




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:

EASTERN CAPE

Ndlelantle Pinyana
043 722 2602 or 076 142 8606
ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za

FREE STATE

Lineo Sehlabaka
051 448 4504 or 082 772 9445
Lineo@gcis.gov.za

GAUTENG

Peter Gumede
011 834 3560 or 083 570 8080
peterg@gcis.gov.za

KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420
ndala@gcis.gov.za

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

Youth Day and World Refugee Day celebrations

By Gerzell Mathey: GCIS, Western Cape



Students from Nomzamo High School performing the 1976 scene.



A student from Khanyolwethu Secondary School in character.



Students visiting the information desk at the GCIS stall.

Youth Day 2016 marked 40 years since the 16 June 1976 student uprising against the Bantu Education system. Students from schools in both Mfuleni and Strand communities celebrated World Refugee Day by competing in performance art. The event was organised by the Agency for Refugee Education Skills Training and Advocacy (ARESTA) to create awareness of the situation of refugees throughout the world who are forced to flee their homes due to war, conflict and persecution.

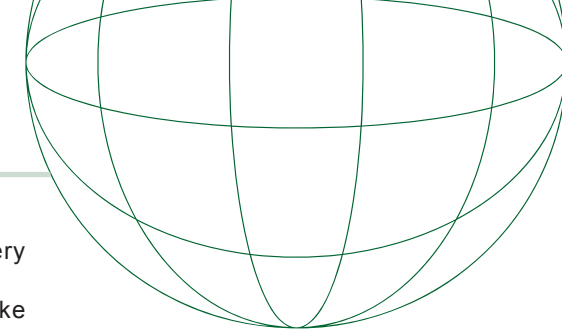
Mncedisi Mbatha, Community Education Campaign Manager of ARESTA, highlighted the importance of educating learners and community leaders about refugees.

“ARESTA’s approach is unique in that it targets leaders and learners from communities vulnerable to violence to teach them about refugees, refugee rights and train them as peace ambassadors and monitors to foster non-violent conflict resolution, peace building and social cohesion in their communities.”



government
communications

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



LIMPOPO

Thanyani Ravhura
015 291 4689 or 082 421 3461
thanyani@gcis.gov.za

MPUMALANGA

Jerry Nkosi
013 753 2397 or 082 316 5295
jerry@gcis.gov.za

NORTH WEST

Mareka Mofokeng
018 381 7071 or 083 382 5909
mareka@gcis.gov.za

Kagisho Meremetsi
018 381 7071 or 084 818 0613
kagisho@gcis.gov.za

NORTHERN CAPE

Marius Nagel
053 832 1378/9 or 083 778 9179
mariusn@gcis.gov.za

WESTERN CAPE

Ayanda Holo
021 697 0145 or 061 488 0634
holo@gcis.gov.za



Somali national Zam-Zam Hirsi, who has been in South Africa for 14 years, said it was very important for her to celebrate Youth Day and Refugee Day with her adoptive country. "I am touched by the willingness of these students to learn and understand what it is like being a refugee. I believe that their newly found knowledge regarding the rights of all refugees can be carried from generation to generation making society better for refugees. "Many Somali men are being killed every day in the townships and it's only because of ignorance... so I am grateful to these students," she added.

The students of 1976 gave their lives so that future generations can enjoy the freedom of being taught in their mother tongue, and most importantly, have access to quality education. One can liken this to the plight of the refugee who is also fighting for a better quality of life and safety.

Sinethemba Hinana from Manzomthombo Senior Secondary school said Youth Day is very important to her because she can now enjoy learning in her own language. "Youth Day means a lot to me personally because I can now be taught in my own language and I have a better education than those who came before me. I also feel that today's celebration is important for our community at large, because just like the students of 1976, refugees are also fighting for their rights in our country," she said.



Palesa Jonga said:

"I am very grateful to be here today. June 16 is very important to me because people that I don't even know died for me to be able to access better education. And my school has sports and they are very supportive of our education."



Zam Zam Hirsi said:

"I have been in this country for 14 years and it has been a struggle trying to adjust to a new community. But it is important to me to be able to embrace my new country and its culture, like celebrating Youth Day."



Sinovuyo Ndaliso said:

"I had little knowledge about refugees before today and through the ARESTA I was able to understand what they go through. Since I got involved with the organisation I have made many friends and I hope to educate others."



**OUTCOME 7: VIBRANT, EQUITABLE, SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES
CONTRIBUTING TOWARDS FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL.**

Young black female farmer reaches her dream

By Mamogolo Dirane and Lerato Setilo: GCIS, Free State



Masechaba at a cow dung plant that generates gas that was donated and erected by the ARC in Bethlehem.

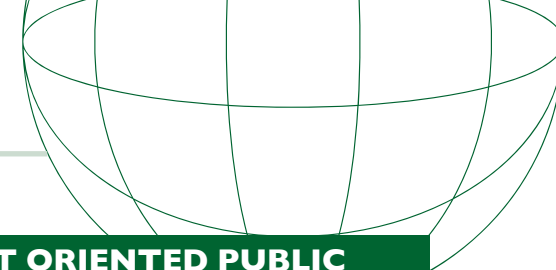


Masechaba Moloji at work at Manhaar Farm.

Masechaba Moloji, 33, from Tshiame in Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality in the Free State, worked for BMW for five years before deciding to have her own farm.

This was after her father, who was a farmworker, encouraged her to apply for assistance from government to obtain her own farm. Her father had heard about this farming project from his employer. Masechaba's application for funding was approved after 10 months and the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries and Milk SA gave her 350 hectares of land with 45 cows and three horses. The department donated a dairy with equipment. She received training from Green SA and the Agricultural Research Council (ARC). The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform gave her R272 000 to plant dry beans and maintain the fields. She has since employed three people who help her with the day-to-day running of the farm.

She supplies milk to Nestlé company in Harrismith and they assist her with the maintenance of the milking machines. She wishes to expand her Manhaar Farm to be able to supply meat, maize and vegetables. She encourages the youth to take charge of their lives and not let their background define them. "When you have a dream make sure that you do whatever it takes to achieve it," Masechaba said.



William Matume said:

“I am very happy and fortunate that the NYDA opened the office. We have been struggling because of transport challenges to reach their offices but now it is a walking distance. Our NGO will work closely with the NYDA to disseminate information on youth programmes and activities.”



Tshepo Siyodisa said:

“I work with the Department of Environmental Affairs in their Youth Jobs in Waste Programme. I am happy now that the NYDA has opened the office because now we have access to the Internet. It has been long since I wanted to open a business but because of transport challenges and time it was difficult. This great initiative will enable us to have a better future with information and services. It is up to us as young people to start businesses in order to make a better life for ourselves.”

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

Agency brings services closer to young people

By Nomhle Sibanyoni and Tebogo Matsoge: GClS, Mpumalanga



Youth of Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality listening attentively during the launch.

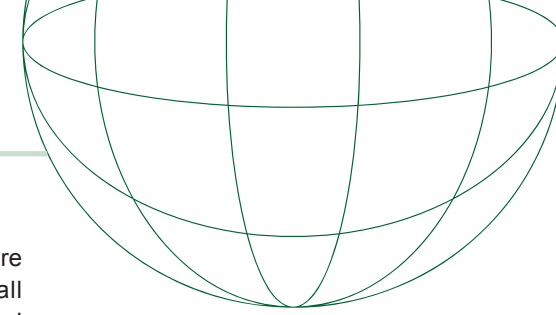


MMC responsible for social services, Cllr Dipuo Mahlangu, addressing the youth.

In an endeavour to bring services closer to the youth who need them the most, the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), in partnership with the youth desks of the Dr JS Moroka and Steve Tshwete local municipalities in Mpumalanga, launched two local youth offices within the Nkangala District Municipality. The first office was launched at the Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality on 21 June 2016, where three offices in different villages have been provided to the NYDA.

The Steve Tshwete Local Municipality office was launched on 22 June 2016. The move follows the 2015 Youth Summit which was held in both local municipalities with the aim of addressing challenges encountered by young people. Young people maintained that NYDA offices must be closer to where they reside. In the past, young people from Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality travelled about 117 kilometres to Witbank to access NYDA services and information. The NYDA, in partnership with the local municipalities, has since responded to the request from young people.

The NYDA also provided full-time employment to young people residing within the municipalities who will provide services and information, and also liaise with the branch office in Witbank for further training and other services.



Sophie Nkuna said:

“I appreciate the initiative by the NYDA because now we are going to receive the necessary information we always needed as young people on how to start our own businesses.”



Andile Mahlangu said:

“I am happy now that the office is much closer to us. We will get opportunities to open our own businesses.”



Stakeholders in front of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality Youth Centre.

About 200 young people – including various stakeholders such as the Department of Sport, Culture and Recreation, South African Revenue Service, Anglo Zimele, youth centres, GCIS, Small Enterprise Development Agency and loveLife – attended the event. Beneficiaries who benefited from the NYDA programmes also encouraged young people to use the offices effectively. Members of the Mayoral Committee (MMCs) who attended the event also encouraged young people to use the offices to improve their lives. They urged the youth to protect the offices and other properties of government which are there to assist community members to better their lives.



Young people of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality celebrating the new office.



Young people of Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality celebrating their new office.



Qobile Mnguni said:

“I feel so grateful that the youth is being recognised by opening a NYDA office. We are learning new things that one can also succeed in starting one’s own business. Come next year this time I will be one of the beneficiaries.”



Ronny Mhlala said:

“I feel happy about the office because now we will receive lots of information. We will save lots of money by not traveling to Witbank. We will use the office as young people”



Deputy Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams giving her keynote address at the launch of the free WiFi at Sophia Recreational Park.



Ongeziwe Qelesile and Moyisi Kolweni, who are recipients of the training on Website Design.

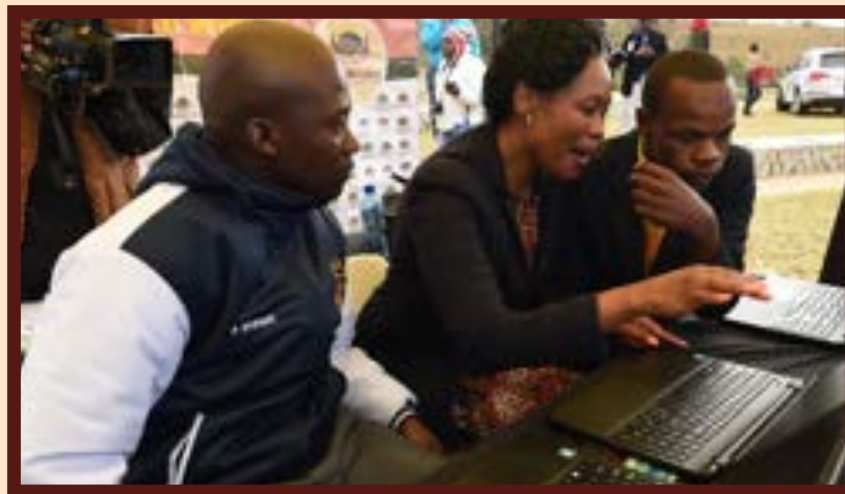


The audience attending the launch.

OUTCOME 6: AN EFFECTIVE, COMPETITIVE AND RESPONSIVE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE.

Young people to benefit from free WiFi

by Ndyebo Kopo: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Deputy Minister of Communications, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams with Siphokuhle Qhelu and Siphso Faye during a demonstration of the connection of the free WiFi.

“I think the WiFi will bring about many opportunities. People will be able to search for job opportunities and also do school assignments using the free WiFi.

We will be able to search for other career choices using the free WiFi and not only focus on the conventional career opportunities but research for other unconventional career opportunities,” said the 17-year-old Sihle Sihobo of Mt Frere Community School, from Badibanise village.

Sihle was amongst other young people who attended the launch of Free WiFi in the Umzimvubu Local Municipality (ULM). The Municipal Manager of Umzimvubu, Thobela Nota, said that his municipality was on a journey to develop the two small towns under the ULM, Mount Ayliff and Mount Frere. In pursuit of this, they held an investor conference to attract investment. “Information and communications technology becomes very important to accelerate faster development in

our area and launching the free WiFi is part of our comprehensive ICT strategy which is linked to 2030 vision of ULM,” said Nota.

The community of Umzimvubu will be able to access free WiFi in public facilities such as Sophia Recreational Park, Mount Ayliff Recreational Park, Mount Frere Town Hall, Mount Ayliff Town Hall, Mount Frere Library and other libraries.

Deputy Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams was the guest speaker and she addressed about 250 people, mainly young people. She urged them to use the free WiFi to develop their own businesses. “Access to ICT presents an opportunity for you to have knowledge and be able to contribute to job creation and develop your own community. Some of you might see an opportunity of developing websites for small business around Mount Frere and that is job creation”, said the Deputy Minister.

She further warned young people against “identity cyber theft” (people who steal people’s identity on social-media platforms). She encouraged the learners to be innovative with access to the digital world and not only focus only on social-media platforms. “Access to the digital world increases access to opportunities”, said Ndabeni-Abrahams. She pledged a training course on Website Design for two Grade 12 learners from Mount Frere Community School, Ongeziwe Qelesile and Moyisi Kolweni.

“I am overjoyed with opportunity for the training on website design. This for me a beginning of new things to come. It will give me an opportunity to do something with my own hands and this also gives us in rural areas some opportunities. The free WiFi will assist me in my studies and it encourages a more greener society, said Moyisi Kolweni.