OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH.

Economic opportunities exhibition
By Reki Skosana: GCIS, Mpumalanga

Community members who attended the event.

The Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality and the Government Communication and Information System collaborated with other stakeholders and conducted an information session at Senotolo Thusong Service Centre on 30 August 2018. The event sought to address the issue of unemployment among young people in Senotolo and surrounding areas.

Community members had an opportunity to complete employment forms and submit their CVs to the Department of Labour to be uploaded in the department’s jobseeker database system. They were also able to access information such as bursary forms from the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and other stakeholders. The Marapyane Thusong Service Centre was also popularised for maximum use by the local community.
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Community members accessing government services and information at Senotlelo Thusong Service Centre.

Sello said:
“The session was good because the information I received was beneficial and relevant to our situations.”

Khutsong Mmako said:
“The activity was good because in most instances we choose careers that are not relevant to the job market and our personalities. I have N6 and I am unemployed. I could not search for employment opportunities but now I know what I need to do. The Department of Higher Education and Training also provided us with their contact details to consult them whenever we need assistance to develop ourselves further.”

Thabang Mphahlele said:
“I am unemployed and did not have an opportunity to go to an institution of higher learning. I have been searching for opportunities to start my own business but had nothing to motivate. The session gave me the courage to continue with my plans to start my business. I am grateful for that.”
The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), collaborated with the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), departments of home affairs and cooperative governance and traditional affairs, and the South African Post Office (SAPO), organised an integrated community registration outreach programme in Soshanguve, Block R on 17 August 2018. Social-grant beneficiaries were invited to the Lutheran Church to receive integrated services and information from government departments, in particular, swapping to the new social-grant card.

Before the introduction of the new card, beneficiaries experienced challenges related to unknown deductions from their accounts. Government resolved to introduce new cards to, among others, prevent unlawful deductions from the cards of beneficiaries.

Beneficiaries of social grants registered for the new cards with SAPO, whose employees were deployed to the venue. The Department of Home Affairs provided services such as the registration of births and providing information to community members. SASSA assisted with new registration of grants while the GCIS exhibited various information products about government programmes and services.

About 500 people attended the event and received information about government programmes aimed at improving their lives.

Mokgadi Lekoto said:
“We are happy to have received the new cards. The deductions on the old card caused us a lot of stress. We did not even know where our money was going. We thank our government for this development.”

Mathapelo Noko said:
“I am very happy that government came to us for the application of the new cards. We received important information regarding the new card.”

Social-grant beneficiaries get new cards
By George Moeketsi: GCIS, Gauteng

SAPO officials assisting social-grant beneficiaries to apply for the new cards.

Elizabeth Motaung of SAPO registering Nancy Masemola for the new social-grant card.

Social-grant beneficiaries who attended the event.
The Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) in the Xhariep District held a seminar for women entrepreneurs in Trompsburg on 30 August 2018. The event was celebrated under theme: “Against all odds”. Women around the area were invited to celebrate women’s successes in business. Among the activities in the programme were business conversations to motivated women to start their own businesses.

Women who benefited from the SEDA programmes shared their good stories and achievements in sectors such as farming, catering, funeral parlour, sewing and tourism. One of the beneficiaries, Julia Stuurman, who owns a successful guesthouse in Trompsburg, explained how SEDA assisted her in the tourism industry as now the tourists visits her guesthouse more frequently.

SEDA provincial manager Jackie Ntshingila applauded the success of businesswomen in Xhariep. She also motivated them by emphasising that running a business is not for the faint-hearted but is for South African women who are dedicated and willing to learn and break boundaries.

Rebecca Jaso said:
“I am happy about today’s event because it made us feel our worth as women and that we can make a difference in our community.”

Mohanuwa Van Heerden said:
“I gained a lot on how to start a business as a woman and create job opportunities for others.”

OUTCOME 5: A SKILLED AND CAPABLE WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT AN INCLUSIVE GROWTH PATH.
The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) conducted a taxi-rank activation on 31 August 2018 at Bloed taxi rank in Bloed Mall, Pretoria. The main focus of the activation was to raise awareness on gender-based violence by engaging with commuters and distributing information products.

More than 250 government information material, which included the Public Sector Manager magazine, InSession magazine, Vuk’uzenzele newspaper and the National Health Insurance booklets. Some of the commuters said that men workshops are needed so that they can be taught how to handle women and how to deal with different situations in their relationships. Others said that most men who abuse women were raised by abusive parents, which then affected their behaviour.