




MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 15/ April 2018

CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

For more information about similar programmes that are run across the country, contact one of the following provincial offices:

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

National Youth Service Programme bears fruits

By Jacob Mkhize: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Graduates who received certificates.



Community members at the event.

The Department of Tourism spearheaded the campaign to ensure that the National Youth Service Programme bears fruits. The Deputy Minister of Tourism, Elizabeth Thabethe, conducted an Imbizo and attended a graduation ceremony of 575 participants who undertook training in food and beverage services. The Imbizo and graduation ceremony took place at Mkuze in Mlingo Hall on 16 April 2018. Participants received National Certificate in Food and Beverage Services. The programme is a response to the shortage of scarce skills and seeks to equip young people with skills to reduce unemployment.

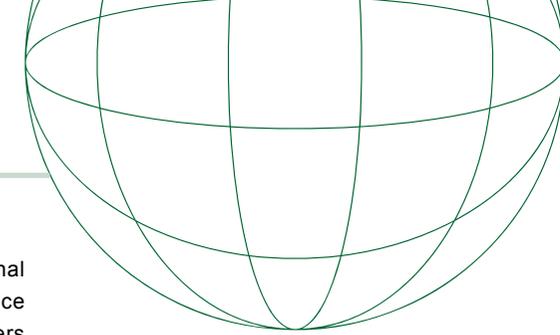
The Mayor of uMkhanyakude District Municipality, Cllr Solomon Mkhombo, congratulated the graduates by telling them that tourism and agriculture are two economic drivers in uMkhanyakude District. Deputy Minister Thabethe stated that the youth programme started in 2011 when it was noted that the unemployment rate among the youths was high. The department then adopted a training programme for certificates and diplomas. The certificate programme covers 70% practical work and 30% theory. The Deputy Minister also thanked host employers (lodges, guest houses and inns) who accommodated participants when they were doing practical training.



government
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





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“As the department implementing this programme, we are striving to achieve the National Development Plan pillars of eliminating poverty and creating jobs. The National Youth Service Programme was helpful to some young people as they secured permanent employment, while others are still seeking placement. The good news is that those who have not found jobs yet, have something valid to produce when asked for qualifications,” she said.



Vicson Ngubane said:
“As Ghost Mountain Inn, we had participants from this programme whom we housed. We congratulate all of you for completing the programme and wish you well as you go out for future job opportunities. We have noted your commitment and love for the work while under our watch. As an employer, we would be asking ourselves what we have done to assist these graduates.”



Phumzile Dlamini said:
“I am thankful for the training offered by the Department of Tourism. I am now employed by Phongola Inn. I encourage my fellow colleagues not to be choosy when it comes to job offers because we all have to start somewhere.”



Thumowakhe Madlopha said:
“I would like to thank government for the wonderful programme. At least our youths have something in their hands that they will use to open closed doors. We wish that the department can reach out to more young people who still need training.”



Bhekithemba Ndlazi said:
“I am very thankful for the training. As we speak, I recently gained employed and I am working as a field ranger at the KwaZulu-Natal Wildlife based at Manguzi.”



Moses Mlombo said:

“There are a lot of challenges that are faced by people with disabilities in our society and that needs serious attention. We are not considered when it comes to big businesses. At times we feel inferior and think that maybe we are not considered due to our disabilities.”



Sibongile Mawela said:

“I am part of the volunteers who assist in cooking for learners at Dientjie Primary School. I am pleased that SAFCOL built this kitchen for the school, our children will now have food even during rainy days as we will be using gas to cook when there is no electricity.”



Sylvia Malibe said:

“I feel honoured as the educators and learners of Dientjie Primary School will now have a proper kitchen where learners will have food even when it is raining, as it was difficult to cook when it rained.”

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

SAFCOL reaches out to community members

By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga



The old kitchen that was used at Dientjie Primary School.



The official handover the kitchen.



The new fully equipped kitchen that was handed to Dientjie Primary School.

The South African Forestry Company (SAFCOL) held an event on 13 April 2018 at Sabie in Platorand Training Centre where it awarded certificates to community members who participated in the basic short courses in business development. The initiative is aimed at bridging the gap in basic skills.

SAFCOL presented certificates to KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo and Mpumalanga cooperatives and businesspeople with disabilities who completed the short courses. This was aimed at preparing them for the expansion of forest industrialisation.

SAFCOL Chairperson, Lungile Mabece, said, “We have noted with concern that people with disabilities are experiencing enormous challenges in seeking services from institutions. We know that there are challenges and dissatisfactions and we will gradually address them. As the public, we should focus on finding ways to address the contexts which limit participation for people with disabilities.”

The Thaba Chweu Local Municipality, Small Enterprise Development Agency, Industrial Development Corporation, and Government Communication and Information System supported the event.

The company also visited Leroro village where it donated a fully equipped timber structure kitchen to Dientjie Primary School. The company CEO Tsepo Monaheng said, “As SAFCOL, we do not want to see today’s learners suffering the same poverty we experienced while walking long distances to school on empty stomachs.”

Mabece said, “This is just the beginning of partnership. We want the school to enjoy the use of the new kitchen facility, and the board will see if they can bring the playing ground equipment such as swings to help children to refrain from engaging in criminal activities.”



Patricia Jobbs said:

“I want to know how people in our community will be informed about all the new changes in the SASSA/ SAPO programme. Will SASSA have a communication plan to inform the community?”

OUTCOME 13: A COMPREHENSIVE, RESPONSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM

Social grants deal in full swing

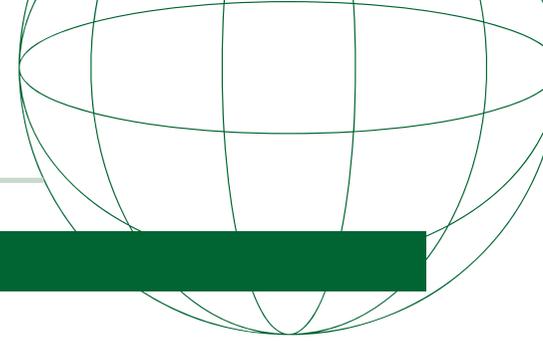
By Peter Titus: GCIS, Western Cape



SASSA and SAPO officials at a political briefing session at the NG Church.

The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and the South African Post Service (SAPO) signed a contract in December 2017 that enabled SAPO to partner with SASSA in the payment of social grants, ushering in a public sector-led and efficient grants payment hybrid model. On 17 April 2018, both SASSA and SAPO officially launched a new social-grant card at Worcester. The launch was attended by the Acting CEO of SASSA, Pearl Bengu, and the CEO of SAPO, Mark Barnes, supported by their provincial colleagues. The programme started with a political briefing session held at the NG Church Hall. The delegation then visited the central post office in Worcester, where the officials presented on the state of readiness of SAPO to deal with payments from their post offices.

The delegation also visited a centenarian to provide services at Meshack Blom's house. After this visit, the delegation went to the local SASSA office in Worcester where a full new card application was done in front of SASSA and SAPO officials. The Acting CEO of SASSA assured the community that all beneficiaries would continue to receive their social grants.



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

Campaign to tackle corruption

By Natasha Peterson: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Different stakeholders engaging in a session to fight fraud and corruption.

Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) conducted a stakeholder-engagement session with the Graaff-Reinet community policing forum (CPF) on 10 April 2018 at the local police station. Stakeholders from the Business Chamber, Rate Payers Association, faith-based organisations and other government departments attended the meeting. The event focused on ways to eradicate corruption and the role that all people can play in the fight against corruption. The GCIS was applauded for organising the session.

The South African Police Service said they were tackling corruption through the 11 stations under the Graaff-Reinet Cluster. So far, three officials have already been convicted and dismissed while others are being investigated for corruption. "The real problem for us is that the community members allege that the police are corrupt but they never come forward with names and also refuse to give statements. It is very difficult to combat these issues if the community does not play its part," said Colonel Beulah Siyaya.

Community members can contact the National Anti-Corruption Hotline on 0800 701 701 to report fraud and corruption.