




MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no.8 / March 2016

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OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Learners receive career guidance

By Nompilo Mchunu: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Learners from different high schools in the Amajuba District listening to presentations by different companies during the careers seminar.



Learners engaging with officials from companies during a walkabout at exhibition stalls.

The departments of basic education and higher education and training hosted a career exhibition for Grade 12 learners at the Newcastle Farmers Hall. The annual exhibition started on 29 February and concluded on 4 March 2016. This was part of the back-to-school campaign and was aimed at exposing Grade 12 learners to different career fields.

Over 7 000 learners from 72 high schools from the three municipalities: Newcastle, Dannhauser and Emadlangeni attended. The learners were accompanied by their educators. Each day, the exhibition was preceded by a career seminar where companies, tertiary institutions and government departments gave presentations outlining their core functions to the learners.

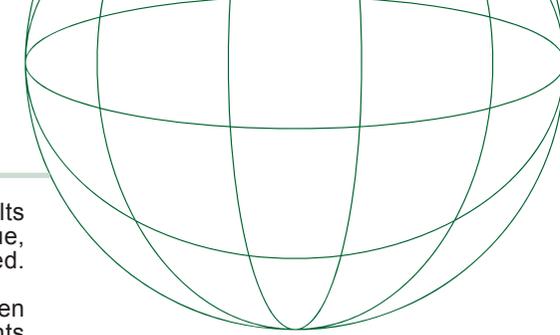
About 65 companies and institutions were part of the exhibition. They included ArcelorMittal, Tsogo Sun, Ithala Bank, University of KwaZulu-Natal, University of the North West, Durban University of Technology, South African Revenue Services, Government Communication and Information System, National Youth Development Agency; departments of water and sanitation, health, social development and, higher education and training.

The exhibition was officially opened by the Mayor of Newcastle, Afzul Rehman, who shared some encouraging messages with the class of 2016. He urged pupils to focus on their education in order to improve their lives. "You have reached the crossroads of your lives. This is a very critical point for your future. Use this opportunity to make informed decisions about your lives. You are lucky to have the chance to be guided and counselled when selecting a course. Choose your career path wisely," said Rehman.



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He advised the learners to work hard. “Study hard and concentrate on achieving good results in order to gain entry at higher education institutions. Whichever career you choose to pursue, invest yourself in it. Dedicate, work and commit yourself to achieve all your goals,” he continued.

Rehman also took time to address the #FeesMustFall campaign. He told the learners that even though free education is not possible in 2016, government provides assistance to students through the National Student Financial Aid Scheme and is exploring other methods of funding.

Exhibitor, Thobani Mbeje from Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs said the event was another way of informing learners about employment opportunities. “Students have a habit of choosing popular or common careers because they think employment is guaranteed without doing research. We are here to advise them to consider other careers, such as the hospitality sector, what subjects they need to study at school and the employment opportunities within,” said Mbenje.

Ntombi zimba, a Grade 12 teacher, applauded the initiative. “Learners are afforded a rare chance to engage with companies and tertiary institutions about their preferred careers and what grades they need to achieve. The exhibition provides them with important information to use,” she said.



Newcastle Mayor, Afzul Rehman advised students to focus on their school work and choose what they want to study wisely.



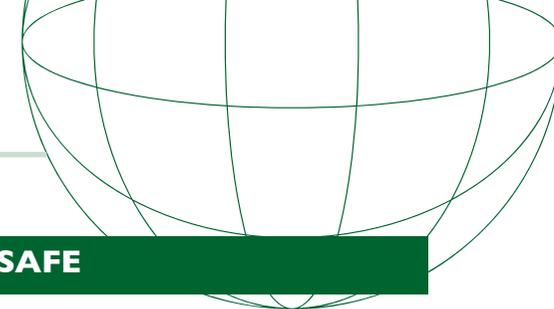
Speakers from different organisations doing presentations during the careers seminar



Palesa Rakhetsi said:
“The exhibition informs us about different careers and that gives us a lot of options. Even those who had no idea what they want to study after high school have been given the chance to ask questions about courses before they could make decisions.”



Samkelo Danisa said:
“I have had the chance to engage with emergency service workers because I would like to be a paramedic. They informed about the opportunities in the field and the marks I need to obtain to qualify. If it was not for this exhibition, I would not have the knowledge I am having now.”



The GCIS and the police on “The stoep” distributing leaflets on drug and alcohol abuse.

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) reached out to the youth in the northern areas of Port Elizabeth. Helenvale is one of the most dangerous areas in Port Elizabeth. The GCIS highlighted challenges that were affecting the Helenvale community during its local environmental assessment reports.

The GCIS provided communication support to the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security cluster outreach in the northern areas of Port Elizabeth. With the work done already through its dialogue workshops, the GCIS used various platforms that would have a great impact on the outreach.

The GCIS arranged that the outreach started on “The stoep” – a veranda in front of the shops in Helenvale where the gangs’ shootings lead to the death of children and innocent people in the crossfire. Leaflets on abuse of drugs and alcohol were distributed. High-profile officials came to participate in a door-to-door walk-about in Helenvale, to witness the situation themselves and also to engage with community members.”

OUTCOME 3: ALL PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE AND FEEL SAFE

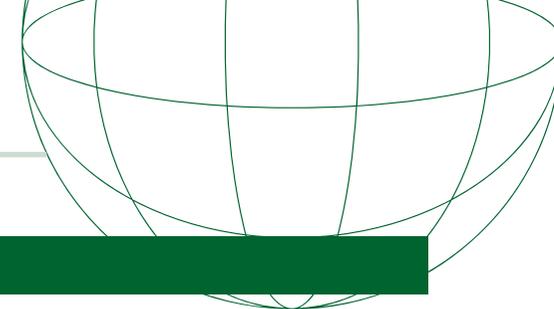
Government wages war against crime and drugs

By Puleng Kekana: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Women who came out to talk about issues of concern in Helenvale said:

“As women, we are happy but we hope this is not an election drive. Gangs have destroyed this area. Children no longer go to school. They are scared and we are scared that they are caught in the crossfire. We have young children who are using drugs. Children also do not go to school. They move up and down selling drugs for the gangs. The gangsters use the children for their deliveries or as distributors. Girls drop out of school. They are girlfriends of the gangsters. They like it because the gangsters give them money to buy clothes. The girls get pregnant at a young age and drop out of school; and they become a burden to their parents who have to support them. You cannot report the gangsters anywhere. They seem to be above the law. We are pleased to talk to these government leaders. We hope that they are going to address the challenges here and that they will clear the area of drugs. I hope the ministers see it is going to take five years to get back to normal. We live in fear. At night we hear the machine guns. Where are the police then? We do not want them. We want the Army and we are clear on that one. Every household here has had someone killed; children are killed in the crossfire between the gangs. The children are not going to school. Some children as young as nine years old are using drugs. We appreciate the visit because we are not safe in our own homes. We hope this visit will make a difference in Helenvale.”



Deputy Minister Manana speaking at the event.

OUTCOME I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Deputy Minister promotes Decade of the Artisan campaign

By Valencia Rachuene: GCIS, Limpopo



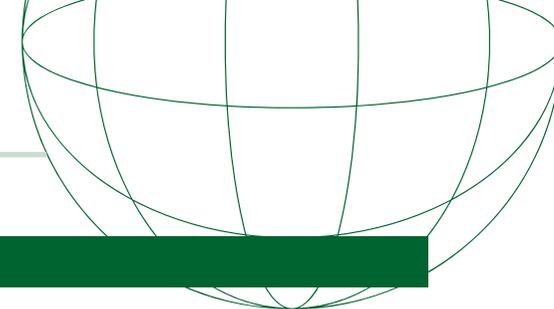
Media briefing at the Tsogo Sun on the Decade of the Artisan advocacy campaign.

The Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mduduzi Manana, visited selected employers and high school learners, in Limpopo during January 2016, to promote the Decade of the Artisan advocacy campaign. He held a media briefing at the Tsogo Sun Hotel in Polokwane.

Various media organisations in Limpopo, the Capricorn Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College management, Sector Education and Training Authority's (Seta) Management, Transport, Education and Training Authority (Teta) management, and Tsogo Sun management attended the event.

The Deputy Minister visited workplaces in a bid to encourage them to work closely with TVET colleges and to open their workplaces for the training of artisan learners. The Setas play a vital role in facilitating workplace learning partnerships between employers and educational institutions. The Deputy Minister thanked the Teta for hosting the event together with the Capricorn TVET College. He also thanked the host employers, the Tsogo Sun for opening their boardrooms for this honourable cause. He added that government wants to have partnership with private sectors such as the Tsogo Sun for them to enable the students from TVET colleges to acquire practical experience in their organisations.

There is a continuous need for competent artisans to supply skills to industries and support economic growth within South Africa. Government has acknowledged the need for well-trained artisans and has recognised artisan training as a significant area for skills development. While the National Development Plan indicates that by 2030 the country should be generating 30 000 qualified artisans per year, this target has been brought forward by the 2014 – 2020 Medium Term Strategic Framework to 31 March 2026. At present, the country is generating on average 13 000 qualified artisans per year and the number has to be more than double in the next 12 years.



OUTCOME I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Deputy Minister reaches out to students

By Boitumelo Boshupeng: GCIS, Northern Cape



Deputy Minister Manana and other government officials during his walkabout at testing sites.



Different stakeholders and community members attended the event.



Professor Yuns Ballim of Sol Plaatje University.



Deputy Minister Manana speaking at the event.



Members of the panel signing the Pledge Wall.

Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mduduzi Manana, visited the Northern Cape on 1 March 2016 to launch the First Things First HEAIDS Programme at the Moremogolo Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College in Galeshewe, Kimberley.

Since 2014, the programme has sought to ensure that students are well informed, participate and inspire others in the fight against HIV and AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and sexually transmitted infections (STIs). The key stakeholders and celebrity brand ambassadors did what they were called for by focusing their attention on HIV and AIDS education, stigma eradication, behavioural changes and also promoting knowledge of one's status.

Deputy Minister Manana giving an overall account of the purpose of the programme said that it is the responsibility of the institutions to respond to this call and support the programme by actively participating in the health and well-being of the students. He assured students that government does not want to invest in institutions or tuition schemes only, but also in the lives of the students who use those institutions and tuition schemes.

"HIV and AIDS, STIs and TB should not be a hindrance to the students' academic journeys and this programme would be a solid structure to bring these testing and educational opportunities to students regularly," said the Deputy Minister.

Director of the HEAIDS programme, Dr Ramneek Ahluwalia, encouraged students to be wise by taking care of themselves and their communities. In attendance was Prof. Yunis Ballim of Sol Plaatje University who also interacted with the students.

The delegation, led by the Deputy Minister took a walkabout engage with the learners who checked their status.