



PRE SONA TAXI ACTIVATION WITH A DIFFERENCE

By Ndyebo Kopo: GCIS, Eastern Cape

Government Communications (GCIS) in partnership with Alfred Nzo District Municipality, Ntabankulu Local Municipality, Department of Health and the Community Development Workers facilitated a taxi rank activation as part of awareness creation and also ensured that government services are brought to where people are. This was a pre SoNA taxi rank activation held in Ntabankulu Taxi Rank on Monday, 30 January 2017 which is part of a nationwide Government Communications (GCIS) campaign to promote, create awareness and generate interest about the upcoming State of the Nation Address of the President on 09 February 2017.

The activation also created an opportunity for the residents to interface with their government about what they thought need to be addressed in as far as service delivery is concerned. Ntabankulu residence showed a great deal of interest in expressing their appreciation and daily challenges with respect to access to some of government services. During this activation residents accessed government information products and some of primary health care related services from the Department of Health.

Songezo Hlengisa who is originally from Matatiele but works in Ntabankulu had this to say, "Government needs to address the matter of fees must fall and job creation. The reason why I am here and doing the job that I am doing is because of the fact that I dropped out of university due to affordability reason".

Although other people were not happy about various issues of services delivery in their areas but they were in appreciation of the information and services received on the day, more especially the health services provided on the day. Officials from the Department of Health were on site and provided services such as, blood pressure testing, HIV and TB testing and diabetes testing.



Vox Pops:

Name of Respondent: Nonceba Mfuzo, Mvenyane village, Ntabankulu

Direct Quotation: “ In my village we are in need of water and proper road infrastructure. I would be very happy if the President can address such in his speech. I am also appealing to the local leaders to intervene in this matter”.



Name of Respondent: Nogwaba, Mnceba village, Ntabankulu

Direct Quotation: “ There are three things that I would like the President and government to address, it is the high rate of unemployment, access to bursaries for our children and fixing the road infrastructure in rural areas”.



Name of Respondent: Nomatolo Fayeni, Bhakubha village, Ntabankulu

Direct Quotation: “ I would like to say I am grateful because in my village we have access to clean running water and to electricity”



Name of Respondent: Songezo Hlengisa, Ezinyosini village, Matatiele

Direct Quotation: “I would like the President to seriously come up with tangible programmes to create employment, there are many young people that are unemployed and some with qualifications. The other thing that the President should address in his speech is, fees must fall matter”.

