




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Integrated community registration outreach programme

By: Reki Skosana: GCIS, Mpumalanga.

The South African Social Security Agency under Thembisile Hani Local Municipality partnered with other stakeholders and embarked on a mobile outreach programme to register beneficiaries of social grants and to re-register those who are already in their database for identification purposes. The programme, which took place on 20 August 2014 in Goederede, was primarily aimed at rendering services as a collective while communicating government services and information to the people. The programme's secondary aim was to enforce measures of ensuring that only rightful beneficiaries receive the social grants.

The initiative was well supported and demonstrated government's commitment when it comes to taking services and information to the people as well as ensuring that people living in rural areas are given the attention they need regarding government services. The Department of Communications assisted in the coordination of the event and also ensured that information was disseminated to all attendees.



Ms Mhlongo and Ms Mokoena said: "The event was very important for us as the community because we stay far from government offices. We always had to travel to Kwaggafontein to access government services but today most government institutions were present. We are very grateful."

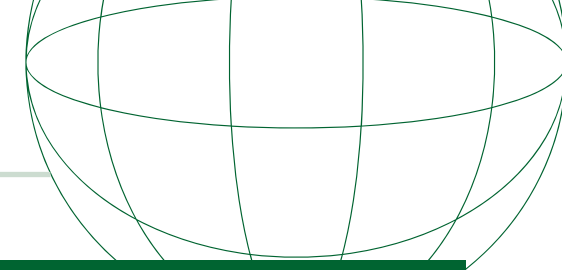
Government departments rendering services to the community during the integrated mobile outreach programme in Goederede in Thembisile Hani Local Municipality.



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

Tell Your Story – Pampierstad

By: Willem van Dalen: GCIS, Northern Cape

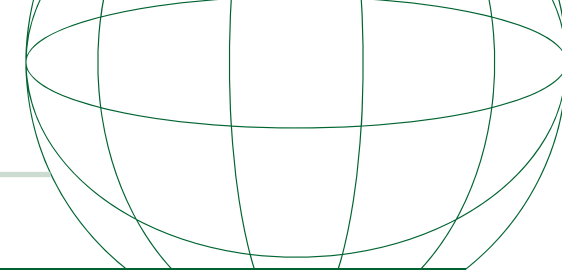
The GCIS, Community Development Workers and a non-governmental organisation embarked on a door-to-door campaign on 3 September 2014 to encourage the community of Pampierstad to attend the “Tell Your Story” campaign which was to be held the following day, 4 September 2014.

During this door-to-door campaign, the greatest joy that the community members shared, was the fact that all government services that they needed, were available in Pampierstad: The departments of home affairs, social development, justice and correctional services, health, and the South African Social Security Agency, South African Police Service and a community library. Everybody indicated that the South Africa we live in today is a much better place than the one before 1994. Although the community felt that there are still areas where some improvement is needed, nobody wanted to go back to the past years of oppression.



Samuel Maribe said: “Before 1994, I was just a labourer with great political aspirations, but I could not become what I wanted to be. In 1996 local government elections, I was privileged to be the first democratically elected Mayor of Pampierstad. I was able to lead the people on the principles that Madiba taught us. It would not have been possible before 1994.”

Pauline said: “I have worked in a restaurant for a meagre salary before 1994. In the new South Africa, my children received bursaries to further their studies and the free schooling for the younger ones and the feeding scheme at school came in handy. I could revert to what I love doing: making clothes. And now I have a flourishing business where I make clothes for people as far as Hartswater.”



OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Community dialogue seeks to engender social cohesion

By: Jabulani Mkhonza: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

Twenty years since South Africa became a democratic country, most South Africans remain divided by race, class, gender and/or their cultural backgrounds. Social cohesion, which can be measured by the extent to which members of a society have responded collectively in pursuit of shared goals, remains a challenge.

To address this challenge, the Department of Arts and Culture hosted a community dialogue in Ladysmith Town Hall on Saturday, 16 August 2014. The main aim was to build awareness and mobilise all South Africans to ensure the realisation of the objectives of social cohesion. These objectives include, but are not limited to, mobilising all citizens around a common programme to ensure their participation and buy-in as well as engendering social cohesion and a national identity. In her welcoming address, Emnambithi Municipality Speaker Zehra Rasool said it was important for all race groups to come together and build the country that is free from racial prejudice. She told the audience that apartheid created a divided and unequal society based on the colour of one's skin. "Today everyone is equal before the law without regards to race, colour or creed and we should build on that as a nation going forward. Our Constitution is one of the best in the world," said Rasool.

There were commissions set up to deliberate on successes, highlight challenges and recommend solutions in our 20 Years of Freedom. The commissions mentioned that our Constitution is the cornerstone of our democracy. Everyone has a right to vote now and basic services are accessible. The country's economy is doing well, with major import and export of goods. Great strides were made in sports since the dawn of democracy. BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China, South Africa) is willing to work together with other developing countries. Our country has moved from political violence to peaceful political dispensation. Doors of learning are open to everyone. Challenges identified include bridging the gap between the rich and the poor. High levels of crime, corruption and unemployment were also mentioned as challenges. Other races, whites in particular, do not want to participate in nation-building activities. Xenophobia needs to be dealt with to ensure that we have a global unity.

It was reported that, in some departments, staff attitudes are appalling, resulting in poor service delivery. Political interference in the employment of staff is still a problem. It was also suggested that gatherings like these should be held on a regular basis for follow-up purposes and feedback. Ms Nomzamo Zondi from the GCIS informed the audience about the "Tell Your Story" campaign. She said the campaign aims to encourage people to share their experiences of apartheid and democratic South Africa with others. Also, to create awareness about what it was like growing up in apartheid South Africa, and the role they might have played in ensuring democratic change and their experience of South Africa today. The campaign seeks to educate young people about the history of our country and it will formally be launched in September 2014 and will form part of Heritage Month activities. Towards the end, seven delegates from each district; Uthukela, Amajuba and Umzinyathi were elected to represent their respective districts in the upcoming social cohesion event.



Tyson Gumbi said: "My parents passed away when I was still very young and life was very difficult for me. Because of my situation, I became a very short-tempered person who would just fight for no reason. With the help of some government departments, I became involved in community projects, helping people with similar challenges out of their misery. I have also assisted many children in getting birth certificates and applying for identity documents."



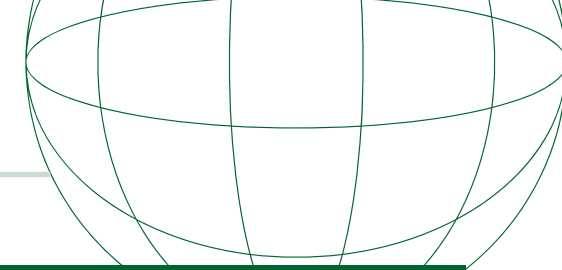
Sbongile Kunene said: "I would like to thank our government and the Indian community for their kindness. After 1994, I took my children to a predominantly Indian school and they were accepted kind-heartedly by the Indian community. Our government assisted me a lot in accessing services such as social grants for the children I look after. One of the children has received a bursary to further her studies at an FET college, and for that I am very grateful."



Left: Emnambithi Speaker Zehra Rasool giving opening remarks. **Right:** GCIS official Nomzamo Zondi talking to the audience about the "Tell Your Story" campaign.



Mr Govender from the Department of Arts and Culture facilitating the dialogue.



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

Minister cracks the whip to bring water to Giyani residents

By: Collins Ndlovu: GCIS, Limpopo

The Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms Nomvula Mokonyane made a commitment to dismantle all challenges that had failed the people of Giyani to receive water even after 20 Years of Freedom. During her interaction with community members on 14 August 2014 in Giyani Community Hall, the Minister was shocked to learn about the frustrations of the community members.

There was a direct confrontation between the programme director Ms Mantonsi, who is also the Speaker of Mopani District Municipality, and community members when she tried to limit the number of people who wanted to raise their grievances with the Minister. "Firstly I want to apologise that after 20 Years of Freedom, government has failed to provide a basic service like water to the people of Giyani," said the Minister when she started responding to the issues raised. The Minister said government was going to work differently to ensure that it responds positively to the new mandate from its people. As part of bringing solutions, the Minister announced that Lepelle Northern Water was going to take over from Mopani District Municipality, which is the current water licence authority.

Individuals and organisations who raised issues accused Mopani District Municipality of being the water licence authority of corruption. "Some of the boreholes drilled in 2005 are not equipped to this day," said Nhlangani Castro Hlungwani, a resident from Giyani section F. Mr Magagani, a representative from Giyani Business Forum said, "Minister, the cost of the boreholes were ridiculous, in some instances the cost of one borehole was R700 000, according to our investigations."

More women lined up in queues, waiting for a microphone from the programme director so that they could raise their frustrations to the Minister.

The Minister further told residents that all mobile water trucks would be stopped from providing water to the communities. Her statement came after residents raised complaints that mobile water trucks providing water for the communities belong to the leadership of Mopani District Municipality.

The residents also told the Minister that in some instances, shortage of water was due to poor maintenance of the filters and the pipelines. They also highlighted that security was required to safeguard the borehole machines. "As much as we appreciate the provision of diesel by the municipality, we also request the municipality to provide transportation for the diesel since communities do not have the means and capacity to do that," said Mr Hlungwani from Mushiyanani village.



Mercy Mlambo from Mageva village during the interaction with the Minister of Water and Sanitation, raising challenges the communities are faced with in relation to shortage of water.



Oscar Maswanganyi from Sikhunyani village raising issues concerning water problems.



The Minister of Water and Sanitation addresses residents of Giyani on government's intervention to solve water problems in Giyani.



Giyani residents listening to Minister Mokonyane in Giyani Community Hall.