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PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Tourism Imbizo targets youth and women

By Tabita Ngqunge and Luyabona Mngeni: GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 24 June 2022, Tourism Deputy Minister Fish Mahlalela and Employment and Labour Deputy Minister Boitumelo Moloi engaged the community of Ginsberg, Qonce in the Eastern Cape, during a Tourism Imbizo held at the Steve Biko Centre.

Under the theme: “Promoting sustainable livelihoods and resilience of young people for a better tomorrow,” the event aimed to highlight skills development programmes and entrepreneurial opportunities offered by the tourism industry and government to empower women and youth.

The Tourism Imbizo also aimed to commemorate, inspire and uplift young people and women to pursue sustainable livelihoods through business ideas, innovation and government-led programmes that unlock opportunities and enable them to contribute meaningfully to their communities and the overall economy.

Stakeholders included the National Youth Development Agency, Small Enterprise Development Agency, Small Enterprise Finance Agency, National Empowerment Fund and Women in Tourism. They engaged the youth of Ginsberg on the economic empowerment opportunities available to help young entrepreneurs.

A young entrepreneur, Khanya Mxesibe, thanked the Culture, Arts, Tourism, Hospitality and Sport Sector Education and Training Authority for giving her the opportunity to be in their graduate programme.



Deputy Minister Mahlalela and Deputy Minister Moloi at the Tourism Imbizo.



Youth and women receiving information material from one of the exhibition stalls.



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COVID-19 vaccine registration details for 12-year-olds and above:

Online at:
<https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/#/>
Send the word **REGISTER** to 0600 123 456 on WhatsApp.
Via SMS by dialling *134*832#.
Call the COVID-19 hotline 0800 029 999.

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Agriculture Career Expo inspires learners

By Pulane Motsitsi: GCIS, Free State

On 22 July 2022, the Government Communication and Information System participated in the Agriculture Career Expo held at the Makholokeng Farmer Production Support Unit in Harrismith, Free State.

The purpose of the Expo was to encourage learners to perform optimally in school and inspire them to embrace agriculture, which is a fast-growing sector in South Africa that could help reduce socio-economic challenges such as unemployment and poverty.

The Vaal University of Technology, Mangosuthu University of Technology, University of South Africa, and Maluti Technical and Vocational Education and Training College provided information to the learners, mostly on all agricultural-related courses. They were also informed about all available bursaries that they can access to pursue the courses.

Public entities such as the Small Enterprise Development Agency and Agricultural Sector Education and Training Authority also showcased their services.

Various business enterprises specialising in distributing and providing agricultural products and services that also took part included Kganyeng Trading and Project CC, Demanche Heavenly Honey MCV and Fresh Farm

Eggs. Learners from different schools in the Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality had the opportunity to seek information regarding agriculture from all stakeholders at the Expo.

Addressing the event, the Executive Mayor of the Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality, Cllr Conny Msibi, motivated the learners to consider pursuing agricultural education and careers.

She said: “There is a wide variety of tasks to perform in agriculture such as becoming a veterinary nurse, similar to a nurse attending to humans but different in that the main focus is on attending to and treating animals.”

She encouraged girls to focus more on their education and become successful in life by considering a career in agriculture. For instance, some training courses can provide them with skills while they also receive a monthly stipend for the duration of the course.

The highlight of the Expo was when all the learners were given the chance to observe a practical learning experience on how to conduct an artificial insemination in cows, which fascinated most of them.



Learners from different schools in the Thabo Mofutsanyana District who attended the Agriculture Career Expo.



Joel Nkuna from Nkunzi Genetics (Pty) Ltd doing a practical demonstration of artificial insemination.



Tumelo Mofokeng said:

"I got to learn about the requirements of different universities and the tools we can utilise to improve our lives. I am going to use what I learnt to improve my life and deviate from bad actions in life."



Nobuhle Motloun said:

"I think the event was a good idea for us to learn many things and now I know what I want to become in my life."



Lethogonolo Menoe said:

“We were told that we have to take care of ourselves and report when bad things are happening to us. If we keep quiet nothing good will come out of it. So today, we know all these stakeholders that render services in our township that we can approach.”



Kabelo Gift Mogwase said:

“I came today to get information on how we as young men can change our lives for the better. There are organisations that mentor young boys to become good men. As boys, we should report our peers when they start bullying or abusing others to social workers. It is never good to keep quiet and think the problem will go away.”

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

“I Matter” campaign targets young men

By Tshidi Mokoka and Keoagile Rakgang: GCIS, Gauteng

The Kagiso Stakeholder Forum in the West Rand District of Gauteng hosted the “I Matter” campaign in Kagiso near Krugersdorp on 13 July 2022.

The campaign targets young men to address social issues affecting them and also seeks to reassure them of the important role they play in society.

Led by its chairperson Motlatsi Khumalo, the forum included various stakeholders that presented on various topics such as substance abuse, bullying, gangsterism, sexual offences, gender-based violence and unresolved traumas.

Khumalo said one of the reasons for holding the event “is because statistics are now showing that most men are going through emotional traumas and when those are not addressed they choose to close up and others end up committing suicide.”

Sergeant Nhlanhla Sithole from the Kagiso Police Station put a spotlight on the issue of crime by informing participants that most of the crimes reported at the police station are committed by men or young boys.

“As young boys, you are growing up to become men and we want you to end up as upstanding citizens with no criminal records. As the police, we have seen and arrested young boys who have committed heinous acts and are now in prison jailed for crimes they have committed,” she said.

She also cautioned them against joining gangs in schools or allowing peer pressure to influence them to commit crime as this can change their lives for the worst.

“Prisons are full of young men who thought they were clever and will never be caught when they do bad things. As stakeholders we want you to take all this information and use it because we are saying to you that you matter,” Sergeant Sithole concluded.

The most important message shared by stakeholders was that young boys living in toxic or abusive households should seek help and not let their circumstances determine their future.

Participants were informed of organisations such as Education of Hope, Lifeline and Teddy Bear Clinic whose mandate is to ensure children are safe from being exploited, bullied or pressured to join gangs.

Other organisations present included Big Sister Helping Hand, Centre for the Study of Violence and Reconciliation, Gender-Based Brigades from the Gauteng Department of Community Safety, Department of Health and many more.

The campaign ended with Education of Hope and other partners distributing dignity packs that included toiletries to participants.



Patrick Zulu from the Teddy Bear Clinic addressing participants about services rendered by the organisation to assist young boys.



Kgomotso Moseki said:

“Our police officers must work with us as members of this community and not protect criminals that normally run to the police station after committing crimes in communities.”



Diphetogo Morebodi said:

“Criminals are always trying to outsmart law enforcers, and technology can be successfully employed to fight crime in this municipality, and communities must join hands to have a crime-free society.”

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Ga-Segonyana Local Municipality hosts Crime Indaba

By Tebogo Monyo, GCIS, Northern Cape

The Ga-Segonyana Local Municipality in the Northern Cape hosted a Crime Indaba at the Thabo Moorosi Multipurpose Centre in Kuruman on 8 July 2022.

Driven by the Mayor, Cllr Neo Masegela, the initiative brought together crime-fighting stakeholders and communities to discuss the increasing scourge of crime in the areas falling under the local municipality.

The stakeholders at the Crime Indaba included the South African Police Service (SAPS), community policing forums (CPFs), the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, local business forums, private security companies and community members from different municipal wards.

Addressing the Crime Indaba, Cllr Masegela said the escalation of criminal activities in the areas, especially in Kuruman, was a serious concern for government.

He said the Crime Indaba was not another “talk-shop” and will have a concrete implementable plan of action within four months.

“Crime is a societal issue and all of us gathered here and elsewhere in our municipality must join hands to fight the increasing rate of crime in our communities,” he said.

Among other issues, community members expressed concern about insufficient police vehicles and police officers at local police stations, and also about some police officers who are alleged to be working actively with criminals, especially drugs peddlers.

They said the law must punish both the criminals and police officers who are found to be failing to execute their official responsibilities.

Brigadier Johnny Besnaar of the SAPS said communities must work with the police to fight crime through structures such as the CPFs.

He said the notion that crime is the responsibility of the SAPS alone must be changed as community members must be the eyes and ears of the police. “A joint venture must be strengthened by each police station and the communities serviced by such a police station,” Brigadier Besnaar said.

Members of the community mentioned that the Indaba was a good platform to engage with the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster of government through the coordination of the local municipality.



Mayor Masegela addressing the community at the Crime Indaba.



Members of Ga-Segonyana community who attended the Crime Indaba.