



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Stakeholders empower Diepsloot youth

By Moloko Segale: GCIS, Gauteng

Unemployment is one of the socio-economic challenges affecting youth in Diepsloot, a densely populated township north of Johannesburg. Youth unemployment is rampant in the township and has a negative impact on them, prompting some to engage in criminality.

As part of Youth Month, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) hosted an information-sharing outreach campaign on 21 June 2024, to provide youth with information about how to improve their lives. The stakeholders included the Diepsloot Service Providers Forum, City of Johannesburg's (CoJ) Department of Social Development, South African

Police Service, Safe Hub, South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, Gauteng Community Safety and various local organisations.

The campaign was primarily aimed at Diepsloot because the majority of the township's residents are unemployed, live in abject poverty, have inadequate housing and are victims of high crime rates. Much of the economic activity in the area is survivalist, with profit margins too low to lift people out of poverty. Youth unemployment is high among school dropouts, who lack the necessary skills to find decent jobs.



GCIS official, Ms Moloko Segale, sharing information on various government campaigns, including gender-based violence and femicide.



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Rudolph Shikwe said:

"I am a very active member of the community of Diepsloot and we are facing many challenges in the community. There is a high number of unemployed residents. Many youth abuse drugs and substances, and roam the streets daily. We are appealing to government to assist youth. There is a youth desk that assists youth but at the same time we need more skills like computer literacy. We do not have resources and those are the kind of interventions we need. Those who are good in the arts such as drama, music and culture have no platforms or facilities to showcase their talents. We are appealing to government to visit communities and see how they can support us."



Thabiso Chokwe said:

"I work for the CoJ's Department of Social Development and the purpose of the event was to empower the youth of Diepsloot with information about opportunities available to improve their lives. There is a high level of unemployment. Crime is also high because of unemployment."



Speaker of the Mohokare Local Municipality, Mr Retshidisitswe Thuhlo, said:
 “We welcome the services from government departments that were part of the outreach campaign in the Mohokare Local Municipality. I am grateful for our people who have received services at their doorstep.”



Mr Spear Lobbi, a community member, said:
 “I am so excited to see the youth of my community taking part in this government initiative, especially during Youth Month.”

PRIORITY 1: CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Government departments and entities reach out to communities

By Yanga Ngcukana: GCIS, Free State

The Office of the Free State Premier held a roadshow on the Thusong Service Centre Programme Outreach campaign, on 24 June 2024 in Zastron, then on 25 June in Rouxville and Smithfield. It was organised in collaboration with the GCIS to address integrated service delivery by government departments and entities to communities in the Mohokare Local Municipality.

Stakeholders included the South African Revenue Service, Land Reform Commission, Special Investigating Unit, Road Accident Fund, departments of Home Affairs, Employment and Labour, Human Settlements, Health, Public Works and Infrastructure, and the National Development Agency.

The campaign aimed to educate and mobilise residents about the services provided by government and entities. The departments and entities also explained their primary functions to the residents, who were able to ask questions.

The communities appreciated this outreach campaign, which allowed them to interact with representatives from various government departments and entities. Such important outreach roadshows assist to improve the lives of communities by providing relevant information while also ensuring that no one is left behind.



The community of Smithfield came to receive services and information.



The community of Zastron receiving information and services.



Ms Dhludhu, from Inkanyezi Poultry, said:

“I am happy to be part of the mentorship journey with all of you; to assist you as SMMEs to grow. I want to thank government for supporting small businesses. The most important message to young people is to use social media to market their businesses.”



Mr Lungelo Thatha, a poultry broiler farmer from Secunda, said:

“I am happy to be part of this mentorship engagement session. I also want to urge other young SMMEs to seek funding assistance from the NYDA and other government institutions to start their own businesses. The NYDA has more programmes to assist young people.”

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Mentorship programme capacitates small businesses

By Todani Livhuwani: GCIS, Mpumalanga

As part of Youth Month activities, the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) held a poultry mentorship engagement session in Mpumalanga on 28 June 2024. The event aimed to empower young farmers, as agriculture is one of the key economic drivers in the province. The NYDA provided support to poultry farmers and other small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) operating in the sector to ensure their participation in the mainstream economy.

Ms Gladys Mahlangu, Acting NYDA Provincial Manager, stated that mentoring enabled young entrepreneurs to benefit from the knowledge and shared their farming experiences. They thanked the stakeholders for providing services that enabled them to build their businesses.

The NYDA collaborated with Ms Lebogang Dhludhu, founder of the Inkanyezi Group, who volunteered her services to mentor youth-owned SMMEs. She owns Inkanyezi Poultry in the Gert Sibande District in Tjakastad. Her business evolved from selling 50 to 3 800 chickens in less than five years, and now supplies communities and retail stores.

Ms Dhludhu volunteered to provide virtual and practical mentorship to all poultry farmers in the province, particularly SMMEs, on how to run a poultry business. The 12-month mentorship programme will include poultry production management, poultry health and safety standards, slaughtering and packaging and market access. Young farmers welcomed the assistance from various government institutions that offered mentorship and assistance in growing their businesses.



Young poultry farmers who received government funding attending the mentorship engagement session.



Poultry farmers and owners of SMMEs attending the mentorship engagement session.

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Career expo motivates youth

By Esmarelda Mckay: GCIS, Western Cape

This year marked the 48th anniversary of the 16 June 1976 student uprising in Soweto, when young people protested against the Bantu Education Act of 1953, which enforced Afrikaans as a medium of instruction in schools to reinforce the oppressive apartheid laws. During their demonstrations, heavily armed police shot and killed a number of unarmed students. National Youth Day on 16 June, which is commemorated every year since 1994, honours their lives and many sacrifices.

The 1976 Soweto Uprising was a watershed moment in our nation's struggle for liberation. This year's commemoration of Youth Month, which was held under the theme: "Actively advancing socioeconomic gains of our democracy", was significant as it coincided with the celebration of 30 Years of Freedom.

Stakeholders, including the South African Police Service (SAPS), Department of Social Development (DSD), Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJCD) and Saldanha Bay Local Municipality, held a career expo at the local Thusong Service Centre in Hopefield on 14 June 2024. Since this small community has a high learner dropout rate, the expo aimed to motivate the youth to complete their higher education, which is essential for tertiary courses.

A follow-up programme will be with the Services Sector Education and Training Authority, which facilitates skills development through learning programmes such as learnerships, skills programmes, internships and other learning programmes.



TikTok influencer Franklyn Lotz giving a motivational speech to the youth.



Some of the stakeholders at the information desk.



Hopefield SAPS officer sharing information with the youth.



A GCIS official sharing information with the youth of Hopefield.



Representatives from the SAPS in Hopefield, DSD, GCIS, DoJCD and Saldanha Bay Local Municipality with some of the youth who attended the expo.