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

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."
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 Hirsy 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 Ndalisio 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 Moloi, 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.

Agency brings services closer to young people

By Nomhle Sibanyoni and Tebogo Matsoge: GCIS, Mpumalanga

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.

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”

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

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

“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, ThobelaNota, 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 audience attending the launch.