

DID YOU KNOW?



April is Freedom Month and the commemoration will be held on Saturday 27

April at the Union Buildings. Freedom Month is celebrated under the theme: "Mobilising Society Towards consolidating Democracy and Freedom"



MY DISTRICT TODAY

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CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

For more information about similar programmes that are run across the country, contact one of the following provincial offices:

EASTERN CAPE

Ndlelantle Pinyana
043 722 2602 or 076 142 8606
ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za

FREE STATE

Trevor Mokeyane
051 448 4504 or 083 255 0042
tshenolo@gcis.gov.za

GAUTENG

Peter Gumede
011 834 3560 or 083 570 8080
peterg@gcis.gov.za

KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420
ndala@gcis.gov.za

Outcome 12: An efficient, effective and development-orientated public service and an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenry *Nomination period for NYDA South African Youth Awards extended*

The nomination period for the second annual South African Youth Awards has been extended to 30 April 2013. South Africans, therefore, have more time to nominate exceptional youths between the ages of 14 and 35 and public, private and civil society organisations that have made tangible contributions to youth development.

According to the National Youth Development Agency's CEO Steven Ngubeni, the theme for this year's awards is ***A Leader Without a Title***. "We would like to recognise inspirational youths from rural, peri-urban and urban areas who are not necessarily in the limelight but have shown leadership in their communities and their chosen fields," Ngubeni said.

Awards categories include: Academia; Arts and Entertainment (music, film, literature and dance); Entrepreneurship; Extraordinary Champions (young people with disabilities); Health and Wellbeing; Science, Technology and Innovation; Social Cohesion/Civil Society and Environment. In addition, two more categories have been included this year: Public Sector and Private Sector. These categories will recognise public and private sector organisations that prioritise and make tangible contributions to youth development.

The winner in each category will receive R50 000. The overall winner, chosen from the category winners, will receive the Presidential Award and R100 000 prize money. Nomination forms can be accessed

via the South African Youth Awards website at www.nyda.gov.za/sayouthawards2013, NYDA branches across the country and LoveLife Centres. Nomination forms can be e-mailed to info@nyda.gov.za, faxed to 086 606 6563 or submitted at NYDA branches or LoveLife Centres by 30 April 2013.

"There is an abundance of inspirational youth and public and private sector organisations that quietly do sterling work across the country. We want to put them under the spotlight and urge all South Africans to nominate in numbers," Ngubeni concluded.



government
communications

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

LIMPOPO

Thanyani Rhavhura
015 291 4689 or 082 421 3461
thanyani@gcis.gov.za

MPUMALANGA

Tiisetso Ramotse
013 753 2397 or 072 219 5136
tiisetso@gcis.gov.za

NORTH WEST

Mareka Mofokeng
018 381 7071 or 083 382 5909
mareka@gcis.gov.za

Kagisho Meremetsi
018 381 7071 or 084 318 0613
kagisho@gcis.gov.za

NORTHERN CAPE

Marius Nagel
053 832 1378/9 or 083 778 9179
mariusn@gcis.gov.za

WESTERN CAPE

Ayanda Hollow
021 697 0145 or 083 255 7665
ayanda@gcis.gov.za

Outcome 12: An efficient, effective and development-orientated public service and an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenry

GCIS takes SoNA debate to learners living with disabilities

Karabo Diale: GCIS North West

Phokeng in Education is an academy that offers a variety of courses to people living with disabilities. These include sign language, interpretation, Braille and radio production courses. Over the years, GCIS has established a good relationship with the academy and has promised that the live viewing of the State of the Nation Address (SoNA) will be an annual event at the school.

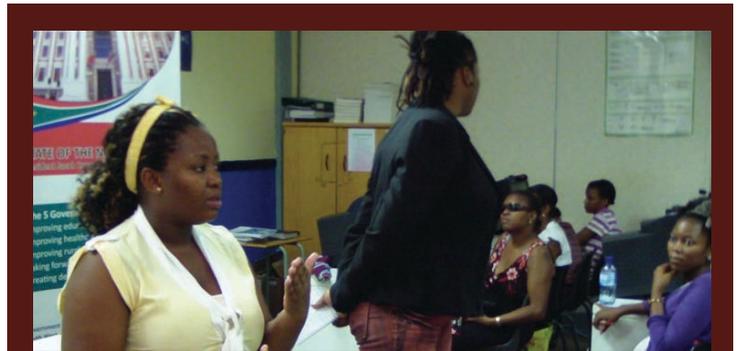
This year, GCIS and Phokeng in Education took SoNA to a new level, dedicating a special day to what was coined the SoNA debate. Learners using sign language and interpretation, debated about the highlights of the SoNA focusing on the five priorities of government.

There was a vigorous debate about how the education system, health services and rural development can be improved, as well as the fight against crime and creating jobs for the unemployed.

Speaking on behalf of the school, Phokeng in Education CEO Sinah Motsielwa, thanked GCIS for allowing the academy to be part of the SoNA campaign as this gives people living with disabilities an opportunity to actively participate in government programmes.



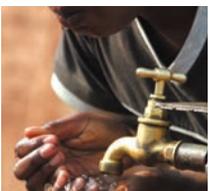
CEO of Phokeng in Education Sinah Motsielwa thanking the learners and GCIS for a fruitful SoNA debate.



Karabo Diale from GCIS giving a word of support to learners after the SoNA debate.



Debaters from the class of sign language and interpretation.





Learners listening attentively to presenters at the career guidance lecture.



Outcome 5: A skilled and capable workforce to support an inclusive growth path

Career Expo for rural learners and out-of-school youth at Tshidilamolomo village

Veronica Moshwela: GCIS North West

Tertiary institutions such as the University of North West, Taletso FET College, NYDA and SAPS conducted a career guidance event at Maselonyane High School for rural learners and out-of-school youth to encourage them to choose relevant careers while they are preparing for tertiary education.

Learners listened attentively to the information presented which provided clarity on different careers. This event takes place every year to help learners choose their careers and to inform them of the different ways government and private institutions can help them financially.

According to a SAPS official: "SAPS have a variety of careers that require people with specialised subjects who have focused on their education. The organisation offers various careers such as engineers and lawyers. The selection is done in terms of merit, qualifications and personality. Many learners are concerned that they are no longer considered when they apply for a career in the police force, not knowing that careful consideration is taken irrespective of matric results."

One of the NYDA officials motivated learners to choose careers that require scarce skills needed to improve the economy. He cited an example that when he went to study after school, he chose a career that was regarded as easy to pass because of his disadvantaged family background. "What I had in mind was to complete my tertiary education and find a job, little did I know that there is a difference between a career and a job."

The NYDA official said learners should pursue science and maths

careers that receive financial support from Government and other private institutions.

Learners were also encouraged to study at FET colleges because they offer education in fields needed in the private business sector.



Presenters motivating learners to pursue good careers.



UNIWEST official providing further information at a career exhibition.



Right: Minister Gugile Nkwinti signing 25 beneficiary certificates before the handover. LEFT: Mayor for Cacadu District Municipality Councillor Kekana.



The beneficiaries of 25 farms in Cradock during the handover by the Minister for Rural Development and Land Reform Gugile Nkwinti.



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

Minister hands over 16 000 ha of land to farmers

Nangamso Ngceke: GCIS Eastern Cape

Government invested more than R346 million in land redistribution for underprivileged farmers in areas within the Chris Hani and Cacadu districts. The Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform Gugile Nkwinti handed over around 16 000 ha of land comprising 25 farms in Cradock on 4 April this year. Some 30 beneficiaries, some of whom were business people, experienced farm workers and livestock owners, received land at this time.

Beneficiaries are obligated to plough sugar beetroot and sorghum in order to produce ethanol which will be processed to become oil. The sugar beet biofuel project is aligned with the National Biofuel Strategy. Government decided to pilot it in Cradock as a mechanism to reverse and redress the land dispossession caused by the 1913 Native Land Act.

Minister Nkwinti said the biofuel project was a national project and farmers needed to take note of the “use it or lose it” principle that applied to all of them. He said this step was proof that government was taking the land issue very seriously and implementing projects to return the dignity of all South Africans.

One of the beneficiaries, advocate Mava Malla, who is renting Helvetia Farm, said beneficiaries acknowledged at this historic event that in 100 years the landless would have been prioritised to address past imbalances. He said Africans were communal farmers; therefore, the nation should rest assured that the history created in Cradock would live forever.

Economic development and job creation

A factory that will produce ethanol from sugar beetroot and sorghum is under construction and the first phase is expected to create at least 1 500 jobs for local residents. It will have approximately 170 employees from the CEO down to the general worker once completed. This factory will be the nucleus for business development and will serve as a magnet for multiple business opportunities. Agricultural Research and Development Agency (ARDA) has

signed a contract with Emalahleni Coal Mine situated at Indwe in the Chris Hani District to supply the factory with coal. The ashes will be used for brickmaking. NARYSEC members who received two of the farms, Lenathal and Sonder Farm, are currently receiving training at Fort Kox Agricultural College.

Beneficiary selection and beneficiary development



Some of the NARYSEC members who received two farms, Lenathal and Sonder Farm. All the recipients will receive training to empower them with the necessary farming skills to run the farms successfully.

A selection committee was elected consisting of Agricultural Research and Development Agency (ARDA). All municipalities involved, farmers unions such as AFASA, Eastern Cape Rural Development Agency and the beneficiaries underwent a selection process that included:

- skills and attitude towards farming
- operating with minimal assistance
- willingness to use the arable land for the production of sorghum and sugar beet
- proof of ownership of livestock and agricultural assets.

All beneficiaries were forwarded to and approved by a national land allocation control committee led by the Deputy Minister for Land Reform, Lechesa Tsenoli.

In terms of the farmer’s empowerment agency ARDA, which falls under the Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform, has been mandated to provide general and legislative support and mentorship to all nominated beneficiaries to identify a market for their end products, and monitor and evaluate their progress.