

DEPUTY MINISTER MDUDUZI MANANA POST SONA SEMINAR AT GERT SIBANDE DISTRICT IN MPUMALANGA

Post SoNA Seminar on Skills Development and Entrepreneurship

Government Communication and Information System in collaboration with the Gert Sibande District Municipality hosted a successful Post SoNA Seminar on 14 April 2016, the seminar form part of an integrated multi-media campaign approach for the 2016 State of the Nation Address (SONA).

The Seminar included amongst others walkabouts to the Gert Sibande TVET College and a meeting with stakeholders and students as well as a courtesy visit to a new library under construction to meet with stakeholders and workers on duty in line with the integrated basket approach aimed at optimising reach and impact.

1. Visit to the Gert Sibande TVET College:



The event started with a briefing session at the Mayoral's Parlour in Gert Sibande District Municipality and thereafter proceeded with visits to projects



The DM and the Executive Mayor during the walk about at the GS TVET Colleges visiting one of the workshops to meet and greet students.



Students at the GSTVET College could not hold their excited at the arrival of the Deputy Minister and his entourage

2. Visit to project was at the new library which is still under construction to determine progress made and also instill hope and confidence to community members about Government's service delivery



Arrival of the DM Executive Mayor at the new Library- a very good story



DM meet with stakeholders and workers on site.



Deputy Minister briefed Project leader about the details of the project, timeframe, etc, and on employment of local people

3. The main event took place at the Mayoral's Parlour.

The Seminar attended by approximately 400 youth drawn from youth centres and organisations representing people living with disabilities and CBOs. The Seminar focused on Skills Development and post schooling opportunities.

The engagement also elaborated more on the pronouncements made by the President during the State of the Nation Address on the 11 February 2016. The Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mr Mduduzi Manana (MP) outlined details of current programmes, plans and achievements made by the department. He also shared with the stakeholders on how government intervened on the sporadic students' protests at universities last year. During interaction with the youth he responded to questions and comments and indicated government interventions regarding skills development and employment opportunities. Among other interventions he indicated was that the ministry is engaging with the private sector in unlocking job placement opportunities. He also indicated that in the Gert Sibande District they are intervening in skills development of which among other things include the establishment of the State of the Art Gert Sibande TVET Campus in Balfour, Dipaleseng and also promised to work together with the Gert District Municipality to look at building skills centres in other municipalities.



MMC Cllr Ms Mabua-Boltman directed the seminar



GCIS- PD Jerry Nkosi outlining the purpose of the Seminar



The Executive Mayor Cllr MPP Nhlabathi introduced The Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training.






Deputy Minister Mduduzi Manana (MP) address the audience and interacted with the youth.





The Mayoral's Parlour was full to capacity. Audience listening attentively to the Deputy Minister


POST SoNA Seminar Vox-pops 2016

No	Question or Statement	Answer or Statement	Picture & Demographics
1.	How people with the disability affected by the un-employment in the district	People with disability were not given opportunities and skills in the past but now and are given equal opportunities. We are also happy about Deputy Ministers visits	 <p data-bbox="1535 919 1961 946">Mxolisi Manana from Cebisa H School</p>

No	Question or Statement	Answer or Statement	Picture & Demographics
2.	How NASFAS is assisting in Gert Sibande TVET college	Government has made TVET students easily accessible and almost 92% student are benefiting from NSFAS	 <p>Moratiwa Molefe from Gert Sibande TVET College</p>
No	Question or Statement	Answer or Statement	Picture & Demographics
3.	How youth centre established by government benefit youth in their respective area	Youth centre assisting community with skills and youth employment preparation , interviews skills, Youth mentorship and assist young people with job searching	 <p>Alex Nozi from Sakhile Youth Empowerment Centre (Sayec) in Sakhile, Standerton.</p>

Issues raised

	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There is a challenge of access to working environment for the employed people living with disability. They are unable to access certain areas at work.• There is also a need for assistive devices and resources that can assist them to perform well in their work.• He also complained that special schools are far from most places in the Gert Sibande District and the issue of inclusive education is not possible in these schools.
<p>Boyzie Mkwanazi – Disability Centre, Bethal</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none">• There many mines surrounding the area of Carolina but the mines are employing people who come from areas far from Carolina.• The only viable business in Carolina is to build rooms where these foreign people can reside and rent.• He therefore requests that the youth of Carolina be trained in the mining skills, especially as artisans so that they can also get employed by the mines in their area.• He also raised that the information regarding advertised posts in the mines does not reach them and therefore requests that the issue of information regarding advertised posts be made accessible.
	
<p>Themba Jele – CDW, Carolina</p>	

 <p>Nkosingathi Nkosi, Mkhondo Municipality</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Requested that a TVET college be built at Mkhondo as they travel long distances to Msukaligwa.
<p>Alex Thabethe</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Dept's. Of Minerals, Education to assist with training opportunities that are accredited. • Requested Dept. of Education and Department of Labour to have an action plan that will assist with employment.
<p>Responses by Deputy Minister.</p>	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> • The Deputy Minister responded through his speech through which a number of interventions were indicated amongst others he indicated that as a Department (DHET) they are taking note of the request to have an action plan which will link the DHET and Dept. of Labour in providing the skills needed by the South African Economy and the job placement. • DM Manana indicated that Dept of Education took back SETAs from the Dept of Labour so as to close the gap of providing skills because the training and accreditation has to be done by the DHET. • DM promised the DHET and Gert Sibande District Municipality will work together to ensure as Skills Centre is established at Mkhondo Local Municipality • He said we are discussing with the Private Sector to assist young people with learner-ships and internships through which young people can gain skills and be employable. The private sector is the key employing sector. • With regard to the mining, the mining SETA is there to assist in acquiring the skills needed by the mines. The district of Gert Sibande has mines and the leadership and officials must take note and ensure that the relevant SETAs are made to be accessible to the community of this district.

4. CHALLENGES AS PER THE DEPARTMENT OF LABOUR PRESENTATION

- Low skills level
- Low response rate from employers
- Migration of work seekers

5. COMMUNICATION OPPORTUNITIES POST SEMINAR

- To amplify and promote the positiveness and successful programme initiative delivered with regard to Skills Development in the district.
- To ensure ongoing promotion of skills development amongst all sectors of society and intensify communication with people living with disabilities.