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PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Career expo on marine science

By Fatima Modise: GCIS, North West

On 17 and 18 November 2022 respectively, the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Development Model (DDM) team held a career expo at Ipelegeng Multipurpose Centre on marine science for all secondary schools across the district.

North West Social Development MEC Boitumelo Moilola, who is also the Provincial Champion of the DDM, attended the first day of the career expo and engaged with the learners.

The career expo was led by the Deputy Minister of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment, Makhotsotso Sotyu. Its aim was to introduce the learners in careers in the marine industry that most learners are not aware of.

The Deputy Minister, who is also the national champion of Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District spoke on the importance of marine science in regulating the earth's climate, its critical role in the hydrological cycle, sustaining a large

portion of the earth's biodiversity, supplying food and mineral resources, role in national defence and providing inexpensive means of transport.

"Hopefully, this district will be producing oceanographers who will in future be able to save the world from global warming," said Deputy Minister Sotyu.

Grade 8, 9, 10, and 11 learners from all over the district were in attendance, and they were grateful for the information provided. Most of them admitted that they were not aware of the role of the ocean in sustaining human basic needs.

Pearl Gasekoma, a teacher from Itshupeng Secondary School said, "Taking what was presented here today was very informative. I have learnt that it is not only what is taught in class that can help a learner to choose a career."



MEC Boitumelo Moilola addressing the learners during the career expo.



Learners who attended the event.



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COVID-19 vaccine registration details for 12-year-olds and above:

Online at:
<https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/#/>
Send the word **REGISTER** to 0600 123 456 on WhatsApp.
Via SMS by dialling *134*832#.
Call the COVID-19 hotline 0800 029 999.

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Men's Parliament focuses on societal issues

By Phoka Mofokeng: GCIS, Free State

The Department of Social Development in partnership with Thabo Mofutsanyana District men's sector and Bakoena House of Traditional Houses, organised a Men's Parliament at Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality Chamber in Phuthaditjhaba on 28 October 2022.

The purpose of the sitting was mainly to tackle issues of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, cultural practices that prejudice against women, children and society as a whole.

The session gave men in the area an opportunity to speak out on their challenges such as finances, health, family planning, mental health and spiritual healing.

During the discussion, various speakers informed those in attendance about the different types of men in society and also addressed uncomfortable topics.

It became evident that some men still have deep wounds while others are too afraid to speak out about the issues affecting them.

The speakers continued to encourage those in attendance on the notion that men have always been regarded as seed carriers in society and as such, they should lead by example in making an environment where women and children are able to thrive without no boundaries.

Men were encouraged to advocate for behavioural change among men in their respective communities and to respect the rights and dignity of women and children.

The Thabo Mofutsanyana District Men's Parliament is determined to develop and coordinate the men and boys' forums in the district with the hope that these forums would assist in tackling issues faced by men in the society.

This forums would allow men to engage and advice each other on responsibilities that comes with being a role model and father figure in the society.



Men who attended the Thabo Mofutsanyana District Men's Parliament.

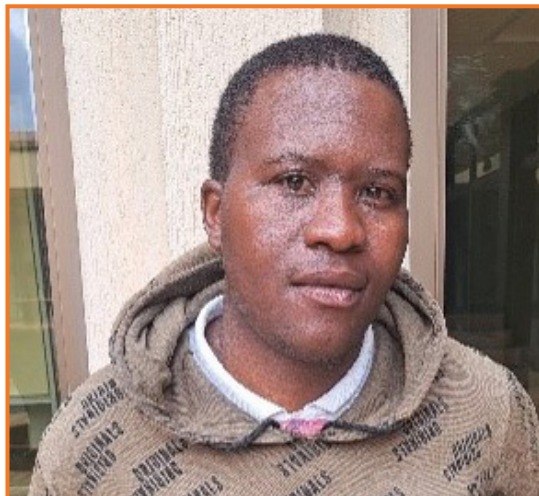


Men engaging each other during the discussions.



Joseph Nhlapo said:

"I am happy that we had the session where all men young and old participated, and we managed to advise one another and we also learnt about different types of men in society. We welcome the session and it should be a continuous thing in our communities."



Thapelo Mohlakhwana said:

"I learnt in the session on how to treat women. The session was very informative and it allowed us to engage one another on sensitive topics that men are afraid to talk about. I now know where to go when I am faced with life challenges."



Fikiswa Fuxwana said:

“Working on the project has enabled me to provide for my family as I am a breadwinner at home. I started working here in 2020 as a general worker. I then got a promotion to site clerk. My job includes ensuring that plants have fuel.”



Noneka said:

“I am a general worker and the project has helped me because I am now able to buy school uniform for my children.”

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Bridge project benefits communities

By *Phiwokuhle Zokufa: GCIS, Eastern Cape*

The Minister of Transport, Fikile Mbalula visited the Msikaba bridge construction site on 31 October 2022, to assess the progress made so far.

The bridge will connect the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal, and is part of government’s Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan.

On completion, the N2 Wild Coast will contribute to economic growth and job recovery initiatives by government.

The project continues to create sustainable jobs over the years, which will in turn ensure food security and sustainable job security.

The N2 Wild Coast Road will ensure safe travelling and improved road safety for villages along the Wild Coast, services will be quicker to reach these villages as it will reduce the long hours spent in buses and taxis to access services in town.

The N2 Wild Coast Road Project will spread between OR Tambo and Alfred Nzo districts. The project includes two mega bridges in Msikaba and Mtentu. There are also seven additional new major river bridges and several interchange bridges that form part of the project.

The bridge will act as a catalyst in the economic corridor that connects the Eastern Cape and KwaZulu-Natal. Local small, micro and medium enterprises, such as the suppliers, service providers and sub-contractors are benefiting from the R4 billion turnover from contract participation goal requirements during the construction.

The project has created approximately 1 000 indirect jobs, with 446 community members who reside from the villages of Lambasi, Nkunzimbini and other surrounding villages working on the site. This constitutes 82.2% of the workforce. Job opportunities include general workers, safety administrators and store clerks.

“These kinds of projects must provide skills to the black underprivileged communities. Contractors must transfer skills to local residents so that when the project is completed and they leave, rural communities are able to stand on themselves,” said Minister Mbalula.

The Minister further stated that the anticipated date for the completion of the project is April 2024. The bridge is the third highest in South Africa.



Msikaba bridge construction site.

PRIORITY 5: SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Presidential Imbizo yields positive results

By Livhuwani Todani: GCIS, Mpumalanga

On 20 May 2022, President Cyril Ramaphosa hosted the Presidential Imbizo in Carolina, Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality in the Gert Sibande District, Mpumalanga.

During the Imbizo, the community raised many issues that are facing them and asked the President to address them. Various Ministers who attended the event promised to deliver on the issues raised.

Philile Nkambule, a learner from Sobhuza Primary School, requested the President to assist her community and fellow learners by building a bridge leading to her school as they suffer a lot when it rains as they have to take off their shoes to pass the stream, and their books sometimes get wet as a result.

She added that the learners need school bicycles as they walk long distances to school, which results in arriving late. She also asked for their school windows to be fixed.

As part of post-Imbizo monitoring and evaluation, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) visited Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality on 1 November 2022, where Executive Mayor Daniel Nkosi confirmed some of the progress made after the Presidential Imbizo.

The progress that has been made so far includes the South African Police Service Imbizo, which was held to address crime challenges in the area, the construction of a bridge in the community by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport, and the delivery of 180 bicycles at Sobhuza Primary School. The school principal also welcomed the progress made in renovating the school.

The Executive Mayor thanked Nkambule for standing up for her community and asked for interventions that have now been attended to in a short period of time.

The GCIS Mpumalanga Provincial Office also visited the construction site of the bridge, which was completed in November 2022.

GCIS Provincial Director, Jerry Nkosi, conducted a radio interview with the local radio station, Radio Alpha, where he addressed the progress made since the Presidential Imbizo, outlining the District Development Model, which is aimed at improving the coherence and impact of government service delivery, and coordinate and integrate the development plans in the three spheres of government.



The completed bridge between Sobhuza Primary School and Carolina.



Jerry Nkosi being interviewed at Radio Alpha.



Principal Zwane said:

"We thank the Office of the President for all the things they have done for us. We really appreciate it as the school, and we still have lots of challenges as our school is far away from the community and thugs break in, so, we need security and new fence."



Philile Nkambule said:

"I want to thank the President for all he has done for us. All that I have asked were done, bicycles have been delivered and also the bridge. I wish I could have an opportunity to go to him and thank him in person. I really appreciate him."



Bongani Mazibuko said:

"We are here as the GCIS to check on the development of post-Imbizo, and we are satisfied with the progress."