OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP.

**Government engages community on service delivery**

By Tinyiko Molefe: GCIS, Gauteng

As part of the Sedibeng District Communication Forum pop up activation, various government departments visited Sharpeville to provide the community with government information that will help them improve their standard of living. The event took place on 26 October 2018.

Council for Debt Collectors, which was part of the event, gave the community information about fair debt recovery.

"Some of the community members have challenges with their debts and are treated unfairly, as a result, we are here to provide information and assistance that will ensure fair recovery of debts," said Merriam Mahlangu, an official from Council for Debt Collectors.

The youth received information on how to start their own businesses and how to apply for business funding through the Gauteng Enterprise Propeller, which is mandated to promote, foster and develop small enterprises in the province.
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Mpho Maloka said:
“As a young person I feel empowered by the information that I received today. It will assist me in making sound financial decisions.”

Pontsho Ngobeni said:
“I would like to start my own business hence I am grateful for the information from Gauteng Enterprise Propeller on starting a business.”
As part of its World AIDS Day 2018 build-up programme, the Eastern Cape AIDS Council, led by Premier Phumulo Masualle, who also chairs the organisation, held its first provincial Men’s Parliament in Wooldard Exchange, Port Elizabeth on 13 November 2018. The event was attended by over 80 men from all regions of the province.

The objective of the session was to solicit a pledge from men to fight the scourge of gender-based violence (GBV), take a different stance in ensuring that it is the responsibility of men to stand up and protect their families, take full responsibility of their health and proactively influence behavioural change in society. Working with men organisations such as Takuwani Riime, Men for Change, DOXA Men’s Organisation and other religious-men formations, sought to mobilise and call for action by men to partner in upholding good standards in society and to ensure responsible behaviour. Topics discussed include the definition of a man in the 21st century, men as causes of GBV, men and health, and employment or business opportunities for men. Motions and key recommendations were tabled.
The community of Ulundi and Mashona in Mahlabathini will benefit greatly following the launch of infrastructure development projects by the Mayor, Councillor Wilson Ntshangase in partnership with the District Mayor and the Buthelezi Traditional Leadership. The event was held at Mashona Sports Field in Mahlabathini on 16 November 2018, attracting over 500 community members. The infrastructure include the Ulundi Youth Centre, Tourism Information Centre, White City Mashona Road and Mashona Sports Field. The infrastructure is expected to open new economic opportunities, inspire investor confidence and secure economic stability.

The cost of the construction of Mashona Sports Field was estimated at R6 million. The facility serves as a multipurpose centre for public activities and community gatherings. It will also offer a place for budding soccer stars and dedicated athletes to train and play. Local schools will also benefit during interschool sporting events and friendly matches. It will be a place for music, road shows and festivals where entertainment and information products will be made available.

“As the municipality, we expect this project to bring about much-needed employment opportunities for our local young people and also reduce criminal activities in the area of Mahlabathini,” said Mayor Ntshangase.

Nelisiwe Sibisi said:
“We hope the sports field will keep young people preoccupied in this ward, which will hopefully reduce criminal activities. We also expect to get various skills. We are grateful to our municipality.”

Bukeka Cumeza said:
“We are happy with the construction of the road in White City because the taxis will be able to enter this part of the ward to drop us next to our homes. The sports field will assist in reducing crime in this area.”

Siyanda Miya said:
“We appreciate the projects launched today by the municipality. We will keep ourselves busy in this sports field, which will improve our health and the well-being of this community.”
On 15 November 2018, workers from Soetmelkvlei farm in Riviersonderend received government information at their doorstep. The Government Communication and Information System, the South African Human Rights Commission and community development workers in the area partnered to ensure that information is brought closer to the community members working on the farm.

This was part of the preparation for the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children – an international campaign aimed at building and strengthening a global movement that works to end all forms of violence against women and children by raising awareness, campaigning for the protection of survivors of violence, and addressing policy and legal issues. The workers were informed about gender-based violence and human rights.