




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Dialogue to empower learners

By Ntombi Mhlambi: GCIS, Free State

The Government Communication and Information System hosted a dialogue to educate the 2017 Grade 12 class about the importance of applying early to tertiary institutions and also how to apply for financial assistance. The event took place at JC Motumi and Kutloanong secondary schools in Odendaalsrus from 19 to 20 January 2017.

The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), Department of Labour and Love Life delivered different services that they provide to assist the learners to plan properly for their future. A career counsellor from the Department of Labour advised learners to consider scarce skills careers as it will put them in a better situation to find jobs. Principal Dlamini of Kutloanong Secondary School said, "I really appreciate what government is doing; ensuring that our learners have information at this time of the year. As it is I am sitting with 2016 matriculants who performed very well in their studies but did not plan properly for their future, some of them do not even know what courses they would like to do. This will be an encouragement and an eye opener for them."



Mapaseka, from the NYDA, sharing information with the learners.



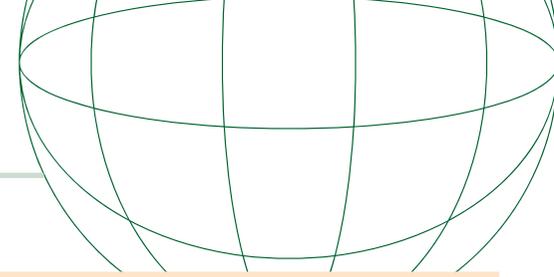
Sam Meyer, from Department of Labour, engaging with the learners.



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Teboho Tau said:

“I cannot believe that there are so many opportunities waiting for me to grab them.”



Thandi Jabuza said:

I am feeling very encouraged to do well this year and start applying now.”



Nokwazi Mnune said:

“The dialogue met my expectations as I learned about the importance of having the right attitude and planning early for my future.”





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

Small businesses assisted to register on the database

By Jethro Grootboom: GCIS, Western Cape

To date, over 300 000 businesses have registered on the Central Supplier Database (CSD). Small businesses in rural towns, with little or no access to Internet facilities, are struggling to get registered on the CSD.

Business people from Kranshoek, Kwanotukhula and New Horizons were assisted to register their businesses on the CSD, in order to do business with government. The door-to-door awareness and mobilisation campaign took place on 26 January 2017 in the Eden District.

The transition for small-business owners from hard copy to e-commerce are quite huge, therefore, more assistance and help with registration and basic computer literacy training are needed. There is also a need for more investment to expand the current Internet facility that is able to cater for online procurement, as part of creating decent jobs and growing the economy.

This campaign serves as a reflection of government's commitment to deliver on its outcomes of creating decent jobs and growing the economy by responding proactively in initiatives to empower communities.



Business people receiving assistance at the event.



Yolanda Cloete said:

"We have learned a lot, and it is the beginning of many things for us. Government is opening doors for us. Together with my husband, we will register our new business with the Central Supplier Database. I am very glad, impressed and very thankful for this initiative, which empowers us to be self-employed."



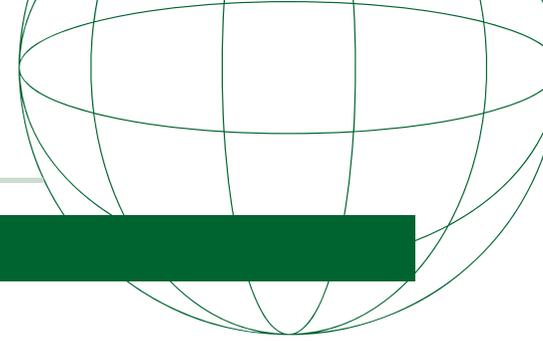
Urshula Smith said:

"The session was very good and interesting. Some of us had struggled to register our businesses online. We are currently sub-contracting, doing municipal road around the newly build primary school. This will help us to quote directly for government tenders and avoiding a situation where outside companies come and make money at our doorstep, which we could have earned."



Velna Luiters said:

"Thank you for sharing this valuable information with me. I will definitely use the information to start my own business and register on the CSD."



Ruduwaan Goosen said:

“I am very thankful for the Minister’s visit to our school today. We need motivation and role models to encourage and inspire us. Our head master is also of the opinion that we need inspiration and motivation.”



Nikita Willemsse said:

“I received a bursary through a competition hosted by the Department of Water and Sanitation last year, and will enrol for Microbiology next year at either Stellenbosch, Potchs or UWC. I am also going to apply for a bursary to study medicine, which is my first career choice.”



Viola Leukes said:

“The Minister’s visit to our school is much appreciated. Many of us as pupils, need the encouragement and motivation from role models such as the Minister.”

OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Minister adopts two schools

By Jethro Grootboom: GCIS, Western Cape

The Minister of Public Enterprises, Lynne Brown, adopted both the George High School and Thembaletu High School as part of the National Development Plan Vision 2030 back-to-school programme by government. The event took place on 30 January 2017.

Minister Brown handed over stationery to learners in both schools and also motivated them to work hard by excelling in maths and science. She said that her department was responsible for six state enterprises, which include Eskom, Transnet and South African Airways, and would like to present the matric class of 2017 with bursaries to further their studies to become the next leaders of these entities. The Minister also promised to bring some of the entities to these schools before the end of the first term in order for the learners to get first-hand information on the skills required to work in these institutions. Minister Brown also warned the learners about the danger of teenage pregnancy and substance abuse, which fuel poverty and diseases.

She noted that both schools are supposed to accommodate 800 and 1 200 pupils respectively, but they currently stand at 1 700 pupils to educate for the 2017 academic year. This means 40 to 45 pupils per class and it makes it difficult for teachers to focus on individual pupils who need more attention. She advised pupils to do daily revision of work done in class, in order to make it easier for them to understand the subject.

She said that she would like to see 12 of this year’s Grade 12 pupils undergoing training next year after completing Grade 12, to be trained as pilots. She also mentioned that she was flown by a female pilot on her way to George. “It does not matter if you are from a poor household, the opportunities are there for all of you; you only need to be dedicated to your studies; and this is the only solution to break free from poverty,” said the Minister.



Minister Lynne Brown addressing the learners.



The learners at the event.



Vuyokazi Nondabula said:

“I am very grateful for Minister Lynne Brown’s visit to our school. She encouraged me to do my best to reach my full potential. I am doing maths and science, and will apply to the University of Cape Town to study engineering after completing my Grade 12 this year.”