

# MY DISTRICT TODAY

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## Outcome 5: A skilled and capable workforce to support an inclusive growth path.

### Prosperity through adversity

Nolubabalo Dyanpyi is a 43-year-old mother of one, who dreams of owning her own business one day. She grew up in the Eastern Cape and never finished high school, because she had to look for a job at an early age to support her daughter.

*"Without Matric or any skills, I was forced to look for a job as a domestic worker. I worked for four years, during which time I became ill and spent four months in hospital."*

On her release from hospital in 2005, she joined the Yabonga Project, a non-governmental organisation focused on offering education and support to people living with HIV and AIDS.

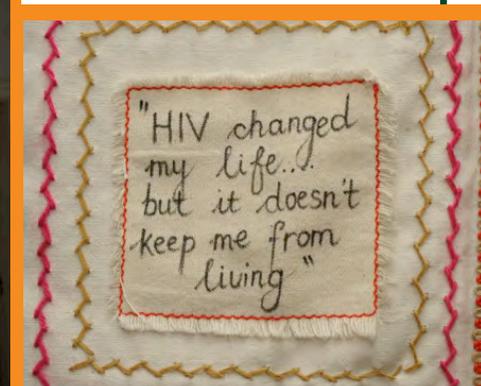
Through Yabonga and the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), Dyanpyi became involved in a project dealing with crafts. *"I've dedicated my life to crafts; I even teach people crafts. I really like this project."*

She is grateful that she gets paid for doing something that she likes. *"I use the money to support my child and my mother, who takes care of her; and also save the little money that is left for the future."*

Dyanpyi wants to own a crafts company one day and employ people from the community. This, she says, she will achieve through the grace of God and the hard work she puts in.

*"I'm saving the rest of the money I get from the EPWP to start a craft shop. One day, I will achieve my goal and give back to my community, while creating employment."*

The EPWP is one of government's programmes aimed at providing poverty and income relief through temporary work for the unemployed to carry out socially useful activities.



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## Outcome 10: To ensure environmental assets and natural resources that that are well protected and continually enhanced.

Writer: Robbie Senoelo

### Winter Safety Campaign, Alexandra

In line with Service-Delivery Outcome 10 to ensure environmental assets and natural resources that are well protected and continually enhanced, the National Regulator for Compulsory Specifications (NRCS) in partnership with Government Communications (GCIS) and other stakeholders in Region E of the City of Johannesburg Metropolitan Municipality, launched the 2012 Winter Safety Awareness Campaign in the sprawling township of Alexandra, north of Johannesburg.

Among key stakeholders were the Emergency Management Services of the Johannesburg Metropolitan Police Department, the South African Police Service, City Power and the Paraffin

Safety Association of South Africa, community development workers and ward councillors.

The campaign was aimed at informing community stakeholders about risks posed by products that are not approved by the NRCS. Paraffin stoves, electric heaters and electric blankets are most frequently used in winter and could pose safety risks if used incorrectly.

During the month-long campaign, the NRCS will target poor communities throughout the country to inform them of the danger of using appliances that are not approved by the NRCS and what the products look like. Alexandra was chosen for the launch because of its history of shack fires that resulted in many people losing their lives and meagre belongings.



Three shacks were set alight during the shack-fire simulation.

The campaign wants to ensure that community members understand the role of the NRCS and the objectives of the Winter Safety Campaign; understand paraffin appliances' safety issues; fire hazards of electrical appliances; how to ensure that children are safe from paraffin poisoning; and know what to do should a child swallow paraffin.

*"This has been an eye opening experience,"* said Mrs Barbara Kekana, a resident from Phase 2 in Alexandra.

*"I wish people could stop buying these fong-kong appliances that cause home fires,"* concluded Mrs Kekana

To re-enforce all these messages, the GCIS will produce a leaflet on candle safety and paraffin matters that will be distributed at the known fire-prone areas.



Some of the appliances that comply with NRCS standards.

Different experts covered a variety of topics such as the safety issues posed by paraffin appliances; how electrical appliances could be fire hazards; what causes household fires; and ended with a shack-fire simulation where a temporary shack was build and deliberately set alight to simulate real fire situation where the Fire Brigade is called in to deal with the situation.

## OUTCOME 9: responsive, accountable, effective and efficient local government system.

Writer: Writer: Jacob Molete, GCIS, Gauteng

### *Faranani bringing information and services closer to the people*

The Faranani Thusong Service Centre hosted an Integrated Service Delivery Day for the community of Tsakane Extension 19, Ekurhuleni to bring government information and services closer to the community thereby fulfilling Outcome 9 of the Service Delivery Agreement. This initiative was part of government response to the needs identified by Government Communications (GCIS) and community development workers (CDWs) during the stakeholder liaison work of the team.

On the day Home Affairs provided identity documents (ID) and birth registration services; the Centre for Disease Control conducted HIV Counselling and Testing; New Start provided information on Medical Male Circumcision; Operation Khanyisa educated the community on safe electricity usage and energy saving; while Government Communication (GCIS) and CDWs distributed government information.

Community members who responded to the mobilisation and advocacy call to access government services on the day were very

impressed. Expressing the wish that such services could be offered regularly.

Two of the recipients of the suite of services said, "I think bringing services here is a good idea and I hope it could be done regularly." Kgomotso Khoarane and Nompumelelo Mdluli both echoed these sentiments after applying for their IDs for the first time.

The Centre for Disease Control conducted HIV Counselling and Testing (HCT). Three people who went for the HCT were Gugu Nkoane, Lebogang Mofokoane and Zandile Majola who said they were taking the HCT test to know their status. These young ladies strongly believe that knowing your status will reduce the risks associated with HIV and AIDS. Furthermore, the added benefit is that one can access treatment in time when tested positive or take the necessary precautions when testing negative, to stay negative.

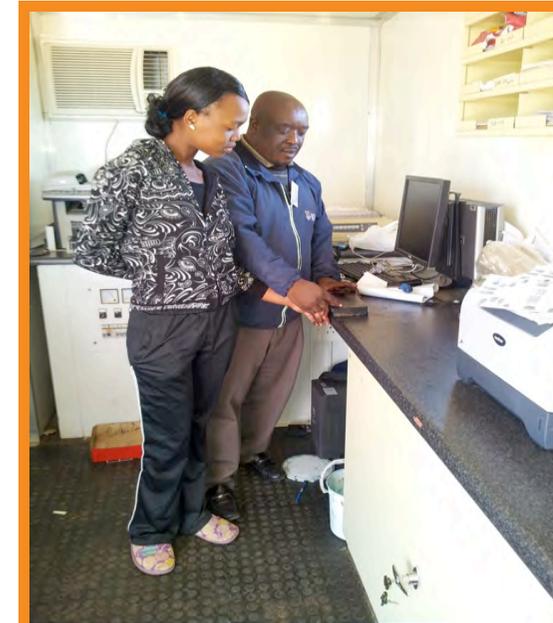
Other service-providers that participated at the event included the New Start Clinic, which encourages the young men to visit the clinic for Medical Male Circumcision. Sizwe Duma and Sfiso Mtsweni who had undergone the medical male circumcision, were there to encourage their peers to visit the clinic and undergo the procedure to reduce the risks of sexually transmitted diseases.

Field workers from Eskom's Operation Khanyisa educated the community members about safe

electricity usage and giving energy-saving tips. The team also focused on discouraging illegal connections and urging the community members to report illegal usage and electricity theft to Crime Line by SMS *tip-off* to 32211 or to the nearest Eskom's office in Tsakane.

Government's Thusong Service Centre Programme was initiated in 1999 as one of the primary vehicles for the implementation of development communication and information and to integrate government services into primarily rural communities.

This was done to address historical, social and economic factors, which limited access to information, services and participation by citizens, as they had to travel long distances to access these services.



The Faranani Thusong Integrated Service-Delivery Day at Tsakane Ext 19.

## Young people on the receiving end of government services during Youth Day in Gert Sibande District Municipality.

Writer: Bongani Mazibuko, Mpuluzi Thusong Service Centre, Gert Sibande District

This year's provincial Youth Day celebrations in Mpumalanga addressed the outcry that the Government and the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) were not assisting young people.

The MEC for Culture, Sports and Recreation, Ms Sibongile Manana, handed over 16 houses to disadvantaged beneficiaries. The houses were built and donated by the Department of Human Settlements. All the beneficiaries are young people born between 1977 and 1990. All 16 households received food parcels from the South African Social Security Agency and the Department of Social Development. Vodacom also contributed to change the lives of poor people and child-headed families by donating cell phones and start-up airtime vouchers to the value of R200 to each of the three child-headed households.

Ms Celiwe Zwane, the youngest of the beneficiaries, was born in 1990. She is an orphan, living with four other siblings and

they are delighted to have a house they could call their own. Their mother passed on in 2008, and their father in 2010. Currently, relatives are assisting them as none of the children in this household are employed. They appreciate what the Government has done for them and now feel like dignified citizens.

Ms Manana handed over 20 wheelchairs, which were donated by the Department of Health, to youth and children living with disabilities. Educators identified needy learners and 55 school-going learners from five primary schools were given new school uniforms donated by the Department of Education.

The Department of Social Development has in the previous year and is still continuing to re-establish and provide operational guidance, mentoring and support to youth centres. Youth centres, among other things, assist young people to write CVs, seek job opportunities using the internet, learn basic computer-literacy skills, write business profiles and business plans and provide an array of information booklets, which empower young people with information, taking into account that knowledge is power.

At the same time the Department of Social Development handed over two youth development centres, namely the Elukwatini Youth Development Centre and the Ekulindeni Youth Environmental Centre.

The youth centres each received R280 000 financial assistance from the department.

The NYDA and Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality also handed out hundreds of sanitary towels to needy young women.

Young people had a feast of information such as career guidance and bursary information from various government departments and private businesses. This knowledge and information also added value and is expected to contribute towards changing the lives of young people, making the sky their limit and it is just a matter of time before they become the best they can be.



Young people listening to Ms Sibongile Manana, the MEC for Culture, Sports, and Recreation, who delivered the keynote address.



Vuyisile Cindi from the GCIS, presenting the Youth Service Guide during Youth Day, in Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality..

