




MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 7/ March 2018

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

Communicators receive training

By Natasha Peterson: GCIS, Eastern Cape



GCIS Provincial Director, Ndlelantle Pinyana, presenting the state of communications in the district.

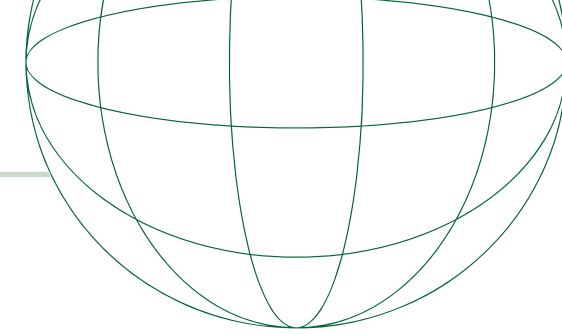
The opening lines of the Guidelines of Municipal Communication handbook state: "Government communication is a strategic and planned process aimed at ensuring effective dialogue between government and communities. This places a particular onus on municipalities to fulfil a wide range of communication functions."



government
communications

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





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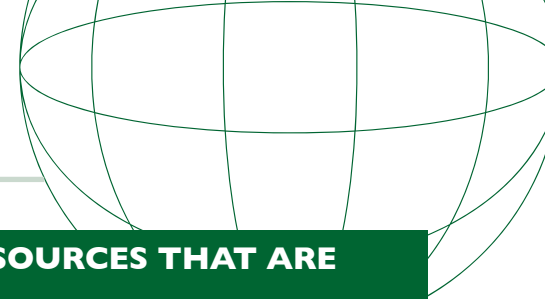


This was the focal point of the message that Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) officials conveyed to the Sarah Baartman District Mayoral Forum meeting held on 8 February 2018. The session was chaired by the Executive Mayor, Cllr Khunzwa Kekana.

Sarah Baartman is one of the biggest districts in the Eastern Cape. Each local municipality should have a communications component, which would receive strategic leadership from the District Head of Communications. Although the Sarah Baartman District has made strides in terms of communication, the lack of strategic guidance from a district Head of Communications may be a challenge in ensuring effective communication.

The presentation from GCIS Eastern Cape Provincial Director, Ndlelantle Pinyana, highlighted the state of communications in the district and also emphasised the important role played by political leadership in municipal communication. The guidance from the GCIS through the presentation was well received by the political leadership. Beyers Naudé Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr Deon de Vos, thanked the GCIS for the presentation. "I am passionate about communication. We can do the simple things right and find a way to accommodate communication in our already tight budget," he said.

Plans are underway to train Mayors from the Sarah Baartman District on public speaking to ensure better communication between government, communities and stakeholders.



OUTCOME 10: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS AND NATURAL RESOURCES THAT ARE WELL PROTECTED AND CONTINUALLY ENHANCED

Boreholes to curb water challenges

By Peter Titus: GCIS, Western Cape



Signing of the handing over agreement between the Beaufort West Municipality and the Department of Mineral Resources.



Community members at the event.



Boreholes that were handed over to the Beaufort West Municipality.



Beaufort West Mayor Japie Van der Linde and the Director-General of Mineral Resources at the event.



Mayor Van der Linde addressing community members and stakeholders.

The Beaufort West Municipality is one of the municipalities facing water crisis in the Western Cape. The Gamka Dam has been dry since November 2017 and the municipality is dependent on a water recycling plant and 39 boreholes that supply the town with water.

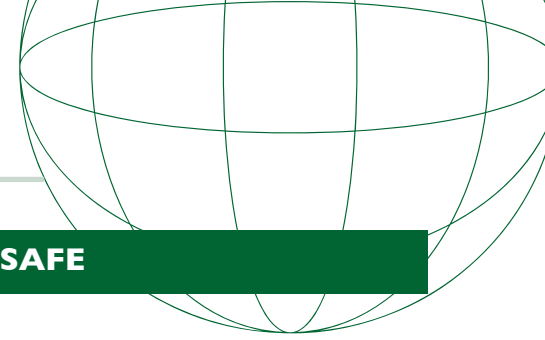
Various communication outreach activities, which include community door-to-door sessions, community media engagements and sessions with the business sector, are held in the Beaufort West Municipality to ensure that people are informed and educated to save water.

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The Department of Mineral Resources supports municipalities such as Beaufort West with this important natural resource. The department handed over two boreholes to the municipality, which will contribute to the bulk water system by delivering 1.1 million litres of water per day. The Western Cape Department of Local Government has also come to the party by equipping one borehole to the value of R2 million.

The Mayor of the Beaufort West Municipality, Cllr Japie Van der Linde, said he was very thankful for this intervention from national and provincial governments.



An official from Hambanathi Library interacting with community members.



Nontokoza Mbhele said:

“I learned that Haven of Rest is able to assist with drugs problem. Now that I know of it, I will be able to take people who need help to the institution, especially now that I know where it is situated and also its contact details.”



Margaret Cele said:

“This programme helped us to know a lot of things and also get clarity on some of the things that we did not understand before such as how to deal with children who are on drugs. We also learned how we can assist these children.”

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

Campaign to prevent social crime

By Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



An official from Haven of Rest speaks about their services.



An official from Safer Cities speaks about the danger of crime and substance abuse.



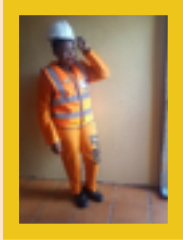
A police officer from urging community members to report crime.



Distribution of information materials at the event.

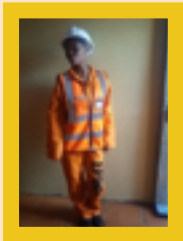
Stakeholders in the Hambanathi area conducted an outreach activity at Hambanathi Clinic on 12 February 2018 targeting patients. Stakeholders involved were eThekweni Safer Cities, eThekweni Libraries, Tongaat South African Police Service (SAPS), Department of Social Development, Hambanathi Clinic and Haven of Rest Rehabilitation Centre. Stakeholders informed the audience about their services, especially around tackling substance abuse. The SAPS emphasised the need for communities to work with them to counter crime in the area by reporting all cases.

Information products were distributed at the event. Although the focus was on substance abuse, the issue of HIV and AIDS was also discussed. Some members of the audience approached stakeholders for assistance and also asked them to run awareness programmes at their respective churches and other organisations.



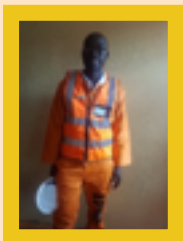
Mamaki Damane said:

“I am excited to be part of this project as it came at a time when I was just sitting at home, unemployed.”



Masekhonto Nhlapo said:

“I am just glad that government is making efforts to create jobs for the youth.”



Modise Mashoto said:

“I enjoyed being part of the training. I just hope that government will subsidise experienced installers to employ us as trained installers.”

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

Digital migration inspires skills development

By Ntombi Mhlambi: GCIS, Free State



The youth from Matjhabeng Local Municipality doing practical training on installation of decoders.

The Department of Communications (DoC) hosted a digital migration pilot programme for the community of Lejweleputswa District in Welkom at Ferdi Meyer Hall on 16 February 2018. The DoC partnered with the Department of Public Works (DPW) Expanded Public Works Programme directorate to roll out an installation training programme for the youth. The training supports the digital migration programme, which will see young people championing the installation of set-top boxes (STBs) in their respective district municipalities. The DPW has provided training to 50 young people on STB installation. They will receive certificates upon completion and will be placed on the job seekers' database.

Suppliers who will employ these newly qualified youth will be subsidised by being given a large number of decoders to install. This will ensure that those youth receive the required experience. The DPW said it would conduct follow-up training to provide the youth with information on how they could start their own businesses.