



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Port Dunford integrated service delivery outreach

By Dr Bongeka Nkwanyana: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

uMhlathuze Local Municipality in collaboration with various departments organised an integrated service outreach for the community of Port Dunford area on 24 January 2024. The main purpose of the outreach was to bring services closer to the community and to also raise awareness about the Port Dunford Thusong Service Centre. The centre was launched in 2017 in order to bring services and information closer to the people.

The overall Thusong Service Centre programme is one of the first unique initiatives implemented by the South African democratic government, which integrates services across the three spheres of government. The programme

created access not only to government information and services, but also enabled communities to access opportunities offered by other civil society groups, such as businesses, non-government organisations and parastatals.

Through these centres, approximately five million beneficiaries gain access to services from government, parastatals and community-based organisations annually.



Port Dunford community members listening to various presentations.



Community members engaging and receiving services from various organisations and government departments.



The youth of Port Dunford were also assisted with National Student Financial Aid Scheme applications and other related enquiries.



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PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Young women thriving in the poultry industry

By Phoka Mofokeng: GCIS, Free State

Nthabiseng and Itumeleng Matla are young women finding their feet in the poultry business, the two sisters established Reneilwe Matla Trading & Projects in 2016 as a family company. The business is based in Turffontein, QwaQwa. However, it was not operating until March 2020. It is now 100% black female-owned enterprise with the sisters as managing directors.

Through various private and government programmes, the young women were able to invest in the company's development and significantly enhanced their business and management abilities particularly in the broiler chicken sector. The entrepreneurs started farming with just 20 broiler chickens, buying as resellers and selling the chickens at eight weeks. Currently, the business raises day-old chickens. The current capacity of the facility is 2 000 chickens and they have full ownership of the land they are operating on.

The capacity at the farm is divided into consecutive cycles, each consisting of 500 broilers at different stages. The consecutive cycles enable the enterprise to have continuous supply of chicken to the market. The farm produces and sell a total of 1 000 chickens a month. Their target market comprises live chicken resellers and bulk buyers. There is a huge demand for poultry in QwaQwa and surrounding areas.

The company has one permanent and five casual employees and has won accolades such as Second Runner-up Best Business in SEDA Special achievement certificate in 2021, and also won the Women's Entrepreneurship

Day Challenge in 2021, won the MSC Business Capital Competition in 2021 powered by SEDA and Youth in Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries competition by being top achiever in the small holder category in 2022.

The business plans to gradually expand their broiler chicken capacity to keep pace with the increasing demand in the market and also plan to diversify their product offerings by introducing value-added and speciality chicken products to cater for diverse consumer preferences. Sustainability is a key focus with the implementation of eco-friendly practices such as waste recycling and the integration of energy-efficient technologies. Market penetration is a priority as they aim to strengthen their presence through strategic partnerships, branding efforts and diversification into new markets.

Their words of encouragement for young aspiring women who want to venture into the business is that "they should believe in their unique abilities and embrace challenges as opportunities for growth. They should commit themselves to continuous learning, building a strong support network and view failures as stepping stones, they must be resilient, follow their passion and set realistic goals".



Itumeleng and Nthabiseng Matla with their broiler chickens at the farm



Broiler chickens at the farm.



Itumeleng Matla feeding 2 weeks chicks.



Co-owner of Ahlumile said:

“I appeal to women to stand up and work the land. The land is an asset that we can rely on for source of income. I encourage women and young people to partake in their agricultural project as they may serve as a source of income and means to end poverty.”

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Agriculture project thrives

By Ndyabo Kopo: GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Government Communication and Information System in the Alfred Nzo District hosted Amandungwane Agricultural Cooperative on a community radio programme on 30 January 2024 to celebrate 30 years of freedom.

A woman from Lubhacweni village in KwaBhaca, working with her husband, started a now thriving family agricultural cooperative which provides employment for youth in the village. The woman started formalising the agricultural project in the year 2020 where she received help from SANAMI – an incubation programme sponsored by the Small Enterprise Development Agency, with training and registration. The Department of Rural Development

and Agrarian Reform and Umzimvubu Local Municipality assisted the project through seedlings, manure, seeds and other necessities.

The cooperative is now able to supply retail stores such as Spar and Boxer in KwaBhaca.

The Umzimvubu Local Municipality shared valuable information about how it assists small businesses and how people can apply for assistance from their institution.



An engagement at the local radio station.



Precious Mapitsi said:

“I am grateful to see government officials coming to us and engage us so that we share our views. I am appealing to the President to tackle the issue of electricity because it a serious challenge for us as students. We sometimes get interrupted while studying.”



Lunga Theza said:

“I am appealing to the President and his Cabinet to tackle unemployment challenges for youth. I understand government is assisting us with SRD Grant but, it is not enough. We need sustainable solutions.”

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Pre-State of the Nation Address (SoNA) activation

By Sibusiso Chauke: GCIS, Mpumalanga

On 7 February 2024, the Government Communication and Information System conducted a pre-SoNA community activation at Downtown Park in eMalahleni. The purpose of the activation was to engage and educate members of the public about the SoNA by President Cyril Ramaphosa on 8 February 2024. Members of the public were engaged to share their views about service delivery where they reside.

Most of them shared their concerns, especially with high employment rate, water crises, electricity, roads infrastructure, bursaries and high crime rate. Communities were looking forward to listening to the SoNA with the hope of hearing the President addressing their concerns.

Communities received information from the officials on how they can access government services at no cost. They were encouraged to visit various state entities to access more information that will enable them to progress in life especially about business and job opportunities. They were also encouraged to watch President Ramaphosa when delivering his SoNA to get testimonies about what government achieved in improving the lives of the citizens.

Information leaflets for anti-corruption, gender-based violence and femicide, bullying and *Vuk'uzenzele* were distributed to the public.



Government officials sharing information with members of the public.