




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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OUTCOME 2: A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS

Students given more reasons to stay out of drugs

By: Tinyiko Molefe, GCIS Gauteng

Drug abuse is a very big challenge especially among the youth. To do away with this social challenge, the GCIS in partnership with Alok-tele centre hosted a drug awareness campaign to educate and create awareness about the negative impact and effects of drug abuse on 9 May 2014 at Ekurhuleni West College in Germiston. The effort to reach out to youth in colleges while providing health advice was applauded and welcomed with open arms by the students.

“This is a great effort by our government to come and advise us about the negative effects of drugs especially because drug abuse affects our health and academic performance,” said Tsepo Silembe, a student at the college.

Thabiso Ngwenya, a social worker, emphasised the importance of refraining from drug abuse as the rehabilitation process was too demanding. He said, “I discourage the use of illegal substances among the youth. It always has a negative impact on the addict’s life and the people around them.”

According to a *Shout it Now* representative, drug abuse can increase the risk of HIV infection and other sexually transmitted diseases because it affects the ability to make safe choices leading to people taking risks such as having unprotected sex. Lethabo Rabothata, appreciated *Shout it Now’s* information by saying, “I am very happy about the information that I received today, especially about the side effects of drug abuse. This information will assist us to make healthy choices and decrease new HIV infections.”



Youth waiting for HIV testing.



The GCIS distributing information.



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





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OUTCOME 1: AN IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Cherry-picking the precise career

By: Tshiamo Maruping, GCIS Northern Cape

Grade 12 learners from Kuruman and surrounds attended a career guidance session that was organised by the Northern Cape Department of Education. Some stakeholders that were present were the Sol Plaatjie University, business sector and mining houses that displayed and presented their services. The exhibition was hosted at Kathu High School.

Subject and career choice information sessions are fundamental weapons in the fight against poverty and for creating work. The main objective of the department is to help learners make correct subjects choices, careers, start planning for careers and to help learners have a vision for their future careers.

Didintle Appolus from Bothitong High School is from a disadvantaged household and does not have access to the Internet and according to her this definitely limits her choices when it comes to attaining information relating to her career choice. Appolus would like to pursue a career in Electrical Engineering.

Another learner, Tshepo Lepotlako from Moshaweng High School also said, "I am very pleased to attend this session. I expect it would give me more exposure to information on the careers I have in mind. My school does not offer career guidance sessions."

According to Sonnet van Niekerk, chairperson of the organising committee and Life Orientation educator at Kathu High School, over 30 schools attended the exhibition that took place over a period of four days. "We plan to start this programme with grade nines from next year. It will give them information on their choice of careers and allow them to choose the right subjects in Grade 10 so that they are in a better position to follow their respective career choices."

The exhibition did not only expose learners to respective career choices but it also gave them a platform to engage with financial institutions on funding opportunities these institutions offer.



Moshaweng High School learners, listening attentively to the presenter from Potchefstroom College of Agriculture.



The Department of Social Development presenting information to learners.



One of the mining houses, Ass Mang Iron Ore, presenting their options to learners.



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

Attendees and panellists at the Africa Diaspora Dialogue.



Africa Diaspora Dialogue

By: Yolisa Blom, GCIS Eastern Cape

Aligned to Africa Day, the GCIS hosted the Africa Diaspora Dialogue on 26 May 2014, to illustrate the historical interaction of all Africa's nations during South Africa's 20 years of democracy while showcasing the potential for the dynamic and harmonious coexistence of all African cultures in future. This is linked to the Government's outcome 12b: To create an efficient, effective and development orientated public service and an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship.

Africa Day is a celebration of African unity and an important milestone in the history and development of Africa. The celebrations acknowledge the

progress Africans have made, while at the same time reflecting upon the common challenges that Africans face in the global environment. Africa Day has become a vehicle that restores the pride and dignity of African communities, and promotes the richness and diversity of cultures as the glue that holds African communities together.

This Africa Diaspora Dialogue further sought to strengthen social cohesion, which is a cornerstone of building an inclusive and united Africa. Panellists of the session included the Human Rights Commission and the South African Police Service.

The session was highly appreciated by all participants while they raised many challenges they face in the country and this is what they had to say:



Moustapha, from Senegal said: "More of these sessions are needed. This would ensure that there is proper understanding of foreigners and to ease tensions between foreigners and South Africans. The wrong perceptions must be dealt with. I own four shops and employ more than 15 South Africans. Our biggest challenge is the Department of Home Affairs and difficulty in having access to papers."



Esaie Bilolo, from the Democratic Republic of Congo said: "I am a medical doctor but am unable to get employment in South Africa. I am trying to survive but instead I get to experience lot of abuse and brutality from various government institutions including the South African Police Services."



Brown Genbo, from the Democratic Republic of Congo said: "South Africa has a very good Constitution. I wish it would be implemented. Foreigners have to live with temporary papers for more than five years and there is no access to basic services. We appreciate the various programmes on issues concerning Africa like the Bring Back our Girls' campaign Masimanyane held in partnership with the GCIS."



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

Radio station a freedom gift to the community

By: Collins Ndlovu, GCIS Limpopo

The Easter holidays and Freedom Day celebrations came early to Giyani residents when they received news that Giyani Community Radio station (GCR) was on air. The advent of this new platform development has changed the complexion of Giyani’s communication environment. It was for this reason that residents of Giyani started earlier with celebrations for Easter holidays and Freedom Day using the community radio as the main platform. The new radio station came at the right time after the community had waited for so long after many promises for its opening.

Residents flocked to the station the day on which it went on air to witness and to be part of the historic opening of their first local radio station. Programme managers were introduced to the residents. The station manager welcomed the community members and gave them time to be on air, some giving congratulatory messages for the new community radio station while some were sending dedication messages to their loved ones. “This is the voice of the community, please use it for your benefit and for the development of this community,” said the station manager.

The Easter holidays festival in Giyani stadium completed a full swing of the celebrations for the opening of GCR. The live broadcast from the stadium included popular artists such as Joe Shirimani, Benny Mayengani and Prince

Rhangani who also featured on talk shows before they performed for the ecstatic audience.

The Greater Giyani Municipality mayor, Clr Mafemane Patrick Hlungwani, also had an opportunity to greet his people making use of the radio station. The mayor indicated that the station would be used by the Government as a platform to communicate its key priorities such as education, health and rural development.

The business sector would also grow as they would make use of the community radio station when it comes to advertising. “As business we welcome the opening of the radio station, which will definitely be a big boost to the growth of the Giyani economy,” said Arol Maluleke, a property development owner in Giyani.

The station has also made huge contributions in reducing unemployment by hiring young males and females from Giyani. The station’s main language is Xitsonga, but it also broadcasts in Sepedi, Tshivenda and English. The station manager made it clear that there were vacancies that still need to be filled as soon as possible such as sales and marketing. The station is located in the Giyani multipurpose centre, Kheto Road Bridge.

GCR staff from left: Mumsy Mugwambene, Mlambo Rivani and Ndlovu Midred during the Freedom Month campaign in Munghonghoma village.



GCR staff interacting with the audience during the marketing of the station programmes.



Station manager of the GCR addressing the audience during the Freedom Day celebration in Munghonghoma village.



Pull-up banner for the new Giyani Community Radio.



OUTCOME 1: AN IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

The digital divide narrows for Botoka Secondary School

By: Xolani Mndaweni, GCIS North West

Almost 8 000 schools now have Internet connectivity, thanks to the Department of Communications and its partners. The department recently added the Botoka Senior Secondary School in Tlokwe Municipality to the list of proud cyber lab beneficiaries.

When officially handing over one of the cyber lab, the Deputy Minister of Communications, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams said, "This initiative is changing how our children see the world. I am inviting all of you into the ICT revolution as we move South Africa forward!"

Lerato, a grade 9 learner at the school, could not contain her delight when she said, "I am so excited. This cyber lab will help improve my computer skills and I will get more information and knowledge!"

The Department of Communications was accompanied by dignitaries and role players who made the donation possible including the sponsors AVANTI Communications, MESO Group, North West Department of Education, Tlokwe Municipality Mayor and the GCIS.

The Chairperson of MESO group, Thibedi Mogoba said, "Our company strives to plough back continuously and positively into the communities in which we do business."

In his remarks, Dr Shadrack Mvula from the Department of Education told the learners, "You are very lucky. We never had these opportunities when we were your age. You must use these opportunities responsibly and to your advantage."

A member of the School Governing Body only identified as Thobedi said, "This gesture of development and empowerment was done after the 2014 elections, which shows that the Government is committed to serve us and our children."

Connecting schools to the Internet is one of the pillars of South Africa Connect, the country's Broadband Policy, High-Level Plan and Strategy.

"We are the future, nobody can stop us now!" said Pule, a student motivated by words of encouragement from

the speakers. Executive Mayor of Tlokwe, Khotso Khumalo, assured the sponsors that, "Tlokwe Municipality will ensure the safe keeping and protection of these precious resources. We are committed to social and economic development".

As part of the programme, the GCIS secured a radio interview at Aganang FM community radio for the Deputy Minister, the Tlokwe Mayor, and the sponsors. The official handover announcement of the Botoka Senior Secondary School cyber lab was made to the community of Tlokwe over the airwaves. Important information on ICT, social responsibility and local government was shared with the community during the radio interview, which lasted more than 20 minutes.

With the focus on improving quality education in South African schools, the introduction of e-learning through the cyber lab at Botoka Senior Secondary School is expected to contribute positively to the ever-improving matric pass rate in North West.

The Deputy Minister of Communications, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams with learners from Botoka Senior Secondary School standing in solidarity against the kidnapping of over 200 Nigerian girls by Boko Haram.



The Deputy Minister of Communications, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, MESO Group and Avanti representatives and Tlokwe Mayor Khotso Khumalo during the radio interview at Aganang FM.



Learners at Botoka Senior Secondary School log on to e-learning during the cyber lab handover.

