



# MY DISTRICT TODAY

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## CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

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

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## Outcome 4: Decent employment through inclusive economic growth

### Skills creation through the Working on Fire Programme

*Mlungisi Dlamini, GCIS KwaZulu-Natal*

The Working on Fire programme is a combined effort of national, provincial and local government departments as well as the private sector, aimed at promoting an integrated approach on fire management in South Africa.

This partnership assists in the establishment of umbrella fire protection associations (FPAs), that are responsible for cooperative development of fire protection measures, reduction of fire hazards, improved veld-fire control, the implementation of appropriate veld-management strategies and the empowerment of communities affected by fire. The programme is funded by the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries.

A key step in rolling out integrated fire management is education and raising awareness in communities as most fire are attributed to human negligence

The programme has benefited 22 youth between the ages of 18 and 35 who come from disadvantaged communities across Umzimkhulu in the Sisonke District Municipality. The purpose of the programme is to provide the youth with essential skills to improve their own lives.

The programme is managed by an FPA that is a client of the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. Since the programme's inception in June 2010, the employed youth have acquired a number of life skills ranging from catering, carpentry, first aid and brick laying. This is to further assist them to become self-employed and self sufficient.

Bongumusa Nyathi, the group leader, said that the Working on Fire Programme in Umzimkhulu was a joint effort between forest owners and Amakhosi in the area, who realised the extent of fire disasters. They then applied for the programme to be implemented in Umzimkhulu.

"This programme helps with poverty alleviation in that it has made a huge difference in many homes. It teaches members to be self-disciplined, physically fit and to have mental strength. The most important thing if you are employed in this programme is your physical strength, as it involves a lot of running during fire outbreaks," said Nyathi.



Beneficiaries of the Working on Fire Programme



government  
communications

Department:  
Government Communication and Information System  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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**Outcome 1: Improved quality of basic education**

**Alexandra Youth Expo**

*Robbie Senoelo, GCIS Gauteng*

The Deputy Minister of Performance Monitoring and Evaluation, Mr Obed Bapela, and the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) visited the Alexandra Youth Expo in Gauteng. The purpose of the expo was to assist in improving the level of education and economic participation amongst the youth.

The expo was aimed at bringing programmes, products and services of the private sector, public sector, civil society and related institutions closer to the youth in Alexandra, with a specific focus on education and entrepreneurship opportunities. The expo was also aimed at introducing the NYDA to the youth and to make them aware of how they could benefit from the NYDA programmes.

During the expo, the NYDA unveiled its "Limitless Youth" campaign, aimed at improving how the NYDA connects with young people and instilling a positive mindset in young people. This campaign appeals to young people to keep their dreams alive, and not let their future be defined by current circumstances. "They must continue to have dreams and hopes. All the

people they see on TV, all the leaders came from humble beginnings but worked hard to make something of themselves. Our message is that these young people can do the same," said Deputy Minister Bapela.

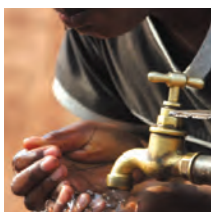
"We are empowering the youth of Alexandra with information. We are targeting youngsters who are still of a school-going age because we want them to be motivated and to know that there are all these opportunities waiting for them once they finish school," said NYDA Chief Executive Officer, Steven Ngubeni.

When asked to comment on the initiative, Ms Moipone Mabotja from Extension 7 said, "I am glad that the NYDA is here. I have tried to submit my business plan since the days of the Umsobomvu Youth Fund – with no acknowledgement of receipt. Hopefully my application for funding will succeed this time."

The expo was also used as a platform for the GCIS to promote the Thusong Service Centre brand. The GCIS also distributed government information.



GCIS' message was, "Working together, we can do more to empower our youth for a better tomorrow".





## Outcome 4: Decent employment through inclusive economic growth

### The Extended Public Works Programme changes lives



“People must be willing to learn – learning never ends. Stay up-to-date and grab the opportunities that come your way.” These are the words of 43-year-old Lebalelo Mzibedi from the North West, who matriculated in 1998. Lebalelo, who has a 17-year-old daughter, says his life has taken more twists and turns than he could ever have imagined.

“After I completed my matric, I was desperate to earn an income. I got a job as a petrol attendant in 1999, but left after a year. I then found work at the local mine as an electrician, but eventually lost that job too.”

In 2009, he joined the Expanded Public Works Programme’s Philani Project as a data capturer. “When I joined the project, I was happy that I was going to learn and at the same time get paid. The project has really been helpful to me. I’ve managed to study for short courses such as project management.”

The Philani Project deals with cleaning parks, rehabilitating dumping areas and home-based care for North West communities.

Lebalelo says the other important thing he received from the project was an income. “Before I became involved with the project, life was difficult. I was unemployed and poverty was a reality for my family. The

money I received could not buy me a house, but it has helped me to support my family, especially my teenage daughter. I’ve also been able to buy home appliances. The money made a big difference and I am so grateful for that.

“I hope that more projects like this can be made available in our communities to assist in transferring skills for long-term sustainability. Before the project, I had been unemployed for a long time and that can be depressing. I hope more young people can get involved in projects that will teach them skills at an early age.”



## Outcome 7: A vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural community with food

### 2012 – International Year of Co-operatives

By Eunice Nkuna, GCIS Limpopo

Food security is one of government's priorities. "The Integrated Food Security and Nutrition Programme aims to achieve physical, social and economic access to safe and nutritious food for all South Africans. Its goal is to eradicate hunger, malnutrition and food insecurity by 2015," according to the South African Year Book 2011/12.

Mopani District Municipality celebrated World Food Day at Makhushane in Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality. The celebrations took place under the theme, "Agricultural co-operatives are key to feeding the world." This theme was chosen to highlight the role of co-operatives in improving food security and contributing to the eradication of hunger. Interest in co-operatives and rural organisations is also reflected in the decision of

the United Nations General Assembly to designate 2012 as the International Year of Co-operatives.

**The objectives of World Food Day, among other things, were to:**

- encourage the participation of rural people, particularly women and the less privileged
- heighten public awareness of the problem of hunger in the world
- promote the transfer of technologies to the developing world
- strengthen international and national solidarity in the struggle against hunger, malnutrition and poverty
- draw attention to achievements in food and agricultural development.

In his keynote address, Mopani Executive Mayor, Cllr Joshua Matlou said, "We cannot be a grant society forever. We have to have co-operatives in order to supply food. We must be a responsible society and be street-wise."

Chief Malatji of Selwane pledged to give land to communities with an interest in farming.



Cllr Matlou holds a traditional dish while Cllr Mmetle, Mayor of the Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality (in the blue suit) looks on.

Cllr Sono tests some of the uncooked traditional vegetables while Executive Mayor Cllr Matlou shares a joke with invited guests.