




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Career expo

By: Reki Skosana, GCIS, Mpumalanga.

In celebration of Mandela month, the Maphotla Youth Centre in Dr JS Moroka local municipality in partnership with other stakeholders arranged a career exhibition event in the Siyabusa Library on 2 July 2014. It was aimed at encouraging young people especially learners in high schools to make good and informed choices regarding furthering their studies.

Representatives from the Government Communication and Information System, the Department of Labour, South African Police Service, Siyabuswa Library, Mining Qualification Authority, the Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority, as well as the National Youth Development Agency attended the event to provide information on skills, education opportunities available in their institutions as well as bursaries.



Left: Learners watch an audio-visual presentation about the skills development opportunities available from merSETA.

Right: Learners get information from representatives of the Security Sector Education and Training Authority (Sasseta).

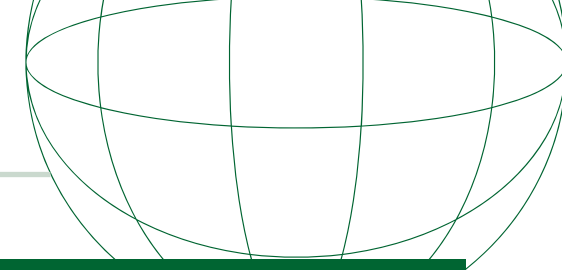
Matete Selepe said, "I benefited a lot from this project because of the information I have received. For example, based on the subjects I am doing, I was not sure about the tertiary educational courses I could choose from but now I know and am also aware that I can even do my tertiary application online."



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





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OUTCOME 2: A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS

Improvement in health services pleases community

By: Galaletsang Bosman, GCIS, Northern Cape.

Community members of Rooirand in Mataleng, Barkly West, in the Northern Cape province took part in a health dialogue on 28 May 2014, to highlight the successes of the Mataleng Clinic. The people at the meeting included government stakeholders and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) who addressed specific matters.

Julia Chihana of Eben Ezer home-based care, an NGO in the Northern Cape, underlined some of the evident changes at the clinic. She said significant renovations had been made to accommodate more people. "Things are no longer done as before. The queues are shorter and it is more orderly in the clinic," she said. According to Chihana, more facilities have been brought to the clinic to improve service delivery and the health centre as a whole.

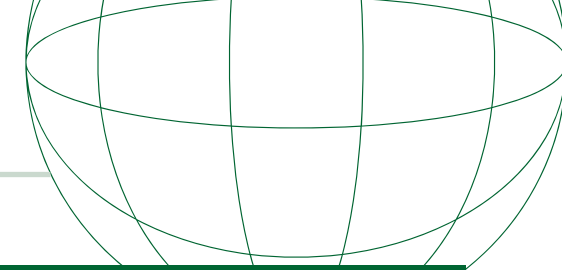
The Department of Health works hand-in-hand with local NGOs to improve the wellbeing of citizens. The department, through NGO Legatus, has employed home-based caregivers to assist in all private and public hospitals, including clinics. The clinic has managed to reduce the transmission of HIV from mother to child to zero. Since the introduction of anti-retroviral treatment for expectant mothers, more healthy babies have been born.

Members of the community, including beneficiaries of State services, expressed their acknowledgement of the developments implemented in the public clinic and were more than willing to communicate what government had done for them.



Community members in the Mataleng Clinic's waiting area.

Mapule Louw said, "I am very happy about this programme today. It was very useful. We have many challenges and often don't know how to address them. Our police are failing us. When we call them they tell us there are not vehicles. At one stage when reporting people trying to kill each other they told us it was not their business. We are very happy to have this programme."



OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Women empowering learners to make wise career decisions

By: Tlhoriso Virginia Tlhamo, GCIS, North West.

Two young women determined to give back to the community hosted a career expo at Mafikeng High School on 31 July 2014. Sedzani Netshitenzhe and Fulufhelo Ramulifho, founders of “Careers for a Powerful You” (C4U) help learners with the transition between leaving school and starting tertiary-level education as well as choosing the right career.

Managing director Fulufhelo Ramulifho holds a BCom Accounting degree, a diploma in advanced project management and a diploma in criminal justice, while chief operating officer Sedzani Netshitenzhe has a degree in information science. The objective of C4U is to create a platform for learners in townships and rural areas to gain access to opportunities, information resources and to encourage them to reach their full potential.

Various exhibitors and speakers at the expo encouraged learners to make quality career decisions, to aim high and obtain good marks. Ms Dolly Mangope, who is a life orientation specialist and career coordinator, emphasised the importance of attending career expos, pointing out that this helps learners identify their career interests and gain knowledge on the relevant institutions. “Until you know who you are, then you will know what to become,” she said, highlighting the importance of self-awareness.

The exhibition attracted numerous learners from schools in Mahikeng, among them Boitsanape Technical Secondary School, Maano Secondary School, and Lapologang and Barolong High School.

Expo exhibitors included Damelin, Tshwane University of Technology, the Sci-Bono Science Centre and the Wholesale and Retail Sector Education And Training Authority. EduLoan, which offers financial assistance to learners, Rosebank College, and the University of the Free State, whose representatives handed out application forms, were also there as well as the Media, Information and Communication Technologies Sector Education and Training Authority, which offered information on learnerships and internships.



Students attended to by various exhibitors.



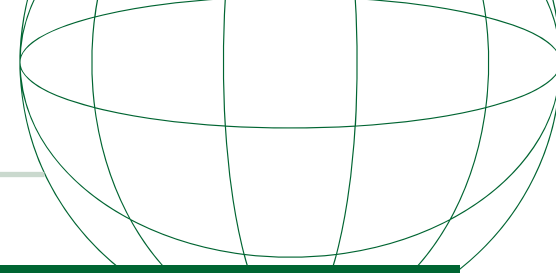
Students filling out forms.



Learners receive career information from exhibitors.



A life orientation specialist with learners of different high schools who attended the career expo.



OUTCOME 8: SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND AN IMPROVED QUALITY OF HOUSEHOLD LIFE

Residents of Sweethome extension now have electricity

By: *Reneilwe Moningi, GCIS, Limpopo.*

The residents of Sweethome/Sebotlane extension recently experienced the joy of having electricity for the first time, thanks to Blouberg Municipality and Eskom's focused programme to light up darkness everywhere.

A few years ago having electricity in the home was unthinkable for the people of this community, but on 17 June 2014 the residents of Sweethome and surrounding villages gathered to celebrate the switch-on of the project. Thirty families joined the rest of Sweethome village in enjoying the basic services that Blouberg Municipality delivered. The municipality has electrified 100% of its settlements and is currently focusing on extensions.

The old and young told stories aplenty about the good that electricity would bring to their lives such as operating small businesses that require refrigeration among other things.

Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Infrastructure Development Councillor Donald Ratladi said that the municipality called on residents to report criminal activities such as cable theft in their areas. He advised residents to buy electricity and warned against tampering with electricity meters (bridging) as offenders risked having their electricity disconnected and faced a fine of R5 000.

The symbolic electricity switch-on took place at the home of Pelma Mafala who is destitute. The municipality gave the family an electric kettle, stove and iron.



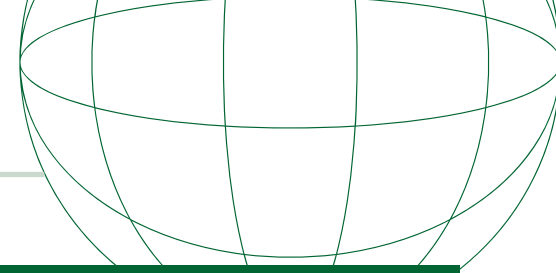
Kgabo Mashalane said,
"I'm very happy. I'm going to buy a TV now."



Clr Ratladi.



Ms Pelma Mafala said, "I'm happy for what the municipality has done for us; it has always been my wish to have electricity."



MEDIUM TERM STRATEGIC FRAMEWORK

This Medium Term Strategic Framework (MTSF) is Government's strategic plan for the 2014-2019 electoral term. It reflects the commitments made in the election manifesto of the governing party, including government's commitment to implement the National Development Plan (NDP). The MTSF sets out the actions government will take and targets to be achieved. It also provides a framework for the other plans of national, provincial and local government.

The aim of the MTSF is to ensure policy coherence, alignment and coordination across government plans as well as alignment with budgeting processes. It builds on the work done between 2009 and 2014, including our experiences and learning, and encompasses 14 specific and measurable outcomes.

The NDP is the overarching vision for South Africa; therefore it includes all key policy instruments developed in the previous term of government to drive its policy agenda. These include the New Growth Path, which sets the trajectory of economic development; the National Infrastructure Plan, which guides the roll-out of infrastructure to improve people's lives and enable economic growth; and the Industrial Policy Action Plan, which focuses on promoting investment and competitiveness in leading sectors and industries. Government will also prioritise key social development initiatives, including social security and retirement reform, National Health Insurance, improvements in basic education and expansion of technical and vocational education.

The next five years of government are critical given that the challenges facing our country are immense. The Twenty Year Review and the National Planning Commission's 2011 Diagnostic Report highlight that poverty, inequality and unemployment continue to negatively affect the lives of many people.

Following the nation's fifth democratic election President Jacob Zuma spoke of the second phase of our democratic transition. Now more than ever there is a need for bold and decisive steps to place the economy on a qualitatively different path that eliminates poverty, creates jobs and sustainable livelihoods, and substantially reduces inequality.



Minister Jeff Hadebe interacting with members of the media during the question and answer session.



Minister Jeff Hadebe during the Medium Term Strategic Framework briefing at the Department of Communications.