



MY DISTRICT TODAY

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

Government reflects on the NDP

By Sikelela Zokufa: GCIS, Western Cape



President Jacob Zuma and Minister Jeff Radebe.



Minister Jeff Radebe speaking at the event.

It was an entertaining celebration with pleasure in Westin Hotel when government stakeholders came together to mark the fifth anniversary of the National Development Plan (NDP). Guests included dignitaries from government and the business sector, and other stakeholders.

The programme took place on 12 September 2017 and was led by the Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Buti Manamela. He said in his opening speech that the plan was in action and it is alive.



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It is five years since the NDP Vision 2030 was adopted by Parliament – a rare moment of unity, and one which Speaker Baleka Mbete termed “a critical milestone towards building consensus,” when she spoke at the event.

President Jacob Zuma listed an increase in South Africa's lifespan expectation, number of children at school, improved access to housing and basic services, and gains in investment and jobs in the ocean economy.

The President counted a few programmes, which include the Industrial Development Zone, Operation Phakisa, agriculture and fishing sectors, etc. Those are some of the outcomes of the NDP to fight poverty and create job opportunities for the unemployed. President Zuma also emphasised that the plans of all government departments should be linked to the NDP.



Dignitaries at the event.



President Jacob Zuma speaking at the event.



Mzubanzi Balintulo said:

“I am very happy to be part of this celebration to hear more about where the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation stands in the plan/progress. I have faith in the NDP. I have learned more.”



Tsholofelo Rampete and Pulane Rampete said:

"We started Little Bonbons as an aftercare centre because we have a passion of helping children in our community. We really appreciate the opportunity that Mogale City has given us in occupying space at the Thusong Service Centre to ensure that we perform our duties. We will also use the information provided to us today to access services that can help improve our business."



Patrick Sibeko from the NYDA engaging with young people at the event.

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

Kagiso Thusong Service Centre promotes entrepreneurship

By Tshidi Mokoka: GCIS, Gauteng

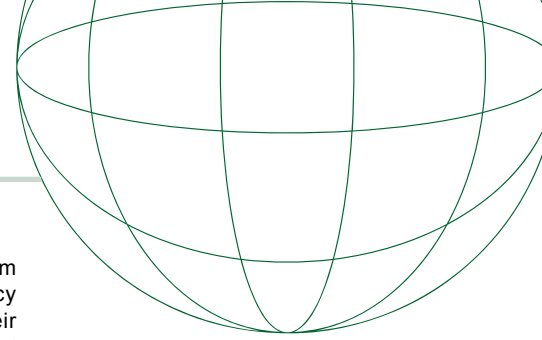


GCIS official Sibusiso Mkhize and community development worker Motlatsi Seleke distributing information products at the event.

The Mogale City Local Municipality in partnership with Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) hosted the Thusong Service Centre Open Day on 22 September 2017 at the Chief Mogale Community Hall in Kagiso. The purpose of the open day was to inform the community about programmes and services offered at the centres.

The event was conducted as part of the annual Thusong Service Centre Week commemorated by government nationwide from 18 to 22 September 2017 under the theme: "The Year of OR Tambo" – "Advancing Small Medium and Micro Enterprises at Thusong Service Centres". Local businesses were part of the event to showcase their services and products to members of the community.

Nomvula Mjuza, Mogale City Social Development Manager said, "The Thusong Service Centres are created by government with the intention to bring government services closer to the people. As Mogale City, we also created a platform for local business to occupy space at the centre, thus making it easier for them to operate in communities they live in."



Nompumelelo Mayo said:

“Being part of this event will definitely assist us as a business. It is through this event that we were able to engage the NYDA on how they can assist us in accessing funding as we only rely on donor funding.”



Motswako Catering and Baking sharing their products with members of the community.

Besides profiling local small businesses to communities during the Open Day, stakeholders from Mogale City Local Economic Development (LED) and the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) were also invited to provide information on services they offer to help to improve their businesses. Benjamin Selogile from the LED educated small businesses on how they could assist in enterprise support and development.

“We encourage people to use our services and stop travelling long distances to register their businesses. Those services are offered at Mogale City LED. We also coach people on how to write a business plan and to identify weaknesses in their organisations, which can lead to failure,” he said. People were also informed that the LED offices can also link businesses with organisations that provide funding for small businesses.

Lead Change Developments is one of the small businesses based at the Thusong Service Centre. It provides computer training for free to people with disabilities. Nompumelelo Mayo, one of the administrators at the company said, “Our aim in being part of this event was to showcase our services and to also eliminate the stigma associated with disability. We started our company in April 2017 and we are mostly donor funded. As young people we will definitely make use of services from NYDA and LED to make sure that we apply for funding that will help our business grow.”

Some of the small businesses and stakeholders who were part of the event include, Motswako Catering and Baking, Bomme Emang, Godisang Development, Kagiso Tourism Association, Little Bonbons, Mogale City Scholar Transport, Cross Connect Community Outreach, Burgershoop ECDC, South African Social Security Agency and the Department of Home Affairs.



Sewing businesswomen based at the Kagiso Thusong Service Centre showcasing their products to members of the community.



Community of Matshiding receiving government services at the event.



Promise Mahlangu said:

"From the new stands, when government offices come to our communities we get assisted and are able to save transport money and we get to engage with the officials who explain things to us."

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

Matshiding observes Thusong Service Centre Week

By Todani Livhuwani and Reki Skosana: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Reki Skosana distributing government information and interacting with members of the community.



Various government departments were on site to render services to the community of Matshiding.



GCIS Mpumalanga Provincial Director, Jerry Nkosi, interacting with unemployed youth about the Thusong Service Centre programme.



Community of Matshiding receive government information and services from government departments and parastatals.

The community of Matshiding, under Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality, received government services at their doorstep on 18 September 2017 during the Provincial annual Thusong Service Central Week launch, which is taking place from 18 to 22 September 2017.

Various government departments and stakeholders attended the event, where the South African Social Security Agency and the Department of Home Affairs rendered their services.

Sipho Mahlangu, Centre Manager for Marapyane Thusong Service Centre, said that bringing services to the people of Matshiding, was a great achievement as communities normally travel long distances to access government services. Mahlangu said Matshiding is full of unemployed youth and there is also a challenge to access the Internet.

In assisting the unemployed youth, information was shared with them on the TITAN Africa Digital Skill programme, which will take place on 22 September 2017 where unemployed youth will be trained on digital skills.

The community of Matshiding appreciated the initiative of mobile services by government.



Vusi Mahlangu said:

"These types of programmes assist a lot in our communities. What is important is that communication needs to be expanded because not everyone uses social media and listen to community media, whether such are done monthly or weekly, etc. If other means of communication could be used, people will respond well to such programmes."



Sharon Mahlangu said:

"From Section 4 in the new stands, this programme is assisting us a lot, we request that social media and other means of communication be considered as well."



Yulia Zelen Yuk from Wits University at the event.



Attendees listening to various speakers at the event.

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

Minister recognises excellence in science and technology

By Valencia Rachuene: GCIS, Free State



Minister Naledi Pandor presenting the award to Professor O'Connell.



Minister Naledi Pandor delivering her speech at the event.

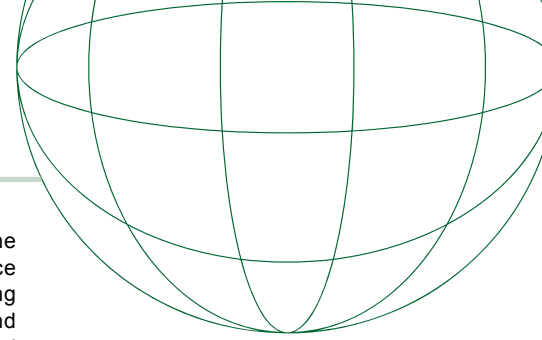


Professor O'Connell addressing the audience after receiving an award.

On 14 September 2017 at the Central University of Technology (CUT) in Bloemfontein, the Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor, joined the Chief Executive Officer of the National Research Foundation, Dr Molapo Qhobela, to celebrate research excellence at the annual National Research Foundation (NRF) Awards ceremony.

The awards acknowledge leading researchers in their various research fields who, based on their peers' evaluation, are recognised as leaders. At the awards ceremony, the Lifetime Achievement Award was conferred to Professor O'Connell, who is considered to have contributed to international standard and impact, to the development of science in and for South Africa over an extended period of time, and for the manner in which his work has touched and shaped the lives and views of many citizens.

The programme commenced with the presentation to the recipients of the special awards in: Research Excellence Award for Next Generation Researchers, Research Excellence for Early Career/Emerging Researchers and P-Rated Researcher Category. They were later followed by Excellence in Science Engagement Award, Champion of Research Capacity Development and Transformation at South African Higher Education Institutions, Hamilton Naki Award, Excelleration Award for South African Research Institutions, Science Team Award, Recognition of A-Rated Researchers and Lifetime Achievement Special Award for 2017.



Professor Bongani Mayosa from the University of Cape Town speaking at the

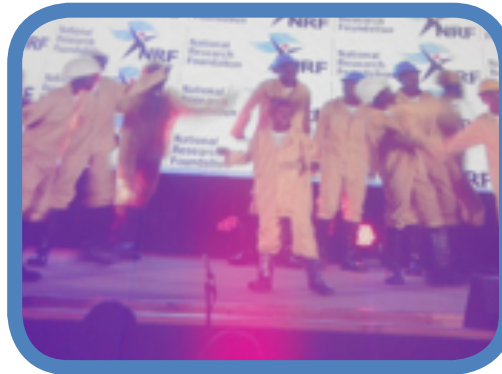


The winners of the awards at the event.

The evening concluded with a keynote address by Minister Naledi Pandor. The Minister said that she believes that broadening knowledge base will only be achieved by collective efforts from all science sectors but most importantly, by government, and industry, and higher education institutions working together. “We should also recognise that a significant improvement of the training of scientists, and the institutional environment for knowledge generation, is necessary in collaboration with international partners,” she said.

“The government’s broad developmental mandate can ultimately be achieved only if South Africa takes further steps on the road to becoming a learning society. Transformation in this direction will necessarily shift the proportion of national income derived from knowledge-based industries, the percentage of the workforce employed in knowledge-based jobs and the ratio of firms using technology to innovate,” she continued.

The Minister concluded by saying that “it is important that we build a public environment supportive of its higher education institutions, an affirming culture that succeeds in bringing new talent into our universities because we recognise that higher education must, in addition to its responsiveness to urgent national, regional and global priorities, also regenerate its own intellectual capital”. She also thanked Dr Qhobela and his team for taking the NRF forward.



Diamonds in the Ruff group from Jagersfontein entertaining the audience.



Awards recipients posing for the photos with Minister Naledi Pandor.



Hospitality students welcoming guests at the event.