



# MY DISTRICT TODAY

Issue no. 27, August 2012

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## Outcome 3: All people in South Africa are safe and feel safe.

### *Crime prevention roadshow*

*By: Matshidiso Mokoka – Mohlakeng Thusong Service Centre*

The high rate of crime in Mohlakeng, Randfontein in Gauteng has become a worrying factor for local police and communities. To address this issue, the Randfontein South African Police Service (SAPS), in partnership with relevant stakeholders, saw it fit to conduct a crime prevention roadshow, targeting crime hotspots around Mohlakeng.

The main purpose of the roadshow was to educate and inform residents on matters of safety and security in their communities. Stakeholders from Randfontein Public Safety, the Department of Social Development, Areaganeng and the Randfontein SAPS participated.

Colonel Rachel Dial from the SAPS encouraged the communities to work together with the police to fight crime.

"Safety is one of the key priorities of government," she said. "We are working hard to promote safe and healthy environments where people can live in peace, without fear of being crime victims. We, as the police, are making a plea to the community to start reporting any criminal activities in the area of which they are aware."

Domestic violence was one of the crimes that was addressed during the roadshow. The community, especially women, were informed of what not to do if they find themselves victims of this crime. Sello Swaratlhe from the Department of Social Development cautioned the community that, when reporting a crime

committed by a loved one – especially domestic violence – women tend to be ruled more by their emotions, rather than wanting to see justice take its course. "There are too many cases of women reporting about abuse perpetrated by loved ones, but these cases never get to court because the victims are swayed by promises of change made to them by the person who abuses them.



Godfrey Kobue from Randfontein Public Safety drives the message home that the community must stand together against crime.

It's an unfortunate occurrence – abusers seldom change their behaviour unless they are counselled by social workers."

He also emphasised that domestic violence does not only happen to women. There are men who are victims, but because they're afraid of being ridiculed by their peers, they never report it. There are social workers available who can help in this matter and people are encouraged to make use of services offered to make sure that crime is eradicated.

Some of the community members from targeted areas were complaining that the reason they don't report crime is that they are not taken seriously when they do; while fear of victimisation by the alleged criminals also plays a huge role.

The Crime Prevention Section from Randfontein Public Safety encouraged people to make use of the police services available to them, such as community policing forums and safety patrollers, to ensure that criminals are brought to book. People were also informed that they had a right to report police officials if they felt that the officials were not doing enough to eradicate crime in their

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## Outcome 4: Decent employment through inclusive growth.

### *Abled manager*

When Noah Hugo lost his job as a security guard in Johannesburg after he suffered a stroke that paralysed the right side of his body, he thought his chances of ever working again were ruined. Hugo has been living with a disability for over four years.

"There was a time when I thought I'd never find employment because of my condition.

I have four children and come from a rural area in the Northern Cape, where the majority of people are unemployed. However, I didn't use my disability as an excuse not to support my family."



Instead of giving up hope, he joined Hope for Life, an organisation that works with the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) on a recycling project.

The 48-year-old is now a supervisor with 20 people under his guidance and says that his hard work has paid off. "We recycle paper, cardboard boxes, glass and all kinds of plastic. The project is very busy."

He says the project has helped him to support his family. "Through the project, I've managed to send all my children to school. I'm a proud provider for my family."

Hugo says his strongpoint has always been perseverance. "Most people living with the same condition would've stayed at home and felt sorry for themselves. But from a young age, I was never someone to give up, even when it seemed difficult to succeed. Today I'm living proof that perseverance pays."

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



## Outcome 12: An efficient, effective and development oriented Public Service and an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship and food security for all.

### *Public Participation Programme (PPP) in action*

*By: Candice van Reenen and Peter Titus*

Cabinet approved the PPP outreach initiative, previously known as Izimbizo, on 24 March 2010. The approach seeks to reinforce accountability by members of the Executive to citizens through continuous public participation events throughout the year.

On Friday, 20 July 2012, the Deputy Minister in Presidency, Mr Obed Bapela, visited Mbekweni, a community located near Paarl in the Western Cape. His visit saw much anticipation as residents prepared themselves for an engagement following the initial community meeting with the Minister of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation, Mr Collins Chabane, during his Budget Vote Outreach in May 2012.

More than 1 000 residents packed the Mbekweni Indoor Sports Hall to engage their public representatives on issues related to education, opportunities for youth, support for small businesses and housing.

The Deputy Minister, together with other government officials, responded to questions and visited recipients of the Drommedaris Social Housing Project. Mr Nkohla received a house after being on the waiting list for over 20 years.

Mr Nkohla and other beneficiaries shared the sentiment that they finally had houses where they could lay their heads at night and that they were thankful for this.

Furthermore, Deputy Minister Bapela and other government officials also shared some wise words of encouragement with the youth of Mbekweni who participated in the National Youth Development Agency workshop at the Mbekweni Thusong Service Centre.

At the adjacent venue at the Thusong Service Centre, food parcels were handed out to beneficiaries as identified by South African Social Security Agency. It is envisaged that a follow-up visit and communication campaigns will be conducted to monitor progress on all commitments made on the day.



Deputy Minister in the Presidency, Mr Obed Bopela, handed over food parcels to beneficiaries in Mbekweni in the Drakenstein Municipality, which is located in the Cape Winelands District in the Western Cape. This beneficiary was identified by Sassa.



Deputy Minister Obed Bopela and Mayor Gesie van Deventer of the Drakenstein Municipality with beneficiaries of government subsidised houses in the Drommedaris Social Housing Development Project in Mbekweni on 20 July 2012 at the Report Back Public Participation Event.



## Outcome I: Improved quality of basic education.

### *Among many priorities, education enrichment is first*

Many of the youth currently find themselves in difficult social and economic situations due to the lack of access to institutions of further education and training (FET). FET colleges are institutions that are at the centre of government's strategy to increase the number of young people who access education, training and employment opportunities.

The Richmond Municipality jumped at the opportunity of youth empowerment by creating access to FET colleges.

The Richmond Youth Council, which has been in existence for less than a year, has hit the ground running.

The Youth Officer, Msizi Mkhize, working together with the ward youth forums (WYFs) of all seven wards in the municipality, have started youth development with a bang! The WYFs are made up of portfolios namely education, moral regeneration and economic development.

The Education Portfolio identified the students who completed their matric with good results who are at home due to financial difficulty and lack of knowledge. About 200 young people were bussed to FET colleges where they were assisted in financing their registration. They were taken to the financial offices and assisted in procuring loans and bursaries for which 80% of them qualified and benefitted.

Nonkululeko Nkandi, a student who is doing Public Relations at the Umgungundlovu FET College, is one of the 200 youths that was assisted by the Education Portfolio and the municipality, to register. "My Granny takes care of me and two of my siblings on her pension money and she could never have afforded to pay my college fees. One day, when I have completed my course and get a job, I will take care of the family so that my Granny can take a break," said Nonkululeko.

Other programmes are implemented to alleviate poverty among the youth in rural areas. A Career Expo in partnership with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Education was held at the Inhlazuka Thusong Service Centre on 31 May 2012 to encourage learners to make informed choices on their careers and give them information on accessing finance to further their studies.

Together we can do more to build infrastructure and fight youth unemployment, poverty and inequality.

