




MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 42 / October 2015

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OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Education receives a boost

By Willem van Dalen: GCIS, Northern Cape



Young people accessing information at an information stall.



Government officials informing the youth about different government opportunities to assist them with learning and job opportunities.

A great opportunity for learning has just been opened in the rural town of Okiep, near Springbok, in the Namakwa District in the Northern Cape.

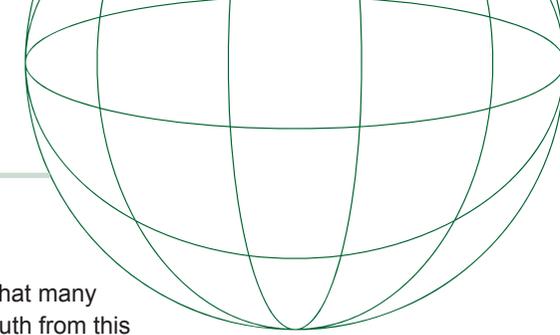
The Northern Cape Rural (NCR) Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) college opened the doors of its newly established Trade Test and Training Centre where students and skilled labour can be trained and tested and receive National Qualification Framework (NQF) standard qualifications.

Main role players in making the dream a reality with sponsorships of more than R22 million, were Anglo American/Khumba, the Chemical Industries Education and Training Authority (CHIETA) Sector Education and Training Authority (SETA) and the Northern Cape Department of Higher Education.



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During his welcoming speech, the Mayor of Nama Khoi Municipality, Boeboe van Wyk, indicated that many young people are struggling financially in Namakwa District as a result of the closure of mines. Youth from this area went as far as the Limpopo to find employment, but they at least have employment. There are those without skills and they are the ones who suffer the most. The opening of the Trade Test and Training Centre in Okiep will bring hope and opportunities to the youth.

Previously, students could only acquire NQF Level 3 qualifications at the Okiep campus. After that, they had to move to other provinces to better their education. Now, there is nothing that will stop them because they have everything at their disposal.

CHIETA has, as its baseline for education and training, the guideline to match skills with the requirements in a region and the country at large. For that reason, businesses around and near training centres are brought on board to offer students the much-needed skills development in the workplace. Many successful partnerships have been formed throughout the country. The curriculum of a specific college is adapted to cater for the businesses in the area.



Principal of the NCR TVET college in Okiep interacting with students.



Executive Mayor of Namakwa District, Bentley Vass speaking at the event.



Raakshani Singh of CHIETA SETA at the event.



Percy Sago said:
“We feel honoured to be part of this occasion. Many years of planning and hard work have been crowned today.



Danny Boyce, manager of the Okiep campus, delivering a speech.



This model will be used to train future mechanics.



OUTCOME 2: A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS

Former mineworkers receive good news

By Doctor Marebane: GCIS, Limpopo



Paulus Mmala said:

“I did not know that I could claim for occupational diseases contacted while working in the mines. Thanks for the information.”



Some of the 2 000 former miners who attended the event at Dilokong Hospital in Tubatse.

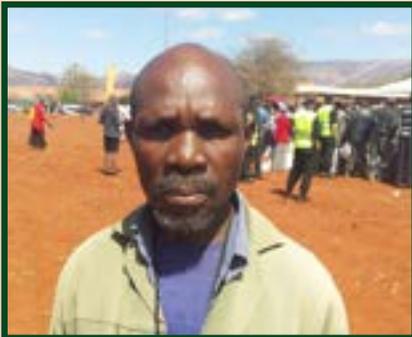


Deputy Minister Phaahla, MEC Ramathaba, Deputy Minister Holomisa and Mayor Mammekwa at the event.



Samuel Kgoete said:

“I have worked for three mines and was not compensated. I will definitely lodge a claim.”



Ditabeng Makua said:

“I have applied for compensation and I am just awaiting feedback.”

Former miners who contracted mining-related diseases and those who got injured while working in the mines can claim compensation for occupational diseases at their doorstep. This will be made possible before the end of the year when the Department of Health, in conjunction with departments of labour and minerals resources, build a one-stop centre in the Greater Tubatse Municipality. The centre will be the third in the country. The promise was made during the building of the centre at Dilokong Hospital where more than 2 000 former miners gathered for the good news.

Deputy Minister of Health, Dr Joe Phaahla, was optimistic about the centre and said that it is going to benefit all Sekhukhune residents. He encouraged all former miners to register with the Medical Bureau of Occupational Diseases (MBOD) so that they can check if they are owed any money. He also warned the community to be aware of bogus representatives who go around charging unsuspecting victims exorbitant prices pretending to be agents. “The service is free, communities should not fall prey to these people,” said Deputy Minister Phaahla.

His sentiments were echoed by Limpopo MEC for Health, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, who said that mining diseases can be controlled. She said that the centre will ensure that all former miners get services from the Department of Health. Also present were Deputy Minister of Labour, Patekile Holomisa and Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources, Godfrey Oliphant, Greater Tubatse Municipality Mayor, Ralepane Mammekwa, local traditional leaders and union representatives.

To claim; the claimant’s medical examination record should be sent to the MBOD in Braamfontein by the doctor for diagnosis and certification. If the certification states that the claimant qualifies for compensation, the doctor will assist the claimant to complete claim forms and send them to the Compensation Commissioner for Occupational Diseases for payment.

Family members of deceased former miners who were employed in a controlled mine can also lodge a claim.



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



Mzamo said:

“The programme is a good platform for us as we come from informal settlements. Government is delivering housing to the community of Langa, but the Joe Slovo development is for people who currently stay in Joe Slovo and not backyarders.”



Esethu Mbawula said:

“I am very happy to be here today because I benefited from the services rendered here. I came to apply for an Identity Document (ID). I have done my application and now I am waiting for my ID. I am happy that I will get a smart ID card. I have also received more information from other departments that were rendering services here.”

President Zuma hands over houses

By Sikelela Zokufa: GCIS, Western Cape



President Zuma with Deputy Minister Fredericks-Kota and MEC Madikizela.



President Zuma speaking at the event.



Community members attended the event.

President Jacob Zuma handed over four houses at the official opening of the N2 Gateway Integrated Human Settlements Development on 15 October 2015 at the Joe Slovo Housing Project in Cape Town. The President was accompanied by the Deputy Minister of Human Settlements, Zoe Fredericks-Kota and the Western Cape MEC for Human Settlements, Bongingosi Madikizela.

The venue was packed with over 3 000 people from Langa and surrounding areas. The event was not limited to an Imbizo, but also gave platform to other government departments to render services to community members. It was an integrated programme consisting of different stakeholders.

The N2 Gateway Project was launched by the Department of Human Settlements (DHS) in 2004 as a pilot project and has to date delivered more than 14 000 housing units. It is targeting about 20 000 units and so far it is nearing completion as it has delivered 14 000 homes, just 6 000 units short of the target.

The Imbizo was opened by inputs from community members who gave their different views on the housing project. One resident called Nomsa said: “Langa is an old settlement with a history on the Struggle for democracy. The Joe Slovo settlement was started in 1992 and it was shacks only, but today we can see the work of government.”

Sivukile Project members, were also given a platform to raise their issues to President Zuma. One of them asked: “Why are Langa backyarders left out on the housing developments taking place in their area? Is this project for the entire Langa area or for certain individuals?”

The President acknowledged all concerns raised and encouraged community members to come together to solve all the challenges.

“When completed, we believe that this project and many others similar to it, will make a dent on the housing backlog currently experienced in most of the country’s major urban centres,” said President Zuma.

The DHS has made a commitment that the remaining 6 000 units will be completed before 2019, before the end of the term of the current government.

Government will also continue to monitor and evaluate systems on all the projects to ensure that people get quality service delivery.



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

Government reaches out to needy families

By Reki Skosana: GCIS, Mpumalanga



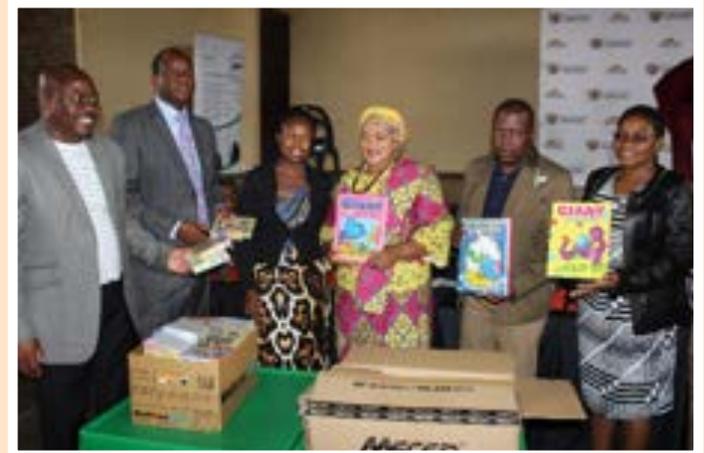
Monareng said:

“My siblings could not go to school or receive government grant because they did not have birth certificates but government assisted us and the situation is better now.

Today government provided our family with gardening utensils, a wheelbarrow, a chain-saw and protective clothing so that we can start doing things ourselves as a family. We are very grateful and we wish government could continue assisting other people who are poverty-stricken like we were.”



MECs Mtsweni and Mahlangu and their team presenting equipment to identified beneficiaries.



MEC Mtsweni and other government leaders standing with beneficiaries.

In celebrating Social Development Month, the Department of Social Development in partnership with other stakeholders, commemorated the International Day for the Eradication of Poverty, which was celebrated through giving to the needy. The event took place in Kwaggafontein community hall on 17 October 2015.

The Monareng family was one of the beneficiaries on the day. Before government’s intervention, this family lived in small shack in Moloto village. The family also has children who qualify to receive child grants but could not access it because of lack of legal documentation. Their mother has passed on and they are left with their father who is unemployed but does odd jobs using his tree-cutting and felling skills.

Government assisted them to acquire birth certificates and then applied for grants, which they are receiving now. Government had initially provided the family with a house and they are now living comfortably together. On the day of the event, the family received a chain saw and protective clothing so that the father can use them to generate income for his family.

The event was attended by MEC for Social Development, Nomsa Mtsweni and for Culture, Sport and Recreation, Norah Mahlangu. They presented food parcels, wheelchairs, furniture, grocery vouchers and early childhood development equipment to other identified families and local organisations.

The event was successfully celebrated and supported by representative from several government departments and agencies. Community members also had an opportunity to access government services and information products.