



MYDISTRICTTODAY



Issue no. 21: June 2024

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PRIORITY I: A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Active participation was more than words for the 2024 General Elections

By Monique Warden: GCIS, Eastern Cape

The 2024 National and Provincial Elections in South Africa were historical as they ushered in the seventh democratic administration in the 30 years of our freedom and democracy. South African patriots exercised their constitutional right and civic duty to cast their votes at the ballots. This year's voting was done with admirable patience, tolerance and enthusiasm through rain, wind and cold weather conditions.

On Wednesday, 29 May 2024, voting stations in the Central Karoo opened on time and the atmosphere was vibrant, with police visibility around every station and in every community to ensure safety and security. Murraysburg and Beaufort West primary schools were the biggest voting stations in the

Central Karoo respectively, each handling more than 3 000 people who came to make their mark.

People in queues talked about ensuring "a continuous better tomorrow" and these elections reflected that South African citizens are making decisions and participating actively in shaping the democracy they want to live in.

The elections have given many rural communities in this district hope that the next 30 years will bring less words and more action to change the lives of the next generation.



At the wheelchair-friendly JD Crawford Primary School voting station, the Electoral Commission of South Africa prioritised the elderly and people with disabilities.



People queue patiently at the Khanyisa Day Care Centre voting station to cast their votes.



Beaufort West Primary School voting station, one of the biggest in the Central Karoo, in full operation.



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PRIORITY 1: A CAPABLE AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

62-year-old Bambisana District Hospital receives an upgrade

By Phiwokuhle Zokufa: GCIS, Eastern Cape

The 62-year-old Bambisana District Hospital at Bambisana village in Port St Johns is receiving an upgrade costing R20.7 million. Prior to the upgrade, the hospital was no longer compliant with standard requirements to provide quality health services. Now it will have 135 additional beds and health services that include maternity and dental healthcare, and X-rays.

The construction of the hospital created employment for local young people and benefited 16 small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) from Port St Johns and the OR Tambo District. The project employs 339 people, of which 205 are youth, 49 women and two people with disabilities.

The hospital upgrade also provides training to young professionals who require in-service training to complete their qualifications in building

management, civil/structural engineering, quantity surveying, and health and safety.

On 9 April 2024, the Deputy Minister of Health, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, and the Deputy Minister of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Ms Pinky Kekana, visited the hospital to assess progress.

“In these types of projects, we want to see community beneficiation, and employment of young people, women and local SMMEs,” said Deputy Minister Kekana. She further stated that their monitoring visit was to also ensure that a quality infrastructure is built.



Construction of the hospital is underway.



Deputy Minister Dhlomo and Deputy Minister Kekana during their visit to the hospital to assess progress.



Mandilakhe Phuzi from Bambisana village said:

“I started being part of this project in August 2023 wherein at first, I received training to be able to perform my duties which amongst others, include the installation of air conditioners. Being employed here has contributed a lot in my life as I am now able to contribute at home and put food on the table.”



Xolile Mabele, an electrical engineering student at the Ingwe Technical and Vocational Education and Training College, said:

“Through this project, I will be able to complete my work integrated learning experience and be able to get my Diploma, I am grateful for the opportunity offered to me.”

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Learnership programme aims to create jobs for Free State youth

By Ntombi Mhlambi: GCIS, Free State

The Free State Office of the Premier, in collaboration with the Department of Employment and Labour's (DEL) Unemployment Insurance Fund, launched a learnership programme at the Thabong Thusong Service Centre on 16 May 2024. The learnership programme aims to create jobs to reduce the high number of unemployed youth in the Free State.

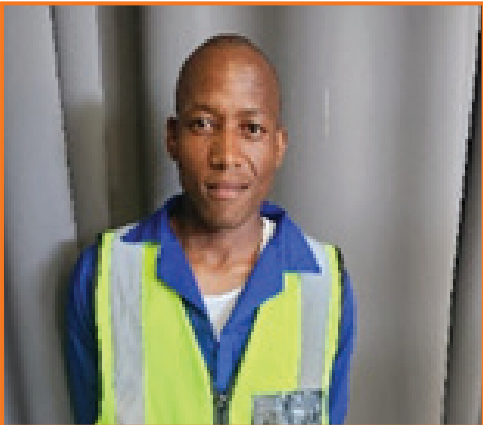
The programme started by recruiting youth to participate in different learnership programmes where they received training in skills such as plumbing, cooking and environment for six months. Then Free State Premier

Mxolisi Dukwana thanked the youth for their perseverance in participating in the programme and affirmed his commitment to eradicating unemployment in the Free State.

Speaking at the event, the Deputy Minister of Employment and Labour, Ms Boitumelo Moloi, said she would like to see young people getting permanent jobs after learnerships. The DEL registered the youth on its unemployment database and the Free State Development Corporation rendered services to the youth.



Portia Masilo, an assistant chef from Windburg, said:
"I appreciate the dignity that this programme has given me and my family."



Lerato Nthobeng, an environmental practitioner from QwaQwa, said:
"I could have never imagined myself being skilled like this."



Then Premier Dukwana and Deputy Minister Moloi addressing the Free State youth.



The youth attending the launch of the learnership programme at the Thabong Thusong Service Centre.

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Out-of-school youth receive information on how to start a business

By Mlungisi Dlamini: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

As part of government's commitment to create more entrepreneurial opportunities, particularly for the youth, the uMgungundlovu District and Msunduzi Local municipalities held the Youth Entrepreneurship Development Workshop to equip and capacitate out-of-school youth with information on how to start a business.

The workshop, which took place on 22 May 2024 at Tamboville, Ward 38, in Msunduzi Local Municipality, focused on key elements for starting a business and accessing funding from government and various agencies. It was attended by out-of-school youth and emerging entrepreneurs. Organisations such as the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), Small Enterprise Development Agency (Seda),

uMgungundlovu Economic Development Agency, Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, and the National Movement of Rural Women, shared their knowledge and expertise on how to start and run a business.

Ward councillor Socks Dlamini encouraged the youth to participate in youth economic programmes and promote entrepreneurship to accelerate job creation. Ms Mpumi Chappi, Head of Department at uMgungundlovu Municipality Social Services, said: "The district is open to supporting individuals who are willing to venture into business by providing ongoing support to emerging businesses to ensure success in their business ventures."



Ms Chappi says the district will continue to provide required support to emerging businesses.



Mr Lucky Madibe explaining how to access services from the NYDA.



Mr Sanele Nosenga sharing information on services offered by the Seda.



Some of the participants who attended the entrepreneurial workshop.