



# MYDISTRICTTODAY



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## PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND JOC CREATION.

### Build-up programme for national Job Fair

By Esmarelda Mckay: GCIS, Western Cape

The Departments of Employment and Labour, Higher Education and Training, and the Small Business Development, in partnership with the West Coast District Municipality, local stakeholders which included the Government Communication and Information System, Department of Health, the South African Police Service recruitment unit, the South African Defence Force recruitment unit, private sector dealing with sea harvest, hospitality industry and many more local non-governmental organisations hosted a Job Fair from 18 to 19 April 2024 in Middle Pos in Saldanha, Western Cape.

The focus of the outreach was to prepare the youth on what to expect at the job market. Given that unemployment is very high all over the country,

the Job Fair was a platform to give guidance on preparations of a Curriculum Vitae. There were also career coaches available to assist the youth with information to make an informed choice when choosing a career path.

The event focused on providing work seekers with registration services, careers information, counselling, job search tools and assessment, and providing them with information on self-employment initiatives, cooperatives, financing and other entities that can be of assistance.

The focus will be providing space for various organisations to present careers and other placement opportunities to work seekers.



The Department of Employment and Labour assisting a youth from the community to register for services for the day.



One of the estimated 300 participants who registered in Middelpos on the day.



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Some of the community members accessing government services on the day.



The Department of Employment and Labour officials giving a short presentation.



## PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

### Youth-owned businesses receive a boost

By Ndyabo Kopo: GCIS, Eastern Cape

Youth development and empowerment has been one of the cornerstones of South Africa's development since the dawn of democracy in 1994. Young people in South Africa have played a significant role in contributing to a democratic society that the country is proud of today. This is evidenced through their remarkable uprising against the apartheid regime across South Africa in 1976.

Therefore, as South Africa celebrates the 30 years of democracy and freedom this year, government has to take stock of how far the county has come in its contribution in empowering young people. The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) hosted the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and two young people whose businesses have benefited from the NYDA's programmes

and services, in a community radio programme with Ekhephini FM in Barkly East. The radio programme was part of GCIS's communication campaign on 30 years of freedom and democracy campaign.

The NYDA has assisted one of the two beneficiaries, Refelletsoe Thipa, owner of a Laundromat in Barkly East, with an amount of R50 000 to buy equipment for his business. This is born out of NYDA's voucher programme where a qualifying young business owner is eligible to access business support to the value of R100 000. Thipa will qualify for another R50 000 should he continue to account well on the first batch of the R50 000 he received.



Refelletsoe Thipa, owner and beneficiary of Laundromat in Barkly East and Anele Samuel (middle), owner and beneficiary of a panel beating workshop in Sterkspruit in studio at Ekhephini FM in Barkly East.

## PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

### World TB Day commemoration

By Jacob Mkhize: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

World TB Day is commemorated on 24 March every year to raise awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of tuberculosis and also to step up efforts to end the disease. This theme for this year's World TB Day was: "Yes! We can end TB". On the 19 March 2024, a build-up campaign on World TB Day was held at Somkhele in a form of a peaceful street march that started from Africa Research and Health Institute (ARHI) and ended at Somkhele Clinic. After the peaceful street march, an information session was held at the Somkhele Clinic to inform and educate people about ways to cure and prevent TB.

The awareness event was held in partnership with the Department of Health, ARHI, Inkosi Mtubatuba Municipality, Health Care Givers and the community at large. Sister Mazibuko from Somkhele Clinic encouraged residents to work in partnership with the clinic together with ARHI to combat the number of TB fatalities by adhering to the prescribed treatment regime, once a person has been diagnosed with TB. She further outlined how healthcare workers collaborate with the health institution, ARHI.

Residents were encouraged to look out for symptoms such as loss of appetite, sweating, coughing and loss of weight in order to receive early detection and treatment. It was stated that early diagnosis and prompt treatment are crucial for controlling TB. If anyone is suspected of having TB symptoms or have been in contact with an infected person, one must seek medical attention promptly.

Noma Majozi from ARHI mentioned that the institution is working around the clock to provide optimal healthcare to under resourced communities, further to that, they provide clinical sciences, basic science and also work in partnership with hospitals. She further requested community members to participate in community outreach campaigns, in order to save lives.



ARHI, civil society and members of the public on a peaceful march to end TB.



Sister Mazibuko addressing participants on TB interventions.



Noma Majozi of ARHI giving an overview on their operational mandate and interventions in place to end TB.



**Alwande Mathunjwa and Snenhlanhla Magubane said:**

“We have come to support the campaign and to be the messengers that TB is curable if a person takes necessary health steps. If a person has the following symptoms: loss of weight, loss of appetite, continuous coughing, and sweating, we advise him/her to visit nearest clinic for check-up.”



**Induna Gumedede said:**

“As the *Induna* in the area, I am pleased of the interventions undertaken by the Department of Health and ARHI. Their visibility and work relations have drastically reduced cases of TB. I, however, urge men to partake on health promotion programmes. Men are not cooperating in undergoing health check, and even if they see that sickness is taking its toll, they think of witchcraft. Early detection of TB helps to get medical support in time. TB is still there as a killer disease but it is curable.”



## PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND JOB CREATION.

### Economic opportunities for small businesses

By Mpho More: GCIS, Northern Cape

The Northern Cape Provincial Government hosted a Youth, Women and People living with Disabilities Enterprise Development Fund (YWD) hand-over at the Galeshewe Recreational Hall on 16 April 2024.

The purpose of the event was to empower beneficiaries in the business sector with funding and working equipment. This endeavour seeks to support economic activities, particularly within townships and rural areas. The funding successfully empowered 180 women owned, 107 youth-owned and 10 persons with disabilities owned businesses with equipment needed for undertakings such as hair salon, catering, mini bakery equipment including stock and money to grow their businesses.

The Premier of the Northern Cape, Zamani Saul said: “Today is the first phase of the YWD programme. We are starting this programme to ensure that we support the informal economic sector, which is one of the biggest contributing factors in the economy of the province.”

The MEC for Youth, Women, and Person with Disability, Communication and e-Government, Venus Blennies, congratulated the beneficiaries and said, “Today we celebrate the success of the

entrepreneurs who are receiving funding and equipment, to push their businesses forward. As the Provincial Government, we take the enterprises development very seriously because they are the backbone of our local economy, they foster innovation, drive the growth of the economy, and create opportunities. By investing in the Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) we are investing in the future of the province.”

Nqobile Khumalo, a poultry farmer said, “I started my poultry business with my R350 social grant, and the Magareng Local Municipality gave me land to expand my business. With this R100 000 that I have received today, I am going to fence my land and create jobs for my community.”

The stakeholders assured to always support the SMMEs with skills development to learn more about their respective businesses and the entrepreneurs expressed their gratitude and promised to use the funding and equipment wisely to grow their businesses and create job opportunities.



Premier Saul addressing the SMMEs.



Some of the equipment given to the business owners.



Beneficiaries receiving funding officiated by Premier Saul.



**Pule Tau said:**

"I am glad I received 150 000 to grow my business. I am going to buy additional tents, couches and tables."



**Neo Modise said:**

"The government of today is doing so much for our businesses. They are helping us grow, and we are very much excited, thank you for the funding."



**Keitumelo Moloto said:**

"I am so happy that I received funding. With the money I have received, I am going to employ those who can assist me in running my butchery business."