

DID YOU KNOW?

Minister Pravin Gordhan will table the 2013/14 budget speech to Parliament on Monday the 25th at 2:00 pm



MY DISTRICT TODAY

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Outcome 7: Vibrant equitable and sustainable rural communities with food security for all

Pig farming gives hope to villagers

Odas Ngobeni: GCIS Limpopo

Ten villagers from Nwamitwa outside Tzaneen in Limpopo have every reason to believe they will soon be able to bring home the bacon.

The villagers have started a piggery project, farming pigs, which they sell to residents and local abattoirs. Their supply base is growing fast in the region and they supply as far as Phalaborwa and Giyani. Project Manager Agnes Tivani says, "We wanted to start something unique, but had no experience in pig farming whatsoever. With determination and hard work, we have every reason to believe this project will help us provide for our families at some point."

54-year-old Tivani says the project has the potential to grow given the demand. "We were lucky to be given this piece of land for free along with some of these structures that were previously used by officials from the Department of Agriculture, but we still had to work hard to get the project off the ground. We baked our own bricks and built the pens ourselves," she says. The project was started in 2010, but was only registered as a cooperative last year. To kick-start the project, each project member contributed R500 over five months.

With the contributions they bought 13 piglets from a local farmer after they had received training from the Department of Agriculture. "Today, we have over 100 pigs, most of which are large, white breeds. We sell these at prices from R800 to R1 400. The majority of our customers are teachers from local schools who buy whenever they have events, but of late we have been receiving inquiries from some abattoirs," Tivani says.

Another project member, Samuel Hlatshwayo (62), says all project members ventured into the project without expectations of instant success. "Our running costs include payment for feed stock and veterinary services. When an animal gets sick, we call a vet from town to come and treat it.

"We want to become a major player in the meat business, but we must also be realistic in our goals. We are yet to approach the Department of Rural Development for help. We will do so soon through the LED unit at the municipality," he says.



Three of the members of the pig farming project with some of the white breed pigs.



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Outcome 7: Vibrant, Equitable and Sustainable Rural Communities and Food Security for all

A NARYSEC programme improves lives

The National Rural Youth Services Corps (NARYSEC) works to equip the youth in rural communities with skills so they can support themselves and their families. The skills include farm ranging, construction and farming. To date, the programme has supported several youths in the Eastern Cape, in particular in the Nyandeni Local Municipality.

Bulelani Boyce, a NARYSEC candidate, has made the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform proud by building a flat at his home in Nyandeni village at Libode with the stipend that he receives from the department. Bulelani is learning about farm ranging at Somerset East College, which includes nature conservation.

Mr Sizwe Majiba, head of NARYSEC, in the province said they always encourage candidates to share their stipend with their families. "I think that is how Bulelani managed to build a house." Part of their induction includes disciplining them on using their stipend wisely," Majiba said. He also said the department would arrange placements for farm ranging candidates to perform their skills on departmental farms.

Majiba added that the department would assist some of the candidates to form their co-ops and help them access financial institutions. "The NARYSEC programme has been presented to some municipalities to help candidates find jobs at their local municipalities," Majiba said.

The programme indirectly also serves the families of candidates in that the candidates earn an income while training, which they can share with their families. "This stipend has brought a change to me and my family. I used to share a bedroom with my nephews until I started the NARYSEC programme. This has helped me to build my own bedroom with some help from my mother, who is earning an old age grant," Bulelani said.

At the time of the interview Bulelani was harvesting cabbages in his vegetable garden, which he was going to sell at his village. He also bought

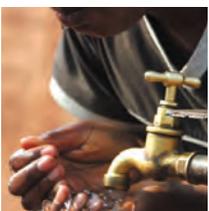
two sheep with the stipend. He believes in saving his money for the future and using his hands to earn money and support his family.

Nyandeni Local Municipality Mayor Ms Thokozile Sokhanyile said they were aware of the NARYSEC candidates at Nyandeni Local Municipality and were collecting data of these candidates in the municipality. "We want to determine their skills so that we can use them in skills projects," Sokhanyile said. The mayor noted that they currently had a project to construct preschools and wanted to use some of these candidates in the project.

Bulelani obtained non-military training at Saldana Military Training near Cape Town where he was taught self-discipline.



Bulelani ready to harvest his vegetable garden.



Outcome 12: An efficient, effective and development-oriented Public Service and an empowered fair and inclusive citizenship

Working together we can do more

Sikelela Zokufa: GCIS Western Cape.

To communicate Government's message to the public, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) coordinated State of the Nation (SoNA) live viewing events for various communities, including students at 22 tertiary institutions countrywide.

While welcoming everyone, the President referred to all of those watching from GCIS live viewing events, including those in Khayelitsha, Nyanga and Gugulethu.

This was music to the ears of those watching from Zolani Thusong Service Centre in Nyanga, Cape Town. The event was hosted in partnership with Africa Unite and the City of Cape Town. Among the attendees were learners

from Sithembel Maliso High School in New Crossroad, Fezeka High School in Gugulethu, and Oscar Mpeta High School in Nyanga. Local traditional leaders and people with disabilities also attended the event.

The aim of hosting these events is to encourage active citizenry, bringing members of the public, especially the youth to participate in national debates and to be agents of change in their respective communities. Approximately 12 000 people attended these events across all nine provinces.

SoNA was preceded by a first-ever community and stakeholder outreach programme by principals in the Presidency, designed to hear the views of the public on a number of issues.



Panellists included CUT (Free State) Public Management lecturer, Mr Munsamy, GCIS staff and student leadership waiting for the President's speech.



Farm workers watch the State of the Nation Address at the public viewing site (Landgoed Primary, Letaba Estate) in Limpopo.



Outcome 12: An efficient, effective and development-oriented Public Service and an empowered fair and Inclusive Citizenship

Our future – make it work

In his State of the Nation Address (SoNA) on Thursday 14 February 2013, the President referred to the National Development Plan as a roadmap to a South Africa in which all citizens will have water, sanitation, jobs, housing, public transport, adequate nutrition, education, social protection, quality healthcare, recreation and a clean environment.

These sentiments will feature in all Government engagement sessions to mobilise communities to support and contribute towards the plan. The plan aims to ensure that all South Africans attain a decent standard of living by eliminating poverty and reducing inequality. Government has approved and adopted the NDP and has received strong endorsement from the broader society. The focus now shifts to how the NDP will be implemented.

The following actions will be undertaken during 2013:

- Implementing programmes that do not require additional resources and long lead times
- Identifying critical first steps to unlock implementation
- Preparation of the 2014-19 MTSF as the first five-year building block of the NDP
- Focusing on areas where implementation of existing policies needs to improve
- Focused dialogues to overcome obstacles to implementation.

The NDP is a plan for the whole country. Government will engage with all sectors to understand how they are contributing to implementation, and particularly to identify any obstacles preventing them from fulfilling their role effectively.

High-level leadership meetings will be held regularly between government and business, labour and civil society. During these meetings the contribution of each sector to the NDP will be discussed, obstacles will

be identified and develop a common understanding of how to overcome these obstacles will be addressed. These high-level meetings will be underpinned by more focused stakeholder engagements. These are intended to find solutions to specific challenges and construct frameworks that enable stakeholders to hold each other accountable.

Government therefore calls on everyone to be active and participate in all platforms created by Government across the three spheres to engage in issues that will promote the implementation of this plan.



Learners attentively listening to the Minister Trevor Manuel.