



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Communicators receive new skills

By Tinyiko Molefe: GCIS, Gauteng

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) hosted a media tour workshop for communicators around Gauteng on 17 August 2018 at Tshedimosetso House in Pretoria. The communicators were from the provincial government departments, district and local municipalities in Gauteng. The tour was part of capacity building in ensuring excellence in government communication and positively influencing the communication space in the province.

As part of building skills and capacity in government communications, the workshop covered topics such as the development of communication strategy, media engagement, rapid response and internal communications.

Communicators were equipped on efficient and effective use of social media platforms for communication. Senzeni Ngubane from the GCIS Social Media unit advised communicators to maximise their reach by using social media as another platform to reach out to the community.



Tebogo Kgomo sharing a presentation on internal communications.



Communicators participating in the workshop.



government
communications

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“Government’s use of social media is not just seen as a trend anymore but as an important communication platform to disseminate government information more effectively and enhance service delivery,” she said.

It is very important for communicators to be in a position of communicating effectively and thoroughly with the public. Speaking on the importance of internal communication, Tebogo Kgomo, from the GCIS said, “Communicators need to use various platforms such as notice boards and desktops to ensure that the internal public is aware of programmes in their organisations and stay engaged to knowing and understanding the organisation’s mission and vision”.

To equip communicators to practically handle media interview, GCIS radio unit conducted a mock media interview as part of the media engagement training. The session was appreciated by Merafong Mayoral spokesperson, Sammy Mosia, who said, “The experience was very useful for us as it assisted with more skills on how to tackle media interviews, clearly ensuring that the audience gets government messages.”



Tshepi Mashale said:

“The programme was very educational. It was an opportunity to learn new ways of communication such as social media, which is another way of easily reaching out to the public.”



William Ntladi said:

“The session was informative and educational as it enhanced our knowledge about different media approaches and how to articulate information clearly in all spheres of media.”



Refiloe Tshukudu said:

“It is high time for us as communicators to influence the media space with positive government information.”

OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION.

Rural school receives ICT centre

By Doctrine Netshikweta: GCIS, Limpopo

The Deputy Minister of Communications, Pinky Kekana, officially handed over the information and communications technology (ICT) centre to Zwithuzwavhudi Secondary School at Gondeni village on 18 August 2018. The event was part of government's initiative to promote and improve the quality of basic education in line with the Fourth Industrial Revolution. The community and learners received this gift from Vodacom and the Takalani Foundation.

Deputy Minister Kekana urged learners to use the ICT centre to improve the quality of their education and also thanked Vodacom and the Takalani Foundation for their good work. "As government, we highly appreciate Vodacom and the Takalani Foundation for their wonderful and inspirational idea that seeks to develop the future leaders of our country and to address the Fourth Industrial Revolution to all South Africans. South Africa is at the stage of improving technology within the rural community so that they may be attached to the global communities. Time has gone for depending on other country for technology, we salute good work done by Vodacom and the Takalani Foundation. Let us all join hands and support development of youth in technology. I am so glad that Vhembe as a district will use this technology to improve matric performance. With the support of ICT on research, I believe Vhembe will break the passing rate as they usually did in the past years," said Deputy Minister Kekana.

The acting principal of the school, Masala Ratshilindela, welcomed government's effort for support the teaching and learning environment. This sentiment was supported by the traditional leader of the community, Chief Zwithuzwavhudi, whom the school was named after. "Deputy Minister, your passion of promoting culture of learning touches me. I will make sure that my community works jointly with the school management to ensure best performance during the end of year. Best results are what I am promising to government today. Believe me, 2018 will be of Zwithuzwavhudi to appear on the books of records. Democracy indeed brings changes to society," said Chief Zwithuzwavhudi.



Beneficiaries of the ICT centre.



Deputy Minister Pinky Kekana, Thulamela Mayor Avhashoni Tshifhango and Chief Zwithuzwavhudi at the ICT centre.



Tshikhudo Muvhuso said:

"The year 2018 will be the year of success at Zwithuzwavhudi Secondary School. The noble gift from the Takalani Foundation and Vodacom will enable us to have access to information. We will do well."



Masala Ratshilindela said:

"Nothing will stop us from obtaining 100% pass rate during the end of the year. This technology is going to assist us a lot in our studies."



Thobisile Masilela said:
“The communities of Magudu lack business skills. We need assistance in this regard.”



Zodwa Tsabetse said:
“I sew reed mats and sell them at the social grant pay points, but from next month I see that I will be struggling to make ends meet as some pay points are closing. So I definitely need to identify a new market.”

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

Project to empower women

By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Community members who attended the event.

As part of Women's Month and Mama Albertina Sisulu centenary celebrations, the Department of Social Development launched a women empowerment framework project at Mawewe Tribal Authority in Mgobodzi village on 22 August 2018. The initiative aims to empower and secure the livelihoods and rights of women living in rural areas, in the context of sustainable development goals and the current national discourse on women's rights to equitable access to productive land in South Africa. The launch follows a consultative process involving community dialogues with women from Mgobodzi and surrounding villages.

Social Development Deputy Minister Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu graced the event and was accompanied by Mpumalanga MEC for Social Development, Busi Shiba. “The project seeks to synergise the department's efforts and partnerships with both public and private entities to generate lasting and wider scale improvements in the livelihoods and rights of women. These include training and capacity building, skills development, support to women-led cooperatives to improve access to funding and market opportunities, and ensure linkages for rural women and young girls' access to interventions such as the prevention of sexual and gender-based violence,” said the Deputy Minister.

She also said that the implementation of the project involves a range of bilateral, strategic partnerships and potential financial partners.



Deputy Minister Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu and MTN SA Foundation handing over bicycles to learners.

The department partnered with the MTN SA Foundation, where they pledged their support for the project by handing over 100 bicycles to learners who travel long distances to school. The Department of Social Development (DSD) has already committed itself to open a White-Door Centre of Hope, with the aim of assisting communities experiencing gender-based violence issues and those who need shelter. This will be done before the end of 2018. The centre will provide psychosocial and empowerment services to victims. Two Early Childhood Development centres will also be built.

The community representative highlighted that women expressed a keen interest in the establishment of a rural tourism enterprise in the area, as there are tourists going to Swaziland who can travel via their stalls to buy traditional beads, reed mats, etc. They, therefore, requested the department to assist with training on sustainable business skills, entrepreneurship, marketing, branding and handling finances.

The Government Communication and Information System, South Africa Social Security Agency, Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, DSD and MTN SA Foundation exhibited and disseminated information to community members. Those who wanted to perform a social grant card swap were assisted at the Mawewe Traditional Council offices.



Ramabodu said:

"As one of the men within this area of QwaQwa, I am very happy that I am part of this important event and I promise to work with my community and government to fight abuse within our area."



Simon Lengoabala said:

"I hope that as we continue to work together to fight abuse in our society, we must not forget that men are sometimes also victims of abuse, so, we need to also look at that."

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

Dialogue tackles violence

By Mojalefa Senokoatsane: GCIS, Free State



Government officials leading the march against violence.



Minister Bathabile Dlamini and Premier Sisi Ntombela at the event.



Men who attended the event.

The Free State Provincial Government hosted the first men and boys gender-based violence (GBV) dialogue in QwaQwa on 28 August 2018. The main purpose of this dialogue was for government to engage with the men and boys of the Free State about its effort to fight GBV within the province. The dialogue was also intended to recruit men and boys within to assist the state to fight GBV within communities.

The event, which was attended by more than 2 000 people was led by the Minister of Women, Bathabile Dlamini and the Premier of the Free State, Sisi Ntombela. The programme of the day, began with a march through the streets of QwaQwa.

The march was then followed by an engagement session, where men who included chiefs, pastors, professionals, politicians, farmers and the youth, discussed all options that can assist, within their community programmes intended to ensure that GBV is ended.

Premier Ntombela encouraged men and boys to ensure that all vulnerable members of the society are always protected against any form of abuse.