



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Government intensifies the fight against poverty

By Puleng Kekana: GCIS, Eastern Cape

Every year on 17 October, the Department of Social Development commemorates the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty. The department uses the event to highlight its vision of building a caring society. The day was observed under the theme: "Building a sustainable future: Coming together to end poverty and discrimination".

The MEC for Social Development, Nancy Sihlwayi, also launched the Community Nutrition Development Programme at Cookhouse on the day. Certificates were presented to 48 cooks as proof that they have completed a course as chefs, done at the branch of Stenden University in South Africa. This shows that government cares for the people.

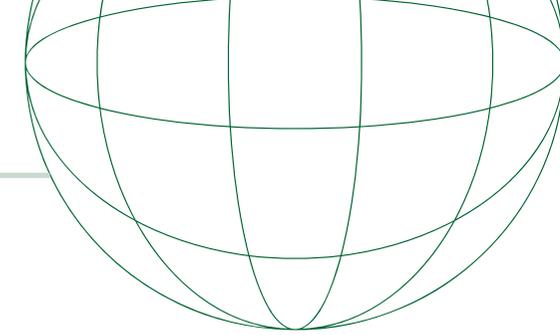
The Community Nutrition Development Programme ensures access to food for people living in extreme poverty and the overarching goal of the project is to achieve community nutrition and feeding the poor and the vulnerable. Cookhouse, Grahamstown, Rietbron and Klipplaat have been identified as poverty-stricken areas.

Nutrition centres will be available at the identified areas where poor people will receive food, thereby addressing the challenge of poverty. This will also help in the creation of jobs and establishment of small businesses.



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Landu said: "I appreciate the programme and am proud of it because not only did it present me with skills but will also contribute to the fight against poverty in our area. We are looking forward to starting our own business."



Faltein said: "I have learned a lot about the chef profession. I know that I am now employable in areas such as restaurants, hotels or I can start my own catering company or even train others. But at the moment I want to plough back to our needy people to assist government in giving a decent meal to the needy."



Thabile Dlamini said:

“I think this roadshow is a good way of educating people about the importance of using water wisely. Very often we do not think about how much water we use and what effect it could have in the future, my eyes have been opened. I did not know that we are experiencing severe drought, this roadshow has educated me about using water responsibly.”



Sihle Mkhonto said:

“We have been experiencing water cuts in the area, I thought the municipality was doing pipe repairs. But now I understand it is because of water shortage. It is not only us who are affected but animals too. I will definitely start using water sparingly and reuse it where possible.”

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

Municipality embarks on a water-saving campaign

By Nompilo Mchunu: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

As the drought situation worsens in KwaZulu-Natal and the country, the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS), district municipalities and the Government Communication and Information System have intensified the “save water” roadshows. On 28 October 2015, the roadshow was at KwaMdakane Thusong Service Centre, Dannhauser Municipality under the Amajuba District.

The roadshow has been to all 11 districts in the province with the aim to educate communities about water scarcity and to encourage them to conserve and use water sparingly. Over 300 people from KwaMdakane and surrounding areas attended the roadshow to hear how the water shortages could affect them if they do not use water sparingly.

Dannhauser Deputy Mayor Mgcinisizwe Ndaba urged the community to play their part in saving water.

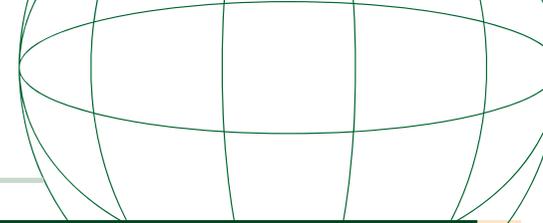
“If we do not start using water wisely, we will suffer. The situation will get worse if we do not make changes to our water-using habits. Instead of using clean water to wash cars, use the water you were using for laundry. We need to start using water responsibly and remember that it has no substitute,” said Deputy Mayor Ndaba.

Nathi Zwane, Director of Water and Engineering at Amajuba District, reiterated the message of the day. He encouraged the community to report burst water pipes to their local municipality to prevent water from being wasted. “To save water, a collective effort from the municipality and community is required. If water is not used sparingly, the municipality will have to implement water rationing measures,” he said.

The community promised to heed the call to save and use water sparingly within their homes.

Amajuba is one of five districts in the province that will benefit from an approved amount of R96 620 552.00 for interim tankers and additional interventions by the DWS.

Water and Sanitation Minister Nomvula Mokonyane officially declared KwaZulu-Natal and the Free State as disaster areas due to severe drought conditions. An amount of R352,6 million has been committed by the department to assist the province with drought-intervention projects.



Mrs Khuzwayo said:

“It is important that we use the little water we have responsibly. I will also teach my grandchildren at home not to waste water because everything starts at home. If children see elders using water wisely, they will do the same wherever they go.”



Deputy Mayor Ndaba speaking at the event.



Director Nathi Zwane addressing community members.



A drama performance about saving water by some of South Africa's popular actors.



The community of Dannhauser attended the event to listen to their leaders.



Some of the families that were identified to receive houses at Tuaeatswala.



Premier Mathabatha, Deputy Minister Kota-Fredericks, Mayor Mashamaite and MEC Makhurupetje handing over house keys to beneficiaries.



Lettie Makhura said: "I did not have a place to stay with my five children. I appreciate the initiative by government to provide us with shelter as I could not have afforded to build a house myself. I am happy that my children will have a place to stay like other children."

OUTCOME 8: SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND AN IMPROVED QUALITY OF HOUSEHOLD LIFE

Government delivers houses to the needy

By Maria Ramoshaba: GCIS, Limpopo



Premier Mathabatha, Deputy Minister Kota-Fredericks, Mogalakwena Mayor Tihalefi Mashamaite and MEC Makhurupetje awarding certificates to volunteers.



Sleeping in a shack is a nightmare for everyone. Women and child-headed households celebrated 21 years of democracy by being provided with 21 houses at Tuaeatswala village in Mogalakwena Local Municipality.

The houses were handed over by Human Settlements Deputy Minister Zou Kota-Fredericks, Premier Stan Mathabatha and Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoHGSTA) MEC Makoma Makhurupetje. The houses were built as part of Women's Nation Build programme, which was launched in Limpopo. The South African Broadcasting Corporation also signed a three-year agreement with CoGHSTA and the Department of Human Settlements to provide citizens with information on housing.

The youths from Tuaeatswala volunteered to build houses for the women, elderly and vulnerable children. They were also awarded certificates for skills development in construction.



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



The 105 bicycles that were handed over.



Community members at the event.



Thabiso Moetsi said:
 "I think it is a very good, excellent and brilliant idea. Now learners can go to school and do not have to walk long distances."



Abone Mtlonye said:
 "I like it very much. It shows that government cares about us. I think more people will benefit because not all of us can afford cars, but most people have donkeys. These carts are very nice."

Transport Month celebrated in style

By Karen Foutie: GCIS, Northern Cape



MEC Bartlett and Social Development MEC Tiny Chotelo handing over bicycles to two learners in Gamopedi.



MECs Chotelo and Bartlett taking a ride on a donkey cart that was handed over to community members.



Community members reading the popular Vuk'uzenzele newspaper while waiting for the event to start.

"Transport plays a vital role in our society, connecting people with jobs, school, family and friends. We will have to become more conscious of our environment and use different transport modes intelligently. Although we might not like it, we will have to reduce traffic congestion on our roads", said MEC for Transport, Safety and Liaison Martha Bartlett, at the handing over of animal-drawn carts and bicycles.

Speaking to about 500 people of John Taolo Gaetsewe District, she emphasised that, "Walking, cycling and using an animal-drawn cart, especially in rural areas should be the preferred modes for short distances, followed by bus and minibus taxis for longer distances as well as motorbikes". The MEC encouraged the community to consider public transport, especially between home and workplace.

The MEC said non-motorised transport is cost-effective, safe, user-friendly and reliable. She also said that animal-drawn carts can be used to transport goods and people to markets, schools, clinics and other destinations; places that are currently accessed by foot. In South Africa's rural areas, most people living there are farmers and own animals such as horses, donkeys and cows that can be used to plough, transport goods and people.

Twenty-seven donkey carts and 105 Shova Kalula bicycles were presented to learners who travel more than three kilometres to school. These bicycles will ensure that they have access to basic education, thus ensuring a brighter future. The Shova Kalula programme is meant to address the non-attendance by learners who stay far from their schools.