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**PRIORITY I: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.**

**Entrepreneurship Seminar in Krugersdorp**

*By Tshidi Mokoka: GCIS, Gauteng*

The Deputy Minister of Trade and Industry, Fikile Majola, engaged young business operators at the Entrepreneurship Seminar in Krugersdorp on 19 August 2019. The event was also attended by Mogale City Executive Mayor Cllr Naga Lipudi and various stakeholders such as the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and Small Enterprise Finance Agency.

The purpose of the seminar was to create a platform to sharpen entrepreneurial skills among the youth, and to unpack opportunities and the impact of the Fourth Industrial Revolution on industries, business, government and communities. Young people from Mogale City who are already in business, university students and those aspiring to go into business were in attendance and interacted with government officials, specialists and stakeholders.

In his keynote address, Deputy Minister Majola said that the work of the Department of Trade and Industry is to help retain jobs so that there are no retrenchments by big companies and to also assist in job creation to help the economy to grow.

"I am told that there is an Industrial Park at Munsieville and I want to go and see it as I believe it can be revitalised and jobs will be created for young people. I will also engage with the MEC for Economic Development to look at plans of young people in this city and also help businesses so that they can flourish and create employment for others," said the Deputy Minister.



Young people from Mogale City listening to presentations at the event.



Deputy Minister Fikile Majola engaging young people from Choko Five Movement.



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Young people were also encouraged by a board member of the NYDA, Joy Maimela, who said, “It is imperative that young people start thinking of rapid technological advancement. There are funds available in the agency to assist young people to start businesses that invest for jobs for the future.”

The Department of Labour distributed application forms to people seeking employment to be captured in the job seekers database.



**Mapula Modise said:**

“I am a small business owner and I feel that the event was fruitful. It is important that as young people we become part of the change that we want to see in our lives and the communities we live in. It is up to us to choose how we are going to use the information we received today.”



**Nhlanhla Khumo said:**

“As young people working hard to change our situations, we need such events from important stakeholders to engage with us and share information on what opportunities are available for us.”



**Goitsemodimo Namatsegang said:**

“I own a knitting company in Kagiso Ext 14 and I am happy to have been given a platform to engage with stakeholders on what our expectations from them are. I was also happy to hear the Deputy Minister promising to come back with the MEC to further assist businesses in townships.”



**Andiswa Magini said:**

“The programme was empowering, especially to women. We received more information about issues that relate to economic empowerment of women.”



**V Kiviet said:**

“Today I learnt about the role of the Commission for Gender Equality. The representative of the commission taught us about different types of rape.”

## PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

### Government intensifies fight against violence

*By Ndyebo Kopo: GCIS, Eastern Cape*

The Government Communication and Information System in partnership with Mbizana Local Municipality, organised a community dialogue on 16 August 2019 focusing on gender-based violence (GBV) and economic opportunities for women at Ngcingo village. Stakeholders such as Small Enterprise Development Agency and the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism shared information on how they assist women-owned enterprises and cooperatives with financial and non-financial support.

Other institutions such as the Commission for Gender Equality, South African Police Service, Thuthuzela Care Centre and the Department of Social Development addressed matters relating to GBV, how communities can set up structures to keep their areas safe and how to report such incidents. The session followed a careful assessment of GBV incidents which are prevalent in Mbizana. Many women are killed after being accused of witchcraft, with most of them killed in front of their children and/or grandchildren.

The community dialogue was followed by a school activation at Tshayingwe Senior Secondary School, where learners were engaged about GBV and crime in general. This was aimed at influencing behavioural change, particularly in young boys.



Community members who attended the dialogue.



Asanda Nobedina from the Thuthuzela Care Centre addressing the learners.

## PRIORITY 6: A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

### Thusong Service Centre changes lives

*By Livhuwani Todani: GCIS, Mpumalanga*

The Wonderfontein Thusong Centre outreach on 12 August 2019 changed the life of one senior citizen. For the past few years, Flora Makhanya was stuck with an identity document (ID) that had the wrong surname and number. Her previous ID had Mahanya instead of Makhanya as her surname, and her ID number showed that she was just five years older than her first-born child.

After hearing about the Thusong Outreach Programme that was to take place at Vusi Masango Community Hall in Machadorp, where various departments came together to engage the community members, she decided to attend and sought assistance.

She met Jankie Thoka from the Department of Home Affairs (DHA) and shared her challenge. Thoka then requested supporting documents, which Makhanya submitted. Her ID was corrected and this is what she said when visited by Wonderfontein Thusong Manager Jane Mkhonto: "I am now happy with my smart ID card and I am thankful about the outreach brought to us by the Wonderfontein Thusong Service Centre".

The DHA in Belfast has received the Best Achievement Award for the roll-out of the smart ID card in Nkangala District and obtained second position in Mpumalanga.

"Our office achieved all of this as a result of good stakeholder relations and good customer care. Currently, the branch is assisting people who come from as far as Emalahleni, Middelburg, Lydenburg, Stoffberg and Steelpoort (Limpopo)," said Thoka.



**Wonderfontein Thusong Manager Jane Mkhonto with Flora Makhanya.**



**The Manager of Belfast Home Affairs Jankie Thoka holding the trophy.**



**Flora Makhanya addressing various stakeholders during the outreach.**



**Community members who attended the Wonderfontein Thusong Outreach.**



**Nomayeza Mbatwe said:**

“I am grateful for the visit from different stakeholders. People always complain and are not grateful for the little that has been done for us by government. Some of us have RDP houses, while others receive free electricity. We just need to try to help government whenever and wherever we can.”



**Vuyani Manzi said:**

“I am currently unemployed. However, today I received valuable information from different stakeholders who spoke about job opportunities they offer to the youth. I will make it a priority to visit the Thusong Service Centre to receive more information.”



**Cynthia Sindelo said:**

“I am unemployed at the moment. I do not receive any form of financial assistance because I thought I had to qualify by first receiving the Unemployment Insurance Fund. Fortunately, I now know what is needed in order for me to receive a grant.”

**PRIORITY 6: A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.**

**Colesberg Thusong Service Centre outreach programme**

*By Thenjiwe Konono: GCIS, Northern Cape*

The Government Communication and Information System together with various stakeholders hosted at the Colesberg Thusong Service Centre embarked on a mobile Thusong outreach on 15 August 2019, where community members received different government services and information.

Subsequently, the mobile Thusong Service Centre was aimed at rendering services to indigent people. The programme reached out to approximately 50 households, which allowed people to be assisted based on their needs. Other stakeholders were afforded an opportunity to share information on job opportunities available in their institutions.

Moreover, the visit afforded government an opportunity to conduct the local environmental assessment as part of community members’ perception on government services and information they receive. This platform was important to dismiss some misconceptions that exist in the community relating to public services.



Stakeholders engaging with community members during the door-to-door outreach.