



MY DISTRICT TODAY

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Outcome 12: An efficient, effective and development-oriented Public Service and an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship

Limpopo Province: Census results launch

Reneilwe Moringi: GCIS – Limpopo

Censuses are the principal means of collecting basic population and housing statistics required for social and economic development, policy interventions, their implementation and evaluation. South Africa has conducted two previous censuses, in 1996 and 2001. The third census was conducted in October 2011. A number of population and household attributes were measured and a variety of indicators generated from these.

The long-awaited Census 2011 has been a task of almost bewildering complexity: counting an ever-increasing, ever-moving, ever-diversifying population and accurately tabulating it by location. Planning for the Census started in 2007. The counting project came to fruition on 9 and 10 October, when Statistics South Africa officials went into the field to count all people within the borders of South Africa.

On 9 November 2012, the Statistician-General, Pali Lehotla, presented and handed over the Limpopo Census 2011 results. The results entailed how far as a province and a country we have come, and how far we still need to travel towards securing a better quality of life for all.

The purpose of the launch was:

- to create awareness of Census 2011 results among all stakeholders
- to educate stakeholders on Census-related topics to ensure accurate interpretation of results
- to create understanding in society on the progress made at all levels of geography

- to use innovative communication channels to ensure that the Census message is heard across the country
- to identify and leverage partnerships with relevant stakeholders at national, provincial and local level to roll out the Census 2011 dissemination strategy.

GCIS invited the media and exhibited and distributed Government information materials. This included the *South African Yearbook*, the *Pocket Guide to South Africa* and the Programme of Action 2012.



Statistician-General Pali Lehotla with the Capricorn District Executive Mayor, Cllr Lawrence Mapoulo.



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Outcome 7: Vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities

Communities inspired to go back to farming

Doctor Marebane: GCIS – Limpopo

One of Government's responsibilities is to help communities to accomplish their aspirations by supporting and encouraging them to do things for themselves. The community of Fetakgomo in Limpopo are setting an example of how community co-operatives can be productive and eradicate poverty and hunger.

The Strydkraal/Mooifontein Project was started in 1960 and is still going strong 52 years later, despite years of struggle and hardships. It is situated at ga-Masha near Strydkraal. The project manager, Elizabeth Moraswi, tells of their modest beginnings. "We started with only 72 hectares, and used oxen and donkeys to plough."

In 1982, a sprinkler irrigation scheme was installed by Agricultural Management Services (AMS). In 1992, AMS withdraw from the project; and in 1995/96 the project experienced a catastrophe. The system was flooded and

washed away, making it difficult to continue farming. Some of the farmers lost hope and gave up farming.

The project began showing positive results in 2002, when the Limpopo Department of Agriculture started to support and encourage the farmers. They introduced a strategic partner with whom the community project profit-shares 50/50 after the harvest. The major breakthrough was made in 2011, when 267 hectares was de-bushed and ploughed.

The project employs 231 farmers, 500 seasonal workers and 27 full-time security guards. The Limpopo MEC for Agriculture, Jacob Marule, promised to give support to the farmers. He applauded their success and requested the local tribal authority to make more land available for the "green fingers", most of whom are women. They grow mealies and potatoes. During the handing over of the R24-million irrigation

scheme, 27 of the farmers were awarded certificates.

The MEC added, "This project is one of the biggest community projects in Limpopo, and I am overwhelmed and impressed to learn that more than 200 farmers work here without any hassles or squabbles, like what is happening at other projects. This proves that working together, we can do more. As a department, we are going to allocate 42 tractors in the Sekhukhune area, and the Tompie Seleka Agricultural College is going to be reopened next year."

He further encouraged the Sekhukhune community to return to farming, so that poverty and hunger can be alleviated. His sentiments were shared by the mayor of Fetakgomo, Cllr Kuki Sefala, who said that the farm project has put the municipality on the map.

Two strategic partners of Temong Project, Arthur Creighton and Piet Mynhardt, at the Mooiplas farm. With them is Elizabeth Moraswi, the project manager. at Standerton taxi rank.



Back: The Temong Project's Arthur Creighton and Piet Mynhardt. Front: Kgoshi Masha, the MEC of Agriculture, Jacob Marule, Elizabeth Moraswi and the Mayor of Fetakgomo, Cllr Kuki Sefala.



Outcome 12 (b): An empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship

Government information benefitting disadvantaged communities in Nxuba

Tabita Ngqunge: GCIS – Eastern Cape

As part of the communication strategy to foster face-to-face interaction with communities and inform them on Government's programmes and services, Government Communications (GCIS) and community development workers conducted taxi rank activation in Bedford in the Eastern Cape.

This GCIS initiative focused on taking Government information directly to communities. Through the programme, communities were able to access information that can improve their lives. The activation also intended to showcase GCIS products and disseminate Government information through close interaction with communities, and reassure the public about Government's commitment to the objective of a better life for all.

Our communities need information: the lack thereof is society's worst enemy. During this activation, communities were provided with vast knowledge of Government programmes that can enable them to participate actively.

During this communication activation, people living in farm communities and villages around Bedford and Adelaide accessed information, and had the opportunity to interact and raise issues on which they wanted information. People from farms raised the issues of housing, transportation to and from farms, and lack of Government services in their

farm areas. They are dependent on the farm owners, which makes them feel that they are not benefitting from the democratic Government.

People are very positive about Government and hope that their lives will change for the better. They also hope that Government is doing its best to improve their lives, and acknowledge the milestones that Government has achieved. This includes delivery of basic services like water, electricity and houses, except for the few areas that still need attention.

It is evident that frequent dissemination of Government information can contribute a lot to the lives of people.



Government information disseminated by GCIS official Tabita Ngqunge at the Bedford taxi rank, Nxuba Local Municipality.



Commuters and taxi owners sharing information from Vuk'uzenzele newspaper.



Outcome 12: An efficient, effective and development-oriented Public Service and an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship

Public Sector Manager magazine: A weapon to arm the Public Service

Tabita Ngqunge: GCIS – Eastern Cape

The *Public Sector Manager (PSM)* magazine communicates with a strategic component of Government’s target audiences – senior public sector managers. The magazine aims to help Public Sector and Government managers and their departments and agencies to improve the quality of the services they provide by reporting on management innovations and best practices within the Public Sector.

The *PSM* Forum is a monthly event that facilitates face-to-face interaction between managers and key personalities featured in the magazine. The forum permits frank, critical discussion and allows political principals and senior executives to share their outlook and vision, while taking the temperature, as it were, of the Public Service by interacting with managers.

Brought for the first time to the Eastern Cape Province, the *PSM* Forum was held in the Buffalo City Metro Municipality to share information with senior leadership in the Public Sector. The forum provided an opportunity for the GCIS, led by the Deputy Chief Executive Officer: Communication and Content Management, Vusi Mona, to unveil the latest issue of *PSM*.

Welcoming all participants, the Eastern Cape Provincial Head of GCIS, Ndlelantle Pinyana,

highlighted that perceptions about the Public Sector in general and public servants in particular exist due to various reasons. He added, “Due to lack of carefully designed platforms targeting us as public servants, we are often perceived as less patriotic, lazy and gullible. These perceptions about us by observers and critics seem to be getting a good listening in the public space, and *PSM* provides us with the necessary weaponry to arm ourselves.”

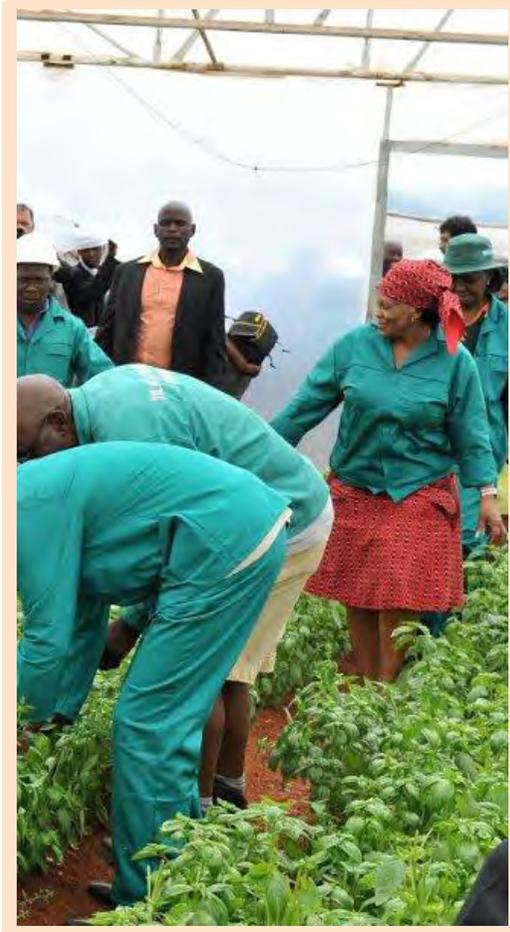
The *PSM* Forum was attended by managers and officials from various Government departments, municipalities and the private sector. Presentations from established information-technology companies such as Broadband Infraco and Software AG South Africa sent a clear message on how Government and the private sector can work together towards a common goal.

The main player for the day was one of the country’s 25 national planning commissioners, Professor Marcus Balintulo, who outlined South Africa’s National Development Plan: Vision 2030 (NDP), to the great appreciation of the audience. He took us down memory lane as he unpacked the road to the establishment of the National Planning Commission; and the diagnostic report culminating in the NDP document handed over to President Jacob Zuma in August. In the ensuing interaction,

there was a common consensus that the NDP will go a long way in, among other things:

- transforming society
- healing the divisions of the past and ensuring economic inclusion
- improve services for all citizens
- creating a South African identity
- eliminating discrimination
- promoting active citizenry, leadership and social compact
- enhancing human capabilities and early childhood development.

President Zuma has stated that, “The establishment of the National Planning Commission is our promise to the people of South Africa that we are building a State that will grow the economy, reduce poverty and improve the quality of life of our citizens.” Professor Balintulo emphasised that it is through community and South African citizens that President Zuma’s statement can be made true. For the latest issue of *PSM*, contact 043 722 2602/9.



Professor Marcus Balintulo presenting South Africa’s 2030 National Development Plan: Vision 2030 at the *PSM* Forum.



Participants engaged and shared insights on the NDP.