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PRIORITY 4: CONSOLIDATING THE SOCIAL WAGE THROUGH RELIABLE AND QUALITY BASIC SERVICES.

Improving the lives of military veterans

By Nosipho Keuti and Vuyokazi Dube: GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Eastern Cape military veterans expressed their gratitude to government for attending to their issues during the Military Veterans Conference which was held on 9 April 2021 in East London. The conference sought to provide support to the Eastern Cape military veterans through providing them with houses, healthcare, subsidised transport, education, training, skills and economic development.

Social Development MEC Siphokazi Lusithi made a presentation on behalf of the Eastern Cape Provincial Government detailing the role played by the province in supporting the military veterans and the plans going forward in

ensuring that they are taken care of, and their queries are attended to. The Eastern Cape virtual roadshow was led by Deputy President David Mabuza.

Mandilakhe Dilima, the Eastern Cape Chairperson of the military veterans, stated that he was happy with the presentations made and that government is attending to their issues. "We are happy that the Deputy President has come back to give us feedback on what we have demanded from government as military veterans. We have asked government to assist military veterans and improve their socio-economic conditions," said Dilima.



Eastern Cape military veterans who attended the conference.



Petros Vantyu said:
"I think the presentation is a step in the right direction, but we will have to measure it through results. They are plans at the moment and have covered some ground in terms of preparation but the most important thing is implementation."



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PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Infrastructure South Africa visits Free State

By Cholo Mothibi and Selloane Mokoena: GCIS, Free State

Infrastructure South Africa held a workshop in Bloemfontein, Free State from 12 to 13 April 2021. The visit was part of a broader initiative to engage more intimately with provinces on their infrastructure programmes, with the aim of finding clear areas of collaboration and synergies.

On the first day, Free State Director-General Kopung Ralikontsane welcomed delegates from different spheres of government and gave background on how the summit would unfold.

Different speakers touched on infrastructure observations and focus areas such as mining, agriculture and manufacturing, and the challenges that

hamper investment in the Free State and what should be addressed to overcome them.

The Head of Infrastructure and Investment in The Presidency, Kgosientso Ramokgopa, made closing remarks as the selected members went to view the projects at Bram Fischer Airport Development node and Botshabelo industrial site.

The second day of the programme was attended by Free State Premier Sefora Ntombela and the Members of the Executive Council, where valuable inputs on infrastructure development in the province were made.



Free State Finance MEC Gadija Brown addressing the attendees.



People who attended the Infrastructure South Africa workshop in the Free State.

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Economic recovery through infrastructure development

By George Moeketsi: GCIS, Gauteng



Solly Motaung said:

“Working at this construction has given me an opportunity and experience to work in the construction industry.”



Martha Rammewa said:

“When I started working at this construction, I knew nothing about managing safety in the construction. I was given training and today, I am a safety officer.”



Tshiamo Matila working in the construction of a COVID-19 facility in Ga-Rankuwa.



Workers install generators at the facility.

During the State of the Nation Address on 11 February 2021, President Cyril Ramaphosa outlined government’s plans to boost the country’s economy.

The President said government is focusing on four priority economic interventions, which are: a massive roll-out of infrastructure throughout the country; a massive increase in local production; an employment stimulus to create jobs and support livelihoods; and the rapid expansion of energy generation capacity. President Ramaphosa spoke about construction that has commenced and progress made on a number of projects.

On 13 April 2021, the Government Communication and Information System went on a monitoring visit at the construction site of COVID-19 facility in Ga-Rankuwa, Gauteng. The Project Manager, Thabang Lefifi who works for the company responsible for building the facility said, “The construction has employed more than 200 local people in various fields ranging from safety, electrical, plumbing, bricklaying, painting and welding.”

The experience and skills acquired on the site during this project, would be used in future projects. The facility is meant to be used for COVID-19 and beyond the pandemic.



Blessing Sibande said:

“I work at the Gert Sibande TVET College. The programme has assisted young people to understand that they can be job creators instead of job seekers.”



Siyabonga Shabalala said:

“We are here to support the youth of Govan Mbeki and we are glad that the programme has assisted our young people by giving them exposure to opportunities that are present in the tourism sector.”

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Youth in Tourism Imbizo

By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga

Tourism Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane hosted a Youth in Tourism Imbizo in Secunda, Mpumalanga on 17 April 2021. The Imbizo provided a platform for the Minister and the executives from the province to engage with the community on initiatives and opportunities that exist in the tourism sector for the youth, women, people with disabilities and small, medium and micro enterprises.

The Imbizo comprised youth, aspiring entrepreneurs and women. Participants urged government to act on their commitments and ensure that government programmes uplift communities.

The session was then preceded by career exhibitions, which were aimed at providing young people with various career opportunities that exist

in the tourism sector. Young people received information on various courses and programmes that they can pursue at tertiary institutions. The Government Communication and Information System distributed COVID-19 and gender-based violence (GBV) leaflets to the attendees.

Minister Kubayi-Ngubane also visited Siphephile Haven Home for GBV victims, where she donated food parcels and blankets. The Minister highlighted the importance of government’s intervention to GBV centres as a way of showing support to the affected victims.



Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane addressing young people.



Young people who attended the Imbizo in Secunda.