



MY DISTRICT TODAY

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

Voter education campaign, Khutsong

By Robbie Senoelo: GCIS, Gauteng



Maria Phohledi, an intern at the GCIS' Gauteng office assisted a member of the community with information about the IEC.

The Government's effort to entrench democracy and encourage public involvement in the country's governance and democratic processes received a boost in Khutsong, Carletonville on Friday, 20 February 2014 when the GCIS' Gauteng office embarked on a voter-education campaign. The aim of the campaign was to inform and educate members of the community about the voter registration process leading to the proclamation of the general election date.

This was an effort to give effect to Outcome 12, which relates to an efficient, effective and

development-oriented public service and an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenry.

To spread the message in Khutsong, the GCIS formed a strategic partnership with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), the departments of labour, and economic development, and ward committee members and embarked on a multi-faceted campaign that included an exhibition, door-to-door activation, face-to-face interaction and a distribution blitz at a road intersection.

In addition to voter education, residents received information from the Department of Labour about their services such as registering on the Job Seekers' Database, job hunting and job interview skills; consumer rights and responsibilities; the National Credit Act; the role of National Consumer Commission, and services rendered at the Khutsong Thusong Service Centre as part of the Thusong Marketing Programme.

Judging by the way the messages and information products were received, the GCIS succeeded in extending the Government's reach and empowering the citizenry to take their future into their own hands by participating in the country's democratic processes.

"During the last voter registration weekend I was out of town due to a family bereavement and I did not know that I could still register to vote at the IEC offices," said Mr Mokhine, a retired school-teacher. "I am definitely going to register so that I can exercise my right to vote for the party of my choice", concluded Mr Mokhine.

"Thank you for this information. I have already registered to vote but I will take it to those who didn't because I want all of us to vote," said Reverend Motsumi. "Many people died so that we could all have the right to vote. Through voting in the elections people would demonstrate that those heroes did not die in vain," the reverend explained.

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An unemployed young person, Lulamile Ngalo, said "This Aviation Expo has opened our eyes by showing us how many choices in careers there are. I passed matric in 2012 and I qualify for most of these careers in aviation." He said he was also going to apply for the SAA engineering and technician training programmes.

OUTCOME 5: A SKILLED AND CAPABLE WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT AN INCLUSIVE GROWTH PATH

Post-SoNA Aviation Career Expo

By: Sikelela Zokufa: GCIS, Western Cape



State-owned companies, such as South African Airways (SAA), SA Express, Mango, JAAP Transport and the South African Forestry Company were represented and had stalls where they showcased what careers they could offer to learners. The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) also presented its services to the young people.

Hundreds of learners and out-of-school youths from Delft and surrounding areas attended the career expo in aviation that took place in the Delft Community Hall. The expo was targeting out-of-school youths from the community to consider jobs in the aviation sector, other than flight attendants, especially artisan-related careers and pilot programmes.

Nombulelo of Siyazakha High School said, "I never knew that even if you don't have Mathematics and Science you could apply to become a flight attendant. I thought everyone working in the aviation industry had to have those two subjects." She added by saying that she would ensure that she applies for a job as a flight attendant.

Unemployed youths were encouraged getting their own Information on career opportunities will better their lives. Young people should also look into opportunities offered by government institutions such as the NYDA, GCIS and Thusong Service Centres.



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

20 years on: taking community media development to another trajectory

By: Yolisa Blom, GCIS: Eastern Cape



Mr Mtimde sharing his presentation. Mr Nozewu from the community radio sector also presented his input.



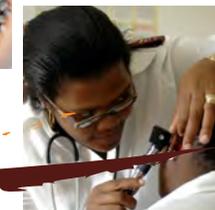
Attendees of the session and Mr Pinyana, GCIS Provincial Director facilitating.

On 3 March 2014, prominent members in the field of communication particularly community media development converged at the East London Golf Club and participated in the inaugural Eastern Cape Community Media Symposium organised by the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS).

Themed *Twenty years of community media development in South Africa* the symposium provided a meaningful opportunity to look at successes and failures, opportunities and challenges collectively, and how community media should position itself to move its development in the Eastern Cape to another direction in the next 20 years.

Various stakeholders who formed the panel shared a lot of information. Among them were Mr Lumko Mtimde, CEO of the Media Diversity and Development Agency, Mr Mike Lunika of the Media Connection and Mr Mdazana from the Human Rights Commission. The GCIS further unpacked the much-talked about government media bulk-buying programme and its implications to the sustainability of the community media sector. The participants in the symposium undertook to:

- intensify efforts to strengthen coordination arrangements with regard to the community media sector especially in print media
- improve administrative and technical capacity of the sector
- improve skills, accountability and to professionalise the work of community media
- arrange a coordinated session with all media and advertising agencies to present guidelines of access to advertising in government, as well as supply chain management processes
- elevating the role of community media in advancing participatory democracy, leading in driving development and educating people about their rights
- ensure that government and the community media interact annually
- Government re-emphasised its commitment to at least 30% ad-spent in the community media sector.



Economic Development Deputy Minister Hlengiwe Mkhize, President Jacob Zuma and Free State Premier, Ace Magashule, during the tour in the newly established chicken abattoir in Reitz.

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

Reitz chicken abattoir creating sustainable jobs

By More Matshediso: GCIS, Free State

Almost 1 000 residents of the Reitz rural community in the Free State were permanently employed through a poultry project established in Nketwane Local Municipality in the Thabo Mofutsanyane District. Grainfield Chicken Abattoir, which is aimed at strengthening economic growth and job-creation capacity within the Thabo Mofutsanyane District and surrounding areas was officially launched on Friday, 28 February in Reitz.

About R130 million was injected into the project in which employees are not only employed but also own 23% of the business. A beneficiary of the project, Merriam Sibeko of Petsana in Reitz said that she worked as a volunteer for more than 10 years after completing her matric in 1997 and a short course in emergency medical services.

"I volunteered at our local municipality and the Nketwane Hospital until I, together with five other women, decided to cook and sell food on the streets of Reitz," said the 33-year-old Sibeko. Sibeko said her other business associates gave up along the way. She and another friend decided to take their business close to the construction site where they sold food to the workers who were building the Grainfield abattoir.

"I then saw an advertised post and decided to apply. I went through interviews and fortunately was employed as a production supervisor," said the mother of two boys and a girl.



"My husband works as a panelbeater so the job on this project improved the financial status of my family. Life is good since I got this job, I even bought a car," said Sibeko, who has aspirations of becoming a production manager at the same abattoir. The project is co-founded by the Department of Labour through the Unemployment Insurance Fund and the Industrial Development Cooperation.

Every day about 160 000 chickens are slaughtered for domestic and international consumption and about 125 000 baby chickens are bred. President Jacob Zuma visited Reitz with the Minister of Labour, Mildred Oliphant, Free State Premier, Ace Magashule, and some members of the Provincial Executive Council.

President Zuma officially launched the chicken abattoir, which is one of the projects that were

established in different provinces across the country to counteract the 2008/09 global economic recession during which almost a million jobs were lost in South Africa. "This visit takes place during a very important year. We are celebrating 20 years of democracy and freedom in our country. There are many success stories in communities. We are aware that a lot still needs to be done but we also acknowledge our achievements," said President Zuma.

The President outlined government's key priorities, namely improving education, improving healthcare, creating decent work, fighting crime and corruption and rural development and land reform. He emphasised the role education has in the improvement of the South African economy. "Education addresses skills development, which in turn would strengthen the country's economy and at the same time touch on the country's core problems," said President Zuma.

In 2013, 650 000 jobs were created. "It shows that progress has been made. This has never happened in the past four years," the President added. He said the project mainly contributed to the decline in youth unemployment. "I am very confident when I say that we are not going to be importers of this product but exporters," he added.

Referring to Sibeko's inspiring story the President said, "This culture of Vuk'uzenzele should be promoted throughout the country so that we will be able to live in a prosperous South Africa that all of us strive for." Not only were jobs created through the abattoir but it also contributes to food security in the province and in the country.



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

Mabatlane Thusong gears for effective and efficient service delivery.

By MM Ramoshaba: GCIS, Limpopo

On 23 January 2014, stakeholders at the Mabatlane Thusong interacted with clients to inform them about services they can access and to get feedback from them on how to improve service delivery.



Paulos Lebudi from the South African Social Security Agency (Sassa) responds to a query from Jonas Monyeki. He visited the Thusong to apply for an Old-age Grant. He was born in 1956. He was told that he is still young. He must come when he is 60 years old. "I feel so disappointed that I still have to wait for two more years to qualify for the Old-age Grant. I do not have any means of income."



Lina Ngobeni from Ext 3 Leseding said, "I always get assisted at Mabatlane Thusong. I came to apply for the Child-Support Grant and the officials at the Sassa office were wonderful. I thank government that we no longer have to travel to Modimolle to access services and that we have the grant to assist in terms of basic needs. Life has really improved during the 20 years of democracy."



Lesetja Mahlabe, Solomon Matjila, and Patrick Masenya from Leseding High School said, "As born frees, we were looking forward to applying for identity documents to be able to vote for the first time. We are very disappointed that since November 2013, we have been coming to the Thusong to apply for IDs and Home Affairs was not there. Even now in 2014 Home Affairs is still not here. We request that Home Affairs avail their services that we don't miss out on the elections. We appreciate that the library has internet to assist us with homework. It is very small and has old books. As we are in Grade 12 we will visit the centre more often to get information on bursaries and careers."



Alfred Molekwa from Meetshehla High School said, "I appreciate the information I received from the Thusong. I would like to be a social worker. I will come to the Thusong regularly to get information on bursaries and tertiary institutions to be able to apply on time."



Community Development Worker Hans Matlou, Monica Majadibodu (social worker) and Sakia Motsomane (librarian) share information and services that learners can access from the Thusong.