



# MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

### Young people participate in business breakfast session

*By Mthunzi Mkhungo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal*

The youths of Ray Nkonyeni Local Municipality had an opportunity to engage with possible funders and business partners during the Youth in Business Breakfast session on 21 June 2019 at the Margate Hotel. The session was organised in partnership with various stakeholders such as Absa and Vodacom to empower young people in business.

The youths were advised to become employers and to take advantage of government opportunities that are intended to grow young and emerging entrepreneurs. They were also given advice on where business demands are around south coast, particularly within the Ray Nkonyeni Local Municipality. Part of what youths could do is to capitalise on the ocean economy, agricultural sector, textile and many other opportunities.



Delegates attending the Ray Nkonyeni Youth in Business Breakfast Session.



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**Boniswa Duma said:**

“This breakfast session is one of its kind and it was long overdue. I am happy that we are being recognised and considered as young people in business by local government. Out of this session, I have learnt so much about business tactics and things that mostly hinder the growth of the emerging businesses. I am now keener to explore other business avenues and extend my networks throughout the province.”



**Thulisile Cebisa said:**

“The session means a step forward by government. We have been told through various platforms that we should be in business as young people. Today we met key stakeholders in business, and that means a lot to me. Having engaged with all speakers during the session, I am looking forward to specialise in business rather than focusing on tendering. From this session I am going to ensure that I stick to one business until it grows before I can tap to others.”



**Slindile Gumbi said:**

“As an emerging businessperson I am happy to have been included in this session. I think this is the first event of this nature within the Ray Nkonyeni Local Municipality. Having so many stakeholders from government and private sector here, providing such important information is a huge step forward. I have learnt many things in business practice and how we should conduct our administration as businesspeople. I am now looking forward to grow my bakery business and I will ensure that in the next few months, I expand to reach other corners of the coast.”

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

**Launch of Emergency Winter Feeding Programme**

*By Dibandlela Nkume: GCIS, Eastern Cape*

The MEC for Social Development, Siphokazi Mani-Lusithi launched the Emergency Winter Feeding Programme in Marselle on 9 July 2019. Marselle is regarded as one of the highly impoverished communities in Ndlambe Local Municipality hence the decision by the MEC to launch the initiative there. The programme focuses on alleviating poverty especially during winter and also deals with issues of family disintegration.

The programme ensures that needy families are constantly provided with warm, nutritious meals; thus providing relief to their distress and hardships. The programme is done through the department’s funded Community Nutrition Development Centres (CNDCs). They do not focus only on providing soup but also look into supplying nutritious foods such as vegetables and fruits.

“We have realised that people do not only survive on soup but need a healthy and nutritious diet, hence we have opted for the CNDC. This model is community based, where communities are encouraged to start their own subsistence gardens in their yards to ensure that they produce fresh consumables for their families,” said MEC Mani-Lusithi.

The key objectives of the programme are to provide service to vulnerable groups within society by alleviating poverty. It also seeks to mobilise community members to care and also support and provide food security for one another. Stakeholders such as the Department of Health, South African Social Security Agency and local non-governmental organisations pledged their support to the programme and also embraced it. Community members and local leaders applauded government for the initiative.



MEC Siphokazi Mani-Lusithi addressing the community.



Community members of Marselle who were in attendance.



MEC Siphokazi Mani-Lusithi and the local leadership of Ndlambe and Sundays River Valley local municipalities at the event.

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

**National minimum wage stakeholder engagement**

*By Kaone Lekgetho: GCIS, North West*

On 21 June 2019, the Department of Employment and Labour hosted a stakeholder engagement session in Mmabatho to discuss the National Minimum Wage Act, 2018 (Act 9 of 2018) with the Chinese business community. The employers were recognised as one of the key stakeholders as they contribute largely to employment in the retail sector and wholesalers in the province.

The purpose of the engagement session was to discuss the implementation of the National Minimum Wage Act, which came into effect from 1 January 2019. The Department of Employment and Labour encouraged the Chinese employers to comply with this Act, which stipulates that every worker is entitled to payment of a wage not less than the national minimum wage, which is R20 for each ordinary hour worked. There are, however, certain exceptions. Farm workers are entitled to a minimum wage of R18 per hour, domestic workers are entitled to a minimum wage of R15 per hour, while workers employed on an expanded public works programme are entitled to a minimum wage of R11 per hour.

The event also highlighted other employment acts such as the Unemployment Insurance Fund, the Compensation Fund and injury on duty. Presenters interacted with the audience through a question and answer session. Some of the issues raised by the employers included dealing with employees who steal, and whether employers can reduce working hours to be exempted from the minimum wage.

The representative of the Chinese Forum, Attie Zhuang, was grateful to the Department of Employment and Labour for such an informative session and also expressed that they would work closely with the department and comply with all the acts. He further said that even in their own country, there are acts that govern businesses.



**Chinese Forum representative Attie Zhuang addressing the session.**



**Different stakeholders at the event.**

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

### Information sharing activation in Soshanguve

By Valencia Rachuene, Johan Khoza and Willy Phalane: GCIS, Head Office

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) embarked on an activation to market its Information Resource Centre and also provide government information to the public at Soshanguve train station and Thusong Service Centre on 12 July 2019. The session was in partnership with the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA) and was one of the Mandela Month activities.

Some of the publications shared at the event included South African Revenue Services pamphlets about the tax season and filing; State of the Nation Address highlights; information about the title deeds to educate the public about their rights to concerning title deeds, information on the careers found in ICASA and service provided; *Vuk'uzenzele* and *Insession* newspapers; and the Constitution to educate the public about their rights as the country celebrates 25 years of democracy.

Government officials interacted with members of the public and explained the content of government publications. The community was also encouraged to carry out the spirit of Ubuntu as Nelson Mandela did by giving back to the communities, helping the less fortunate and not only do that on Mandela Day but to make it a norm as part of their living and to visit the Nelson Mandela Foundation website for more information.



GCIS officials engaging with a community member.



Government officials distributing information materials in Soshanguve.