



Government continues to ensure that all South Africans without exception enjoy rights such as the right to life, equality and human dignity.



MY DISTRICT TODAY

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

Bekkersdal community working to bring about change

By: Matshidiso Mokoka, GCIS: Mohlakeng Thusong Service Centre



Members of the Zivuseni project cleaning new fitted windows at the Bekkersdal East Clinic.

Members of the community of Bekkersdal, a small area west of Johannesburg, have joined hands to reclaim and restore their clinic.

In recent months Bekkersdal has been in the news because of service delivery protests during which government and private properties have been on the receiving end of attacks and vandalism.

The Bekkersdal East Clinic is one of the buildings that was targeted. Thieves disguised as protesters gained entry to the clinic, stole medication,

broke windows and vandalised the electrical cabling.

Sello Rampuka, Youth Coordinator at the Bekkersdal Police Station, led the project to rebuild and restore the clinic and garner support from local organisations. "I was inspired by a radio programme on Lesedi FM, where the presenter said when people destroy property during service delivery protests; it is the elderly who suffer the most."

Sello says he decided to take action, and call on local youths and organisations to join hands to make sure that the clinic is fit for use and can serve the community again. "It is painful to watch our aged pay exorbitant amounts to hire private transport to get to the other clinic in the area in order to receive their medication. They end up paying amounts from R50 to go and wait in long queues at a clinic that was initially built to accommodate only people from the local informal settlement," he said.

Organisations that were part of the cleaning process include Kamohelang Home Based Care, Zivuseni project and the Greater Westonaria Association of Youth Clubs. A local business,

Thabang Supermarket, donated cleaning materials for the project and Colonel Mpotsoane donated R300 from his own pocket to buy new windows for the clinic. Eskom has also given an undertaking to do assessments at the clinic and check on ways to replace the stolen cable. The replacement of the cable will ensure that electricity is restored. "It is heart-warming to see people standing up and working together to make sure that the clinic becomes operational," said Rampuka.

Ms Ntombi Mekgwe, MEC for Cooperative Governance, Traditional Affairs and Human Settlements, has applauded the people and organisations of Bekkersdal who were involved in this initiative. "The residents who participated in the fixing of the clinic have shown true leadership, patriotism and Ubuntu. Government cannot work alone as it is a government for the people. It is imperative that where it is possible communities should not wait for government to 'fix' their problems but take initiatives to improve their lives," she said.

A meeting with the Westonaria Local Municipality has been scheduled with the stakeholders involved in restoring the clinic to find ways for the municipality to speed up the process.



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Let us all celebrate living in a country that guarantees that never again will our humanity be taken from us, irrespective of our race, gender, creed or sexual orientation.

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

Ntabankulu's new district hospital gets underway

By: Yolisa Blom, GCIS: Eastern Cape

Construction work on a new Eastern Cape Department of Health (ECDOH) project in Ntabankulu has begun in earnest and was marked by a sod turning ceremony on Monday, 24 February 2014.

Major earth and civil works construction is already underway as building is about to start on the new Sipetu District Hospital.

"This hospital marks the ECDOH's dedication to service delivery and providing decent health services to our people," said Eastern Cape MEC for Health, Sicelo Gqobana. "Why do we care so much about people's needs that we should decide to change the lives of the poor for the better? It's because hospitals are not visited by robots but human beings, hence we are doing our best to change those lives.

"The upgrading of the hospital involves a number of construction phases that will be executed over a period of time so as to achieve the final objective of having a hospital that includes new staff accommodation."

With a total of over 12 000m² of new floor area to be constructed, this will stand as a state-of-the-art medical facility.

"The Department of Health is investing about R320-million in the Sipetu District Hospital project, which will roll out in five phases. We are particularly excited as the hospital will service the 140 000 or so people living in the Ntabankulu area and bring world-class infrastructure directly to them," MEC Gqobana added.

The Coega Development Corporation (CDC) is the implementing agent on the Sipetu District Hospital project, one of 14 Eastern Cape-wide hospital building projects the CDC is working on for the ECDOH.

Phase 1, already underway, sees preparatory work such as platforms for the new hospital buildings and the installation of the new bulk services. Some dilapidated buildings will also be demolished to make way for the new structure.

"New park-home type houses will be provided to accommodate staff, as a result of demolition works in Phase 1. This phase should take roughly six-and-a-half months to complete," said CDC ECDOH project manager Siphon Kuhlase.

Phase 2 and 3 include the construction to the main hospital buildings and the hospital services block, taking about 30 months and 18 months

respectively, but due to be completed around the same time.

"The construction roll out of the phases has been structured such that the completion works of all the phases that make up the hospital conclude concurrently, so as to ensure that commissioning of the whole hospital takes place simultaneously," said Kuhlase.

Phase 4 incorporates the construction of the ward blocks. Four ward blocks have been designed to accommodate beds and include a general TB ward. In Phase 5 the existing hospital building will be refurbished and converted to provide staff accommodation. Additional new housing is being planned for inclusion in this phase.

"The design and development of the hospital upgrade is at an advanced stage, with Phase 2 expected to go out on tender in March 2014," Kuhlase added.



MOVING EARTH: MEC for Health with officials from the Eastern Cape Department of Health and the Coega Development Corporation break ground on the Sipetu District Hospital project.



Mayor Paul Vries and Mr Hennie Viljoen from Palms GF4GF with the first students from !Kheis Municipality.



State-of-the-art equipment sponsored by the private sector.



Municipal Manager, Theresa Scheepers, and Awie Malan from Kaap Agri – Groblershoop during the opening of the new skills centre.



OUTCOME 5: A SKILLED AND CAPABLE WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT AND INCLUSIVE GROWTH PATH

Skills development centre to fight youth unemployment

By: Wally Cloete, GCIS: Northern Cape



Community and business people during the opening of the KLK Skills Centre.

Government supports employment through public private partnership and initiatives for the youth.

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A skills development centre has opened in the Northern Cape with the aim of developing the skills of unemployed community members.

In partnership with the !Kheis Municipality and Karakul en Lewendehawe Kooprasie (KLK) in Groblershoop, the centre will offer accredited academic courses to equip local people in trades such as general crafts, welding and electrical skills required by the farms and other industries in the area.

Ten students have been identified for training and a further two related courses are planned for the year. The aim is to reach and train 30 students before the end of 2014.

The courses at the youth centre are expected to give students the necessary skills to improve their chances of gainfull employment.

Twenty-five additional youths will benefit from a course dealing with business management, farming and organisational administration. The centre has state-of-the-art equipment sponsored by a private organisation.

Mayor Paul Vries expressed his gratitude to the sponsors for their support, articulating how the centre will make a difference within the municipal area.

“There is great development in the area and the centre is there to fill the gaps that were previously experienced by this municipality”, he said.

Residents and business people attending the centre’s opening expressed their excitement and gratitude.

Master Artisan Academy South Africa in collaboration with Cash Paymaster Services CPS and Good Fruit for Good Foundations (Palms GF4GF) are among the sponsors of the accredited three-month course, which is free of charge and only requires that aspiring applicants hold a Grade 9 certificate.



OUTCOME 7: VIBRANT, EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES WITH FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL

Soup kitchen projects set to fight hunger

By: Wally Cloete, Northern Cape



Ms Patricia Witbooi addresses the community of Philandersbron.



The Philandersbron Soup Kitchen team receive their cheque from the Department of Social Development.

In her speech, member of the Mayoral Committee of ZF Mgcawu district, Councillor Patricia Witbooi, said she hoped that people in the communities would appreciate what government was doing and would value the soup kitchens.

“We are truly grateful. The soup kitchen will change the living conditions around here. No one will have to go to bed on an empty stomach again,” said the chairperson of the Philandersbron Soup Kitchen, Dina Titus.

The opening of the kitchens has also created jobs for administrators and chefs who have started feeding the needy.

“This job has changed my life for the better, and I must say that it gives me great pleasure to work with people”, says Sumarie Benn, one the chefs employed in the poverty eradication project.

The Northern Cape department of Social Development has opened three soup kitchens in the ZF Mgcawu District’s Mier Municipality with the purpose of curbing hunger.

The soup kitchens opened in Philandersbron, Rietfontein and Welkom, with each having received financial injections of R106 500. They will feed about 200 people, five days a week.

The Northern Cape already has 137 soup kitchens up-and-running following government’s call to fight food shortages in the country.

The municipal area has been identified as a War on Poverty region with little access to basic food. The poverty in the district has been linked to income inequality where communities depend primarily on farming and state work such as the Extended Public Works Programme and Community Work Programme projects.



The community of Philandersbron at the hand-over ceremony.



OUTCOME 10: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS AND NATURAL RESOURCES THAT ARE WELL PROTECTED AND CONTINUALLY ENHANCED

Precautionary measures during floods



- Avoid crossing rivers or streams when it is raining.
- Check whether the water level is rising before crossing a flooded river.
- Do not cross bridges with a high water level.
- Parents are urged to look after their children and always know where they are.
- If trapped in a floating or sinking vehicle, rather abandon it.
- Do not use dilapidated boats or water crafts when fishing.
- When venturing into areas where there are dams, streams and rivers, avoid using of alcohol.
- Switch off electrical appliances if the house is flooded.

Saving water in and around the house / business



- Turn the tap off when washing your face, brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Don't over-fill containers such as cooking pots, as this results in using more energy to heat the water.
- Fix a leaking toilet otherwise it can waste up to 100 000 litres of water in one year.
- Use a bucket rather than a hose to wash your car. If you have to use a hose, use a sprayer that can be turned off in-between spraying the car. Using a garden hose could use as much as 30 litres of water a minute.



EVERY
DROP
COUNTS

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