



MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 35 / September 2014

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:

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OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Profiling government beneficiary – Women's Month

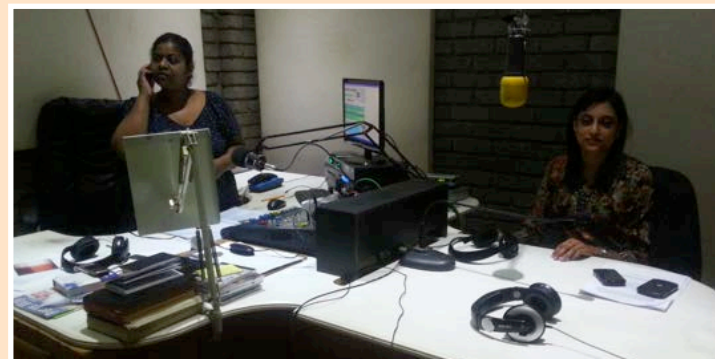
By: Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

Against the backdrop of Women's Month and with the emphasis on youth development, it is only appropriate to profile a woman beneficiary of government and share this good story with the community of Verulam and surrounding areas. Mrs Kerina Singh wanted to start her own business because of the high unemployment rate and her vision was also to assist other unemployed people by creating jobs for them.

Singh browsed the Internet and searched for information on programmes and assistance offered to aspirant entrepreneurs and came across the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA). She then approached the NYDA and after having met the requirements, she was successfully assisted through the NYDA voucher programme, with the artwork for branding and marketing her business, the development of her business plan and a grant to buy stock to start her business. She now owns a glass-fitment centre in Verulam.

When asked about her experience with the NYDA, she said that she would not have been able to start her own business had it not been for their assistance. She thanked the NYDA for assisting. During an interview on Good News Community Radio, Singh advised young entrepreneurs, especially women, to believe in their dreams, to never give up and to stay focused on their goals. She said that starting up a business is not any easy task for women.

Sabelo Ntuli, a manager at the KwaZulu-Natal NYDA, said that their services are for all youth in South Africa. He encouraged young people to visit their offices at the Smart Exchange Building at 5 Walnut Grove in Durban or visit their website www.nyda.gov.za for more information. Nationally, the NYDA is located in The Presidency and was established to assist young people access employment through business development and entrepreneurship. Youth comprise almost 70% of the population, are most affected by unemployment and are our future leaders. In order for South Africa to have a better future, youth must be developed to become constructive contributors to our socio-economic development.



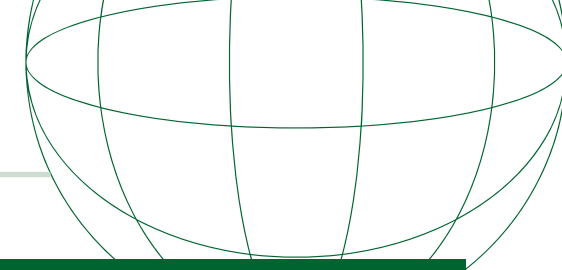
Kerina Singh said: "Through their voucher programme they helped with the branding and marketing of my business and the development of a business plan. They also gave me a grant to buy stock to start my business. I am very appreciative of the assistance I received from the NYDA. I would not have been able to start my business without their assistance. I just wish they could make their approval processes to be a little bit faster."



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OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Communications Deputy Minister improves communication channels in Mbonisweni

By: Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga

In celebrating 20 Years of Freedom, government has been doing a great job in terms of service delivery and reaching out to disadvantaged communities. The Department of Communications' Deputy Minister, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, officially handed over 15 computers to Phatfwa Senior Secondary School in Mbonisweni, Mpumalanga on 22 August 2014. The computers were donated by Land Bank while IT Master was responsible for the Internet connection. The computers will benefit learners and local youth as they will be able to access opportunities online. The handing over of the computers was done to ensure that communication and education in the province is improved. The Deputy Minister was accompanied by Human Settlements MEC VS Siwela, representatives from both the Land Bank and IT Master, and educators.

Learners were shown how to switch on the computers and also how to connect to the Internet. The Deputy Minister also urged learners to take care of the computers and only use them for educational purposes. Learners were entertained by Khabonina Qubeka, who gave a motivational talk on how learners can improve their lives through marketing and communication skills.



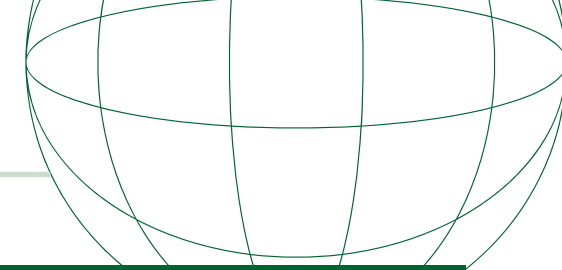
Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams and MEC Siwela during the opening of the computer lab at Phatfwa Senior Secondary School.



Phatfwa Secondary School learners and members of the community of Mbonisweni attending the Imbizo to witness the donation of computers.



Celiwe Tsetse said: "As Phatfwa Learners we would like to thank the Deputy Minister's office for identifying our school and donated these computers to improve our education. We will use the computers when we do our assignments, research on careers we want to pursue and also the contact details of tertiary institutions. I learnt about the importance of marketing and communication skills through Khabonina's drama series."



OUTCOME 6: AN EFFICIENT, COMPETITIVE AND RESPONSIVE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

Thaba Nchu interchange, overpass and pedestrian bridge opens

By: Lehlohonolo Manoto: GCS, Free State

The Thaba Nchu interchange, overpass and pedestrian bridge on the N8 road in Mangaung Metro, Free State was officially opened by the Minister of Transport, Ms Dipuo Peters on 23 August 2014. The event was attended by, among others, Free State MEC for Police, Roads and Transport, Mr Butana Komphela, South African Police Service Provincial Commissioner, General Mpembe, Lesotho Ministry of Public Works and Transport, Mr L Phooko, South African National Road Agency Limited (Sanral) CEO, Mr Nazir Alli and South African National Taxi Council president, Mr Phillip Taaibosch.

The N8 is a busy road that connects Kimberley via Bloemfontein, Botshabelo and Thaba Nchu to Lesotho. This portion of the N8 was proclaimed a national route in April 2003 and Sanral assumed responsibility.

Thaba Nchu's residential area is both in the north and south of the N8 road though most of the facilities such as schools, clinic, and commercial centres are in the north which resulted in lots of movement from the south across the N8 by the community. The construction of the N8 interchange began in January 2011 and was completed in April 2014. The Minister indicated that the total cost of the project was R101 million and that 157 job opportunities were created for local people, of which 17 were women and 95 were youth. The Local businesses benefited R22 million from this project and a budget of R334 000 was put aside for training.

However, it was emphasised that the upgrading of the N8 was not meant for the free movement of people transporting drugs, not promoting human trafficking or any kind of crime but aimed at improving the lives of the people and economy. The N8 road was very known for horrible accidents that claimed many innocent lives.

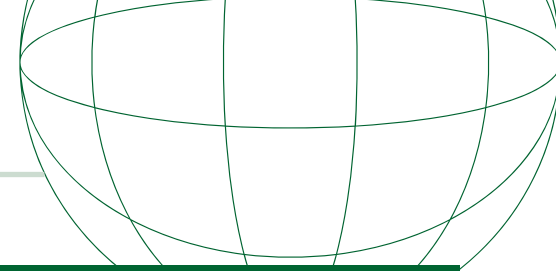


Neo Molatole said: "I am very happy because now will be able to walk freely without fear of any vehicle travelling at a high speed."



Malehlohonolo Mokheseng said: "I am very happy about the bridge; our animals will no longer die from speeding cars who used to knock them down."





Gertrude Mokoatlo said: "I am happy that the MEC visited our community. I believe that the government will help us in running our businesses. I am glad that I attended because I have learnt that the City of Tshwane is creating opportunities for small businesses like shebeens and taverns."



Jennifer Manganye said: "I am really glad that business people are taken into consideration. I have benefited from this meeting and what makes me happier is that the government is willing to help us move forward."



Mpho Motepe said: "We always hear spoken words but no action. I just hope that this time we will see action."

OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

MEC Maile in Mamelodi for the revitalisation of the township economy

By: Robbie Senoelo: GCIS, Gauteng

In an effort to ensure that local Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) and aspiring entrepreneurs become part of an inclusive and sustainable economic growth, the Gauteng Department of Economic Development's MEC Lebogang Maile, accompanied by the Executive Mayor of the City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality Councillor Kgosientso Ramokgopa visited Mamelodi as part of his drive for the revitalisation of township economy across the province. The purpose of the visit, which took place on the 13 August 2014, was to consult with SMMEs and create a dialogue as well as a networking platform for the department and local businesses. During the dialogue, local businesses were given a chance to ask questions on issues that affect the daily operations of their businesses and to come up with suggestions on how the township economy could be revived and supported.

The Mayor outlined the city's plans to assist small businesses in order to take advantage of the programmes offered by the city, which include free Wi-Fi connectivity, Smart Meter roll-out (electricity and water), township infrastructure development and township tourism.

Local business owners had mixed feelings about the MEC's visit. Some welcomed the initiative to revitalise the township economy while others saw it as just another talk show. Target groups were informed of the department's new radical economic transformation across the province. In October 2014 a Business Summit will be held to look at the township revitalisation programme. A strategy will be developed and will consist of six pillars namely: Infrastructure development for people conducting their businesses; manufacturing goods and services in townships; market access for manufactured goods and services; make funding available for SMMEs; skills development; encourage partnerships between communities; private companies and government, and create a conducive environment for people to run their business.



Gauteng Department of Economic Development MEC Maile addresses SMMEs and local business people in Mamelodi during the Revitalisation of the Township Economy community outreach programme.