



MY DISTRICT TODAY

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WORKING TOGETHER WE HAVE CHANGED LIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA: Average per capita as measured both by household incomes and expenditures has been improving for South Africans.

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

Radio Riverside emerges as the best community radio station

By Esmarelda Mckay, Northern Cape



Radio Riverside station manager, Thabang Pusoyabone, holding a certificate the radio station received during the awards ceremony.



The students who have been afforded the opportunity to further their studies thanks to Radio Riverside's bursary project.

Radio Riverside is proud after being crowned this year's best community radio station at the Media Development and Diversity Agency and Sanlam Local Media Awards.

The station was acknowledged for embarking on projects that seek to assist communities, as well as its progressive role in society through its leading broadcasting shows.

The successful projects undertaken by the station has led to this significant achieve-

ment. The Aubrey Beukes Community Award Scheme is one such campaign that promotes the excellent community work done by various organisations and persons in broadcasting. It awards study bursaries to deserving students in the region. This year, 27 students received bursaries to a total of R271 582.

Every year since 2002, the station collects toys and clothes from businesses and listeners and around Christmas distributes it to young children from disadvantaged backgrounds.

Radio Riverside is an integral part of the community of Upington in the ZF Mgcau District Municipality of the Northern Cape. It broadcasts in four languages and has a weekly listenership of 89 000.

Management said they will continue to inform, educate and entertain the public.

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WORKING TOGETHER WE HAVE CHANGED LIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA:

Over the period 1996/97 to 2011/12 there was a significant increase in the number of grant beneficiaries; this was largely due to the introduction of the child support grant in 2008.

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

Madimbo imbizo answers the electricity question

By Doctrine Netshikweta and Eunice Nkuna, GCIS Limpopo.



Communities listening to the executive mayor during the Madimbo imbizo (20 September 2013).

Communities from three villages around Ward 1 of Musina will be electrified during the 2013/14 financial year. This was revealed by Vhembe Executive Mayor, Tshitereke Matibe during his mayoral imbizo at Madimbo village recently.

Tanda, Tshikhudini and Domboni villages were the only villages without electricity in the Musina Local Municipality. Communities became excited when the mayor announced the electrification plans for these villages.

During his response to the questions from the communities the executive mayor mentioned that

villages without electricity will be a thing of the past around the district. "Our plan is to ensure that all villages without electricity are electrified during this financial year. We have finalised the matter with Eskom," said Matibe.

Matibe also promised communities that his team dealing with the water crisis will visit the villages to provide intervention. He urged the local municipality to solve community challenges using the little resources they have.

Munyai Rosina, member of civic acknowledged the announcement by the executive mayor.

"We will be happy to see our villages electrified. Without electricity we are like people outside South Africa," she said. "It is very difficult for communities to fight the scourge of crime during the night because it is so dark," she complained.



WORKING TOGETHER WE HAVE CHANGED LIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA:
9,316 m ha has been transferred to blacks from 1994.



OUTCOME 7: VIBRANT, EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES AND FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL

By GCIS, Western Cape

The community of Mamre received the title deeds of 4 200 hectares of farm land, which was taken away under apartheid legislation more than two decades ago. The title deeds to the land, which were handed over by the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform, Gugile Nkwinti, as part of Heritage Day celebrations, reverse the legislation that forced 500 families to sell their land in 1986 to make way for the development of Atlantis.



Minister Nkwinti hands over the title deeds to the Mamre Communal Property Association chairperson.



Minister G Nkwinti addressing the Mamre community at the handover of the land.

According to the department, the Minister signed off 2 443 hectares of land to the Mamre Communal Property Association after a successful claim in 2010. The department filed papers at the provincial deeds office for the land to be transferred to the association.

Minister Nkwinti said, "The transfer of land was a great achievement for the more than 2 000 households that will benefit from it."

Departmental spokesperson Mthobeli Mxotwa said the handing over was part of reversing the skewed land ownership in the

country. He said this was the first of a series of events where the department would be handing over land in 23 rural areas in the Western Cape, Eastern Cape, Northern Cape and Free State.

The regional spokesman, Vuyani Nkasayi, confirmed this by saying, "The land is now officially in the community's name. They will have full access to the land."

Of the 23 cases relating to land under the Transformation of Certain Rural Areas Act of 1998 reported nationally, 12 are in the Western Cape.

Mamre Communal Property Association chairman Avram January said, "The community members are overwhelmed with emotions to finally be given the land. We are very excited. We as a community are busy rewriting history. Getting this land will allow the community to make a living for themselves."

The official handing over of the deeds was followed by a number of sporting and entertainment activities at the Mamre Sports Field.



WORKING TOGETHER WE HAVE CHANGED LIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA:

Unemployment fell to 21% in 2007/08, but rose to over 25% due to the economic crisis and slowdown.



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

Entrepreneurship will keep creating jobs

By Lungile Mdluli, Mpumalanga GCIS



Arco Matlala of Buhlebuyeta Dance Project, author and stage performer Samkela Stamper, GCIS Intern Lungile Mdluli, Gift Nyiko of Zoo Creative Jungle, Jabu Dlamini and Mandla Hlophe of the Department of Culture Sport and Recreation.

Acknowledging that the unemployment rate in Mpumalanga still remains above the national average of 29,8% and in line with Heritage Month, the GCIS identified local Mpumalanga artists in beading, performing arts, fashion and sculpting to participate in a talk show on Kasi FM. The radio show was aimed at encouraging people to celebrate their traditions in the wider context of diversity of cultures, beliefs and traditions that make up the South African nation, and – most importantly – to inspire people to use their art skills to improve their situation.

Ms Jabu Dlamini, who was one of the invited guests from the Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation, articulated the support the

department is providing to upcoming artists. “I really urge people, especially the youth because they are tomorrow’s heroes and heroines, to come up with artistic ideas that can develop the province and also to improve our lifestyle. I believe there isn’t a single person who doesn’t have a talent to do something in life. Everything is possible if you work hard and concentrate on what you want to achieve,” she said.

Being aware that in many cases unemployment drives people to alcohol and substance abuse, during the talk show GCIS expressed that government alone cannot create jobs; success will come when communities work together. Mpumalanga artists need to work

together to access opportunities in South Africa. The Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation has built a welcoming environment for entrepreneurs to work hard and establish themselves. The department also hosts exhibitions for artists to showcase their works. This contributes to their businesses as they get the opportunity to market their work and network with people who are interested in what they do.

People who are still lazy to change their lives should listen to the lyrics of famous singer John Legend, which goes, “Wake up everybody, no more sleeping in bed. Because it is time to make the changes that need to be made.”

“WORKING TOGETHER... LIFE HAS CHANGED FOR THE BETTER SINCE 1994”

By Sabelo Kakaza, GCIS Eastern Cape



Nontle Sapepa – This government has changed people's lives. People used to have to go to town for services, now there are Thusong service centres that bring services closer to where people are; where government departments and non-governmental organisations are providing services to them. People are also provided with water taps, toilets and we live better lives in our homes using electricity.



Nyameko Nongqayi – Before 1994 there was inequality between black and white people but now we are using all resources available in our country equally. To me, democracy opened the locked doors for us as South Africans. Currently we practise 50/50 gender equality in various things such as grant access and leadership. We always are and feel safe because we have community policing forums. Judicially everyone has access to justice, and people have a right to get legal.



Mangqobe Pule – Since 1994, the youth has been provided with bursaries, learnerships and internships to improve the quality of education and support disadvantaged families. Mobile clinics with mobile services have been made available to everyone. Government has extended its social relief services such as grants for all in need. Gone are those days when we had to wake up very early to rush for transport far from home because of lacking roads-transport systems. This has improved and access roads have been constructed.





WORKING TOGETHER WE HAVE CHANGED LIVES IN SOUTH AFRICA:

The continued reduction of the number of people in the LSM 1–3 category provides evidence of continued reduction of poverty levels.



The Gauteng Department of Finance registered job seekers online during the open day in Refilwe.



Gauteng Tourism and the City of Tshwane's tourism desk promoted tourist destinations and empowered tourism SMMEs with financial and non-financial support and information.

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

Economic opportunities presented at Refilwe road show

By Robbie Senoelo, GCIS Gauteng



The Government's effort to create jobs through sustainable small, medium and micro-enterprises (SMMEs) received a boost in Refilwe, Cullinan on Thursday, 19 September when various service providers descended on the local marketplace with gazebos, banners, teardrop-banners and other marketing and promotional paraphernalia. The Office of the Premier, in conjunction with the GCIS and the City of Tshwane, conducted the Economic Opportunities Open Day aimed at empowering SMMEs with information on how to sustain and grow their businesses to create more job opportunities.

Various departments from the three spheres of government, state-owned enterprises, Chapter 9 institutions and non-governmental organisations joined forces in extending government's reach and ensuring that the citizenry is empowered with services and information to enhance their lives.

In line with Heritage and Tourism Month, Gauteng Tourism showcased a number of tourist attractions in the province and promoted tour packages that are tailor-made for all income groups. They also provided local hospitality enterprises with information on how to sustain their businesses. The Depart-

ment of Labour's Public Employment Services Gauteng registered job seekers on the employment database, gave information and tips on job hunting, preparation for job interviews and how to access the Unemployment Insurance Fund. Other service providers included the departments of home affairs and trade and industry (with a number of its entities), the South African Social Security Agency, Gauteng's departments of economic development, community safety, health, consumer affairs, local government, and housing, the Gauteng Liquor Board, community development workers, and City of Tshwane Tourism and Local Economic Development.

Eskom was on hand to educate the public on the effective, efficient and safe use of electricity. The Financial Services Board shared information about the role of institutions such as the Banking Ombudsman; Ombudsman for Short-Term and Long-Term Insurers; and the Micro Lending Ombudsman. Other exhibitors were: the National Credit Regulator; National Gambling Board; National Debt Mediation Association; National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications; Council for Debt; National Consumer Commission; Companies and Intellectual Property Commission; National Consumer Tribunal;

The Department of Labour's Public Employment Services and Eskom registering job seekers on their employment databases.

and the Council for Medical Schemes.

After collecting informational products from various exhibition stalls, Ms Emma Mngomezulu said, "We welcome your presence here. I personally appreciate the type of information given. I have always wanted to open a bed-and-breakfast but did not know where to start. Thanks to our caring government I now know what to do."

Mr Jonathan Sibanyoni, who described himself as a local activist, expressed concern that Refilwe is neglected in terms of government information. "I hope that you are not coming here as part of electioneering. If not, I appreciate the type of information you brought us today. Our youth will now know what to do with their future," said Mr Sibanyoni.

The event succeeded in its aim to bring government services and information about economic opportunities closer to the people; to educate members of the community about government programmes and services; and to disseminate information through presentations, exhibitions, face-to-face interaction and the distribution of information products.

IMPROVING SOUTH AFRICA'S TRANSPORT INFRASTRUCTURE ONE KILOMETRE AT A TIME

With every passing day since 1994, life in South Africa has changed for the better. In one important area this change has unfolded before our very eyes.

Our strategic investments in our transport sector over the last 19 years of freedom have been transforming the way in which we live.

For many South Africans these investments have improved their quality of life with services, places of work, study and entertainment becoming more accessible.

Today our transport system is significantly different from the one we inherited under apartheid, which was designed to enforce, perpetuate and strengthen the separation of racial groups.

Public buses and trains were mainly to facilitate the mass movement of black labour in and out of inner-city workplaces as and when required. The system's unreliability, inadequate capacity and speed had forced thousands of workers to spend a large part of their working day commuting.

This month we celebrate our advances in the transport sector as we observe Transport Month under the theme: "Celebrating 20 years delivering efficient, reliable and safe transport services."

During our democratic journey government has made a concerted effort to develop and improve the country's transport system.

This has resulted in an increase in the provision of a safe, reliable, efficient and affordable transport system. It has also moved us towards a high quality Integrated Rapid Public Transport Network for both freight and passenger users.

The Government understands that an effective transport system is the heartbeat of our nation and

serves as a catalyst for socio-economic development.

While more needs to be done to bring our transport system to where we would like it to be, the key building blocks are in place for its long-term development.

We envision that by 2020 more than 85% of the population of any of our cities will be living within a kilometre of an integrated rapid public transport network feeder or corridor.

Initiatives such as the Gautrain, the Gauteng Freeway Improvement Project and the Bus Rapid Transport (BRT) system in our main cities are our first steps to an integrated transport system.

For example here in the City of Tshwane, the single largest metropolitan municipality in South Africa that manages 2,5 million residents, the Tshwane rapid transit system *A Re Yeng* will carry more than 127 000 passengers a day when it is completed.

The first phase will commence in April 2014, linking the city centre to Hatfield. The route will then be extended to link Soshanguve, Mamelodi, Menlyn and Lynnwood.

The City of Tshwane is among 13 cities around the country in which government will, in the current financial year, invest more than R5,5 billion on planning, building and operating public transport networks.

In the City of Johannesburg, the long-term plan is for its BRT system, *Rea Vaya*, to cover 330 km, allowing more than 80% of its residents to catch a bus.

Speaking at the launch of Transport Month, Transport Minister Dipuo Peters said: "The (BRT)

system is a catalyst for urban regeneration, reconnecting isolated nodes and bringing disconnected communities closer to economic opportunities."

Furthermore, the Government has been hard at work building and maintaining existing national, provincial and municipal roads to facilitate economic growth, local economic development and job creation.

Despite our best efforts, our critics have bemoaned the pace of work in addressing the backlog in road construction and maintenance.

Our road infrastructure is worth over R1 trillion and requires R30 billion a year for maintenance. Limited resources means we are unable to move fast enough to improve all our roads.

Financial constraints, however, have not stopped us from moving forward with projects. Through the S'hamba Sonke Roads Programme we have a capital investment programme to building much needed road infrastructure in our rural areas.

While we continuously strive to provide the best transport infrastructure, an area that has challenged us is our unacceptably high number of road accidents caused in most cases by irresponsible drivers.

Apart from the tragic loss of lives and devastation caused to families, road accidents are estimated to cost the economy R306 billion a year.

These accidents can be prevented, as more than 90% of them occur when traffic regulations are violated. The Government calls on all South Africans to change their behaviour to create safer roads.

We have committed ourselves to halving the

number of road deaths by 2020 in support of the UN Decade of Action 2011–2020.

In addition, we are refurbishing passenger trains and railway stations to provide reliable, secure and affordable rail services.

Trains are our nation's main mode of transport, with Metrorail trains carrying about 30 000 people a day and about 256 million passengers a year.

The Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa is acquiring 7 224 new Metrorail coaches, which will help to meet passenger demand over the next 20 years. It will also restore Metrorail services to the highest level of safety, efficiency and reliability.

Our transport infrastructure investments have changed our urban landscape; they have helped improve economic efficiency improving the timeous movement of goods and services.

Moreover, they have positioned the country as an attractive destination for investment. They build investor confidence and contribute towards economic development.

As a gateway to other African markets, South Africa's transport infrastructure such as our ports, rail links, pipelines, and roads are helping to support the economic development of the region and the continent.

The many transport upgrades and road works that we see every day in and around our cities mean that the face of South Africa is changing. Through these changes we are ensuring a better quality of life through better transport.