



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Young farmer determined to make his mark

By Sinxolo Gqala: GCIS, Eastern Cape

A young farmer in the Amahlathi Local Municipality under Amathole District Municipality, Sihle Maseko is head up on making his mark in the agricultural sector.

Just at a tender age, Maseko's hard work has paid off, having just a hectare to being a big player in the food production value chain. Maseko is dominating the vegetable produce market in the Eastern Cape wherein he now operates 15 hectares of land and plans on expanding as the demand for his produce is expanding. His passion is also matched by his education, a diploma in Agricultural Science obtained at Nelson Mandela University in 2020.

His enterprise has grown from supplying locally to the outer districts and metros in the province and it has significantly changed the livelihoods of his hometown and village in Keiskammahoek.

As part of government support, the provincial Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform provided support in the form of a tractor and all its implements to boost the farming enterprise.

During the Government Communication and Information System government beneficiary profiling radio programme, Maseko said he wants to create more opportunities for the locals and motivate many young people to venture into the agricultural space.



Sihle Maseko, a young farmer, showcasing his farming achievements.



Sihle Maseko during the handover of a government-funded tractor by the MEC for Rural Development and Agrarian Reform, Nonkqubela Pieters, at his farm in Keiskammahoek in 2023.



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PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Library books donated to the community

By Lilly Mohlosana: GCIS, Limpopo

The Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Nomasonto, and the Mogalakwena Local Municipality Mayor, NgoakoTaeatsola, officiated the donation of books from the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) Library to Mmahlee Public Library of PudiyaKgopa village, around Bakenberg, Mogalakwena Municipality on 27 March 2024. This was done as part of Library week celebration under the theme: "Libraries Foster Social Cohesion".

Mmahlee Public Library took upon itself to sought donation from the GCIS through Mokopane Library as part of encouraging communities and schools to foster a culture of learning and reading. The event also served as an exercise to create awareness on the services of the library.

The library has a huge significance to the community of PudiyaKgopa as it is their brainchild where they wrote to the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture requesting for the library to foster social cohesion, to exchange ideas and to learn and engage on development areas that should be beneficial to them.

As government looks to celebrate 30 Years of Democracy, the development of Mmahlee Library speaks to the cornerstone of our democracy where once people in the villages could not get access to any form of development, now it is on their doorstep.

Learners from different schools made the day entertaining by reading books from the library and rendering poems on the benefits that the library brought to their community. Noko Langa from Malokong Primary School read the story: Three little pigs in English, Motheo Digangoane from Malokong Primary read the Sepedi story called: Ditokelo le Maikarabelo and Kgothatso Mbiza presented a poem on the benefits of libraries.

In her keynote address, Deputy Minister Motaung said that it is in the interest of government to foster a generation that can read and write with comprehension. The Deputy Minister applauded the learners on their ability to read and commended the teachers for the great job they are doing in fostering reading among the learners, which will lead them in becoming self-reliant.



Deputy Minister Motaung on the children's side of the library.



The Deputy Minister handing over the books to the Mayor and beneficiaries from various schools.



Mokopane Librarian Refilwe Madisha leading the Deputy Minister and her entourage through Mmahlee Public Library.



Noko Langa said:

“I enjoy reading the three little pigs, I was not scared to read in front of everybody.”



Malapile said:

“The library in Pudiakgopa is named after our late chief Mamhlee Langa who encouraged us to acquire knowledge and as it will bring about development in our village and help our children learn how to read and write.”



Motheo Digangoane said:

“The book I was reading is called Ditokelo le Maikarabelo, it teaches me about my rights and responsibilities.”



Vangile Hlongwane said:

“I appreciate the sacrifices that were made by our struggle heroes, today I can access any opportunity irrespective of the colour of my skin.”



Masako Nkomo said:

“Today, I remember the struggle that we experienced during apartheid and I am happy that today we live in a democratic and free country.”

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Human Rights Day commemoration

By Tinyiko Molefe: GCIS, Gauteng

Human Rights Month Day was commemorated under the theme: “Three Decades of Respect for and Promotion of Human Rights”. In the same breath, Human Rights Day was celebrated on 21 March 2024 with the event starting with wreath-laying at Sharpeville cemetery and memorial site, followed by a public address at George Thabe Stadium in Gauteng. It was a national event attended by President Cyril Ramaphosa, accompanied by national, provincial and district leadership.

Human Rights Day is intended to remember and honour the people who lost their lives during apartheid particularly during the Sharpeville massacre, in which the apartheid police shot and killed 69 people who were participating

in a peaceful protest. The month is also used to honour those who fought for our liberation and to celebrate the many rights guaranteed under our Constitution that we continue to enjoy today. These were also sentiments shared by President Ramaphosa during his keynote address at the day’s celebrations.

Human Rights Month was used to reflect on the country’s achievement to promote respect for basic human rights and restore human dignity in line with the Bill of Rights. Premier Panyaza Lesufi how was in attendance said, “A lot can be celebrated through the attainment and protection of individual human rights as guaranteed in the Bill of Rights.”



President Ramaphosa laying a wreath during Human Rights Day commemoration.



President Ramaphosa addressing the public during Human Rights Day commemoration.



Jacob Molete engaging and distributing information during Human Rights Day celebrations.

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Transport Minister launches the Easter Road Safety Campaign

By Bongani Mazibuko: GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Government Communication and Information System supported the Minister of Transport, Sindiwe Chikunga, during the launch of Easter Road Safety Campaign in Mkhondo on 26 March 2024.

Minister Chikunga was accompanied by the MEC Vusi Shongwe for Community Safety, Security, and Liaison, the Executive Mayor of Gert Sibade District Municipality, Walter Mngomezulu, Mkhondo Local Municipality, Ngelosi Ndlovu, traditional leaders and healers, pastors, chief executive officers of transport agencies, SANTACO, buses association, trucking association, the South African Police Service and other stakeholders.

Minister Chikunga addressed community members, mainly urging them to board on roadworthy vehicles as they travel to various destinations during the upcoming Easter weekend and beyond.

Motorists were urged to obey the rules of the road, drive carefully and safely.

Community members were made aware that human behaviour plays a significant role in road safety and remains a serious concern regarding road fatalities. Despite advances in technology and improvements in infrastructure, human factors such as speeding, reckless driving, distracted driving (Texting or using mobile phones), driving under the influence of alcohol or drugs, fatigue and non-compliance with traffic laws continue to contribute to road accidents and fatalities.

The campaign aimed to increase road safety awareness and reduce road carnages during the Easter period under the theme: "Fika uphila" (Arrive Alive).



Law-enforcement officers getting ready for the Easter weekend.



Minister Chikunga visiting the two high accident zones around Mkhondo and also responded to media interviews.



Community members attending the launch of the Easter Road Safety Campaign.