



MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 32 / August 2015

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OUTCOME I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Skills development expo empowers youth

By Nomzamo Zondi: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Learners accessing information at the Informal Traders Upliftment Project stall.



An artist expressing himself.



Plant production display.

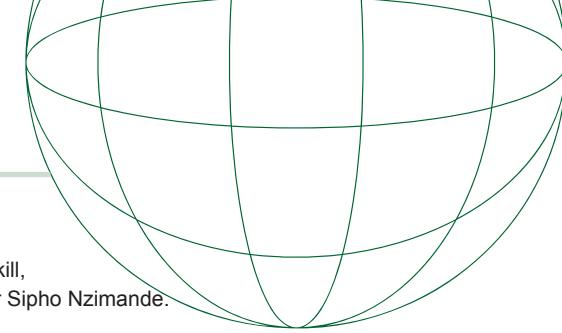


Learners at the civil construction and plumbing stall.

Thousands of young people attended the Skills Development Career Expo hosted by the Esayidi Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College. The expo took place from 3 to 7 August at the Ugu Sports and Leisure Centre in KwaZulu-Natal. There was excitement among the attendees and participants because each day was filled with many activities from numerous sectors.

There were live demonstrations of different skills ranging from electrical, hospitality, civil construction, agriculture and others. The learners were taken through different stalls where presentations and question-and-answer sessions took place. The keen and curious learners even requested to do some practicals such as wiring a kettle and fitting a pipe at the plumbing stand.

Government is committed to improving skills development opportunities because a significant number of young people above the age of 20 do not have tertiary education. One of the contributing factors is that many young people choose to go to universities and neglect TVET colleges.



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"No matter what academic qualification you may have, it is extremely important for every person to acquire a skill, not one but many skills. That is what the country needs to grow and have a sustainable economy," said Doctor Sipho Nzimande.

Teachers were urged to encourage learners to acquire skills and to enrol at TVET colleges to eliminate the mismatch of skills to the available job opportunities.



Nombuso Mazobane said:

"I was excited to be exposed to many opportunities in the skills sector. Those who did not attend this expo have missed out. I am definitely going to acquire not one but many skills."



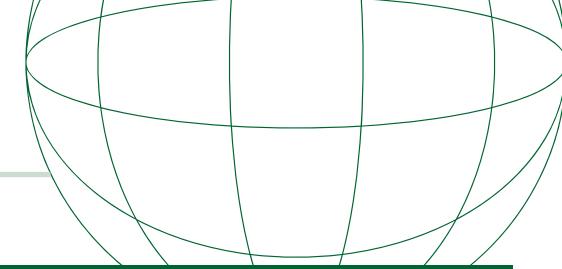
Lungisani Ngcobo said:

"I have learned that it is important to have a skill and make a living out of it. I want to be an electrician when I finish school because it is work that I will be doing using my hands and it will create many job opportunities if I open my own company."



Asanda Hadebe said:

"I have learned how I can get into the tourism and agriculture industry and how I can start my own company once I have acquired the skills. I want to study tourism because there are many opportunities in our beautiful country."



Executive Mayor Kgosientso Ramokgopa said:

"If we are to start undermining poverty and unemployment to break the multi-generational poverty cycle in our midst, communities need to change ownership of the economy and the city will offer its support. The city's initiative is in line with the Gauteng Provincial Government's goal of transformation, modernisation and re-industrialisation and we dare not fail."



Lenah Nkosi (extreme right) said:

"Councillor Hlatshwayo encouraged us to establish forums to combat issues of unemployment and poverty. Various workshops, information sessions and presentations led to the conceptualisation of this project that has become a beacon of hope and a shining light to lead the Township Economic Revitalisation."

OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Business opportunity creates jobs

By Robbie Senoelo: GCIS, Gauteng



Executive Mayor Ramokgopa unveils the plaque and cuts the ribbon to launch community bakery.

The drive to create employment opportunities for young people to fight poverty, unemployment and inequality received a major boost when the Executive Mayor of the City of Tshwane, Councillor Kgosientso Ramokgopa, launched the Kgora Community Bakery on 3 August 2015 in Soshanguve.

This was the City of Tshwane's latest youth employment and township economic revitalisation project in Soshanguve, with the injection of R3,8 million into a bakery project. The investment went into construction of the building and the installation of fixtures, features, fittings and machinery.

The community bakery, an initiative of five young people belonging to Imvelo Multipurpose Cooperative, will sell fresh bread known as "kgora" and related products to residents and local businesses at affordable prices. The bakery will produce a minimum of 800 loaves a day.

The Member of the Mayoral Committee responsible for Economic Development and City Planning, Councillor Subesh Pillay, said that the city decided to address youth unemployment through various initiatives. He said that in the two years since the Tshepo 10 000 Youth Entrepreneurship Programme started, R280 million had been spread over 300 000 cooperatives.

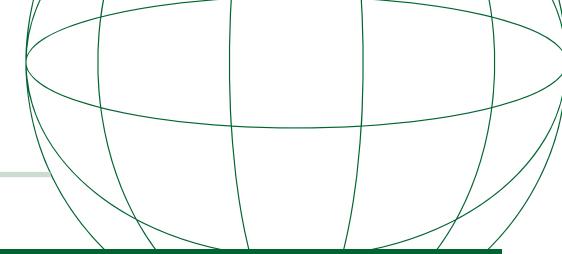
"This place will serve as a pilot project to be replicated in other townships and city's regions based on its successes and failures. We have not just thrown money at the project; we are seeking to build a long-term relationship. Thanks to ABSA and Supreme Flours, we now have a successful and sustainable private-public partnership," said Pillay.

Executive Mayor Ramokgopa said that close to 20 million people in the country live below the poverty line and more effort needs to be directed towards tackling unemployment, poverty and inequality. He said that it was about time township people stopped taking money from their communities to the city centres.



Phindile Masuku Mashuluwane said:

"We did whatever we could to be where we are today. To have the city join in makes us want to push even further. This means we have a future and sustainable jobs. The community is just as eager to stand behind us in this endeavour."



Dineo Monchonyane said:
“I was afraid to fly, let alone to get inside the plane. But when we got there I forgot that I was afraid and I immediately got into the business of running.”



Pelonomi Moalusi said:
“I was scared when I had to leave my school mates, family and friends behind but the Americans welcomed us well and with the support of our coach everything went well. I am very happy.”

OUTCOME I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Learners make their mark at the Special Olympics

By Fatima Modise: GCIS, North West



Pelonomi, Kgosi Mankuroane and Dineo.



Community members welcoming the athletes and their coach.

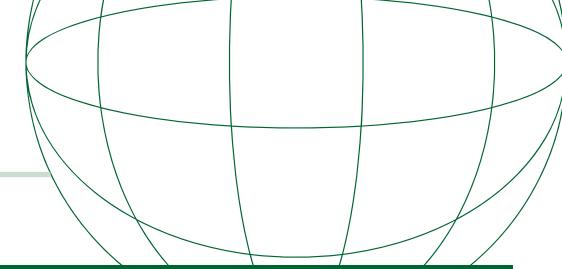
On 6 August 2015, the Greater Taung Local Municipality, Department of Basic Education and Kgosi Tshepo Mankuroane welcomed two Olympians, Dineo Mochonyane and Pelonomi Moalusi who went to Los Angeles in the United States of America to participate in the Special Olympics World Games.

The two learners from M.M Sebitloane Special School in Lokaleng section in Taung were part of the national team. Dineo was a 3 000m runner and she brought home silver and bronze medals. Pelonomi was playing table tennis and won a gold medal.

Kgosi Tshepo Mankuroane said: “I am very proud of you girls for putting Taung on the map. You have done well, you have put your disability aside and worked hard, *Halala Bathaping Baga Phuduhucwana Halala*.”

The Mayor of Greater Taung Local Municipality, Councillor Kaone Lobelo, had breakfast with the girls and their parents at Taung Hotel School, just to congratulate them.

The 2001 Comrades Marathon winner, Andrew Kelehe, who is also from Taung, congratulated the girls and said: “I am very proud of you. We are showing the world that Taung is still going to produce more athletes. Continue with the same spirit and stay away from drugs and you will go places.”



Nthabiseng Kgoronyane said:

"Some women are still trapped in abusive relationships because they are not aware of the help that is available to them, but I think we have made great progress as a country in terms of raising awareness for women. I am privileged to be part of this event and given an opportunity to share information and being recognised by my community."



Mmasara Pitso said:

"These events are encouraging for women. Many women who attended this event are from rural areas and important messages were shared with them. We were also reminded of those who fought for our freedom and that we should use our freedom with responsibility."

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

Women's Day event empowers women

By Karen Foutie: GCIS, Northern Cape



Premier Sylvia Lucas addressing the audience.



Bikers entertaining members of the public at the event.



Artists entertaining young people.

"The commemoration and celebrations of Women's Day in South Africa should be viewed as a very important victory for women's emancipation in our country and the African continent as a whole," said Northern Cape Premier, Sylvia Lucas. She was addressing more than 4 000 people at the provincial Women's Day event in Kuruman.

The Premier told the community that equality and empowerment are central to government's mission to eradicate poverty and stimulate development. She said young girls have become a priority when it comes to education and in-service training at both the public and private sector.



The Director of Gender Equality in the Northern Cape, Tshepo Nosi, emphasised that government needs to understand women's safety issues. He urged government to continue addressing gender-based violence.

Nthabiseng Kgoronyane, a finalist for Miss South Africa 2015, said that women are now more aware of their rights and economic opportunities than they were in the past.

Abusantise Tetelo said:

"This event was very successful and I enjoyed being here and enjoying my freedom as a woman. I think others are also enjoyed and learned a lot. I did not waste my time by coming here."