




MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 18 / May 2015

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OUTCOME I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Deputy Minister motivates Northern Cape learners

By Esmarelda Mckay: GCIS, Northern Cape

Higher Education and Training Deputy Minister Mduduzi Manana launched the Apply Now/Khetha Career Guidance Campaign in the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality in Upington on 8 May. The Deputy Minister visited SC Kearns, Soul Damon and Pabalelo high schools where he spoke to learners. The campaign runs across the country from March to September every year to assist learners to make informed career choices. It also informs learners about things to consider when choosing institutions of higher learning to avoid being conned by unregistered and bogus colleges who offer unaccredited qualifications.

The main purpose of the outreach was to highlight the importance of applying for tertiary admission early. "The best formula is to secure a place as early as possible if you want to further your studies," said the Deputy Minister. He also motivated the learners to conduct proper research when choosing a field of study because there are lots of graduates who are unemployed because their chosen fields are currently not in demand. The Deputy Minister mentioned few careers that are in high demand such as medicine, nursing and teaching.

The learners were also encouraged to consider study fields offered by Technical and Vocational Education and Training colleges and the 21 Sector Education and Training Authorities.

The Deputy Minister urged the learners to use the services of the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) which is aimed at assisting poor and deserving students to further their studies. He said NSFAS has to date assisted more than 1,5 million beneficiaries who have since joined the middle-class league. He further outlined that students at TVET colleges who are financially needy and deserving are offered a bursary instead of a loan to pursue their studies unlike their university counterparts who are offered loans. At least 3 000 learners were reached through this campaign.



Deputy Minister Manana addressing learners at SC Kearns High School.



The Deputy Minister addressing learners at Saul Damon High School.

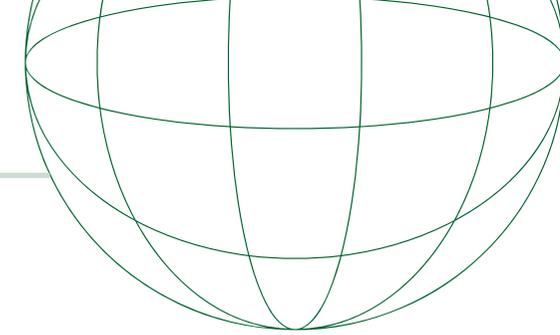


The Deputy Minister posing with learners from Pabalelo High School.



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Elisha van den Hever said:

"Thank you for taking your time to invest in our lives by giving us first-hand information on how to study further. The ball is now in our court and we have to make a choice."



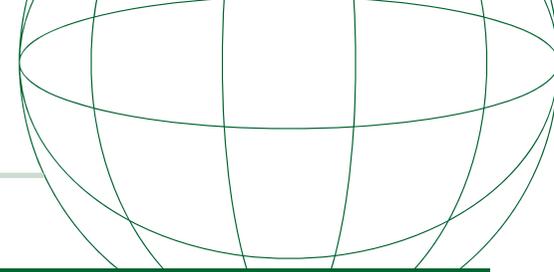
Johana Feris said:

"I was surprised that the Deputy Minister chose our school. Usually we are visited by the police but today we learned how we can study further even if we come from poor families."



Brendon Mbazo said:

"I am happy that the Deputy Minister came to motivate us as young people."



OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Empowering unemployed youth

By Ellen Letlhake: GCIS, North West



Lindiwe Molatlhegi said:

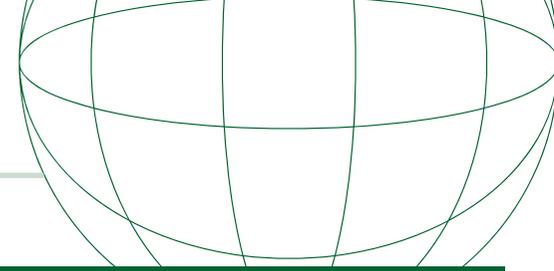
I will benefit a lot from this opportunity. The experience that I will gain will put me in a better position to be hired in the private or public sector. I am very excited and motivated to be part of the programme.”



Some of the young people who are beneficiaries of the programme.

Government supports youth employment programmes that offer skills development, entrepreneurship development, career guidance, financial support and post-school opportunities. The Potchefstroom Local Municipality has employed 275 young people around Potchefstroom this year through the National Youth Services Programme to reduce youth unemployment in the country. The youth were chosen among the top achievers in Grade 12.

The young people were provided with skills in fields such as mechanical and electrical engineering, welding, basic plumbing, basic building, broiler farming, vegetable production, garment making and home textiles. Others received advanced entrepreneurship training. After training, some of these young people will be placed in different directorates within the municipality. Three car wash facilities have been built to assist young people to generate their own income.



Lebogang Morare said:

“I am very happy to be part of the EPWP. I am now able to put food on the table for my family.”



Matlou Merisa said:

“I am happy to be employed by the EPWP. I am looking forward to gaining new skills.”

OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Changing the lives of young people

By Nkopodi Mokgoma: GCIS, Limpopo



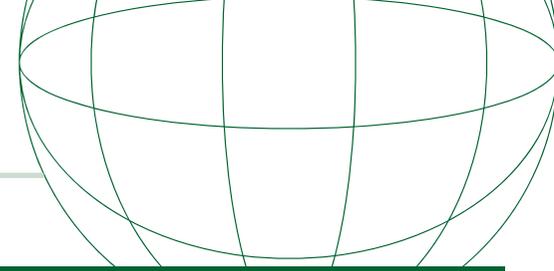
EPWP employees cleaning at the Bakgaga Ba Kopa Traditional Office.

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) is one of government’s initiatives aimed at addressing unemployment and skills shortages in the country especially among youth. The Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality recruited young people in the area to be part of this programme.

There were many young people in the municipality who were unemployed but through the introduction of the EPWP, a total of 65 youth in all 31 wards were absorbed to be part of this programme. Five young unemployed people were recruited from each ward.

Lebogang Morare, Matlou Modisa and Daizy Mziza from Tafelkop village are all excited about the employment opportunity.

The three young women were employed in February 2015 and their contracts will run for three months. They say their biggest wish is to have their contracts extended.



Gail Klaas said:

"I am happy that the Deputy Minister visited our area. I am also happy that we received these energy-saving lamps to use during load shedding. These lights will save us from criminals who terrorise our area at night. We appeal to government to introduce street lights to make our area more safer."



Nompumelelo Mbethana said:

"I am happy. Seeing the Deputy Minister coming to our area to talk to us about electricity was a great experience. I will use the lamp every day and not only when there is load shedding. I will charge it during the day and use it to save electricity at night."

OUTCOME 8: SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND AN IMPROVED QUALITY OF HOUSEHOLD LIFE

Deputy Minister reaches out to communities

By Puleng Kekana: GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 24 April, Energy Deputy Minister Thembisile Majola visited the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality to monitor and witness electricity connection to newly built houses in Chatty Extension 12 in Port Elizabeth and Uitenhage Rosedale Extension. Community members in these two areas have just received RDP houses.

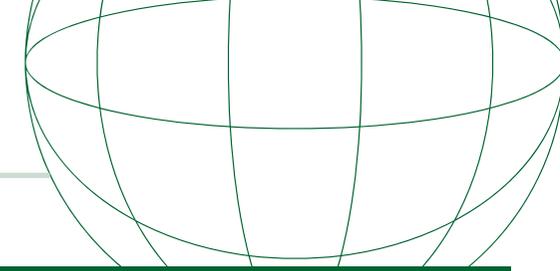
The Deputy Minister conducted a door-to-door campaign, engaging and teaching community members about the importance of saving energy. At Rosedale, people raised concerns about the high rate of crime and also pleaded with the Deputy Minister to introduce street lights to help reduce crime.

The people of Rosedale and Chatty were very thankful for the electricity but also raised concerns about load shedding. The Deputy Minister distributed energy-saving lamps to community members and also explained how they work. The lamps can be charged through the sun and can be used when there is load shedding. Both communities were happy to hear this.



Zenande Ndlumbini said:

"Ours is a caring government. It makes us happy to see our leaders coming to our houses and places to educate us about government programmes. I did not know about these energy-saving lamps but today I know and can even buy extra ones for future use. I will always keep my lamp charged and use it when there is load shedding because crime is high during load shedding."



Winnie Ngobeni said:
 "I would like to invite the Department of Arts and Culture to Bartimia School (a school for children living with disabilities) in Thaba Nchu to witness what the learners are capable of."



Tlohang Nkalai said:
 "We applied for funding from the Free State Development Corporation and signed papers with their lawyer but we have not received the money yet."

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

Deputy Ministers engage with local crafters

By *Lehlohonolo Manoto: GCIS, Free State*



Deputy Ministers Mabudafhasi and Thabethe,



government officials and the crafters during the exhibition.



Community members and different stakeholders attended the Craft Imbizo.



Arts and Culture Deputy Minister Rejoice Mabudafhasi, accompanied by Small Business Development Deputy Minister Elizabeth Thabethe, hosted the Craft Imbizo on 8 May at the Musicon Hall in Bloemfontein. Some of the issues that were discussed include job creation, access to information, viable markets, reasonably priced raw materials for craft production and also access to funding and finance. Deputy Minister Mabudafhasi walked around the stalls where crafters exhibited their work before interacting with them during the Imbizo. Deputy Minister Thabethe highlighted that her department offers training and funding to aspirant entrepreneurs, in line with the National Development Plan.

Deputy Minister Mabudafhasi gave a brief speech before granting the crafters a platform to comment and ask questions. Some crafters requested to be paid when invited to exhibitions by government. They were advised to register their businesses. The Deputy Ministers had earlier started at Matla Primary School in Phase 6 where they engaged with learners concerning the hoisting of the South African flag. Learners were addressed and taught about the importance of patriotism and were also given the opportunity to read the preamble of the Constitution.



Kemoitsi Kubeka said:
 "We are very happy and proud about the Deputy Ministers' visit. The learners got to know the importance of hoisting the South African flag and were also taught to be patriotic citizens."



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

Operation Fiela – All you need to know

Operation Fiela-Reclaim is a multidisciplinary operation by various state entities to rid our country of illegal weapons, drug dens, prostitution rings and other illegal activities. The operation was necessitated by a spate of increased levels of lawlessness, impunity, intolerance and disregard for the rule of law experienced across the country. These incidents manifested in a form of community protests, industrial actions, land invasions, defacing of statues and violence against foreign nationals.

1. Mandate

Operation Fiela-Reclaim is implemented under the guidance of enabling legislative framework and the Constitution by role players such as national departments, provincial and local governments.

2. Objectives

- To create a conducive environment for all people in South Africa to participate in social and economic activities.
- To reclaim the space/areas controlled by criminals.
- To maintain law, order, peace, security and stability.
- To restore the image of South Africa in the continent and the rest of the world.
- To reaffirm the confidence of South Africans in their government.

3. Successes

- The operation has, among other things, achieved the following:
- confiscated illegal weapons
- invaded drug dens
- closed brothels
- made numerous arrests.