




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Seminar to educate small businesses about compliance

By Jacob Molete: GCIS, Gauteng



Maureen Masoeu presenting to attendees.



South African Revenue Service officials, Hettie Laurens and Morgan Ntombela presenting at the business seminar.

Small businesses play an important role in job creation, poverty alleviation and economic diversification, hence the Community Revitalisation Programme. The Gauteng Department of Social Development together with Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) hosted the Small Business Seminar on 6 September 2016 in Tsakane. The event was aimed at promoting entrepreneurship; build self-reliance and sustainable society.

Among the departments that were present to exhibit and share information were the GCIS, Gauteng departments of social development, economic development, treasury, South African Revenue Service (SARS) and ABSA Centre for Entrepreneurship.

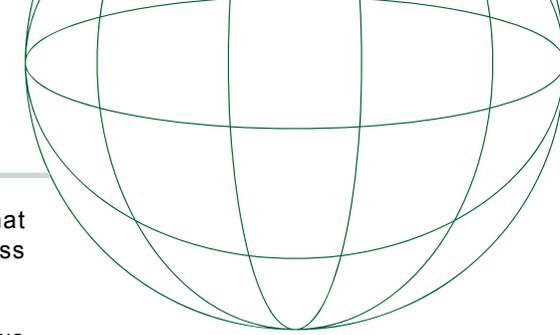
The seminar seeks to empower and educate small businesses on business registration, tax compliance, Broad-based Black Economic Empowerment compliance and the advantages of registering your business on government central database in order to benefit from business opportunities within the department and government at large.



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Speaking about their products and services, Neo Mogomotsi told small business owners that ABSA Centre for Entrepreneurship assists small businesses to become tomorrow's business giants.

"It takes just R390 for us to assist you to register your business with us, furthermore we will ensure that you get your CIPC Certificate, SARS Tax Clearance, Share Certificate and also assist you to get your business account with us," said Mogomotsi.

"Tax compliance is very important because through taxes, government is able to get revenue for service delivery and small businesses development support programme, hence it is important for you to comply with company tax, PAYE and VAT," said Hettie Laurens.

Gauteng departments of economic development and treasury emphasised more on the business compliance especially when it comes to doing business with government.

"You need to run a legal and compliant entity in order to benefit from any financial and non-financial support from the Department of Economic Development," said Clifford Mothibedi.

"Our department has a number of agencies that belong to it such as Gauteng Tourism, Gauteng Enterprise Propeller, Gauteng Gambling Board, Office of Consumer Affairs and Gauteng Liquor Board, all offering financial and non-financial support small businesses in their respective industries, however, you need to comply in order to benefit from their service and products," added Mothibedi.

Gauteng Treasury emphasised that businesspeople should register on the Central Database System by visiting www.csd.gov.za in order to benefit as suppliers of products and services to various government departments.

"To benefit from government supply chain as a supplier, you need to register your profile on the Central Database System of government. It is a system we use for Request for Quotations or Request for Proposals for suppliers in different industries for different services or products, to create a profile you need to have you CIPC Certificate, SARS Tax Certificate, BBBEE Certificate or affidavit to exempt your business from BBBEE Compliance," said Avuyile Cele.

"If your business' profit is less than R10 million you can apply for BBBEE exemption, all you need to do is to download the affidavit on CIPC website and complete it as directed, take it to the commissioner of oath to stamp it, so that your business is exempted and need not furnish the BBBEE Certificate," added Cele.



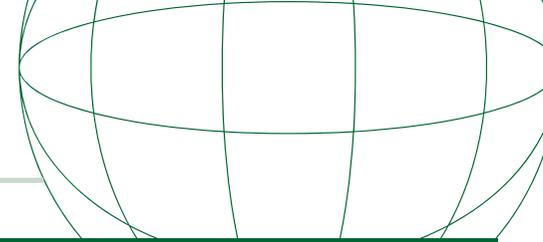
Enoch Dladla said:

"I have been struggling to obtain a BBBEE certificate because it is expensive, now I know that I can apply for exemption."



Maria Sompá said:

"I was under the impression that you need to make money for your business to submit tax returns, now I know that for compliance purpose I must submit my business returns in order to benefit from tax exemption, the information I got from the seminar is very



MEC Fikile Xasa said:

“Back-to-basics should be the basis of what you will be doing and each pillar is very important. You will understand these pillars as we will get closer and will be talking more about them but most importantly, you must always be closer to your communities if you want to gain their confidence.”



Gqinikhaya Mpumza said:

“This is the launch of the programme that is meant to prepare you as leadership to understand how the local government sphere operates with a focus on your leadership roles, legislation applicable to local government, key municipal processes and developmental local government in general. We hope that the programme that we are launching today is going to be a success.”

OUTCOME 9: RESPONSIVE, ACCOUNTABLE, EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM.

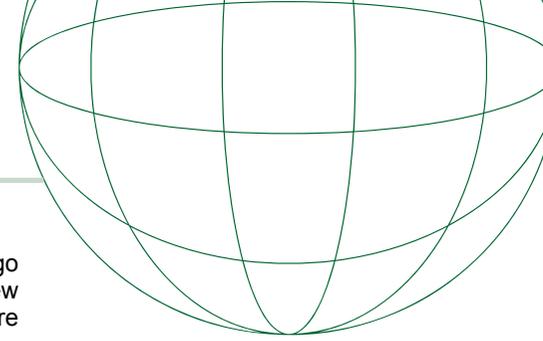
Programme to workshop councillors

By Tabita Ngqunge: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Newly elected government leaders during the launch of the Integrated Councillor Induction Programme in East London.

The Integrated Councillor Induction Programme (ICIP) driven by South African Local Government Association in collaboration with the Eastern Cape Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, was launched in East London on 5 September 2016. The accredited programme targeting 1 490 new ward councillors who have just joined the local government sphere after the 3 August 2016 Local Government Elections was well attended by the leadership of the Eastern Cape Provincial Government, led by the Premier Phumulo Masualle. Traditional leadership, organised business and council of churches also shared messages of support.



Prince Ncamashe said:

“You have been elected by the people, you are expected to serve the people and be among them. There is nothing as bad as being a leader who is not even known by his people. You are given an opportunity to bring change and transform the society, it is upon you to leave a good mark or a bad mark during your term of office. Also do not forget the rural development and the poor people of this province who are looking upon you as their leaders.”



Les Halbrook said:

“The picture of our economy needs to be improved and it is your responsibility as leadership to bring change to the situation. People have elected you and are looking up to you as people who are representing them and who will do what you promised them. As business we are willing to support you at all times and wish you all the best in your term of office.”

Speaking at the launch, Prince Ncamashe, encouraged all ward councillors to ensure that they go to the people and give feedback. The business sector also expressed its support for these new leaders and also encouraged them to ensure that they improve the economy of this country. There was a call for more emphasis to be put on the back-to-basics programme.

The ICIP is designed to prepare new councillors to understand how the local government sphere operates with a focus on their leadership roles, legislation applicable to local government, key municipal processes and developmental local government in general. The induction was also used to expose new crop of councillors on local government communication as a key lever for optimal public participation.

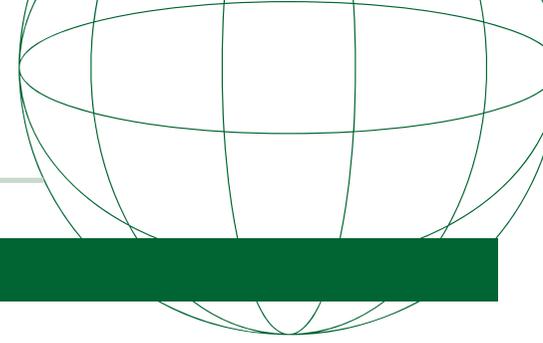
The month-long programme, which kickstarted on 5 September 2016, will be rolled out to all district, metropolitan and local municipalities in the Eastern Cape.



Executive Mayors were requested to stand up.



Emalahleni Local Municipality Mayor seated with government leaders from other municipalities.



Nonjabulo Dlamini said:

“Debates assist me to do more research and sharpen my studies. Every day I give myself time to learn new things that can assist me to do my best in my studies. For this debate I know I will make it to the finals because I dedicated a lot of my time preparing and I am confident to say that I impressed the panel of judges with all the points and examples I made.”



Nontando Manana said:

“At first I did not know what disaster is. I learned to stand firm on debates and be able to respond to the opposition. I am now able to respond after the disaster has occurred because of the research I did. Disaster affects everyone.”

OUTCOME I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION.

Learners engage in disaster-management debate

By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Learners standing with the dignitaries and teachers after they had received their awards.



Learners from various schools supporting their school mates during the debate competition.



Nonjabulo Dlamini posing with dignitaries after she had received the school trophy and her laptop as the overall winner for grades 8 and 9 debate.

Ehlanzeni Disaster Management hosted a successful and educational school debate on 19 August 2016. Ehlanzeni District is also one of the municipalities that are prone to disaster issues such as fire, thunderstorm, floods, etc. The topic was “Disaster Management is everyone’s business”. The district partnered with SANTAM to help communities understand, prepare, respond and recover from the impact of fires and floods. The aim of involving learners is to get views from them that can shape the disaster policy. Learners from Bohlabela and Ehlanzeni districts did their research well and stood proud when delivering their notes. Learners from grades 8 to 11 participated in the debate.

Tersia Mdunge, Corporate Social Investment Manager at SANTAM said, “I expect innovative ideas from these young people who can institute capacity building as they will take this information to their households, schools, communities and implement their knowledge to mitigate disasters.”

Sphetho Mhlongo, Ehlanzeni Disaster Management Manager said that this is the start of many debates and engagements around disaster management and that the district was looking forward to the annual debates. He also said that they would ensure that the overall winner walks away with a bursary next year.

Winners received various prizes ranging from tablets, trophies, medals and laptops.



Semakaleng Toto said:

“I think it is a great thing. I work for a home-based care centre here and it will be great for the patients. They do not have to go to Mothibstad now because everything will be here. The distance is no longer a problem for them. They do not always have transport money and the mobile clinic will help them a lot.”



Onkageletse Tabusa said:

“I am very excited. The clinic will help the young women especially when they are pregnant.”

OUTCOME 2: A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS.

MEC launches the Batho Pele Mobile Clinic programme

By Karen Foutie: GCIS, Northern Cape

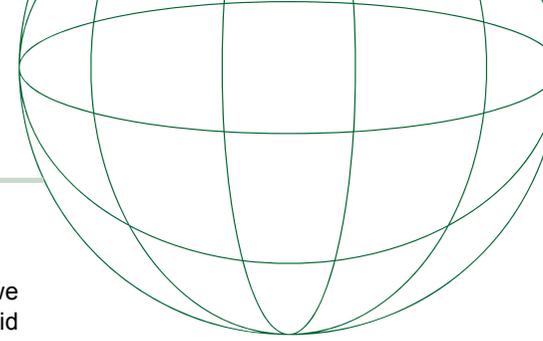


Health screening was done to help community members to experience the services they can expect from the department.



MEC Motlhaping with the staff that will be servicing the mobile units.

The Northern Cape MEC for Health, Lebogang Motlhaping, launched the mobile healthcare units called the Batho Pele Mobile Clinic. The initiative is a joint venture by Sishen Iron Ore Mine and the Department of Health and aims to ensure access to quality healthcare services in identified communities.



Nametsegang Mathe said:

“Yes. It is an exciting thing for our community. Healthcare services are now available for people right at their doorstep. As young people, we can use the clinic for many things pertaining to our health now.”

“The project was initiated as a pilot project to benefit the rural communities of John Taolo Gaetsewe District through the provision of a comprehensive healthcare services package in mobile units,” said MEC Motlhaping. He said the handover was significant since it coincided with the Women’s Month commemoration and it is women who usually struggle with issues of healthcare.

According to Sydney Ntili from Sishen Iron Ore Mine, the partnership between the mine and government had been in existence for some years. By March 2016, the project had assisted 101 000 patients from communities in John Taolo Gaetsewe District.

The mobile clinics are seen as measures to save a lot of money and time for community members of Gasese, Maphiniki, Madibeng and Kagung, which are between 20 and 50 kilometres far away from health-service points.

Yvonne Pos said:

“I am happy. People used to travel long distances to get treatment on time. I think the community is delighted. The clinic came at the best time because it will help to reduce the service delivery protests that have been happening in Kagung.”



Community members were also able to do some health screening and testing.



Community members of Kagung witnessing the launch of mobile clinics.