

## DID YOU KNOW?



April is Freedom Month and the commemoration will be held on Saturday 27

April at the Union Buildings. Freedom Month is celebrated under the theme: "Mobilising Society Towards consolidating Democracy and Freedom"



# MY DISTRICT TODAY

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## Outcome 4: Decent employment through inclusive economic growth Ventersdorp SMMEs get training

*Xolani Mndaweni: GCIS North West*

GCIS has partnered with the South African Business Coalition on HIV and AIDS (SABCOHA) in delivering a two-day business training course for local SMMEs, cooperatives and entrepreneurs at Tshedimosetso Thusong Service Centre, Ward 3, Boikhutso Village, Ventersdorp.

"SABCOHA is a non-profit organisation that aims to coordinate a private-sector response to HIV and AIDS. We strive to help companies, large and small, in their efforts to combat the epidemic through workplace initiatives," BizAids trainer Neo Ntshole said.

Out of the 23 business students trained, 17 were running their own small businesses and were dependent on it. Some of the participants were running tuck-shops, air-time vending machines and salons funded by the Department of Social Development through the War Room on Poverty Programme interventions in Ward 3.

believe we can face any challenge!" Motshabi said.

After completing the course, participants learnt essential business skills and knowledge, and were awarded certificates. "We are happy that the training was attended by younger people and women. As men, we will continue to support their empowerment," Stephen Ntozini, employee at the Tshedimosetso Thusong Centre, said.

Members of the community and organisations passionate about positive business spin-offs, to protect the health of their employees and want to understand the risks of HIV and AIDS will benefit significantly from this partnership. More information is available on [www.sabcoha.org](http://www.sabcoha.org) or dial 011 880 4821 or GCIS on 018 381 7071/69, or visit [www.gcis.gov.za](http://www.gcis.gov.za).



"Today I have learnt the importance of saving my profits. I want to save 10% every time!" Motshabi Mojaki said. Mojaki works at a co-operative that trades layer chickens and eggs. The co-operative is funded by the Department of Agriculture and Land Affairs. "The most difficult part is getting a market that is willing to buy at a reasonable price. But with the recordkeeping, understanding and identifying business risk training we received, I



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## Outcome 4: Decent employment through inclusive economic growth

### Bicycle taxi service for tourists

GCIS: Western Cape



Lee-Roy Slingers (cyclist), Soli Madikane, Director of Economic Development, and Michellis Page (cyclist)

As from 8 April 2013, visitors to Hermanus, a town renowned for its land-based whale watching, can enjoy a free bicycle taxi service.

The purpose of this service is to show visitors the various attractions and hospitality of the town and to drop them off at the many exciting shops and restaurants where they would like to visit.

The service is a pilot project running for three months after which it will be evaluated and a decision will be made whether to continue with the service permanently.

The project creates jobs and skills to unemployed young people. Initially three bicycle taxis will travel through the business district from 09:00 to

17:00, Monday to Saturday on a hop-on-hop-off basis. There are designated stops along the route, which will also include hidden alleys and byways.

The private sector will carry the cost of the service by listing or advertisements a map of Hermanus, which is handed out to visitors free of charge. A simple listing could cost about R30 per month, depending on how many businesses join, or R100 per month for bigger advertising space.

The first six taxi cyclists have recently been trained to become true tourism ambassadors for Hermanus with a good general knowledge so that they can answer almost all questions visitors may ask. The cyclists were drafted from the Overstrand Municipality's database of unemployed persons with an interest in the hospitality industry.

On Tuesday, 2 April, the Municipality's Tourism Department offered customer-care training and an educational tour to familiarise the cyclists with attractions and points of interest. On Wednesday, 3 April cyclists were trained in traffic safety.

The route, which was approved by the Overstrand Municipality's Traffic Department, will exclude the three major traffic circles of the town for safety reasons. The bicycles or pedicabs feature 18 gears, battery-operated lights and indicators and special brakes to ensure safe stopping when loaded. Each bicycle can seat two passengers at a time.

The project is a joint venture between Overstrand Municipality, the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) and the business sector of Hermanus. EPWP will be responsible for the salaries of the cyclists, while Overstrand Municipality will provide the training, and the businesses will be responsible for the maintenance of the bicycles, insurance, uniforms and printing of the maps, as well as the day-to-day operations.





## Outcome 6: An efficient, competitive and responsive economic infrastructure network

### Upgrading of the Vosburg-Carnarvon road brings relief

*Willem van Dalen – GCIS Northern Cape*

A commissioner from the department of Agriculture once said, “The roads of our country are the veins and arteries through which the agricultural products and commercial supplies that are the life blood of the nation flow.” This was quoted by the then Northern Cape Premier Hazel Jenkins during the launch of the upgrading of the Vosburg-Carnarvon road two years ago.

The development of the road is in line with government’s plans to bring about large-scale infrastructure development that will give rise to important developments to expand the country’s bulk infrastructure.

“This project is an enormous boost for job opportunities,” Carnarvon Mayor Nico Titus said. “In the past, we had to take the tarred road over Victoria West whenever we wanted to travel to De Aar or Kimberley. With this newly tarred road, we will save more than a hundred kilometers each time we travel to Kimberley.”

The upgrading of the Vosburg-Carnarvon road will shorten the travelling distance and time, and ensure safer driving and less damage to vehicles. As

this area is known for sheep farming, farmers can now enjoy a safer, shorter ride to the markets.

The R189 million upgrading project created 149 jobs for local unemployed community members.



A friendly face in a barren landscape: the inevitable STOP/GO; to some it is an irritation, to others the sign of progress.



The completed part of the road – something to look forward to.



Workers surfacing the gravel road between Vosburg and Carnarvon in the Northern Cape.





## Outcome 7: Vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities and food security for all

### Centenary of Land Act putting a smile on beneficiaries' faces

*Doctrine Netshikweta: GCIS Limpopo*

From humble beginnings as a farm worker, Thivhonalie Mukwevho (53) is now the proud owner of 18 hectares of land at Nwanedi Farm near Musina. Mukwevho's experience of working with his father-in-law as a subsistence farmer at the age of 33 in Khomele Village will come in handy as a proud new farm owner.

Mukwevho's dream to own land came true when government introduced the Land Redistribution Programme. The programme helped her to fulfil her life objective to become a commercial farmer. "I will make it to the top. This is my promise to the municipality, district and the country," she emphasised. The 53-year-old entrepreneur was nominated Limpopo Female Farmer of the Year in 2011.

Another well-known Limpopo farmer, Dr Ntuseni Nesane who farms nearby, said he knew Mukwevho as a hard worker. "She is one of the main contributors to the economy and food security of this beautiful district," he said.

Mukwevho's farm produces cabbage, lettuce, tomatoes, butternut and watermelon and supplies it to the Musina Tiger Brand Company and Johannesburg City Deep Market. She employs 12 permanent and 33 seasonal workers.

"I commemorate 100 years of the Land Act and its subsequent land redistribution, and feel proud of what government does for us and what I have achieved in farming," she concluded.

Spokesperson of the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform in Limpopo Avhashoni Magada said he was very proud of farmers like Mukwevho who used their farms profitably. "Our plan is to ensure that when commemorating 100 years of the Land Act this year, we must have tangible work done to transform the difficulties that came with the law that saw land distribution skewed in line with apartheid policies," Magada said.

His sentiments were echoed by the Head of the Institute for Rural Development at the University of Venda prof. Joseph Francis who said although there was still a lot to be done, government is going in the right direction with its land redistribution policies.

Thivhonalie Mukwevho bears testimony to the achievements that have been reached in democracy towards creating a better life for all.



Thivhonalie Mukwevho showing how to eradicate weeds from tomatoes.

