



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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PRIORITY I: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Youth encouraged to open township-based businesses

By Moleboheng Maphutsi: GCIS, Northern Cape

The Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Ms Thembi Siweya, conducted an information-sharing session with established and potential entrepreneurs at the Mayibuye Multipurpose Centre in Kimberley on 7 January 2020. The session was aimed at empowering entrepreneurs who have established township-based businesses through knowledge sharing and skills development, and encourage young people to start their own businesses.

The session was made possible by youth agencies, Township Entrepreneurship Alliance and Play Your Part. Deputy Minister Siweya challenged entrepreneurs to play a significant role in their townships through social activism. "Our businesses must strive to succeed, open up doors for those around us and ensure that the historically disadvantaged benefit. It is our duty to ensure that our people showcase who they are and what they are capable of achieving," she said.

Edward Matiwane, the Chairperson of the Northern Cape Youth Chamber of Commerce and Industries said the majority of products consumed in the province were imported, and this alone, was a gap in the market. "There are countless opportunities at our disposal that can enable us to develop and enhance the economy of our province," he said.



The youth of Kimberley attending the session.



Deputy Minister Siweya addressing the youth.



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During the session, randomly selected entrepreneurs were afforded the opportunity to pitch their business ideas to a panel for a set period of time. This exercise allowed entrepreneurs to market their products and discuss how they will respond to the needs of the people. Potential entrepreneurs were encouraged to identify gaps in their communities in order to establish businesses that would offer long-term solutions.



Nombulelo Tyala said:

“The name of my business is KINBY Construction. I attended this session because I wanted to learn more about entrepreneurship. Moreover, I wish to acquire skills on how to pitch and present an idea. Lastly, to hopefully get funding from the National Youth Development Agency. My main goal is to grow my business and create jobs in my community.”



Tsholofelo Molope said:

“The name of my business is Khumo Trading Enterprise. I wish to leave this place with enough knowledge that will help grow my business. I think the biggest mistake entrepreneurs make is failing to listen to what the consumer needs and wants. It is important to pay attention to the current trends in the market, which can also highlight what consumers need.”



Vusumuzi Shawn Ngobese said:

“The name of my business is Cog Express. I attended today’s programme to learn more about business management. The knowledge I acquired today will be implemented in my business. Furthermore, I have to network and I believe this is the best place to do exactly that.”



Matsebe Comfort said:

“I am very much happy about the visit by the MEC of Education and the fact that she is going to build a new school for us.”



Matatlere Pennelope said:

“I am very much excited as I am in Grade 12 right now. The MEC and the Mayor have encouraged us a lot and I promise that we will not let them down at the end of 2020.”

PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Limpopo government gives top learner a bursary

By Nkopodi Mokgoma: GCIS, Limpopo

On January 15 2020, the Limpopo Education MEC Polly Boshielo and officials from the department visited Rantobeng Secondary School at Diphagane village in Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, Sekhukhune District to congratulate the school for the good Grade 12 results and, in particular, to congratulate one of the top learners in the province, Treavor Mashabela.

The MEC promised to build new infrastructure for the school. She also congratulated the Grade 11 top learner Ditebogo Machacha from Modipadi Secondary School. Ditebogo was given a laptop by Thobela FM.

Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality Mayor Minah Bahula said she was pleased with the school’s performance. “As Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, we have taken a decision that we will give Treavor Mashabela a bursary to go and study medicine at Sefako Makgatho Health Sciences University,” said the mayor to a loud applause from the audience of both learners and teachers. “Treavor’s parents are not going to pay anything towards his studies,” she added.



Mayor Bahula presenting the top learner with a token of appreciation.



Rantobeng Secondary School learners in attendance.



**Khanyanjalo School Governing Body Chair
Nathi Nene said:**

“We hope that the visit will come up with interventions for improvement in education, especially in this school. There are many challenges that need to be addressed urgently.”



Principal Thulani Ndaba said:

“Nomathiya Technical High School is one of the three technical schools in the district, which unfortunately performed below the 80% district benchmark. The school has, for the year 2020, developed an academic improvement plan which will be honoured by all relevant parties. One of the strongest effective resource to use is to establish networking of best performing subject educators.”



Thembeni kaMadlopha Mthethwa said:

“Even though the school (Nomathiya Technical High) has performed below 60% for 2019, it should be congratulated because it is the only one offering technical subjects. The school just needs close monitoring and support on areas where students performed badly. District education and relevant sectors should identify other challenges that need to be resolved.”

PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Back-to-school campaign to improve basic education

By Nonhlanhla Sithole and Jacob Mkhize: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The KwaZulu-Natal Legislature in partnership with the Department of Basic Education and other stakeholders conducted a back-to-school campaign from 15 to 17 January 2020 in the province. The campaign sought to assess the state of readiness for the class of 2020, encourage the culture of teaching and learning, and come up with a matric results improvement plan for 2020.

Officials visited various schools in the province, including Khanyanjalo Secondary School, Bhekindlela High School, Phumlani Secondary School and Nomathiya Technical School. During the visits, the School Functionality Monitoring Programme team identified areas of learning and teaching that need government intervention. The team also encouraged schools that performed well in 2019 to keep up the standard. Since the inception of the programme in the Zululand District Municipality, the matric pass rate has increased from 53.6% in 2015 to 79.1% in 2019.

“We want effective teaching and focused leadership in order to produce best results and improve the quality of education in our schools,” said Ricardo Mthembu, a member of the KwaZulu-Natal Legislature.

Among the many resolutions identified by the team during the campaign, interventions were also required in addressing the high dropout rate, high failure rate and teenage pregnancy in some schools. Stakeholders were also urged to jointly take part in schooling improvement plans. The officials will conduct follow-up visits in April 2020 to monitor progress on commitments made by the schools identified.



Khanyanjalo School Principal Simphiwe Phakathi presenting the school profile.



Stakeholders visiting Nomathiya Technical School.

PRIORITY 6: A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Roll out of the approved National Communication Strategy Framework

By Nosipho Keuti: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Dr Nala presenting the findings of the Eastern Cape Public Perception Survey.



Mr Pinyana presenting on the approved NCSF.

On 21 January 2020, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) held a workshop for provincial heads of communications from different departments to share the approved National Communication Strategy Framework (NCSF). The workshop, which was held at Windsor Cabanas hotel in East London, focused on the purpose of the NCSF and evaluated whether communicators are working in line with the strategy.

“As the GCIS, our general mandate is to provide strategic guidance when it comes to communications about government progress,” said GCIS Research and Knowledge Management Director, Dr Ntombi Nala, whose presentation focused on the research conducted by the department on public perceptions in the province. Dr Nala outlined key priority areas that the government should be focusing on, including gender-based violence, crime, housing and the building of schools. She encouraged attendees to keep a consistent communication plan to address the issues mentioned in her presentation.

The GCIS Eastern Cape Provincial Director Ndlelantle Pinyana outlined some challenges faced by the province, including lack of budgets for communications programmes in municipalities and human resource shortages. He also suggested ways that the communicators can use to address the challenges and emphasized the importance of making the GCIS a centre of government communication that provides guidance to other departments and municipalities on how to spread government information.



Heads of communications from different departments attending the workshop.