




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP

DoC embarks on an outreach programme

By: Thenjiwe Konono: DoC, Northern Cape

Earlier this month, the Department of Communications (DoC) and other stakeholders embarked on an outreach initiative in Lowryville, Colesberg to mobilise the community to attend the live viewing of the State of the Nation Address (SoNA) that took place on 12 February.

The community also benefited from services that were rendered by the DoC, departments of education and social development, Legal Aid South Africa, Partner Sexual Health and the Independent Electoral Commission. Some of these services are only accessible in De Aar, which is 150 km away.

The initiative was preceded by a series of community outreach activities in the form of roads and taxi rank activations.



Citizens accessing government services.



A DoC official sharing information with the public.



The Provincial Chief of Transport engaging with a motorist during the distribution of SoNA pamphlets.





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OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Children learn new skills

By: Nomzamo Zondi: DoC, KwaZulu-Natal

The Ugu District Municipality partnered with underwear brand, Jockey, to improve the lives of underprivileged young people by hosting an initiative called Let's Play Jockey Schools Skills Challenge. This initiative aims to compliment the physical education component of the school curriculum and to reinstate a sense of confidence and self-esteem among learners.

The initiative, which was attended by over 2 000 children, took place at the Ugu Sports and Leisure Centre on 18 February 2015. About 10 schools took part in a sustainable programme where they were taught about different sporting activities. Jockey brand ambassador, Amanda Dlamini, motivated the youth to dream big in life. "I was taught to be humble and to respect the elderly. And though I was from a rural area in Harding, it did not stop me from dreaming to become a star," she said. The Amanda Dlamini Girls Foundation will set up a programme in Ezinqoleni Local Municipality which will serve as a skills centre for young girls.

"We appreciate such partnerships and initiatives and thanks to all the partners. This speaks to the millennium development goals of global partnerships to develop our world and address challenging issues," said the Deputy Mayor of Ugu District, Mondli Chiliza.

This project is in line with the Department of Basic Education's goal to get all children active at school and has been endorsed by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Basic Education MEC, Neliswa Peggy Nkonyeni. The initiative consisted of six skills that appealed to both boys and girls from grades one to seven.



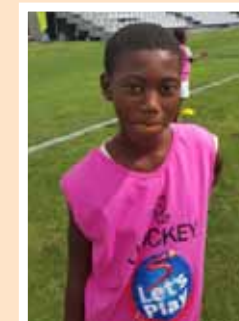
Amanda Dlamini shares a moment with the children at the event.



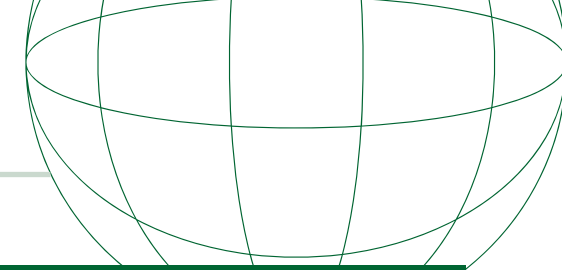
Dignitaries who attended the event.



Sabelo Mavundla said:
"We played soccer doing different tricks and also used the skipping rope. Sports help us to stay away from drugs. When I grow up I want to play soccer like Lehlohonolo Majoro."



Anele Danca said:
"We played soccer. It is important to play because it makes our bodies strong. I love athletics. I want to be a doctor when I finish school."



Duane Banes said:

“This year I will be finishing school and I have always wanted to be in the army. This event has clarified exactly what I want to be in the defence force, an air force pilot. I managed to get the information and application forms.”



Annah Gerejane said:

“I am here with my family so that they can see and know our President. Some of my grandchildren have come from as far as Bloemfontein so that they can also benefit from the exhibitions and opportunities in the SANDF.”



Tumi Sebaka said:

“I have always loved animals but I have never been this close to a horse. Thanks to this event I can follow my dream of becoming an animal doctor.”

OUTCOME 3: ALL PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE AND FEEL SAFE

North West celebrates Armed Forces Day

By: Xolani Mndaweni: DoC, North West

The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) celebrated Armed Forces Day on 21 February 2015 with the community of Tlokwe and surrounding areas. President Jacob Zuma was the main functionary at the event. The streets of Tlokwe came to a standstill as citizens took time out to view a mass flypast by the South African Air Force, medal presentations, street parade and career exhibition. The event was aimed at honouring the men and women in uniform who selflessly serve the nation. The people of North West came to witness these men and women parade in the streets of Potchefstroom. President Zuma said, “Our defence force performs well both inside the country, and externally in support of the country’s foreign policy. Here at home, our men and women in uniform continue to inspire our nation through providing the much needed assistance and support in communities that are faced with natural disasters.”

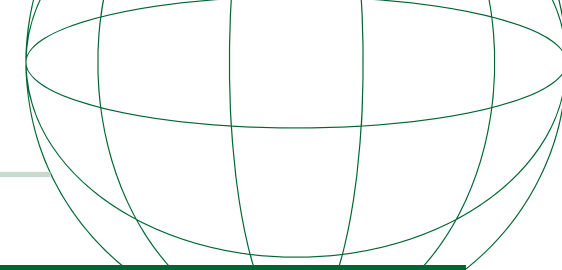
The build-up activities took place between 18 and 21 February 2015 at the town’s Trim Park, which hosted career exhibitions and a number of displays of military skills, including paratrooper’s free-fall, quad bikes, dogs and drills ranging from precision to officer’s sword drills. There were various static displays of aircraft and simulators; and even disadvantaged children got to be flown in the SANDF helicopter for free. An excited Pule Moeng said, “I never thought I would ever fly in my life. I am very grateful for the opportunity.”



Left: Learners from local schools in Potchefstroom take off in the SANDF aircraft. Right: President Jacob Zuma watches closely as the SANDF conducts the street parade in Potchefstroom.



Community members also accessed health services during the Armed Forces Day celebration.



Medic Modiko said:

“We at the SANDF have shared with citizens information about different sections and occupations in the army such as medics, navy, army, and air force. We are happy that we have achieved this objective. As the President has said, we are here to serve and protect the citizens and borders of South Africa.”



Moses Lephadi said:

“We are very happy that government brought this event to us. We never experienced such in the past. Through these campaigns our children can access job opportunities in the SANDF.”



Betty said:

“I am very humbled by the level of service delivery that I witnessed today. We have seen, touched, learnt and experienced many developmental opportunities through this event. Government, keep up the good work!”

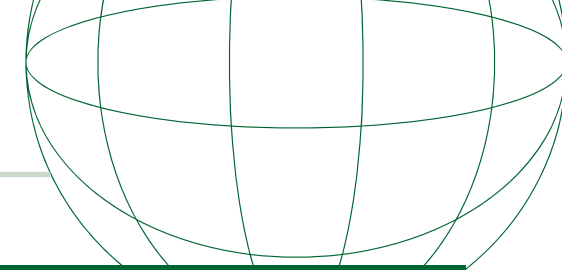
OUTCOME 3: ALL PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE AND FEEL SAFE



Flypast and street parades during the Armed Forces Day celebration in Potchefstroom.



Young and old civilians enjoying the static exhibitions under the watchful eye of the armed forces.



OUTCOME I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Gauteng learners celebrate the Safer Internet Day (SID)

By: Lebohang Mhlongo: DoC, Gauteng

Students from 10 schools in Gauteng were invited to celebrate the 12th anniversary of the SID held at the Ster Kinekor offices in Sandton on 10 February 2015. The Film and Publication Board (FPB) also launched its Back-2-School campaign during the celebration. The campaign focused on educating over 100 learners and 10 educators through inclusive workshops and presentations that highlighted the importance of cyber safety in five categories including social media, mobile technologies and films and publications.

This year's SID was celebrated with schools from Kenya, Nigeria and Senegal under the theme "Let's create a better Internet together". Melisa Dobrovic, Assistant Manager of Classification and Registration at FPB, used the opportunity to encourage parents and caregivers to also play a role in ensuring that children are safe when using the Internet. "At the end of the day it is all about ensuring that children are not prematurely exposed to harmful material," she said.

During a movie screening, learners were afforded an opportunity to understand how the FPB content classification process worked, through a practical exercise. "The FPB oversees the content that comes into the country, however, we are not here as a censorship board or to enforce terrible regulations, but rather to actually inform and assist South Africa as a society and country. This exercise was a way of making learners understand that classification is not science and that the measures put in place by the FPB are for their own protection. We all need to work together to ensure that there are regulations and that not anything and everything is aired out to the public. Always remember that children's safety comes first," concluded Dobrovic.

Chante Du Pree, Dian, Lakar Reddy and Manezi Jiya were thankful for the opportunity to learn about Internet safety. Du Pree advised her peers, "If you are not careful on the Internet it could, for years, have a negative impact on your life. You could find it hard to get into college, to get a job or even worse, you can get bullied. It is an extremely important factor and should be respected, do not rebel or post half-naked photos on the Internet because you will not benefit from doing that." Partners in the campaign included Childline SA, departments of communications, telecommunications and postal services, and education, Digital You, Google SA, Media Monitoring Africa, MXit, Parent's Corner, the UNISA Youth Research Unit and SaveTNet.



Lebohang Mhlongo interviewing Chanta Du Pree.



Lebohang Mhlongo interviewing Melisa Dobrovic from the FPB at the launch of the Back-2-School campaign.



Over 100 learners attended the event at the Ster Kinekor offices in Sandton.



Learners engaging with organisers of the event during the presentations and workshops.

