



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Youth combine ideas to start a business

By Doctor Marebane: GCIS, Limpopo



The youth of Kgautswane at one of the aloe plants.



Tumelo Mojela at his office.

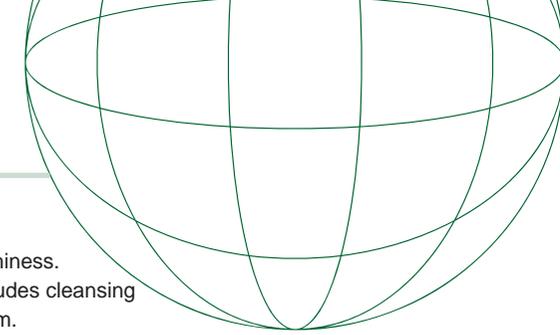
As you enter the mountainous village of Kgautswane through a dusty and rocky road, you are welcomed by sad faces of unemployed young people loitering local shops and streets with nothing to do at all. You are also welcomed by a lovely scene of blooming green plants with cactus-like leaves.

These plants are called aloe and earliest societies respected this extraordinary botanical for its astonishing properties. The plants are used for medicinal and skin treatment and the knowledge has been passed down through time, enhanced by scientific innovation.



government
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Aloe vera improves blood circulation, regulates blood pressure, strengthens immune system and reduces itchiness. It has also been used as a soothing balm, applied externally for cuts, scrapes and burns. Its modern use includes cleansing and supporting the digestive system, soothing and promoting skin renewal and supporting the immune system.

Tumelo Mojela of Kgautswane village is one of the descendants of this aloe-rich village and wants to use this magnificent plant in a good and profitable way. He has ventured into aloe business and aims to take it to the highest level. He has mobilised 70 local unemployed youths to help him set up an aloe agro-processing project. Tumelo is receiving assistance from the Sector Education and Training Authority (Seta). The Seta gives each learner who is participating in the mentoring programme, a R1 500 stipend every month.

According to Tumelo, he was inspired to work as a community developer after witnessing hardships faced by unemployed young people. "What saddens me is that most of these young people have university qualifications but still cannot find work. After completing the training programme, the 70 young people are going to be absorbed to run and manage aloe cooperatives. Through this project, we are going to restore their pride by providing them with sustainable employment and opportunities.

"We intend producing cosmetics and herbal products and sell to chemists, wholesalers and local markets, and neighbouring countries. Traditional healers will also have a stake in the project," he said.



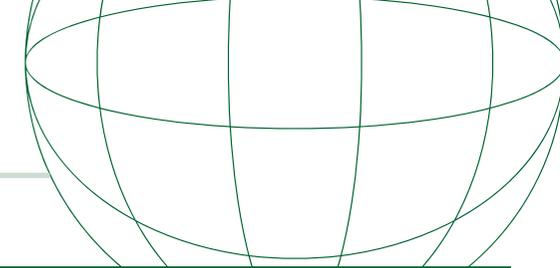
Alex Mzimba said:
"After studying Financial Management and could not find work I joined the project and I hope my life will change for the better."



Bafedile Selahle said:
"I studied Human Resource Management and was recruited to the project from a local school where I was volunteering. I think the project is going to succeed."



Mapule Mamphoko said:
"After completing matric I did not have funds to pursue my studies and I was just sitting at home doing nothing. The project came at the right time for me."



Deputy Minister Barbara Thomson leading the 67-minutes campaign at Memel.



Puseletso Radebe said:

“I am happy that government came to Memel because community members need assistance with projects that will empower them.”



Thoko Mavundla said:

“It would be highly appreciated if government could monitor all cooperatives they fund.”

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

Deputy Minister engages with farmers

By Mamogolo Dirane: GCIS, Free State



The Deputy Minister and community members hard at work.



Government officials using Mandela Day to touch lives.

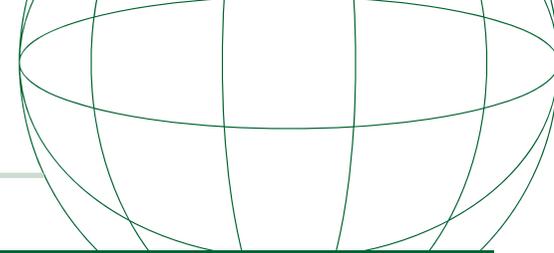
On 15 July 2015, the Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs, Barbara Thomson led the South African Weather Service (SAWS) community-engagement programme on severe weather awareness, climate change and agrometeorological services at Memel in the Free State.

The Deputy Minister was accompanied by the Free State MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Mamiki Qabathe, and Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Mosebenzi Zwane and the Mayor of Phumelela Local Municipality, Tlokotsi Motaung.

The programme comes from a partnership between the SAWS and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) to train extension officers and farmers on the application of agrometeorological information and how it can be used to develop adaptation and mitigation strategies.

The project is pioneered in the Free State and KwaZulu-Natal and aims to provide education and information to extension agents, farmers and other users. It also aims to empower decision makers within the Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries. With climate change most likely to have a significant impact on food availability, food accessibility and food system's stability in many parts of the world, this project is being implemented at the right time.

Since the engagement took place during the Nelson Mandela Month, it included a 67-minutes campaign. In accordance with the theme and considering that food security is highlighted as a key strategic imperative when carrying out the campaign, the Deputy Minister, MECs and other stakeholders joined SAWS and NEPAD in extending the vegetable garden of a local Memel community initiative which provides food to poor households in the community.



Khayelitsha Community Policing Forum Chairperson said:

“The programme was excellent and we are happy to be the first cluster to host the youth summit. We understand that most criminal activities are committed by young people and that crime affects mostly young people. I congratulate the organising team and the young people who took their time to participate in this initiative.”



The Chairperson of the Khayelitsha Youth Development Council said:

“We are here to ensure that the voice of young people of Khayelitsha is heard. We will also ensure that all resolutions are implemented. We would also want feedback from government. This programme has opened the minds of many young people who are here today.”

OUTCOME 3: ALL PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE AND FEEL SAFE

Young people participate in youth summit

By Sikelela Zokufa: GCIS, Western Cape



Community members at the event.



Members of the community accessing information from different stalls.



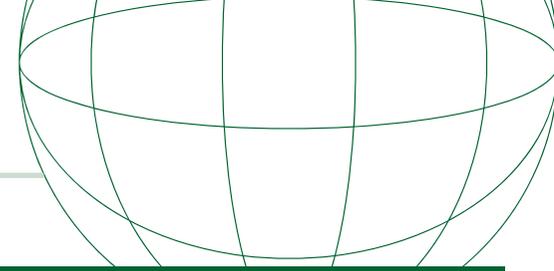
The Khayelitsha Youth Crime Prevention Safety Summit was a preparation for the postponed Provincial Youth Crime Summit which was scheduled to take place from 15 to 17 July 2015. The postponement did not discourage the Khayelitsha youth to hold their own summit.

The summit was attended by 120 youth from different sections of Khayelitsha. It was organised in partnership with the South African Police Service (SAPS), Department of Community Safety, City of Cape Town, Cristal’s Academy, Inguqu organisation and the Government Communication and Information System.

The young people were divided into four commissions, and each commission was given a topic to discuss and come back to report to the entire group. Commissions discussed topics such as substance abuse, crime in schools and the role of the youth and government in fighting crime.

The commissions came back and reported a number of things that they thought needed to be done by government and communities. They agreed that the SAPS is doing its best but the youth must also take responsibility and help to fight crime. It was also said that many young people resort to crime due to unemployment.

Government was requested to revisit the employment policy to allow those with criminal records to be considered for jobs, because even those who have been rehabilitated remain unemployable regardless of their qualifications and skills.



OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Programme benefits women

By Vuyani Sibene: GCIS, Eastern Cape

Government promotes gender equality and women's empowerment to combat poverty and stimulate sustainable development. All government policies emphasise full participation of women in the economy so that an inclusive economy where women have equal opportunities can be created. Women's empowerment can only be successful if government, business and civil society work together to move women forward. Women are encouraged to take advantage of all opportunities offered by government and empower themselves.

The shortage of artisans and its effect on the growth of South Africa's economy has negative impacts. The shortage of skilled artisans threatens South Africa's competitive edge in the global economy when compared to other emerging countries such as Brazil and India.

As part of Women's Month activities, the Government Communication and Information System's Eastern Cape Office organised an hour slot at Unitra Community Radio for beneficiaries of the Expanded Public Works Programme from OR Tambo District. They are Nolundi Mdulashe and Lindiwe Nxeleba.

Nolundi, who is in the building sector, said: "I knew what I wanted. I wanted a challenge since the building industry is dominated by men. Those were the reasons that made me to pursue the career."

Lindiwe said: "I was not sure about being an artisan in electrical engineering because it is dominated by men but I now have side jobs while I am working for the Department of Public Works."

The objective of the initiative is to retain qualified artisans in the province and also to improve the quality of workmanship through the provision of speciality artisan skills.



Nolundi Mdulashe.



Lindiwe Nxeleba.