




# MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

### Minister visits Mthatha's King Sabata Dalindyebo (KSD) Municipality

By Vuyani Sibene: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Minister Jeff Radebe delivered a speech during the Imbizo held at the Community of OR Tambo Hall.

Minister in The Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation and Chairperson of the National Planning Commission (NPC), Jeff Radebe, went on a two-day monitoring visit to the KSD Municipality in Mthatha on 24 June 2016.

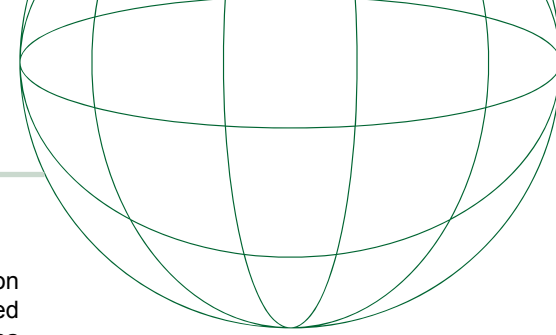
The Minister's first activity was a youth dialogue on the National Development Plan and it included more than 100 young people from different areas within Mthatha. In response to the many challenges raised by the youth during the dialogue, the Minister committed to assist the youth with access to skills, education and economic opportunities.

"I am pleased to know that young people in KSD have started a vegetable growers' association, which will propel the growth of the agricultural industry in this area," said Minister Radebe.



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The second activity included site visits by the Minister to check progress on the implementation of the KSD Presidential Intervention infrastructure programme. The places that the Minister visited included Sidwadwa Substation, the Ngqeleni R61 turn-off road interchange construction, Mthatha Waste Water Treatment Works, Maydene Farm Human Settlement, the refurbished Mthatha Airport and Mthatha Dam. The projected expenditure for these projects was R5 billion and the estimated expenditure on all completed projects is around R3.7 billion with projects currently in implementation stages estimated to amount to approximately R2.2 billion.

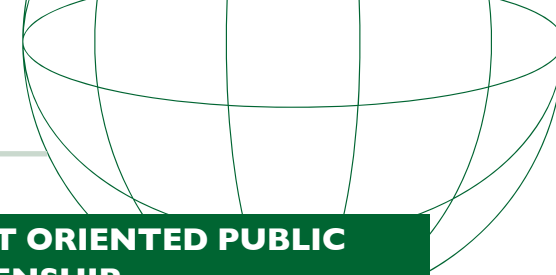
Minister Radebe was joined by the mayors of the O.R. Tambo District Municipality and the KSD Local Municipality, Cllr Nomakhosazana Meth and Cllr Nonkoliso Ngqongwa. The Minister was briefed on the progress and job opportunities created at the sites that he visited. He also had the opportunity to interact with a number of staff at the various facilities.

In concluding his visit, Minister Radebe hosted an Imbizo at O. R Tambo Hall in Southernwood where he interacted with community members who raised various issues affecting them such as unemployment and access to opportunities for people with disabilities.

“I am excited and pleased about the progress made thus far on the infrastructure projects of the KSD Presidential Initiative, more over the jobs created over the five-year period. I will come back to the area to monitor and evaluate further implementation of the remaining Presidential Intervention projects,” the Minister stated.



**Young people attending a dialogue that took place at Garden Court, Mthatha.**



**Thato Makadu said:**

“I found out about the event at school. I was told the dialogue would assist us in many ways. As a student, I took the courage to come through to get bursary information. From this event, I picked up that people in the Northern Cape have talent but it is not recognised. I learned that as young people we need to take the initiative to find information and use it and not expect things to come on a silver platter. Government should just be there to assist.”



**Obakeng Kepadisa said:**

“I play basketball for the provincial team here at Mayibuye. I saw the poster about the event here in the premises. The youth have social, business and educational challenges. I attended the event to hear what young people were thinking, what they had to say and what solutions they had. I am taking home with me a lot of information. Some of my questions were answered today. This was a very important programme. If a programme like this can reach more people, many people would be assisted.”

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

**MEC gives hope to young people**

*By Masego Motshidisi: GCIS, Northern Cape*



**Young people from Galeshewe and surrounding areas at the dialogue in Kimberley.**



**MEC Mbinqo-Gigaba addressing the audience.**



**Cultural group, Dithuto tsa Ngwao, entertaining the audience.**

The MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture in the Northern Cape, Bongiwé Mbinqo-Gigaba, advised young people at a dialogue aimed at empowering them to follow a path that will actually take them somewhere in life.

MEC Mbinqo-Gigaba was speaking as part of the panel during a youth dialogue that encouraged learning, skills development and entrepreneurship in Kimberley on 28 June 2016.

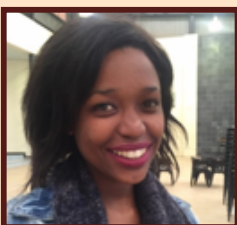
She said the province had low literacy levels and that “people with no education or jobs were bound to be hungry and only education would open doors for them.”

The Provincial Secretary of the National Association of School Governing Bodies Andile Vika as well as members of the Sol Plaatje University’s Student Representative Council Solomon Motsumi and Thabang Ramaele also formed part of the panel.

Vika said young people ought to yearn for growth and wisdom. He urged them to relay the message of leading properly and owning and protecting schools.

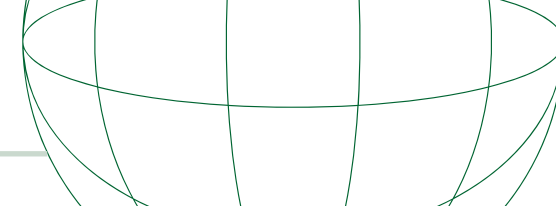
Issues raised during the event included the need for free education, financial aid, access to theatres and multipurpose centres, career guidance, self-empowerment and regular communication programmes.

The MEC committed to look into some of the issues highlighted by the youth. Stakeholders in government, business and training exhibited their relevant programmes and shared vital information.



**Kopano Mooketsi said:**

“I attended a youth camp in 2014 where I was voted national leader of the group. Part of our duties are to participate in such events. I recently went to the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture where I was informed about the event. I find it interesting to participate in youth dialogues. We do not get such opportunities to discuss issues. As a young person I know how it feels to struggle for education. I had to take a gap year in my studies due to financial challenges. There are opportunities in our country. We have to work hard, open our minds and grow.”



**Kgaugelo Maponya said:**

“Our company releases stress from people. We are based in Tzaneen in the Mopani District Municipality. The youth needs to be innovative and do something that will be remembered by the country. We have received R60 000 from the NYDA.”



**Makheda Khoza said:**

“Before the NYDA gave us support it looked like a dream but now our dream is respected our company is doing well producing marula oil and juice across the entire province. The province even set a calendar day called the Marula Festival as way of commemorating the idea of cooperations such as our Marula Cooperative.”



**Jerry Shirinda said:**

“The NYDA is ready to bring services closer to the people so if your are a group of youth that is in need of our services, just call us and we will come and attend to you at your doorstep.”

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**NYDA opens new branch in Limpopo**

*By Doctrine Netshikweta: GCIS, Limpopo*



**King Toni Mphephu Ramabulana officially cutting the ribbon at the new NYDA offices in Thulamela with Mayor Mahosi, NYDA CEO Khathu Ramukumba and Thovhele Vho-Gole Mphaphuli.**



**The King and his Thovheles at new NYDA offices in Thohoyandou.**



**The youth enjoyed interacting with the King.**

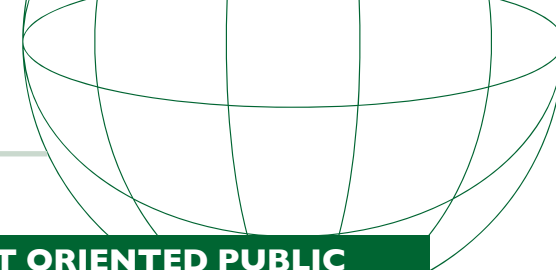
Vhembe youths together with their traditional leadership, led by King Mphephu Ramabulana, were delighted when the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) opened a new office in Thohoyandou. This launch of the NYDA Thulamela branch is one of the many ways in which the agency is expanding its footprint and ensuring accessibility to development for the rural youth of Limpopo.

The King, who is known for promoting the culture of learning among young people, urged the youth to use the office for the benefit of the country and to solve skills development challenges. “South Africa needs dedicated and skilful youth. Use the office to fight dependency and become economically independent. The NYDA is here on the ground to educate the youth to be independent and able to create more jobs for themselves and others. The country is ready to support developing entrepreneurs and the NYDA is here for the youth. Let’s use the NYDA office to better the country’s economy and fight the scourge of poverty within the country,” said King Mphephu Ramabulana.

According to him, the NYDA office will empower the youth and change their attitude of dependency. An independent state of mind, he believes, will help the youth to have more guts and defend the country’s democracy.

The Managing Director of Marula Cooperative, Makheda Khoza, agrees with the King adding that the NYDA made her dreams come true. Her company received financial support worth R2 million from the agency. Makheda, who is based in Thohoyandou, said since receiving support from the NYDA, her staff’s mindsets have changed and they are now focusing on the development of the country’s economy. Young people who run companies were beyond excited by the support they got from the NYDA. Kgaugelo Maponya of Devine Glamour Spa revealed that she is now a busy business woman since the NYDA provided her with R60 000 for her massaging company. According to Maponya, her company assists in alleviating stress from the people.

Jerry Shirinda, the office manager of the Thulamela NYDA offices in Vhembe, warned the youth not to spend the little that they have by traveling to his office. He urged the youth to organise themselves in a group, invite the office to their locations and the NYDA will go to them. The Thohoyandou landline telephone number is 010 593 1927.



**Ethel Siphila said:**

“I am very happy to receive the package of gifts such as blankets because of the cold storms of winter in the province. I am very happy and I want to say that we are grateful for the services that the Deputy Minister is rendering to our people. I want to request her to continue to serve us. We will continue to support our government. *Aphinde abuye u-Deputy Minister.*”



**Nokuthula Mpongo said:**

“I want to thank the Deputy Minister for visiting us. What she is doing here is good. We are also happy for the blankets that she donated to old citizens and the pampering we received. It is really a good thing to see our children serving us with love. We are very proud of what the Deputy Minister did today. The old people are smiling and we are all happy.”

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**Deputy Minister reaches out to senior citizens**

*By Sikelela Zokufa: GCIS, Western Cape*



Christmas came early for 200 elderly people when the Deputy Minister of Communications, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, presented blankets and agricultural supplies at the KTC Community Hall on 13 July 2016.

In addition to the festivities, the young ladies who were visited by the Deputy Minister and her team in April 2016 during the launch of the Online Video Editing programme contributed their 67 minutes to massage and keep the elders refreshed.

The Deputy Minister first visited three houses in the area where she spoke to senior citizens about the progress made by their government and presented them with special gifts such as blankets.

She urged the people to stick with government through thick and thin. “We are 22 years in government. A lot has been achieved and there is still a lot more to be done. Vote for a party that liberated you. Never be confused by people who have no track record in government. Trust the party of Nelson Mandela who sacrificed himself for the benefit of all,” she said.

Deputy Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams spoke to thunderous applause as she rounded up her speech, urging the people to never divorce government. She told the people that government loves them and will never disappoint them.

A jubilant community resident, Nokuthula Mpongo, said she was happy to be one of the recipients of the presents.

After the speeches, food was served and the senior citizens left the event thoroughly satisfied.