



# MY DISTRICT TODAY

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## CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

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

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## Outcome 4: Decent employment through inclusive economic growth

### Women mean business in Dr Kenneth Kaunda District

*Kgalalelo Motsage, Northern Cape*

August marks National Women's Month, and this year's theme was "56 years of women united against inequality, poverty and unemployment."

In line with the theme and objectives, the GCIS in Matlosana, North West, arranged a community radio interview on Star FM. The purpose of the interview was to profile and market organisations run by women and also to motivate community members to be self-reliant.

A few hardworking women in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District are shining examples of the efficiency in the Public Service by enabling and assisting communities in accessing economic and developmental opportunities. These women shared their experiences and some of the tricks of the trade to inspire aspiring entrepreneurs and community builders.

Among these women was Ms Sarah Monare, who initiated and manages the Techford Centre for the Physically Challenged in 1989 in Jouberton, Klerksdorp. The centre is funded by the Department of Social Development and the funds help this non-profit organisation to operate.

"Ever since we opened our doors we have never looked back. We are growing from strength to strength," boasts Ms Monare. "This is thanks to our supportive government, the private sector and society."

Today the centre trains, feeds and provides work for over 60 physically challenged individuals and seven staff members. It has its own building, equipment and disability-friendly transport. The centre has a contract with a local mine, Anglo Gold Ashanti, to manufacture and provide wire-hose clamps used underground. These are hand-made by the disabled. The centre also manufactures and supplies local schools with tracksuits and jerseys.

Ms Monare highlighted that if disabled people could make it, so could everybody else.

The other woman interviewed was 27-year-old Ms Mimi Tladi, who manages and runs Big O Trading CC, which is 100% owned by women. Miss Tladi explained how they were assisted by the then Companies and Intellectual Property Registration Office to register and incorporate their company. "The GCIS helped us with information and

direction regarding tax compliance at the South African Revenue Service, business planning, and registering on various government and private sector databases".

Big O Trading CC provides professional customised services, which range from project and event management to training services. The small company currently employs three full-time staff members and over 20 contract employees. "It hasn't been an easy journey. We never received any loans or funding when we started in 2010. The government has been our major client and source of capacity-building and development," said Ms Tladi.

All community members, the unemployed and poverty-stricken households were urged to align their efforts and actions towards the principles and objectives of the National Development Strategy and the Industrial Development Plan, so that they can realise inclusive economic growth, eliminate poverty and eradicate inequality by 2030. Contact details of government institutions assisting with economic empowerment were shared with the listeners.



From left: Ms Monare of Techford Centre, Ms Tladi of Big O Trading CC, and a radio presenter from Star FM community radio.



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**Outcome 8: Sustainable human settlements and improved quality of household life**

**Youth build house for destitute family**

*Odas Ngobeni, Tzaneen*

Many informal settlements are not in approved locations for habitation. The provision of basic services to such settlements is therefore a challenge. In a quest to provide shelter to the destitute, a group of young men from Bolobedu South in Tzaneen heeded the call to “make every day a Mandela Day” as they built a house for a needy family.

Mokete Seshoka (47) has been living in a one-room mud hut with her two daughters and a nine month-old granddaughter in Mothomeng Village. She is on the housing waiting list of the provincial Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs. She has not been able to find a job since her retrenchment in 2007 at a local farm, and although her daughters have completed matric, they too have not been successful in finding jobs.

Seshoka’s plight was discovered by Noel Makumbila, a community development worker and member of the ward committee. “The family has been prioritised on the Government housing waiting list, but after deliberations with the ward committee, we agreed that something needed to be done to assist this struggling family while the municipal processes are unfolding,” said Makumbila.

Makumbila lobbied support from a local housing contractor who pledged to donate material to build the house. “We approached Addool Abdul, who donated all the material such as cement, frames and doors. He even provided food for the volunteers. Our wish is that this gesture will show members of our society that we need to help one another as South Africans.

“We are grateful to these young men for their commitment to building this house with no

expectation of remuneration whatsoever. This is the perfect gift to give this family as we continue to alleviate the struggles of rural women,” added Makumbila.

Abdul has further committed to deliver two beds, a cupboard and a television set when construction of the house is completed. “At first, I pledged only to assist with a few bags of cement, but after visiting the family and seeing the structure and the little baby, I felt I needed to adopt the whole project,” he said.

Seshoka is thrilled at the prospect of moving into the new house. “We will always be indebted to them for building this house for us. I have been without a job for years and I can’t afford to build a proper house for my family. I can’t believe we will soon be moving into a proper house,” she exclaimed.



At work, volunteers building the house for a needy family.



Front, from left, are Mokete Seshoka, her daughters Tshipiso and Grace, with Noel Makumbila, Fanni Mabunda (Ward Committee Secretary) and Kgashane Ramahlo (volunteer); at the back, from left, are Matome Mophai (volunteer) and Lucky Ngomane.

## Outcome 8: Sustainable human settlements and improved quality of household life

### Women's Build project delivers 56 houses for the elderly

Andile Duka, By Sbonelo Cebekhulu, GCIS Amajuba

The Minister of Human Settlements, Mr Tokyo Sexwale, officially handed over 56 houses built by more than 80 volunteers – the majority of whom were women. This history-making event took place at Kwamathukuza in Newcastle, KwaZulu-Natal, through the Women's Build Project.

Women's Build is a Letsema Project coordinated and organised in different provinces every year. It is a partnership between government, the private sector and communities to raise awareness about the construction sector and the role women can play in the industry. The project also contributes to the creation of sustainable human settlements.

The MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works in KwaZulu-Natal, Mr Ravi Pillay, was amongst the dignitaries who witnessed the joy experienced by the beneficiaries. "I am delighted that this has been a successful Women's Build 2012 outcome. The project promotes volunteerism and women's access to the Department of Human Settlements' economic opportunities", said Mr Pillay.

Amongst the beneficiaries was an elderly woman, Ms Thoko Nkomo (80), who has been staying in a shack for 13 years after being evicted from a farm. She looked the happiest of all the beneficiaries. "I am so excited to receive this house. I have never

imagined myself owning a house. I want to thank all those who have ensured that I have this house."

The effort and dedication showed by the volunteers who built the houses did not go unnoticed. The National Home Builders Regulatory Council (NHBRC), together with other partners on the project, has arranged capacity-building programmes for them. The training ranges from financial literacy to basic construction. They will also receive stipends during the construction training to be led by the NHBRC.



Minister of Human Settlements, Tokyo Sexwale, and the MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, Ravi Pillay, sharing in the joy of the beneficiaries.



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



Mr Matiwane from the Department of Justice Constitutional Development addressed and cautioned community members on issues that citizens often take for granted, such as unregistered marriages, maintenance and domestic violence.

#### Together fighting for justice for all *Nangamso Ngceke, GCIS Queenstown Office*

Government has identified the fight against crime as one of the priorities it needs to address as part of building a better society and country envisaged in our Constitution and demanded by all law-abiding citizens.

In line with fighting crime to build a better society, the Justice Cluster of Lukhanji Local Municipality held a discussion session with the community of Mthwakazi in the Eastern Cape. The aim of the programme was to create awareness about services that government has put in place to improve service delivery within the cluster.

The community had an opportunity to voice their grievances to officials from the departments of Justice and Constitutional Development

and of Correctional Services, the South African Police Service, Southern Restorative Justice and Mediation and the GCIS. The GCIS in return provided responses and guidance.

The information day was preceded by a door-to-door activation campaign in the same area where GCIS disseminated information on fighting crime. A number of issues, such as stock theft, high substance abuse, rape and drug abuse, were identified as major challenges.

It was mentioned that the community policing forum (CPF) is in place. However, members of the CPF have been threatened by the same community they are protecting and there is little or no protection for them.

“I got married in a civil ceremony in 1980 and my husband died last month, leaving behind myself, our seven children and three grandchildren. Now I can’t access my late husband’s estate, since my marriage certificate is not registered with the Department of Home Affairs. My family is devastated and my kids are hungry. I don’t know where to go,” a desperate Ms Kafile informed the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.

Responding to the issue, Mr ZE Matiwane from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development said that Ms Kafile should visit their office in Whittlesea. He also encouraged senior citizens to re-register their marriages, which were no longer on the system, with the Department of Home Affairs to avoid challenges that may arise



Southern Restorative Justice and Mediation, community development workers, ward committee members, ward councillors, GCIS and members of the Departments of Justice and of Correctional Services during a door-to-door session in Mthwakazi.

