg of the induction constituted a practical interview session by Bay TV, a community television station based in Port Elizabeth which sought to outline the handling of television interviews.

Dignitaries such as the editor of the *Herald*, Nwabisa Makunga, the station manager of Madibaz Radio, Sakikhaya Makapela, graced the event. GCIS Provincial Director in the Eastern Cape Ndlelantle Pinyana, CoGTA Communication Manager Mamnkeli Ngam and Tiisetso Ramotse from the GCIS Training and Development unit led the process.

The session was then closed by an overwhelming motivational talk by Ongama Mtimka, a lecturer at the Nelson Mandela University. All attendees received attendance certificates at the end of the session.

OUTCOME 6: AN EFFICIENT, COMPETITIVE AND RESPONSIVE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK.

Minister Mokonyane launches digital migration countdown

By Lehlohonolo Manoto: GCIS, Free State



Premier Sefora Ntombela said:

“We appreciate the fact that the switch-off will start in the Free State in January 2019. Our next Executive Committee meeting will be held in Senekal as this will ensure that all members come and witness this milestone and know about this programme of government.”



Robino Manning said:

“I consider the involvement as an honour to be part of the proceedings. The channels will give us a high-quality service.”



Government officials during a walkabout at Senekal satellite.



The audience at the event.

The Minister of Communications, Nomvula Mokonyane, launched the countdown to switch off from analogue to Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) at West Dunes Farm outside Senekal on 30 August 2018. The Minister started her speech by acknowledging that the DTT roll-out in South Africa is a bit delayed and needs multi-disciplinary approach. She emphasised that government has the responsibility to ensure that television is accessible to all and the South African Broadcasting Corporation must fulfil its mandate of catering for the public.

Minister Mokonyane encouraged the youth with maths and science to be involved in the project of digital migration as this will grow the economy and youth employment. She said government will ensure that the retail sector does not inflate the prices of the decoders as the demand will be high. She also told the audience that a call centre will be made available for people to address digital challenges. The Minister concluded by informing the audience that during the next visit, people must be ready to conduct a door-to-door campaign in an effort to educate the community about digital migration.

The Free State will be the first province to switch off from analogue due to the support and cooperation the department has received from the province. The switch will be done on 31 December 2018. This means that on 1 January 2019, there will be digital broadcasting in the Free State. The Senekal satellite, which services three radio stations and four television channels, will be the first to switch to digital.



Peggy Salobeng said:

“In a relationship or marriage, couples should respect each other. Men do get abused by their partners too, they are just embarrassed to report or even talk about it because to some people, that is a sign of weakness. Women need to respect their partners or husbands. Abuse is not always one-sided.”



Ruta Rakgwele said:

“I learnt so much, I do not even know where to start. Children need to listen to their parents and respect them. Partners must respect each other to avoid unnecessary problems in the household. Abuse is a crime.”

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

Community receives lessons on tackling gender violence

By Masego Mollo, GCIS: Northern Cape



Stakeholders engaging with community members.



Some of the residents of Majeng at the event.

The Government Communication and Information System together with its stakeholders wrapped up Women’s Month by conducting an information-sharing session on gender-based violence (GBV) at Majeng on 31 August 2018. The event was aimed at creating awareness on GBV and educating members of the community about the significance of reporting abuse.

Stakeholders shared information on their available services for victims of abuse and also urged residents to use their local clinics for support and counselling services. They also encouraged the members of the community, young people in particular, to be more inquisitive and read everything they put their hands on so they can be in a position to keep government accountable on issues that affect them.

Stakeholders who attended the event included the departments of social development, justice and constitutional development, National Prosecuting Authority, Legal Aid, Thuthuzela Care Centre, Family South Africa and *Batho Pele*. Information materials, leaflets and publications were distributed at the event.



Cicilia Dikoko said:

“The programme was very empowering. I am going to sit down with my partner this afternoon when I get home. I am going to share everything I learnt today. There is light at the end of the tunnel.”