




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Government empowers an agricultural cooperative

By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Ikhwezi Director, Makhosazane Sambo, Chief Shongwe and Deputy Minister Bogopane-Zulu cutting the ribbon.

Deputy Minister Bogopane-Zulu and Chief Shongwe standing next to the unveiled placard.

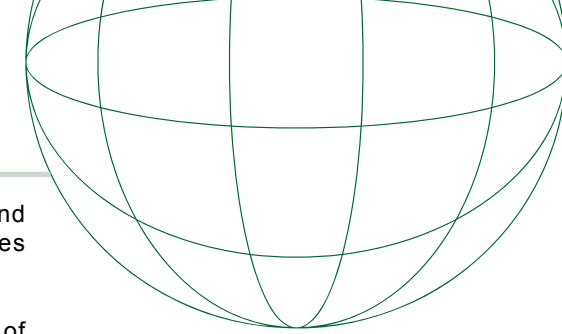
After 20 years of using trees as the hiding place for the harvested vegetables, today Ikhwezi Vegetable and Poultry through intervention of the Department of Social Development (DSD) and the National Development Agency (NDA), has a modernised pack house, cold room and a bakkie to transport their products. Since the establishment of the organisation in 1996, the members were operating informally with five community members until they decided to register in 2010 as a cooperative, after attending workshops with Small Enterprise Development Agency. Matsamo Traditional Council gave the members right to occupy land of 12 hectares, which is properly fenced. To address poverty and unemployment, 50 people are employed permanently and 70 employed as seasonal workers.



government
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WESTERN CAPE



The cooperative farms butternut, beetroot, chilli, green peeper, potatoes, tomatoes and many other vegetables. Their business has grown as they now have additional 37 hectares of land that they received from Matsamo Tribal Council.

Deputy Minister of Social Development, Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu and Chief Shongwe of Matsamo Traditional Council officially launched the Ikhwezi vegetable and poultry during the Social Development Month on 21 October 2016 in Sikhwahlane village. In her address, the Deputy Minister thanked the patience, dedication and perseverance showed by the members who started the initiative. "The Department of Social Development supports cooperatives because they are mass-based rather than individual-based," she said. She further stated that the department has mandated the South African Social Security Agency to buy vegetables and school uniform from the cooperatives in order to sustain the business.

In his message of support, Chief Shongwe thanked the DSD and the NDA for assisting rural communities. He said through the training this cooperative, "Ikhwezi cooperative is now able to mentor other 12 farmers from around Nkomazi. Government alone cannot provide jobs for all of us, but through Ikhwezi cooperative we have faith that most people of Sikhwahlane can now put food on the table as the cooperative has provided the communities with employment. Recently Ikhwezi put the Nkomazi Local Municipality on the national map after they won the National Farmers' Awards".

The NDA played a crucial role by spending R2,5 million towards the development of the cooperative. Ikhwezi Vegetable and Poultry supplies big supermarkets such as Spar, Boxer and Pick n Pay around Nkomazi and beyond. A total of 14 Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres have benefited from this cooperative while 15 community members received ECD certificates.



Deputy Minister Bogopane-Zulu addressing the community of Nkomazi.



During the tour of the pack house as vegetables displayed and ready for delivery.



Community members at the event.



Employees of Ikhwezi Vegetables and Poultry cooperative.



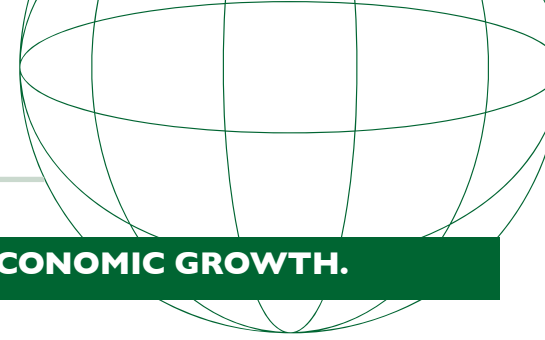
Senzo Khoza said:
"I work in the farms because I want to eradicate poverty, provide food, shelter and better education for our children. I also request a union for farm workers. Above all I am thankful that I can put food on the table for my family."



Zakeu Mavundla said:
"Unemployment led me to start farming. I learned at an earlier age when I was working in the farms and as I grew older I developed love for farming. Today I am able to eradicate poverty because I can plough and sell to other community members."



Thandi Manzini said: "We request government to assist us with fencing, market to sell our products, training skills on how to sustain our businesses and boreholes as it is really difficult because of drought".



Ricardo Minnaar said:

“The programme helped me to develop new skills that I never knew before. It helped me to develop and understand how to be an effective leader.”



Nomveliso Marwanqana said:

“I am cleaning tanks on the farm. I have learned a lot in Abagold and I am looking forward to serving the company.”

OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH.

Minister reaches out to companies

By Portia Mlisa: GCIS, Western Cape



Minister Rob Davies during his radio interview at the Whale Coast Radio.



Minister Davies taking part in the sorting of Abalone.



CEO Mothunye Mothiba participating in the Abalone sorting

On 25 October 2016, Minister of Trade and Industry, Rob Davies, visited an aqua-farming enterprise that is based in Hermanus Sea View Farm. The visit forms part of the “Taking the dti to the Factories” campaign where Minister Davies visits organisations that benefited from the Workplace Challenge Programme (WPC) to maintain continuous consultations on services rendered to beneficiaries. During his address, Minister Davies said, “Abalone is the largest aquaculture business in South Africa.”

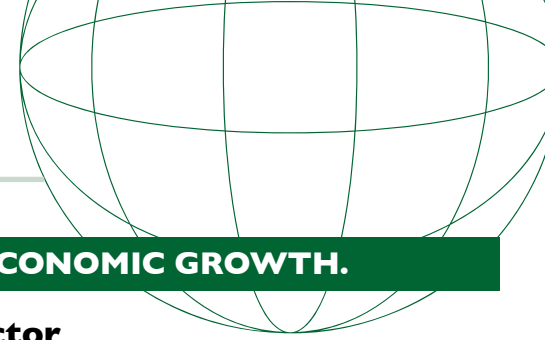
Abagold is a Hermanus-based aquaculture-farming enterprise that cultivates, produces and markets natural abalone. The organisation is a recipient of the WPC and is funded by the Department of Trade and Industry to improve productivity and competitiveness of enterprise.

Tim Hedges, who is the Managing Director in Abagold said, “We are the second biggest employer in Hermanus.

“We started the WPC in 2013 where first line managers were trained and later labourers were also taken for training, that is when departments were broken down into mini business units and created their own vision that is aligned with the company. Measurements were identified according to the competition measurements which are quality, cost, delivery, safety and morale. The programme has helped us a lot to improve the productivity of the company,” Aphiwe Songelwa, the training officer in Abagold.

She further mentioned that “workers have a say in goal setting and targets, the involvement of workers helped the company. Innovations they bring help in reducing waste, saves time and money. Abagold helped us to implement our work easy, faster, cheaper, and working smarter”.

This shows that the company respects its employees and motivates them as they are taking part in the decision making of targets and goal settings.



Mbulelo Phakathi said:

“The session was informative and it has given us hope because access to information is not easy in this part of the world. We are keen to have income-generating projects and we need assistance from government.”



Zwelinsiima Vundla said:

“Government should not forget people who are in the age bracket of 36 to 59 year of age, especially men.”

OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH.

Youth dialogue to address opportunities in the transport sector

By Ndyebo Kopo: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Community members during a youth dialogue on Transport Month.

The Government Communication and Information System in partnership with Mbizana Local Municipality organised a dialogue in Phathekile village in Mbizana on 28 October 2016 as part of Transport Month to highlight opportunities within the industry. One of the reasons to have the dialogue in this village was to ensure that people staying in far-flung areas also receive government information and services.

“The session was informative and it has given us hope because access to information is not easy in this part of the world. We are keen to have income-generating projects and we need assistance from government,” said Mbulelo Phakathi of Little Eden village.

Mbulelo is one of the approximately 60 young people who were in attendance during a youth dialogue on Transport Month in Phathekile village in Mbizana. Phathekile village is about 25km away from Mbizana and local people spend about R25 to travel to town as that is where most government departments are based and where the sources of information are situated.

Young people were exposed to opportunities within the transport and maritime industry. The Department of Transport shared information on bursaries, learnerships and skills development programmes, which it does in conjunction with tertiary institutions.

Other stakeholders that were invited to be part of the dialogue were the Department of Labour and the National Development Youth Agency. They both shared information on job preparedness, business voucher programme, grant funding programme, training on governance for small businesses, Unemployment Insurance Fund and database for the unemployed and placement programme.



OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION.

Municipality observes Transport Month

By Karen Foutie: GCIS, Northern Cape

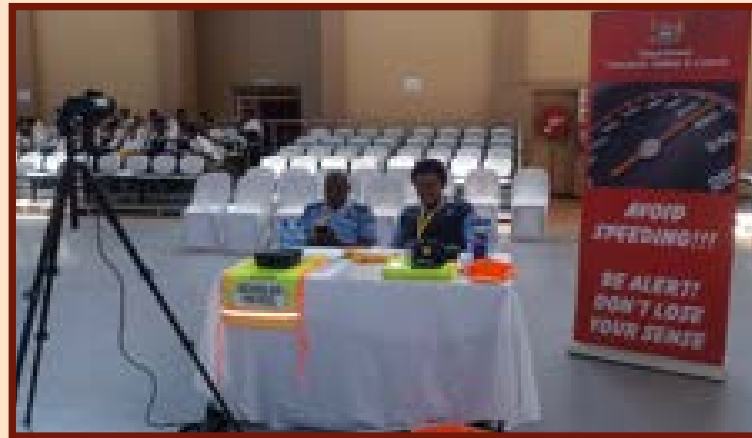


Mayor Dineo Leutlwetse during her welcome address.



Thulaganyo Mothibantwa said:

“I was excited to come here, so I think it is a brilliant idea. We get the information and we can also get contacts to call for more information. I was expecting to get ideas for what I want to do and study. I am so excited that I came. I have not gone to the entire stall yet, but I expect there will be more career ideas for me to get excited about.”



Officials from the Department of Transport, Safety and Liaison at their exhibition table.



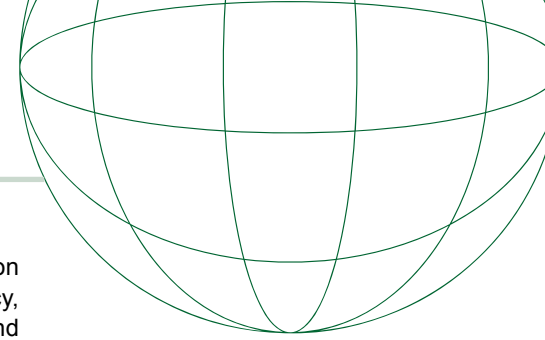
Mayor Joe Morolong and Dineo Leutlwetse interacting with community members at the event.

“The socio-economic condition that most young people find themselves in has more negative impact on girls. Poverty, unemployment, lack of both opportunities and knowledge make the girl child more vulnerable,” These were the words of Councillor Dineo Leutlwetse, the Mayor of Joe Morolong Local Municipality at the careers expo held for grade nine to 11 learners in Mothibistad on 28 October 2016.

Addressing more than 500 learners, Leutlwetse encouraged girls to venture into careers of aviation and marine.

The career expo was held to showcase opportunities in the transport sector and government at large. Learners were exposed to information on bursaries, tertiary applications and careers in the aviation sector.

One of the learners, Thabo Seboko, appreciated the career expo more than anything. He said while he wanted to become a policeman, the information given, has shown him other areas of study of specialisation within the South African Police Service (SAPS), such as forensic science.



Hanni Viskop said:

“I am so glad I came here. I saw a lot of potential career fields to study in and I cannot wait to complete all the stalls to get an idea for what I want to study. My expectations are met and even exceeded, because I did not know about the aviation field. This was a great idea. Thank you.”



Thabo Seboko said:

“Yes this is great and interesting and I appreciate that they decided to come here and show us career opportunities. We also received road-safety tips and I hope people will drive safer. My expectation was exceeded as I want to be a police man, but now through this exhibition I also see careers such as forensic crime scene investigators and detectives. I know what I want to be when

Stakeholders that exhibited at the event included the Northern Cape Technical, Vocational Education and Training college, South African National Taxi Council, Small Enterprise Development Agency, Air Traffic Navigation Services, South African Social Security Agency, departments of water and sanitation, home affairs, provincial departments of transport, safety and liaison, and roads and public works, SAPS and Careers Unit.

The Head of the Provincial Department of Transport, Safety and Liaison, Lesego Wolfe, encouraged learners to take advantage of opportunities presented by government as “knowledge is power”.



The learners at the SAPS Career Education Unit during the expo.



Some of the learners at the event.



Different exhibitors at their respective stalls.