




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

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ANNUAL THUSONG SERVICE CENTRE WEEK EDITION: 15 to 19 SEPTEMBER 2014

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

Celebrating the Annual Thusong Service Centre Week

Thusong Service Centres were established in the earliest days of our democracy as one of the primary vehicles of development communication. Thusong Service Centres provide opportunities for people to develop and progress towards a better life through access to information and services. This access was historically denied to the majority of South Africans. Access to services and information are enshrined in our Constitution and it is very important that these are brought closer to the people as an integral part of the developmental agenda introduced by government in 1994.

One of the major achievements of the democratic government has been the establishment of 182 Thusong Service Centres nationwide. These centres are found in rural areas where previously disadvantaged people live. Now in its 15th year of operation, the Thusong Service Centre programme has made great achievements.

In support of Public Service Month, 15 to 19 September 2014 was declared the Annual Thusong Service Centre Week. The week was launched by Minister of Communications Faith Muthambi who was accompanied by the GCIS Acting CEO, Phumla Williams, Provincial and Local Liaison Chief Directorate and other GCIS officials.



Minister Muthambi interacting with community members during the launch of the Annual Thusong Service Centre Week.



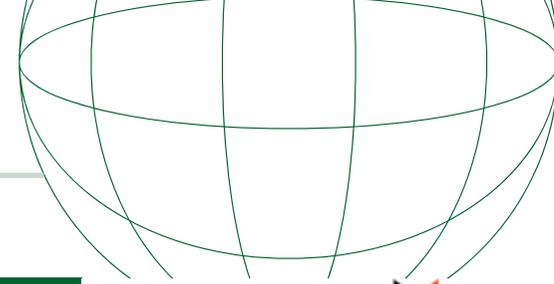
Members of the public during the Minister's address.



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





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Mpuluzi Thusong Service Centre makes great strides

By: Bongani Mazibuko: GCIS, Mpumalanga

The GCIS joined hands with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and local municipalities to ensure that there is continuity in service delivery. The event took place on 22 September 2014 in Mpuluzi Thusong Service Centre in Mpumalanga. This partnership also made it possible that information is taken to the people through various platforms such as information sharing sessions, awareness campaigns, exhibitions, road shows and radio talk shows.



GCIS's Bongani Mazibuko introducing guest speakers and also the Thusong Service Centre programme at Radio Alpha.



Petros Mkhwanazi said: "I am very happy that government has brought services closer to where we live because that saves me money. We are now getting training to acquire different skills."



Siponono Vilakazi said: "The Thusong Service Centre has changed my life. It was through this centre that I was able to get my identity document after having struggled to get it for so long. Now I have basic computer literacy skills which I acquired at the telecentre and I would like to thank government for bringing services closer to where we live."



Nomatyala Maliti said: “The Thusong Service Centre is very helpful to me and to our community at large. It is a good thing that we have a Thusong Service Centre in our community. I used to travel to De Aar to access services offered by the Department of Home Affairs and South African Revenue Services but now I can access all these services here at the Thusong Service Centre.”



Meggie Webster said: “The Thusong Service Centre has brought relief to our lives and put smiles on our faces. We are coming from a very painful past of oppression but now in the new democratic South Africa, I have my own business operating within the Thusong Service Centre.”

Community members introduced to service providers

By: Thenjiwe Konono: GCIS, Northern Cape

The GCIS, in partnership with other service providers such as the Colesberg Thusong Service Centre, departments of labour and home affairs, Independent Electoral Commission, South African Social Security Agency, Early Childhood Development, Love Life, Legal Aid and other non-governmental organisations conducted an open-day session where members of the public were informed about services offered by different service providers and how they can access them.



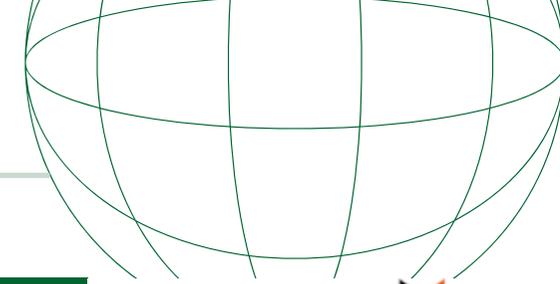
Stakeholder exhibitions.



Senior Communication Officer Thenjiwe Konono explaining the purpose of the open-day session and taking beneficiaries to visit different exhibitors.



Public servants informing community members about services offered by different government departments.



Naomi Mabetwa said: “At some stage I did not know what to do because I do not have parents and I came here at Leretlhabetse Thusong Service Centre because I needed an identity document. They assisted me with the application process and I also applied for my child’s support grant.”



Mpho Seakamela said: “I was addicted to drugs and came here at Leretlhabetse Thusong Service Centre and the Bojanala Substance and Drug Abuse Organisation helped me to stop using drugs.”

Deputy Minister urges community members to enjoy Thusong Service Centre benefits

By: Ephraim Malema: GCIS, North West

Deputy Minister of Communications Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams encouraged hundreds of community members who attended the Annual Thusong Service Centre Week event to enjoy the benefits offered by Thusong Service Centres. The event took place at Leretlhabetse Thusong Service Centre on 18 September 2014. The Deputy Minister also launched the *Thusong Success Stories* booklet at the same event.



Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams giving the keynote address during the Annual Thusong Service Centre Week celebration.



Deputy CEO of the GCIS Nebo Legoabe addressing community members at Leretlhabetse Thusong Service Centre.



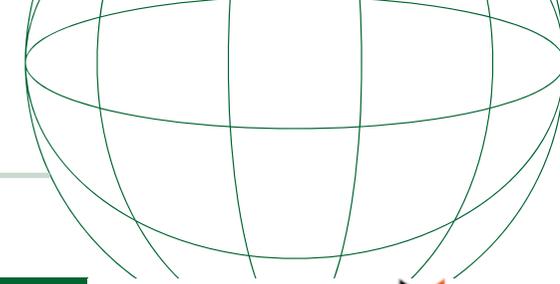
Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams talking about the Annual Thusong Service Centre Week during a radio interview at Moretele Community Radio.



Community members who attended the Annual Thusong Service Centre Week celebration at Leretlhabetse Thusong Service Centre.



Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams meets Chief Nawa during the Thusong Service Centre briefing session at Lebotloane Tribal Authority.



The open-day event which took place on 17 September 2014 at Viedgesville Thusong Service Centre

By: Ndyebo Kopo: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Cllr Thobeka Mtirara of ward 32 in Viedgesville standing with Community Development Workers.



Community members arriving at the open-day event.



Community members at the GCIS stall during the open-day event.



Community members at the Department of Economic Development stall.



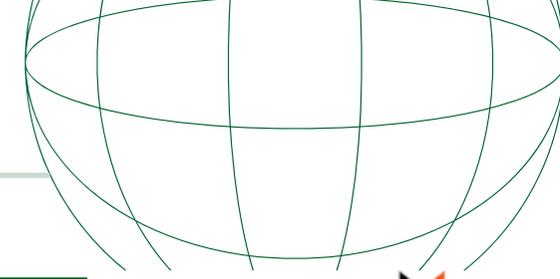
Entertainment for the people.



Department of Rural Development and Land Reform stall.



Community members at the Small Enterprise Development Agency and National Youth Development Agency stalls.



Mbazwana Thusong Service Centre celebrates success stories

By: *Jacob Mkhize: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal*

Public Service Month was celebrated between 1 and 30 September 2014 under the theme: “Reinventing the way public servants work - *Batho Pele.*” This coincided with the Annual Thusong Service Centre Week that was celebrated between 15 and 19 September. Mbazwana Thusong Service Centre hosted its Annual Thusong Service Centre Week celebration on 17 September 2014.



Zodwa Mnguni shares her story.



Gazette Zikhali tells her story.



A team of different stakeholders that participated in Mbazwana Annual Thusong Service Centre Week event.



GCIS Provincial Director Ndala Mngadi briefing the attendees at the Annual Thusong Centre Week event.



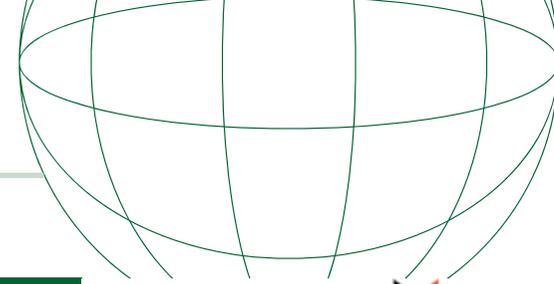
Siphso Ntuli shares his story on how he has benefited from services rendered at the Thusong Service Centre.



Community members who attended the Annual Thusong Service Centre Week celebration.



Community members at Small Enterprise Development Agency and National Youth Development Agency stalls.



A drama group entertaining the audience.



Nompilo Mchunu, an intern at GCIS KwaZulu-Natal, creates a Twitter page for the Annual Thusong Service Centre Week activities.



Community members at the event.

Taking information to the people

By: Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The Archie Gumede Thusong Service Centre celebrated the Annual Thusong Service Centre Week in Clermont on 19 September 2014.

Departments rendering services from the Thusong Service Centre held exhibitions and informed the audience about their services. The GCIS's Malcolm Bagwell addressed the audience on the reason behind the Thusong Service Centre programme and the significance of Public Service Month and the Annual Thusong Service Centre Week.



Community members queuing at the Thusong Service Centre to access services from different service providers.



Lihle Luthuli of the GCIS giving a helping hand.



Manager of Archie Gumede Thusong Service Centre, Chris Hlatshwayo addresses the audience.

Malcolm Bagwell of the GCIS addresses the audience.