



MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 10 / March 2016

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OUTCOME 8: SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND AN IMPROVED QUALITY OF HOUSEHOLD LIFE

Community to benefit from electrification programme

By Ndyebo Kopo: GCIS, Eastern Cape

Ntabankulu community got relief from a R9.4 million commitment made by Deputy Minister of Energy, Thembisile Majola.

The money is a bridging finance towards electrification programme in Ntabankulu Local Municipality, ward 17 area in particular, which consists of Lundzwana, Mbhongweni, Mkhomanzi, Bhisa, KwaNtuli, Dedelo, Luncedweni and Buhlambo villages.

Accompanied by the Mayor of Ntabankulu Municipality, Vusi Mgoduka, on 6 March 2016, the Deputy Minister visited ward 17, eMbhongweni village.

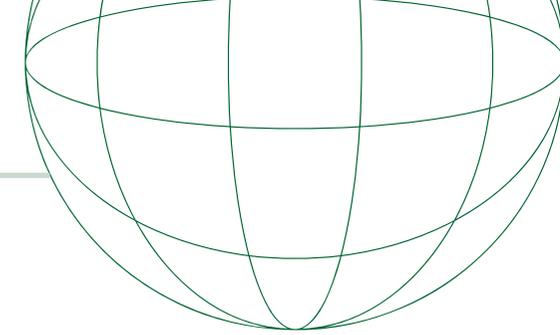
The Deputy Minister came to provide feedback on the issues that community members raised in her last visit in June 2015. "When we first visited this area in 2014, we realised the immensity of the need and committed ourselves to working with Ntabankulu Local Municipality to ensure that we contribute our bit towards addressing the electricity backlog. This was followed up by a subsequent visit last year. We want you to be mindful that it is not only ward 17 in Ntabankulu that has this challenge, there are other areas across South Africa that are in this similar situation."

The community members raised all sorts of dissatisfactions and voiced their frustration with respect to the slow pace of electrification in their ward. Mayor Mgoduka explained the difficulties associated with funding, rural nature of the area of Ntabankulu which translates to high costs for electrification and due to this, the municipality took a decision to start with areas that are close to the electrification lines because there are no sub stations.



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The Mayor clarified to the community that some areas are electrified by Eskom and others by the municipality.

He also outlined that the municipality would start all the necessary processes and start the electrification process after four weeks in KwaNtuli and Mbhongweni villages because according to their budgetary projections, they need about R10 million for both areas. Other areas will be prioritised in the allocation that will be received from the Department of Energy in the new financial year.



Community members listening to Deputy Minister Majola.





Akhona Nene said:

“The Deputy Minister told us to take care of ourselves and to take serious responsibility for our education to ensure a brighter future. I am very happy to receive school shoes from the Deputy Minister. I wish that government can improve the condition of our school more especially the fence, more classes, security, and furniture.”



Nhlakanipho Khumalo said:

“We were told to study hard and also switch focus to careers within the Department of Transport since there are a lot of bursaries that can help us to build successful careers. I have learned that drinking alcohol and taking drugs can destroy our future. I wish government can add more computers in our school. I also wish that government can get us school transport or bicycles because we travel long distances to get to school and sometimes we are late for classes.”



Nombuso Ntombela said:

“I was absolutely overwhelmed to receive school shoes, grocery and blanket and of course to be recognised by the Deputy Minister as the learners of Ekucabangeni. I have learned about numerous careers relating to transport and that there are also bursaries available for us if we can pass our Grade 12. I wish government can assist us with construction of roads and help us with tap water.”



Alies Khanyile said:

“We were told to take charge of education of our kids by supporting them. We were also told to register to vote for the upcoming local government elections. I wish government can build proper roads because we walk a long distance to the clinic. I am happy about government because I have an RDP house and I receive my grant every month.”

OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Deputy Minister stretches a helping hand

By Thandinkosi Zulu: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

Deputy Minister of Transport, Sindisiwe Chikunga, brought joy and motivation to school learners in Nquthu Local Municipality in the uMzinyathi District during an Imbizo on 4 March 2016. The Deputy Minister handed over 100 pair of shoes, 100 blankets and 30 food parcels to child-headed families.

The engagement was held at Ekucabangeni Senior Secondary School where it was attended by Nquthu Local Municipality Mayor, Emily Molefe and more than 1 000 community members. The handing over of school shoes and groceries brought much-needed relief to school learners who are struggling to make a living because of lack of income at their homes. Learners at Ekucabangeni Senior Secondary School are faced with a number of challenges ranging from poverty and child abuse, which affect their academic performance and future prospects.

Deputy Minister Chikunga called on learners to discover their dreams by being more focused in their education and avoid taking drugs, alcohol and toxic substances. “I am where I am today because of good choices I made in life. Even though my background was deep in poverty, but I made good choices in life and it is also possible with you. Today, we are marking 16 years of local government and I am urging parents to support their children with education because today’s economy needs more educated people to lead the country to greater heights,” she said.

The Deputy Minister told hundreds of learners that the Department of Transport has a number of bursaries in various fields of study for focused students and good achievers.

The engagement brought tears of joy to some elders who received blankets from the Deputy Minister. She commended the work done by Ward Councillor Sthembiso Buthelezi of looking after the needs of the community by making several calls to national departments about the much-needed relief in his ward. In her closing remarks, the Deputy Minister urged road users to be vigilant on the road, and for drivers to be responsible and obey the rules.



Mrs Khuzwayo said:

“From the message that I got today, I can say the Minister and the MEC are interested in assisting farmers. They are passionate about seeing people becoming creative to get out of situations like this one. They were advising people to be cautious about particular things they use for their produce, they encouraged wiser water usage and encouraged sustainability. Basically, the Minister was saying that we should always prepare ourselves for worst scenario cases so that we can have plans in place.”

OUTCOME 10: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS AND NATURAL RESOURCES THAT ARE WELL PROTECTED AND CONTINUALLY ENHANCED

Minister reaches out to farmers

By Masego Motshidisi: GCIS, Northern Cape

The Minister of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, Senzeni Zokwana, told farmers during his third roadshow in the Northern Cape in response to drought, that the only way they can secure the future of their farms is to develop new and effective sustainability methods.

He said this during his engagement with farmers affected by the drought in the Dikgatlong Municipality during his visit on 11 March 2016.

The Minister advised agriculturalists to start reviewing the way in which they farm by recycling their own water and continuing to grow their own crops by using the right fertilisers.

Addressing the crowd in their mother tongue, the Minister assured farmers about continuous government assistance and training to ensure that they have the right knowledge to sustain themselves.

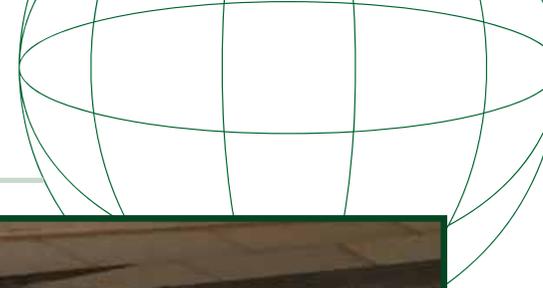
Minister Zokwana, together with the Northern Cape MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs, Norman Shushu, visited farmers around Barkley West, Delpoortshoop and Windsorton to monitor the progress made by the farms in the provision of drought-relief measures. During the visit, government distributed animal feeds and water tanks as part of measures to relieve farmers during drought.

Farmers were afforded the opportunity to voice their concerns and raise issues concerning the challenges that they were facing in the farming industry.

According to many, they attended the event so that they could hear how the programme would deal with the issue of drought in the province, how it will educate not only farmers, but communities as well and what the Minister proposes from the concern he received from the Northern Cape.

Issues raised by farmers ranged from the need for more land, water licensing and financial assistance. They requested MEC Shushu to visit their farms and called for prompt mediation from their local municipality.

Zokwana assured agrarians that upon his second visit to the province, most of their issues will be addressed and solutions would be implemented.



Jacob Williams said:

“I came here today to hear how the animal feeds we received should be used to sustain our animals. I also received valuable information on farming techniques and how they can be sustained. It is clear that the Minister is prepared to assist farmers and upcoming farmers. He was here to find out from the farmers themselves as to how they were affected and the kind of assistance that they need.”



Grace Moncho said:

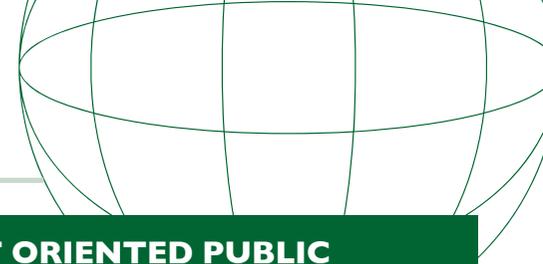
“Saving water is important. The Minister said we should not steal from one another. Let us not break what the farmers have started by stealing from them.”



Minister Zokwana addressing community members at the event.



Community members from surrounding farms and informal settlements came to interact with government leaders.



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

Survey to benefit communities

By Valencia Rachuene: GCIS, Limpopo



Different stakeholders at the event.

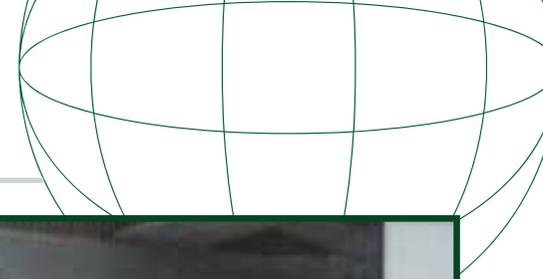
Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) recently launched the Community Survey 2016 at Bolivia lodge in Polokwane. The event was attended by statisticians, politicians, academics, community members and government departments, and was primarily aimed at marking the beginning of massive campaigns and community mobilisation on the survey operations.

The launch specifically outlined how Stats SA was going to conduct the survey. It also specified the duration of the survey and how long it would take for data collection processes to be completed. The Limpopo Provincial Executive Manager for Stats SA, Nthambeleni Mukwevho, said, “There are approximately 1.3 million homes of this large-scale household survey, which aims to collect demographic and socio-economic information. Information collected will be published for local municipalities, and will be used for planning and decision-making at all levels of government, as well as by business and other organisations.”

Member of the Mayoral Council of Capricorn District Municipality, Councillor Patricia Mahlo, stated that “the focus of the survey is collecting democratic survey data that will assist in local government data”. “To open doors for Stats SA and understand statistical community and use resource from Stats SA. The community survey results will help the local government to improve the life of community members in terms of service delivery as they will know how many people they have in the community. Together we should assist Stats SA to collect data as government will be able to deliver service to the people. To build a better tomorrow, as politicians we need to know how many people are in our community, where they are and how they live,” she said.

Mukwevho further said, “The black and yellow that the venue is decorated in and worn by the staff of Stats SA communicate new ways of doing things. One can see that things get strong and big when you see yellow. When people see yellow they see a comic, scientist and clown. Yellow is methodical, it helps with focus and decision-making. Stats SA are using yellow as their identity colour. Stats SA people will be looking yellow, which will be yellow uniforms and caps. They urge the public to open doors or gates when they see people in yellow as they will be from Stats SA. Yellow will be used as identification for stats SA.”

Kgaugelo Mathekga demonstrated the procedure that field workers will follow when gathering data for the community survey, the sampling method used to select the household for data gathering. He explained that random sampling method was used to select houses with the aid of a computer. Gadgets will also be used to collect data and they have the ability to refute wrong information and only proceed to the next question if given the correct information. He further stated that the gadget can direct the field worker where to go, how to go and which questions to ask the person to be interviewed.



Mrs Nkomo said:

“I am from Seshego, a friend sent me a text message informing me about Stats SA field workers positions and that we are supposed to apply online. I immediately prepared my documents and visited an Internet café, the rest is history as you see me here. I really appreciate the opportunity that I got as I will be able to put food on the table for my family.”



Oupa Mamabolo (front) said:

“Job hunting is stressful, when I heard about the position, I applied but never thought I would get it. I am very happy that I got the position though it is short-term contract.”