



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH.

Interchange construction generates economic opportunities

By Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



The opened four-level Mt Edgecombe Interchange.



Minister of Transport, Blade Nzimande, being interviewed at the bridge.

The expansion of Umhlanga, La Lucia Ridge and Cornubia areas necessitated the upgrade of the Mt. Edgecombe Interchange connecting to the north and southbound carriageway of the N2, which was officially opened on 31 October 2018. The R800-million project was co-funded by the South African National Roads Agency (SANRAL), KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport and eThekweni Municipality. Construction was done by the South African branch of CMC di Ravena, an Italian construction company.

A total of 803 jobs were created on site, of which 306 were done by adult males, 450 by youth males, 20 women and 27 youth females. A total of R240 million was spent on wages. Training investment involved a total spend of R684 770, benefiting 461 people on subjects such as steel-fixing, scaffolding erecting, operation of construction equipment and various safety, engineering and entrepreneurial-related training. A total of 31 sub-contractors have been given work to the value of R59 million performed by 21 Small, Medium and Micro-sized Enterprises (SMMEs) to date. SANRAL demonstrated its faith in SMMEs as a major contributor to economic growth, aligning to government's call for inclusive economic participation, job creation and social cohesion.



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The upgraded four-level interchange involved implementation of additional directional ramps eliminating the need for controlled signalisation such as traffic lights, thereby ensuring free flow of traffic in all directions. This is the longest incrementally launched bridge in South Africa.



Mr and Mrs Buthelezi said:

“We are learning a lot, there is too much that we did here. Firstly, we did the gabions, manholes, DV drains, parapets on top of the bridge, walkways and the storm-water pipes. The experience that we got here will enable us to get another job somewhere else. We thank all the stakeholders for the opportunity to work on this construction project and for the experience we accumulated. We helped created jobs for many people by employing them.”



Zama Nzuza said:

“We were laying kerbs, paving and building concrete manholes. I learnt to work under pressure. The encouragement we were getting from the engineers was absolutely amazing. The experience was awesome.”



Riaz Goga and Nelson Naidoo said:

“It has been a challenge for us, probably the biggest project we have done. To be involved in something so big meant a lot to us. We have the state-of-the-art lightening protection on this bridge. We transferred our skills empowering approximately 20 people by outsourcing some jobs to smaller businesses.”



Dimakatso Sebolai said:

“Even though we are part of a non-governmental organisation, we still want to improve our lives with opportunities that are made available to us. It is very good to hear what was said today, and after adding my name to the job-seekers database, I hope that soon I will find something.”



Onica Pole said:

“I am happy to see government coming to us with such information. Even though we live in rural areas, we are also looking into improving our lives. This information will enable us to search and apply for job opportunities that will be made available through investments made in our country.”

OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH.

Information session on economic opportunities

By Tshidi Mokoka: GCIS, Gauteng



Government officials interacting with members of the public.



Community members accessing information that was distributed during the activation.

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in partnership with the Mogale City Local Municipality and the Department of Labour conducted an information sharing session at Orienthills in Mogale City on 25 October 2018. The event was aimed at informing participants about opportunities that are accessible in the transport sector and also giving them the platform to register in the job-seekers database.

People were also educated about the importance of using tools that are available nearer to them in their search for job opportunities. “Government is looking into creating more job opportunities by getting more investors into our country. Making use of smartphones that you have or visiting local libraries to search for this information will make it easier instead of travelling long distances to the nearest town looking for information,” said a GCIS official.

Participants were informed and encouraged to always check with local stakeholders such as the Mogale City Youth Desk, Department of Labour and local non-governmental organisations that are geared to provide employment opportunities that people can access to improve their lives. Rose Mashishi from the Department of Labour said that they assist people searching for employment to be recognised by employers. “People must understand that as a department, we do not give people jobs, our aim is to look for employment opportunities and it is only up to the person chosen from our database to ensure that he/she performs well during the interview,” she said.



Lethogonolo Arnolds said:

“As a young person, I appreciate the information that we have received today. It is up to us to ensure that we spread this information to the members of our communities thus enabling them to know of opportunities they too can access.”

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

Government continues fight against corruption

By Natasha Peterson: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Municipal officials handing over investigation reports to the members of the Hawks.

On 31 October 2018, the Mayor of Dr Beyer's Naudé Local Municipality handed over investigation reports to the Hawks, which is an independent directorate within South African Police Service responsible for combating, investigating and preventing national priority crimes such as corruption.

Early this year, the Dr Beyers Naude Local Municipality started an investigation after concerns from the community regarding alleged corruption within the municipality. The investigation led to the suspension of several officials in the municipality's supply chain directorate, after it was resolved that the nature of the alleged corrupt activities were extensive and needed further investigation.

The Mayor of the municipality, Cllr Deon de Vos, said that they were not accusing anyone but that they need to ensure that corruption is rooted out. "We want every cent to go towards service delivery, there is no place for corruption in our municipality," said Mayor De Vos. Members of the public are encouraged to report fraud and corruption on 0800 701 701.

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

Government promotes artisan training

By Esmarelda Mckay: GCIS, Northern Cape



Deputy Minister Buti Manamela interacting with students at Upington Toyota.



Deputy Minister Buti Manamela addressing school learners.



Learners who were in attendance.

The Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Buti Manamela, had a two-day visit to Upington from 12 October 2018 to popularise the "Decade of the Artisan" campaign and ensure it achieves its objectives.

Deputy Minister Manamela visited companies such as Toyota, Mechanical Assembly Projects South Africa, and Solar and Kalkpoort Soutwerke to see how partnerships can be forged with TVET colleges for students to get experiential training. The companies committed to partner with the Northern Cape Rural TVET College to continue availing their companies for intake of students. The college also committed to address some of the challenges that have been raised by the companies in order to make the partnerships efficient.

Deputy Minister Manamela also addressed more than 1 000 learners from local high schools at an event held at the Northern Cape Rural TVET College under the theme: "It's cool to be a 21st century artisan".

"Artisan careers are in high demand in the labour market. TVET colleges are the best institutions to offer artisan directed programmes. In 2015, a research study conducted by the Swiss-South African Cooperation Initiative on the employability of graduates with artisanal skills found that 76% of them are able to find employment after qualifying and 6% become self-employed," said Deputy Minister Manamela. Students also had the opportunity to visit exhibitors from the industry, Sector Education and Training Authority and post-school learning institutions.