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Gogo Twala of Standerton at the handover ceremony of her new home

Home Sweet Home

Having a home of one's own is an impossible dream for many South Africans. When you are 106 years old, it would also be reasonable to expect that the dream was gone forever. However, in the case of Ms Gogo Thwala of Standerton, the dream has come true, even if it has taken more than a century to be realised.

Helping her achieve her dearest ambition was the 'SEDS Consortium', which is composed of SAB&T, Ernst & Young, Deloitte and SizweNtsaluba, four professional services firms who combined their financial resources to build the senior citizen a home.

"Members of the SEDS Consortium were all companies that assisted the Independent Electoral Commission in the recent local government elections," said Nazeer Essop, National Public Sector leader at Deloitte.

"Our participation in this special and humbling event was triggered at an IEC gala dinner at which President Zuma requested business people attending to consider sponsoring a house for one of two identified elderly women who voted in this year's local government elections."

"Members of the SEDS Consortium decided to take up the request and build the house. With the assistance of the local municipality who donated the land on which the house was built, Ms Thwala was able to realise her dream and take occupation of her dream home in Standerton today."

SEDS Consortium were all newcomers to the process of sponsoring housing, but agreed that the experience was worthwhile. "As professional people working in a major province like Gauteng, we tend to take our jobs, families and homes for granted. It is through an experience like this that you realise how privileged you are and how great South Africa's needs are. I was a privilege to take part in this

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Spotlight on...

Private sector expertise in the public sector could be a winning combination

Although the private sector is poised to help government with its efforts to deliver key services, its potential in the Public/Private Partnerships (PPP's) arena are being restricted by regulations that made it difficult for private initiatives to be accepted and launched within the public sector, said Nazeer Essop, the recently appointed Head of Public Sector at Deloitte.

"We need to take cognisance of some of the lessons that the private sector has learned from addressing challenges around job creation, service delivery, education and health," says Essop.

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Deloitte will play a key role in upskilling staff at municipalities

Deloitte Skills Development Solutions is one of a number of stakeholders from all sectors, among them the Department of Higher Education and Training, the National Skills Fund, National Treasury, the South African Institute of Chartered Accountants (SAICA), provincial treasuries and local government; who are involved in a R72 million project aimed at upskilling

event and witness the happiness it brought,” said Essop.

municipal financial staff.

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Insights

PPP's could lead the way in helping accelerate development in sub-Saharan Africa

Although the Public Sector in sub-Saharan Africa is increasingly realising the potential value that Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) offer to meet the challenges posed by infrastructure project development, several key areas have to be addressed if these potential relationships are to be effectively utilised for the benefit of citizens, says Deloitte.

Andre Pottas, Infrastructure Advisory and Debt Advisory leader at Deloitte for sub-Saharan Africa, says that across Southern, East and West Africa the advantages of PPPs are becoming more broadly accepted by government. The point has been reached, he says, in a number of administrations where dedicated PPP units are now operational or in the process of being formed.

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The realities of employment

Much has been said about creating jobs. Ministers, taking their cue from President Jacob Zuma, have made departmental affirmations and numerical commitments to job creation. The government plans to allocate R88,3bn over the next three years, the bulk of which will be in the Expanded Public Works Programme. There is a firm intention to create jobs and grow the economy, for which the government must be commended.

However, unemployment remains stubbornly high and jobs are being lost, not created. Statistics SA reflected unemployment rose to 25,7% between the first and second quarters this year, while the quarterly labour force survey showed unemployment rose to 4538-million in the same period. Among those younger than 30, unemployment is 42%.

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Global Thought Leadership

Getting unstuck: How to work As One in government

Getting big things done in government — launching new programs, implementing budget reductions or achieving difficult agency missions — requires effective collaboration. Before committing to a significant, transformational initiative, leaders should understand the culture of the agency or agencies involved. As One is a systematic approach to collective leadership described in the book of the same name by Mehrdad Baghai and James Quigley. The As One approach provides a rigorous toolkit for leaders seeking to achieve this understanding, and to achieve the desired results by transforming individual action into collective power, inside the organization and with external partners.

How do you get the members of your organization to act As One? The key lies in knowing the applicable questions to ask about employees; finding the answers to those questions; and using this knowledge to shape your strategy.

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Technology Trends 2011: The natural convergence of business and IT

Deloitte's Technology Trends 2011: A Federal perspective report provides government leaders with a fresh look at the top ten technology trends that will shape how they will do business and deliver on their mission. While it is written from the perspective of the CIO, it will also inform agency leaders on new possibilities to apply technology to address new and persistent challenges and adapt leading practices from industry for greater efficiency, performance, and innovation.

Woven through many of the trends is the growing convergence of cloud, social and mobile computing, analytics and cyber intelligence - fundamentally changing how information is accessed and used in mission delivery, operations support, and decision-making. The focus is less on the mechanics of technology. The mentality of "there's an app for that" captures the essence of this change, engaging users wherever and whenever they choose. At the end of the day, it's the mission that matters. The Federal government is paving new pathways to help agencies adopt new technologies and make better use of them. Momentum is building.

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