




MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 46 / December 2017

CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

For more information about similar programmes that are run across the country, contact one of the following provincial offices:

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

Government takes information to the people

By Mojalefa Senokoatsane: GCIS, Free State

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) together with the Mafube Local Municipality and Karabo ya Setjhaba hosted two economic opportunities programmes in Villiers as part of educational awareness about opportunities, both economic and skills development, that community members can access. The event took place on 14 November 2017.

Villiers is one of the towns within the Mafube Local Municipality that has the potential to be the economic breadbasket of the Fezile Dabi District Municipality. Due to its strategic geographical location that links Gauteng and KwaZulu-Natal. The N3 highway alone makes it ideal for transport-related job and skills development opportunities to thrive. It is also good for tourism opportunities as former President Nelson Mandela was once detained in this town. The area also has a flowing river that which can be used for water-related sporting activities, which can bring tourists to the area. The river can also be used by those who are interested in fish farming.

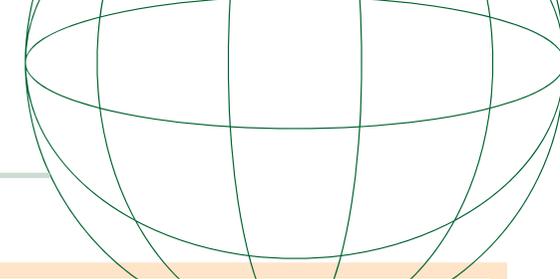
During these programmes, the GCIS was supported by stakeholders such as the Small Enterprise Development Agency, National Youth Development Agency, Department of Trade and Industry and the National Lottery Commission. During the sessions, community members were provided with information on how they could register their businesses, apply for funding and also drafting a business plan. These educational programmes were executed as outcome-based initiatives as requested by community members.



government
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





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Councillor Fusi Motloung giving his welcome address.



Members of the community at the event.



Different stakeholders interacting with the community.



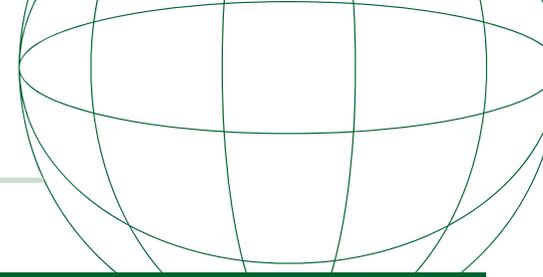
Themba Ndaba said:

“I learned something new today, at least now I know what I need to do in order to protect my intellectual property from being stolen.”



Samuel Lethetsa said:

“As young people within the area of Villiers, we appreciate the programmes that have been brought to us, especially the economic opportunities. It shows that the commitment and promises that were made last month were not lies. We are looking forward to more of these projects.”



Sphamandla Zwane said:

“This workshop brought light and addressed many things that have to do with business development. But information is never enough when you are in business. We are pleading for more workshops to empower us. We have businesses but we do not have a plan to run them.”



Lucky Majola said:

“We do not have easy access to information, whether job opportunities or business development. We would be happy to constantly receive more information.”

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

Workshop to empower businesses

By Nonhlanhla Sithole: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The Department of Economic Development together with economic partners within the Abaqulusi Local Municipality organised the Business Development Information Dissemination Workshop to empower small businesses and cooperatives in Ward 5 and surrounding Mnyathi and Vumani areas.

Local business owners and aspirant businesses and cooperatives attended the workshop at Xulu-Msiyane Community Service Centre on 9 November 2017.

The Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) and South African Revenue Service (SARS) covered topics on business formation, compliance regulations and skills development, which are important for any business development.

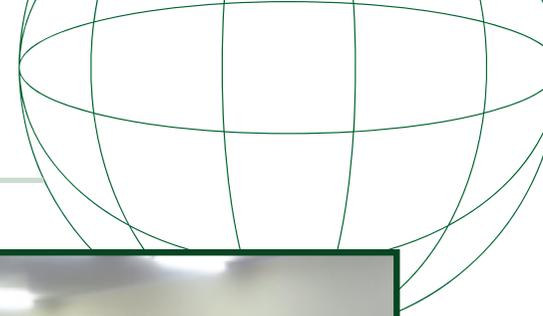
The departments of labour, rural development and land reform, agriculture, forestry and fisheries, economic development, tourism, environmental affairs and the Abaqulusi Department of Local Economic Development presented on government programmes to develop small businesses and also provide information on marketing opportunities and access to funding and training.

Ward 5 Councillor, Mdititi Ntombela, explained that Mnyathi and Vumani areas are far from town and it is expensive to travel to town to access information.

“We will make it possible for businesses to access business development information frequently. We will also ensure that we measure the impact of success after each workshop. We will also assist those businesses that have challenges to overcome them,” said Ntombela.

Hlanganani Buthelezi from SEDA encouraged people to use the agency’s services to run and manage their businesses well. He mentioned that the agency provides non-financial support, training and marketing to prepare small businesses to become formal ones that can make profits.

People raised concerns of lack of access to SEDA and SARS services within the municipal areas, which affects business development adversely. The matter was referred to Abaqulusi Local Municipality to be attended to immediately.



Ntuthuko Myeza said:

“The department has been providing training on soft and technical skills in the area in partnership with UMthashana Technical Vocational Education and Training college. This is our first workshop at this centre to ensure that businesses in this area are given information that will prepare them to be ready to seize business opportunities when they arise.”



Community members were given the platform to interact with various stakeholders.



An official from SARS explaining types of business formations and compliance issues.



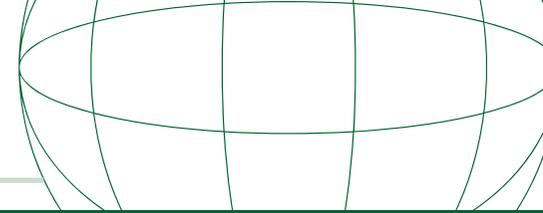
Some of the business people who attended the event.



Ward 5 Councilor Mdititi Ntombela addressing the audience.



Hlanganani Buthelezi presenting on SEDA services.



Keneilwe Holele said:

“It is an amazing thing. It will bring services to us. When I applied I had many problems with signatures and I had to rent a place in Kimberley for three months just to get started and receive fax messages. So I am very pleased. They helped me before and I still need them for more assistance.”



Christopher Telero said:

“The offices here are much easier to access. Bursaries, starting your own business and access to information is what the youth can look forward to. Going there will be easy for us. Youth in rural areas have been struggling a lot, but that has changed for me and my community. I am from Bankhara Bodulong.”

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

NYDA opens offices in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District

The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) launched a district office in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District on 13 October 2017. The new office will give young people in the district access to its services. In the past, the NYDA came to the area either on invitation or sporadic visits, but with the new office, services will be available daily.

Keneilwe Holele is one of the many beneficiaries of the NYDA assistance programme. She is the managing director of a company called Perfume by Kene, which is based in the John Taolo District. She received a grant from the NYDA to buy machines for bottles. Keneilwe currently has one employee who is a distributor and has clientele in Kimberley, Upington and Kuruman. She wishes to open and distribute her perfume in other provinces and also employs two more distributors and two permanent staff members in Kuruman. She hopes that with the offices of the NYDA in the district, she will be able to do that.

The opening of the NYDA offices comes as a relief after many years of young people having to travel over 250km to access the services in Kimberley.



Young people at the event.

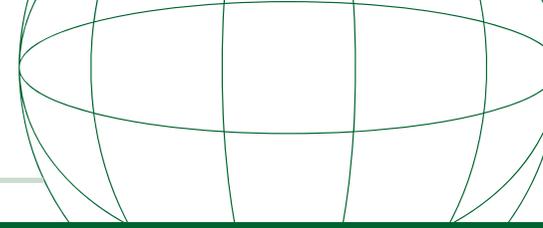


Councillor Kegomoditswe Masilabele addressing the youth at the event.



Tumelo Mogohu said:

“The NYDA offices will make a serious impact in our district. I know of a group that the NYDA funded previously and they have their small business in Tsineng. I hope they will expand it.”



Shandon Radloff said:

“I would like to advise our communities to use water sparingly and also use tyres when grow vegetables. Tyres, keep the water and moist for longer use.”



Joon said:

“I am a subsistent farmer from Zoar, a rural town which forms part of Kannaland Local Municipality. Currently, we do not have water in our rivers to grow crops or feed our animals. We are here to seek help not only from government, but within ourselves as subsistent famers, commercial farmers and business. The platform that the Department of Water and Sanitation has created gives all of us a chance to strategise on how we can help one another going forward in these trying times.”

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

Measures to address water challenges

By Jethro Grootboom: GCIS, Western Cape

The Department Water and Sanitation, had a pre-engagement with subsistent farmers, businesses, commercial farmers and the Kannaland Local Municipality to look at ways to save and share water resources.

The Western Cape Provincial Government, together with the Government Communication and Information System, conducted an activation to make community members aware of the current draught situation and also to highlight the importance of using water sparingly. The community development workers conducted a door-to-door campaign in and around Ladysmith to sensitise people on the importance of saving water.

During the activation, the Kannaland Municipal Mayor, Municipal Manager and community members spoke about precautionary measures that must be taken and water saving tips that the community can implement to save water.



Community members accessing information products at the event.