




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Police service engages Bohlokong community

By Ntombi Mhlambi: GCIS, Free State



SAPS members addressing and interacting with the community of Bohlokong.



The community of Bohlokong listening to SAPS's address.

The Bethlehem South African Police Service (SAPS) Station Commander Brigadier Mbeloane held an Imbizo on the community of Bohlokong next to Giyane Satellite Police Station on 1 October 2015. Community members and leaders from various political parties attended the event.

The aim of the Imbizo was to clarify rumours that Bohlokong Satellite Police Station was about to close.

Community members were given an opportunity to raise their concerns and make inputs regarding policing in the community. Community Policing Forum members also addressed community members at the event.



Mafeka said:

"I am proud of the Bethlehem SAPS for communicating to us residents on the rumours of the closure of the only satellite police station in our area. It shows that government cares."



government
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OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Government empowers community project

By Vuyisile Cindi: GCIS, Mpumalanga

More than 50 members of the furniture project in Grasskop are now able to provide for their families, thanks to the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). The programme is aimed at creating sustainable job opportunities. Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa visited the project on 2 October 2015. He was accompanied by Public Works Minister Thulas Nxesi, Deputy Minister Jeremy Cronin and Mpumalanga Acting Premier Vusi Shongwe. The project supplies various schools in the country with low-cost desks and other wooden furniture such as coffins to members of the community.



Deputy President Ramaphosa and Minister Nxesi impressed by the quality of the material used by the furniture-making project.



Minister Nxesi and Deputy President Ramaphosa sharing old-school memories while testing a newly-built school desk.

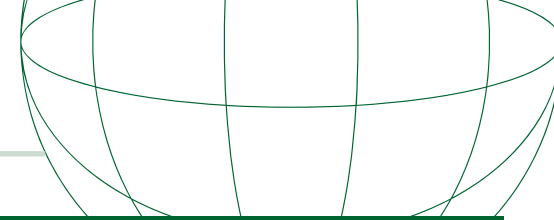


Project members hard at work showcasing an equipment received from government.



Nomusa Simelane said:

“The programme has given me skills and knowledge to understand the importance of regulating moisture to produce high-quality products.”



Minister Muthambi giving a keynote address.



Yvonne Olyn said:

“I am very grateful that the Minister came to Keimoes. Today we have hope after the Minister’s visit. We are waiting for her to come back as promised.”



Nothemba Duplessis said:

“The event was good and beneficial. I did not know anything about digital migration but now I do and I can assist the elderly to apply where I stay in Warmsant.”

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

Minister takes services to the people

By Esmarelda Mckay: GCIS, Northern Cape

South Africa is migrating from analogue to digital television, which comes with many benefits for viewers such as clear picture quality and more channels. The Minister of Communications, Faith Muthambi, launched the registration drive in Keimoes. The town was identified because of its location within the Square Kilometre Array area.

The community of Keimoes witnessed as Maria Mathys became the first South African to apply for a set-top box (STB). The community was educated on how the process will work and why the switchover is necessary.

Minister Muthambi said that digital migration will come with many benefits, which include economic agenda that will see the development of electronic manufacturing industry and local content production due to increasing television channels. “With digital migration, we are going see local content such as the traditional dancers who entertained us today,” she said.

The Minister also said that it is government’s responsibility to ensure that its citizens receive television services without interruptions. She said Keimoes is lucky to be part of the launch. Minister Muthambi also promised to return to Keimoes to ensure that the community receives STBs.

The event was attended by partners in the implementation of the programme such as the South African Post Office and Sentech.

GCIS Northern Cape Provincial Director, Marius Nagel, committed his office to awareness campaigns to ensure that communities visit the Post Office to register. Minister Muthambi conducted a door-to-door visit to engage with some of the people who registered during the launch.



Maria Mathys of Keimoes (seated) was the first resident to register for an STB application in the Kai Garib Municipality.



Community members listening to Minister Muthambi’s address.



An official from the Post Office assisting a community member with the application.



Kala Olyn said: “I am very happy with digital migration. You see, we are very poor in this area and people are struggling, so this free decoder will help a lot.”



OUTCOME 14: A DIVERSE, SOCIALLY COHESIVE SOCIETY WITH A COMMON NATIONAL IDENTITY

Deputy President calls for initiation-school transformation

By Odas Ngobeni: GCS, Limpopo



Young children from Zebediela rendering poems praising the provincial government leadership and accentuating the “We are Africa” message.



Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa delivering a keynote address.



Arts and Culture Minister Nathi Mthethwa directing the programme.



A multi-cultural group performing at the event.

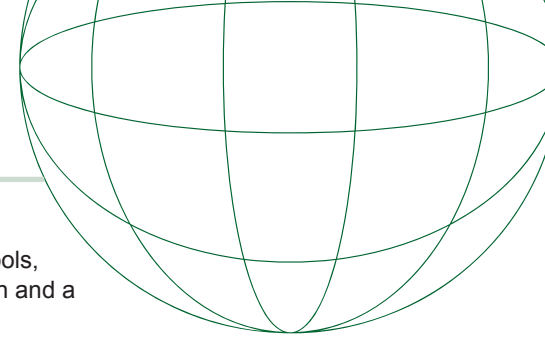
Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa has said that initiation schools must be sanctioned by community leaders and must meet health requirements to avoid deaths as a result of botched circumcisions.

He was speaking to thousands of people gathered for the National Heritage Day celebrations at the Ramokgopa Stadium, Mokomene village in Limpopo. He said that initiation schools have for generations been an important part of people’s culture.

“Young men and women are taught skills to look after families, to adjudicate where there are problems and conduct themselves as respectable adults within society. Yet we are confronted by a new challenge of young men who die, are maimed as a result of botched circumcisions.

“All circumcision schools must be sanctioned by community leaders and must meet health requirements. Those who want to oversee circumcision practices must be commissioned by the community before opening the schools,” he said.

The Deputy President said initiation schools must be transformed to become real cultural schools and could be used in the fight against HIV and AIDS. “We can use initiation schools to teach young people about acceptable sexual behaviour and the prevention of HIV transmission. Initiation schools have a role to play in discouraging young people from following a life of crime, of violence, alcohol and drug abuse.



People came in their numbers, showcasing different traditional outfits.

“These must be cultural schools that reaffirm positive social values. We must transform those schools, so that they become centres of learning, learning of culture, learning of growing up as a young man and a young woman. They should learn new values,” he continued.

Deputy President Ramaphosa called on communities to preserve indigenous knowledge by creating opportunities for senior citizens to impart this knowledge, saying senior citizens are living human treasures and that we have a duty to ensure that their knowledge is preserved for future generations. He also urged communities to use their indigenous skills to fight poverty.

The Deputy President said the building industry need to begin a process of registering indigenous building methods as an officially recognised trade.

He also encouraged community members to understand and embrace their indigenous cultural traditions and use them to foster social cohesion, national unity and pride. “What we saw earlier, the diversity that was at play when the Tsonga women were dancing, and we had a white woman dressed in Tsonga regalia, dancing with them, is precisely what we want to see happening in our country,” he said.

The Deputy President also called on communities to learn the African Anthem, saying “it is the anthem that all of us must learn. We must learn that anthem because it talks about our being. It talks about who we are. It relates where we come from. It talks about the struggles that we all engaged in to get to where we are, and it talks about the origins of humanity – that our continent is a continent of humanity,” he concluded.



Different cultural groups performing for the audience.