

## DID YOU KNOW?

Government together with labour and business launched the Social Accord on Youth Employment in April 2013. This further demonstrates a collective commitment towards addressing the issue of unemployment. It maps out individual sector pledges to contribute in fighting youth unemployment with concrete targets and time frames for successful execution, monitoring and collective evaluation of the identified interventions.



# MY DISTRICT TODAY

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

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

### Blessed is the hand that gives

*Doctor Marebane: GCIS Limpopo*

When 35 American tourists visited Kgautswane Thusong Service Centre, they brought relief and smiles to the faces of the community of Kgautswane Village. The visitors, who came from seven different institutions, partnered with the Giving Back Project in Gauteng and donated 100 Hippo Water Roller tanks to the community of Kgautswane.

During their interaction with community members at an event which coincided with Freedom Month celebrations, the tourists said they enjoyed the visit and promised to come back to look into other community projects for possible assistance.

According to Mr Grant Gibbs, coordinator of the Invubu projects, the Hippo Water Rollers alleviate the suffering of women who have to carry heavy buckets of water on their heads. "This simple, but effective technology is an appropriate solution for communities who lack access to water," he said. He added that the initiative was also inspired by

the United Nations who named 2013 the International Year of Water Cooperation. In keeping with the theme, the project was launched on 22 March – World Water Day – to run until Mandela Day on 18 July 2013.

Gibbs challenged other businesses to assist communities in distress with simple projects such as this. He appealed to corporate companies to use their corporate social responsibility and marketing budgets to purchase Hippo Water Rollers for local communities. The water rollers allow 350% more water (90 litres) to be placed inside a rolling water tank, instead of the traditional 20-litre container on the head.

"We want 67 communities around the country to benefit from the project in support of Nelson Mandela Day. The overarching objective of this day is to inspire individuals to take action to help change the world for the better and in doing so, build a global movement for good," said Gibbs.

Kgautswane Thusong Service Centre Manager Clara Masinga welcomed the donation with joy. "We are all aware of the sacrifices Madiba made to liberate this country and bring peace to this diverse community. As we celebrate Freedom Day, we must think about those who are less privileged and do something to assist them. Let us all make every day a Mandela Day by contributing a little to our fellow human beings", she concluded.



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

### Taxi association commits to eradicating gender-based violence

Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS KwaZulu-Natal



Lee-Roy Slingers (cyclist), Soli Madikane, Director of Economic Development, and Michellis Page (cyclist)

The Operation Sukuma Sakhe Forum in Ward 49 in Phoenix, eThekweni Metro made giant strides on Thursday, 2 May when they enlisted the Phoenix Taxi Association's partnership and commitment to eradicate gender-based violence. The taxi industry, which has long been dogged by negativity and poor community perception, rose up and joined forces with government and civil society organisations in the fight against gender-based violence and child abuse.

Speakers on the day included Phoenix SAPS Station Commissioner, Brigadier Phumelele Makoba; spokesperson for the KwaZulu-Natal National Prosecuting Authority, Natasha Ramkisson; Sharleen Pillay of the Durban and Coastal Mental Health; and Samantha Bojraj of the Haven of Rest. Krishnie Reddy, affectionately known to everyone as Aunty Krishnie, delivered a moving and motivational personal testimony of violent abuse and her rise from being a victim to becoming not only a survivor, but also a beacon of courage and inspiration to other victims of domestic violence. Reddy volunteers at the Advice Desk for Abused Women and Children at the Verulam Magistrate's Court and Phoenix Department of Social Development, rendering counselling services.

Amanguni Productions drew an enthralled audience with their thought provoking skit and mesmerising dance movements on the effects of domestic violence, the values of human rights and responsibilities as enshrined in the South African Bill of Rights. The key message conveyed was that gender-based violence is a violation of our human rights and our rights to respect, fair and equitable treatment in society. Many people in the audience categorically blamed alcohol, taverns and substance abuse for the rising incidents of domestic violence, escalating rape of children and other crimes such as burglaries, and hijackings.

The day's proceedings ended on a high note, with commitment from the Phoenix Taxi Association to stop gender-based violence.



SAPS Uniondale officials writing affidavits for the community.



The Department of Rural Development and Agriculture informed community members about food security.

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

### Uniondale TSC mobile services go live

*GCS: Western Cape*

Government's Thusong Service Centre (TSC) Programme was initiated in 1999 as one of the primary vehicles for the implementation of development communication and information, and to integrate government services into

primarily rural communities. The GCS Western Cape coordinated the TSC mobile services project on 7 May, to take government's services closer to the people of Uniondale.



Officials from Home Affairs and the Department of Labour delivered services to the community of Uniondale during the Thusong mobile services project.



The South African Social Security Agency assisted community members at the Uniondale Thusong Service Centre.



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### Hail to media freedom in South Africa

*Xolani Mndaweni: GCIS, North West*

In 1993, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 3 May as World Press Freedom Day. This day symbolises a very important and emotional day in the lives of many journalists, communicators and the media industry. The media in Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality in North West commemorated the 20th anniversary of this day in style. It started with a roundtable discussion among local journalists, followed by the local media personnel, journalists and freelancers being interviewed on Star FM Community Radio.

The GCIS explained the purpose of securing the radio slot to inform citizens of violations of press freedom and reflect on the state of media freedom in South Africa and worldwide. It gave media professionals a chance to reflect on issues of press freedom and professional ethics.

“Unlike before 1994, today we are able to broadcast here in Matlosana, in our own home language,” said Lesego, a newsreader from the local radio station. “I can indeed say the media is freer today in South Africa.”

Many of the journalists agreed that South Africa was a haven for them and their colleagues, however there are still concerns of crimes against journalists and rigid media censorship policies in neighbouring African states.

In raising his frustrations, Mohanoe Khiba from the *Daily Sun* said, “Sometimes the community treats us like we are spies and we become victims of hooligans. I guess this is the legacy of the previous regime. We urge communities to treat us as their friends and partners.”

The Constitution of South Africa, 1996 was hailed for having the Bill of Rights, which ensures the freedom of the press and other media. By upholding Batho Pele principles, the Government is seen to be committed to the values of openness and transparency in State affairs.

“As the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality is piloting the National Health Insurance Scheme, our reporting on patient treatment has ensured that community members receive better healthcare services,” said Joba Matsheng, a freelance reporter. Mr Matsheng said their fearless reporting was as a result of the cordial working partnership with communities, the South African Police Service, and other government institutions and their communication units.

As South Africa commemorates and observes workers’ rights during May, the journalists were reminded of their duty as workers of the world and servants of people, whom they solemnly pledged to serve selflessly every time they report.

