

2nd and 3rd Quarter Newsletter 2020

Due to the onset of Lockdown regulations instituted by the government we at the Business Chamber did our best to keep members informed of crucial information as it became available. We communicated regarding the UIF Covid Relief Scheme, updated lockdown regulations, avenues for bank funding, feeding scheme appeals, tips regarding return to work protocol, a letter from the Small Business Institute (SBI) to the President regarding the necessity of reopening the economy, insights from Stefan Cramer on the Karoo as a post Covid go-to destination¹, political insights from PJ Landman and more. We hope that you feel we supported you during this time.

¹https://www.heraldlive.co.za/weekend-post/your-weekend/2020-05-17-post-covid-karoo-a-powerhouse-in-the-making/?utm_medium=Social&utm_source=Facebook#Echobox=1589695013

Report from Chairperson Graaff Reinet Chamber of Commerce

Covid-19 Emergency Social Relief Report 16 April – 30 September 2020

Please find below a breakdown of food parcel distribution as well as PPE distribution to communities, churches, and schools between 16 April – 30 Sept 2020.

Food Parcel Distribution

Various (Grt, Nieu Bethesda & Aberdeen)	1252
Imibala Trust	3542
AOG Church	1500
Vuyani	<u>1300</u>
Grand total food parcels	7594 households (45564 persons)

PPE Distribution Totals; 340 lt Sanitizer, 735 Masks, 40 Shields, 3.5k Cleaning Materials

David's Uplift and Care Foundation was registered as a NPO for the purposes of assisting the needy during and after Covid-19. A homeless centre was established for a time and afterwards once the homeless were integrated with their families, food parcels were distributed at least once a month based on availability of parcels.

Next Step

The foundation intends to start giving homeless people and street children one or two meals per day with the aim of teaching them some gardening and other survival skills. Last week a proposal was presented to the Mayor and Special Projects office for approval to renovate a building and ground in town. We will keep members informed of the progress.

Newsletter 21st September 2020

GROWTH
 WEALTH
 HERITAGE
 SUPPORT

Graaff-Reinet Economic Development Forum News

The Graaff-Reinet Economic Development Forum (GEDF) has been very busy behind the scenes. There has been substantial communication between the Forum and the Municipality principally concerning 4 main issues:

Use of Drought Funding Monies

The government supplied 3 grants of R30m, R6m and R7m. The GEDF called for a response as to how this money has been utilised.

The Municipality states that the R30M was allocated 2 months prior to the end of the financial year. A request for a rollover of the unspent portion of R24M was granted. There is not yet sufficient clarity on what the funds have been spent on since 1 July. The GEDF has been provided with a report of a list of projects and expenditure per project. The Municipality believes it has been misrepresented by the Auditor General and in the media. Clarity is being sought. Should members wish to view the detailed report email Kim at marketing@graaffreinetbusiness.co.za.

Long-term Water Supply

A comprehensive research study has been completed into a R90M dam and a long term water supply strategy up to at least 2050. It provides information on options such as desilting the dam/ raising the dam wall/ a 2nd dam. The Dutch government, the Department of Water Affairs and a Dutch dredging company are involved in these discussions.

Should this dam model be successfully solved, the plan can be taken to many of the other South African dam sites.

Waste Management

In a response from the Municipality received last month, we are informed that Mr GW Hermanus has been appointed Director:Community Services with effect from 1 August. In the letter dated 14 September 2020, it states that there is a 3 month waste management plan taking effect, Oct to Dec. This involves bulldozing, proper access control measures, outsourcing where necessary, security improvements and better oversight overall at the Landfill site. We are informed this forms part of a general turnaround strategy of the Community Services Directorate.

Regeneration of the Town

There is an exciting project afoot which would involve a regeneration of the town's main library. This would involve the integration of an education centre allowing for the supply of computers. Wifi hot spots would be made available here and at other centres for high school learners to have greater access to technology.

In Conclusion, Derek Light, representing GEDF has requested a stakeholders meeting with Mayor Kekana of the Sarah Baartman District Municipality, the MEC of COGTA and Dr Beyers Naude Mayor, Deon de Vos. Issues to be looked at relate to public/private partnerships pertaining to the dam and a long term water supply plan. Areas of concern, namely, financial and budgetary issues, Waste Management, Eskom, Communication generally and ways to ignite revenue generation for the Municipality. This meeting is due to take place shortly.



You are Invited to our Year End Network Function for 2020!

Guest Speaker: Prof. Erwin Schwella

**Handelaars in Hoop: Sakemense as Welvaartskeppers in
Plaaslike Gemeenskappe/ Traders in Hope: Business People
as Wealth Creators in Local Communities**

Date: Thursday, 12 November 2020

Time: 18h00 start

Venue: KarooPark, 81 Caledon Street

Cost: R200 per member/representative

Only two representatives per company/ person.

Choice of Lamb/Chicken Potjie and Dessert.

Vegetarian option on Request.

Cash bar

Bookings: By Friday, 30th October or until fully booked.

RSVP Kim von Behr Imrie by Email:

marketing@graaffreinetbusiness.co.za

*Booking is essential. If you book and don't arrive
please note you will still be liable for payment.*

Payment: By EFT only. Investec Bank, account 500 111 963 55,
branch code 580 105. Reference: company/member
name

Please join us for a time of great Networking!

Brief Synopsis of Guest Speaker Professor Schwella



Erwin Schwella grew up in South Africa during the years of apartheid in South Africa and benefited from this system. His parents were first generation urbanised Afrikaners. His father worked as an artisan and committed trade unionist on the South African Railways who also served as a local government councillor for many years. His mother, an assistant nurse, mostly cared for the family in their lower middle class home where hard work and dedication was encouraged.

The values in his parental home were about the importance of work and to get the best education possible. After school he was conscripted into the Army. After a year as infantry junior leader he studied at Stellenbosch University. He completed degrees in law, sociology, public administration and a PhD in which he analysed the role of the media in the (lack) of public accountability in South African governance under apartheid.

After working in government he joined the University of Stellenbosch as a junior lecturer in 1981. During the 1980's he came under the impression of the real consequences of apartheid and an academic and activist critic of this system. During the 1990's he took part in the shaping of the new South Africa inside and outside South Africa forging new institutions for South African governance. He became a full professor at Stellenbosch in 1992 where he served a total of 44 years until taking emeritus status as the Professor of Public Leadership at the end of 2018. He is currently still the Professor of Public Leadership at the Law School of Tilburg University.

Since April 2019 he is the Dean of the School of Social Innovation at the School of Social Innovation at the Hugenote Kollege in Wellington, South Africa. In this capacity he is establishing and professionalising cutting edge social innovation thinking in South Africa to address the many complex adaptive challenges which are also referred to as “wicked” problems in South African society and which includes poverty, inequality and unemployment.

He served and still serves as an advisor to all spheres of South African governance and has consulted to international and national executives and governance institutions.

He is a well-known political analyst and commentator on South African governance and politics on South African media and has commented for global publications on South Africa.

Erwin Schwella is passionate about service delivery and hates bullies. He is driven by a search for justice and equity and professional service delivery. By nature he gets involved in entrepreneurial and innovative activities. He enjoys starting projects, working in networks and building institutions. He is by nature innovative and socially entrepreneurial.

Erwin Schwella loves good wine and good food and travelling to find these in exquisite settings in his own and other countries. Erwin Schwella also firmly believes in the faith based golden rule of doing unto others as you want done unto yourself.

Specialties

Leadership, Social Innovation, Public Governance, Policy-making and Analysis, Strategic Thinking, Institution Building, Organization Development, Change Management.

Erwin is one of the changemakers at CiviNovus a social business situated near Cape Town. Their purpose is “to make the world a better place by incubating, accelerating, leading and managing and consulting to emerging and established businesses”.

WE LOOK FORWARD TO THIS INTERESTING SPEAKER!