Ekurhuleni Transport Month celebration

By Itumeleng Bogatsu: GCIS, Gauteng

October is Transport Month and seeks to raise awareness on the importance of transport in the economic growth and also encourage participation from civil society and business, including the provision of a safe and more affordable, accessible and reliable transport system in the country.

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), Department of Transport, Ekurhuleni Metro Police Department (EMPD), Department of Social Development and other stakeholders conducted an open day on 5 October 2018 at the Tembisa Customer Care Centre as part of celebrating the month. The event was also used as a service-delivery outreach with the aim to bring government services and information closer to the people; educate members of the community about government programmes and services; register those who want to access social services and enabling documents such as birth certificates and identity documents; and to disseminate information through presentations, face-to-face interaction, exhibitions and information products.

During this month, the Department of Transport and its entities showcase transport infrastructure services in public transport and roads, aviation and maritime.

The City of Ekurhuleni has previously arranged extensive programmes to celebrate Transport Month, including free roadworthy tests for minibus taxis, buses and trucks in three of its testing stations in Brakpan, Boksburg and Kempton Park.

Mbulaheni Makhadi said:
“I am overwhelmed by the huge turnout today. I hope we will make this day a fruitful and memorable one. Thank you EMPD and GCIS for the event and all other supporting departments. Get more services on the premises and remember to be sensible drivers and pedestrians. Let our township live to our metro’s slogan ‘a place of peace’.”
“An effective and efficient transport system is a catalyst for sustainable economic growth. As such, the City of Ekurhuleni is geared up to promote safe, reliable, and cost-effective transport means. This event is just to kick-start the month-long Transport Month celebrations, and we are going to use road intersections and other public places to educate our community,” said EMPD official Josias Masilela.

Every year during Transport Month, government also mobilises public and private sector participation in transport projects aimed at developing the country’s economy and ensuring sustainable job creation.

Tebogo Molefe said:

“This is killing two birds with one stone. It is great to observe Transport Month and also having all these departments rendering services to community members. In Tembisa, we are the best in paying our services and it is only fair that all services are brought closer to you. I really wish our centre was big enough that we could house all these departments because the place is abuzz and the people are enjoying every moment.”
On 12 October 2018, Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) together with the Department of Trade and Industry (the dti) held an activation at the Silverton train station.

October is Transport Month, so the aim of the activation was to communicate relevant messages, and other opportunities and services found in the Public Service. Officials from the two departments also engaged the public on government’s anti-corruption campaign, encouraging community members to report acts of corruption to the relevant authorities.

Various government publications such as the Vuk’uzenzele newspaper, Public Sector Manager magazine, the Constitution, South African National Road Agency Limited publications, National Energy Regulator of South Africa newsletter, anti-corruption leaflets and other government publications were distributed at the event. The dti shared the information about how it assists people to manage their credit. The department also communicated various grants/incentives that it offers to those who want to start or develop their own businesses in various sectors such as film, motor industry and investment sector.

Commuters received Z83 application forms to apply for jobs and internships that are published on Vuk’uzenzele.
President Cyril Ramaphosa officially opened the new Home Affairs building located within the centre of Greater Kokstad on 3 October 2018.

Accompanied by the Minister of Home Affairs, Malusi Gigaba, the President engaged with the community of Kokstad who had visited Home Affairs for various services offered at the offices. During a walkabout, President Ramaphosa handed over identity smart cards to Silvia Yekani who is 94 years old and Jongabi Mngele who is 82 years old, and many other youth who were receiving their identity smart cards for the first time. The President spoke about the importance of putting people first and also good governance in all services that are provided by government at all institutions.

President Ramaphosa also handed over more than 400 housing title deeds to the Franklin community. He applauded all those beneficiaries who benefited from the housing programme and also promised that phase two of the housing project was in the pipeline. The President also urged community members to refrain from selling government houses, as the programme is intended for needy families.

OUTCOME 6: AN EFFICIENT, COMPETITIVE AND RESPONSIVE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK.

President opens new Home Affairs office

By Mthunzi Mkhungo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

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The Department of Transport led the two-day activation in Badplaas at Vygeboom Dam on 28 September 2018. The event sought to expose learners from Mpumalanga to careers and opportunities in the maritime industry, as part of the World Maritime Day celebration.

Learners from various schools were informed and exposed to water activities such as swimming, diving, water rescue, the importance of safety on water and other maritime careers. After the water activities at Vygeboom Dam, the formal event took place at Badplaas Resort, where the Deputy Minister of Transport, Sindisiwe Chikunga, delivered a keynote address. The Deputy Minister encouraged and motivated learners to consider pursuing careers in the maritime industry. She also indicated that learners who work hard and excel in their studies would receive bursaries from the Department of Transport.

The MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport in Mpumalanga, Gillion Mashego, delivered a message of support. He committed that his department would provide radio slots through which stakeholders working on the maritime industry will get a platform to inform the broader community of Mpumalanga about careers and opportunities available in the industry.

Learners also participated in the maritime awareness school competition by building their own ships, singing, dancing and poetry, and the winning schools were awarded trophies and certificates.

Nompumelelo Khumalo from Zinkeleni Secondary School said, “Our ship won us the first prize, a trophy and a certificate but we also established partnerships with stakeholders who will support our school in order for us to realise our dreams. Through the partnerships, many learners will also benefit.”