




MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 26 / July 2014

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

Ekurhuleni youth network during the job summit.

By: *Tinyiko Molefe, Department of Communications, Gauteng*

On 12 June 2014, government ensured that the youth of Ekurhuleni received information that would enable them to improve their economic background by hosting the annual Ekurhuleni Job Summit at the Birchwood Hotel.

“Changing your mind-set and not letting your background define who you are is the key to success in life. Don’t let your poor background affect your potential to succeed. Always be business minded and change your lives 360 degrees.” These were the sentiments shared by successful entrepreneur, Teboho Mafodi, from Ekurhuleni. He continued by thanking the Ekurhuleni municipality for affording him the opportunity to speak at the summit.

In his address, Dr Tibane supported Mafodi by saying, “The youth, our future leaders, must have a vision. You must empower yourself to be the best you can be so that you can succeed in the future. Elevate your standard of leadership, have the will and wisdom and equip yourselves to bring about change in the future.”

Ramabu, one of the youth who registered on the Ekurhuleni Employment Database during the 2013 career expo, managed to get an internship at the Ekurhuleni Customer Care in Katlehong. She expressed her gratitude for the experience she gained through the internship saying, “This programme has allowed me to create relationships with other professionals and I have gained tremendous experience, my career would not have been successful without this internship.”

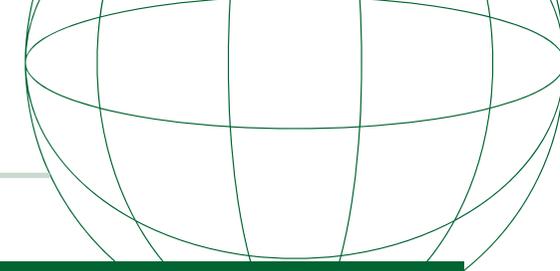


Teboho addressed the youth about business opportunities.



Some of the youth who attended the Ekurhuleni Job Summit.





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OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Youth economic participation

By: Madire Mocketla, Department of Communications, Limpopo

In anticipation to address the challenges experienced by youths regarding opportunities for further education and training, learnerships and internship, the DoC in partnership with the Aganang Local Municipality organised a career expo on 20 June 2014 at the Municipal hall in Ceres.

This event was organised by youths, dedicated to youths and run by youths. Tertiary institutions like Capricorn Further Education and Training (FET) College and the University of Venda were invited to share the application and admission processes with Grade 12 learners from all municipal areas. About 600 learners attended the event.

To motivate the learners, the Department of Correctional Services arranged for an ex-convict, Peter Masenya to talk to the learners. He advised them to stay away from criminal activities as a criminal record puts you at a disadvantaged when you are looking for employment. He urged them not to succumb to peer pressure.

Kwena “Kwenisto” (as he is well-known in the radio industry) Makgakga, Thobela FM presenter for youth programmes, comes from gaMabilwana from a poor family. He said that Grade 12 is the a foundation of your future dreams and life. “Everybody has a dream – never forget your dream,” he said. He told learners to work hard for a better life and never let their poor backgrounds define who they are. Kwenisto bears testimony that indeed life has changed since 1994. He said that after passing his matric, he did not even have a single cent to pay for tertiary education. Registration was a hassle until he got assistance from National Student Financial Aid Scheme during his first year. He received a bursary from the second year until he completed his studies. This changed his life and his family’s life for the better.

He urged learners to use the chance they have of pursuing their studies while it is still there. “God blesses those with passion and determination,” he added. In his conclusion he said that the voice they hear on radio talking to them did not come cheap. “God plus education is equal to success.”

Marvin Selemela, a Class of 2014 learner from Mahlabela Secondary School representing learners promised to get As in all his subjects at the end of 2014. He said, “I learnt too that the way you dream is the way you see your future, and without goal, mission is nothing.”



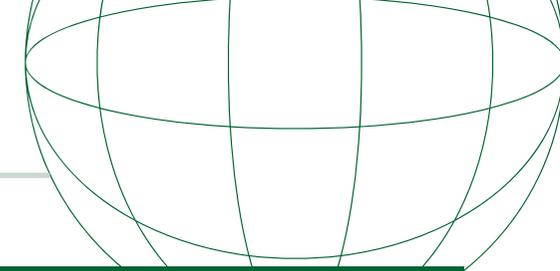
Tselana Nthabiseng from Kgoke High School in Phetole Village said, “I learnt that to succeed in life you have to work hard. I want to study nursing.”



Manamela Nathaniel from Jawejawe Ledwaba High School in Venus Village said that he learned that people from disadvantaged backgrounds also succeed in life. “I was inspired by the motivational speaker that said you have to work hard. I want to study business management at the University of Johannesburg.”



Anastacia Galane from Kwena-A-Pen High School in Saaiplaas Village said, “Your situation is not your future. The event assisted me to look life in a different manner. I want to study traffic management.”



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

Youth beating crime.

By: Ntandokazi Kukuma, Department of Communications, Western Cape

This year marks the 38th anniversary of the Soweto uprising and 20 years of democracy in South Africa. The Freedom Park Agency for the Department of Arts and Culture partnered with the Robben Island Museum on a two-day workshop that took place from 15 to 16 June 2014. Youth members (45 from Eldorado Park and Kliptown, Soweto and 25 from Delft in Cape Town joined hands on Robben Island and engaged in a facilitated dialogue to share experiences on fighting the scourge of drug abuse and building a better future for themselves.

Khorommbi Matibe, of the Public Participation Department of Freedom Park, told the Department of Communications that these outcomes were significant in achieving the objectives of this initiative. He said, "These events were a success to a point where Freedom Park and Robben Island had to develop a mandate. They also had to put into consideration people's wish that this programme must not be once a year but it must be held regularly during the year."

He further mentioned that the memorial sites' managements agreed to work on these events using the same cadre to achieve a progressive level that brings back the sense of respect, discipline, focus and ubuntu in the youth of South Africa.

The theme of the event was "Youth, Drugs and Violence in a Democratic South Africa". The overall mood among the attendees was appealing and positive. The welcoming and closing sessions were at Amphitheatre at the Robben Island offices on the V&A Waterfront, after which the youth toured the island, had group discussions and participated in other activities. They were very emotional when expressing how they were directly affected and outlined the reasons that result in their misbehaviours.

Mr Matibe said, "It was a hugely successful, and overwhelming event. You could see how driven the youth were; how determined and adamant in striving for positive change. During the discussions many cried while urging their parents to show some compassion and love to them. The children mentioned that they were feeling deserted. These youngsters were reflecting and representing their respective societies. They were thrilled to be part of the event and were thankful to the organisers. The progress of this cohort group is well monitored and is evident through improved behaviour and school marks."

This development programme was initiated on Youth Day 2012 in Delft, Western Cape. It was based on the scourge of drug abuse and issues related to drugs. This group partnered with the Delft police station, non-governmental organisations and other community structures.

The success of the Delft event led the programme to Freedom Park in 2013 for a dialogue. Organisers used the same group of young people aiming to engage with the drug users and those who are exposed to drugs and incidents of violence in their domains.

During this event Freedom Park and Robben Island also reviewed, revisited and implemented the actions of joining this programme and many other programmes they aspire to have in future.

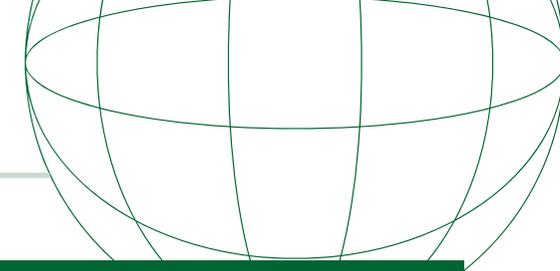
The Freedom Park has many other developmental programmes that they are busy with. One such is where they partnered with the Northern Cape in an effort to reconcile a divided community namely the Khoisan and Afrikaners. They have launched the reconciliation.

Mr Matibe, Head of Marketing and Communication at Freedom Park said about the programme: "The programme was good. Freedom Park selected young people that are more exposed to drugs or substance abuse and also the ones that use drugs. The selection was based on the combination of both as they are all affected.

"Regarding today's educational system, its focus is more on the absorption of people into the economy. Youth today are more worried about the reindustrialisation of our economy. Students are being educated through the education system and through all the other skilled oriented programmes so that there won't be high jobseekers.

"They are getting trained to be able to start their own businesses. Government have also seen the need for the development for small business, adding an effort in addressing the economic emancipation and not only groom students for blue-collar jobs. Government wants to make it easy for new entrepreneurs to be absorbed into the economy. I think the democratic system of education is fundamental to economic activities we all need."





Youth Parliament in North West Legislature



Naledi Santagane said: "There are too few opportunities for the disabled and the government must take disabled people seriously. There are only 2% opportunities for the disabled in government."



Dintwe Mekgwe said: "Education must be free and compulsory. Education is not free in this country."



M Groenewald said: "Pupils who are out of school are not employed and the government must make sure that they are employed."

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

The Deputy Minister of the Department of Communication, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams addressed the youth Parliament in North West's Legislature.

By: Ephraim Malema, Department of Communications, North West

The Deputy Minister of the Department of Communications, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, urged the youth to pick up the spear of the late Oliver Tambo and fight for their bright future.

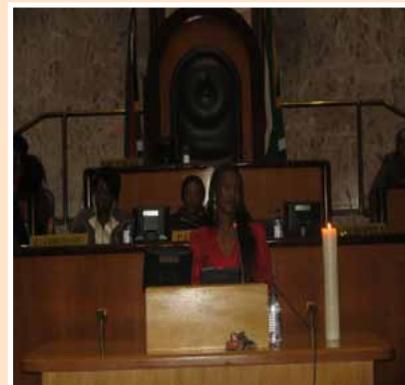
The deputy minister was addressing hundreds of the youth who attended the Youth Parliament debate in North West's Legislature on 30 June 2014 as part of commemorating Youth Month.

The deputy minister encouraged the youth to shape the direction of their future. "You must participate in government programmes, which will give you the necessary skills. The radical transformation of the youth is important. You must make sure that the National Development Plan becomes a success story. Remember, it is your responsibility to make sure that your future is bright," the deputy minister said.

"You need an education so that you can succeed in your life. Without an education there is no future for the youth and that is why former President Nelson Mandela said education is the key to success. The youth must take responsibility for their future," Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams said.

She highlighted the value of capacity building for the youth. "You must be capacitated so that you can add value to this country. This can be done through acquiring information, which will help you so that you can be able start your own small businesses. You must participate in youth development programmes in agriculture and tourism in your province. The Expanded Public Works programme has created employment for thousands of the youth in this country and you must embrace it," she added.

The deputy minister warned the youth who are involved in the abuse of alcohol and drugs. "It is a challenge for our youth. Drugs and alcohol are destroying the youth. You must stop using drugs and abusing alcohol," she concluded.



The Deputy Minister of the Department of Communications addressing the Parliament in the North West Legislature.



Some of the youth listening attentively during the Youth Parliament debate in North West province on 30 June 2014.