



Issue no. 33 / August 2014

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

Women empowerment motivates women from Lebotloane to start the Letlape Bakery

By: Ephraim Malema: GCIS, North West

Through the help of the North West Department of Economic Development, women from Lebotloane were funded to buy equipment to start a bakery in the village. The women grabbed the opportunity with both hands, and the rest is now history. They were trained for two days on how to produce bread by food crop in Pretoria.

It all started in 2012 when five women from Lebotloane came together and formed a cooperative with the main objective of forming a small business. But first, they conducted a needs analysis of the people of Lebotloane and discovered that people in the village need more bread. Letlape Bakery produces fresh bread daily and sells it to the local community as well as tuck shops. Annah Nawa, who is the chairperson of Letlape Bakery said, "Women empowerment has created opportunities for women in Lebotloane. We are producing bread for the people of Lebotloane and they are happy to buy fresh bread at reasonable prices." The bakery produces about 800 loaves of bread daily and they have found one man who assists them in their daily operation.



Letlape Bakery is a women-empowerment project and it produces fresh bread daily.

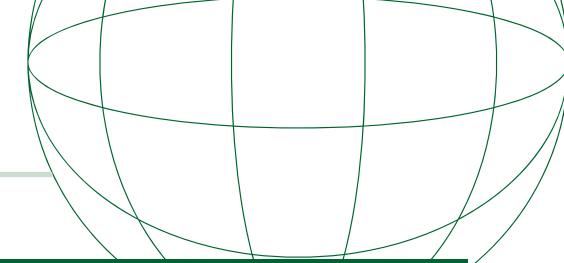


Members of the community standing in a queue so that they can buy fresh bread at Letlape Bakery in Lebotloane.



Ms Sophy Makakaba said, "We eat fresh bread, which is produced here in Lebotloane because of women empowerment."

Johanah Kgwadi said, "I am glad because people of Lebotloane buy bread that is produced in their own village because of women empowerment."



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OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

De Aar Youth Precinct officially opened by the Minister of Public Enterprises, Ms Lynne Brown on 28 July 2014.

By: Tshidi Mokoka, GCIS, Gauteng.



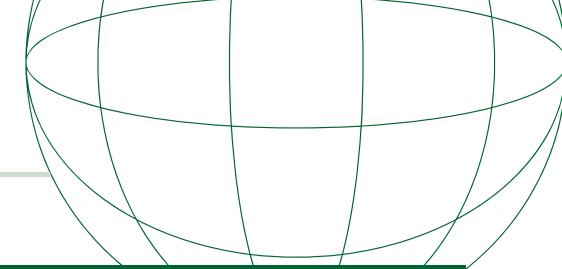
Nadia Viola Koa, a beneficiary from Transnet who acquired skills and experience through the programme. "I was employed by Transnet together with 18 other beneficiaries from De Aar."

"What did you think about the Transnet project?"	"Good project that gave development skills and experience of one year and six months."
"Did the project meet your expectations?"	"Yes."
"Anything interesting that you learnt at the project and launch?"	"The number of beneficiaries who benefitted from the project. About 19 people benefitted from the programme."
"Anything you would like to share with the Minister?"	"The experience we gained from the project helped to improve our skills greatly."
"General remarks?"	"Transnet, De Aar created 19 job opportunities."



Eminna Snyders, "The Transnet Programme was very helpful to me. I was one of the recipients of furniture, a house and a food parcel. I learnt to not only think about myself but also to think of others [too] by sharing what I have with the less fortunate and the needy."

"What did you think about the project?"	"The project was helpful to me."
"Did the project meet your expectations?"	"Yes."
"Anything interesting that you learnt at the project and launch?"	"The help that I get from Transnet."
"Anything you would like to share with the Minister?"	"I want to thank the Minister and Transnet for the the furniture and the house they gave me."
"General remarks?"	"I need assistance with a school uniform for my child."



Ms Julia Mbhele from Bethlehem said, "Can government please ensure that the fraudster who robbed me of the money that I had from selling electricity vouchers gets a very long sentence?"



Mme Mkhwanazi from Paul Roux said, "I'm glad that the Minister came because no one is willing to explain to me the processes in changing stand ownership. Our local municipality has told me that I cannot change it because I have to pay R70 000 that my deceased husband owed the municipality."

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

Minister launches Sexual Offences Court

By: N E Mhlambi: GCIS, Free State

On Friday, 15 August 2014, the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Michael Masutha officially launched the Sexual Offences Court in Bethlehem, in the Free State. The launch of this court came as a result of a petition by the Bethlehem community members complaining that the courts were dismissing most of their cases because of witnesses' unsatisfactory evidence. The dedicated court is equipped to provide improved effectiveness in specialised victim-support services and improve conviction rates.

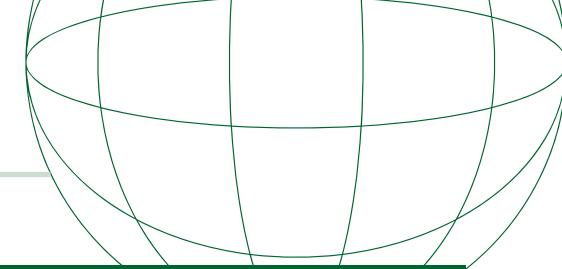
"This is an important milestone in the rigorous fight against the increasing number of sexual crimes affecting women, children and persons with disabilities," said Advocate Kambula, Chief Director for the Promotion of the Rights of Vulnerable Groups unit in the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development.

Minister Masutha said the department committed itself to establish 57 Sexual Offences Courts nationally. He also mentioned a case that took place in Butterworth of a serial rapist that was terrorising the community for four years without being caught but within two weeks after the Sexual Offences Court was established the rapist was finally convicted and sentenced to 25 years for raping elderly women and children.

An Imbizo followed the event where the community of Bethlehem had an opportunity to interact with the Minister and officials from government departments about service delivery issues affecting them.



The Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr Masutha and Dihlabeng Mayor, Mr Mofokeng, looking at the facilities of the Bethlehem Sexual Offences Court.



Selunathi Jucwa, Grade 12 said, "It is an honour to women during this important month. They were ignored by the apartheid government. More women should occupy high posts in government."



Sive Nyelezi, Grade 12 said, "Women now do jobs that men do. In the past they were discriminated against but now they are recognised, for example, the judge that is presiding over the Oscar Pistorius' case is a woman."

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

Women are ready to lead

By: Vuyani Sibene: GCIS, Eastern Cape

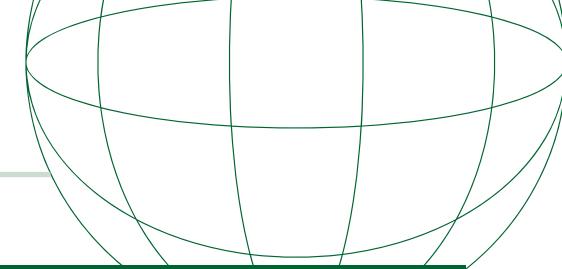
The empowerment of women in South Africa is about redressing the legacy of apartheid and about the transformation of society, particularly the transformation of power relations between women, men, institutions and laws. It is also about addressing gender oppression, patriarchy, sexism, racism, ageism, and structural oppression, and creating a conducive environment that enables women to take control of their lives.

Black women suffered triple oppression (race, gender, class/culture), especially those married under customary law who were regarded as minors by the Black Administration Act of 1927, and placed under the tutelage of their husbands. The aspirations of women for self-determination and equality were espoused in the Women's Charter of 1954. It is now 60 years later and the Women's Charter remains as valid in the call for women's emancipation, development and empowerment as it was then.

On 11 August 2014, the Cofimvaba Senior Secondary School, which is led by a woman as a principal, also celebrated Women's Month as this institution also believes women are ready to lead the country.



Leaners of the Cofimvaba Senior Secondary School at the Women's Month school activity.



Ms Zodwa Mthethwa, "The government has done a lot in this young democracy. However, there is still a lot more that needs to be achieved, especially in workplaces where women are still the minority in executive positions in big companies. I am glad that laws such as the Employment Equity Act are being put in place and the United Nations has put stern measures in place to address this issue."



"As young, black, South African females, we would not be where we are today had it not been for the women of 1956 who fought for our freedom. The anniversary of this charter is a celebration of how far women have come and how we young ladies should continue with the legacy of these women."

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

Celebrating 60th Anniversary of the Women's Charter – Together Moving a Non-Racial and Non-Sexist South Africa Forward.

By: Lihle Luthuli: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

"Wathintha abafazi wathintha imbokodo, Malibongwe igama lamakhosikazi"

These were the words chanted by the masses that came in numbers to commemorate and celebrate the 60th Anniversary of the Women's Charter and 20 Years of Freedom on National Women's Day, 9 August at the King Zwelithini Stadium in Umlazi, Durban.

The mood of the day was celebratory with chants to express the women's struggle over the years. Women from all over the country attended the event.

President Jacob Zuma walked in to a jubilant crowd to give his keynote address where he acknowledged the advances, which the country has made in terms of women's empowerment and gender equality, especially in the workplace. He also said that South Africa has progressed a great deal in the promotion of gender equality and women's empowerment set up by the United Nations.

"Significantly, the Women's Charter influenced the content and spirit of the 1994 Women's Charter for Effective Equality and also the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996. We have made important strides in realising the vision of the Women's Charter since the dawn of freedom. There are just 508 days before the deadline set by the United Nations for all countries to achieve the United Nations Millennium Development Goals (MDGs). Goal three of the MDGs is: Promoting Gender Equality and Empowering Women. South Africa has made visible progress in this regard, judging by the number of women holding public office and women who have entered fields that had been earmarked for men only in the past."

President Zuma emphasised improving workplace conditions for women. He alluded to the fact that it was vital that regulations and laws governing the workplace are to be made more stringent, hence the passing and the promulgation of the Employment Equity Act. "To further advance progress, we have decided to sharpen the law governing equality in the workplace. The passing of the Employment Equity Act, 16 years ago and now the promulgation of the Employment Equity Amendment Act on 1 August 2014, marked a turning point in our history in terms of opening up opportunities.

"We had to amend the Employment Equity Act because in spite of all efforts made, remnants of unfair discrimination still persist in the labour market." The day started on a high note with the Women's Build Programme, which saw the Minister for Human Settlements, Lindiwe Sisulu, the KwaZulu-Natal leadership led by Premier Senzo Mchunu, handing over houses in Illovo to women beneficiaries. They also participated in the programme by laying a few bricks in the houses that were being built by women contractors.



The Minister of Human Settlements, Lindiwe Sisulu, KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Senzo Mchunu and the MEC for Human Settlements, Ravi Pillay, as they hand over a house, which is part of the Women's Build Programme.



Minister Lindiwe Sisulu of Human Settlements together with Premier Mchunu and Deputy Mayor of eThekweni Municipality, Nomvuso Shabalala handing over a house to the Nene family in Illovo as part of the Women's Build Programme.