



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

For more information about similar programmes that are run across the country, contact one of the following provincial offices:

EASTERN CAPE

Ndlelantle Pinyana
043 722 2602 or 076 142 8606
ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za

FREE STATE

Lineo Sehlabaka
051 448 4504 or 082 772 9445
Lineo@gcis.gov.za

GAUTENG

Peter Gumede
011 834 3560 or 083 570 8080
peterg@gcis.gov.za

KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420
ndala@gcis.gov.za

OUTCOME 6: AN EFFICIENT, COMPETITIVE AND RESPONSIVE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK.

Minister urges residents to apply for set-top boxes

By Odas Ngobeni and Eunice Nkuna: GCIS, Limpopo



Minister Muthambi sitting with community members at the home of Ellen Mdaka.



Elisa Maswanganyi with her family members appreciating the visit by Minister Muthambi.

Communications Minister Faith Muthambi has called on residents of Tiyani village in Limpopo to register for the government-subsidised set-top boxes at their local post office.

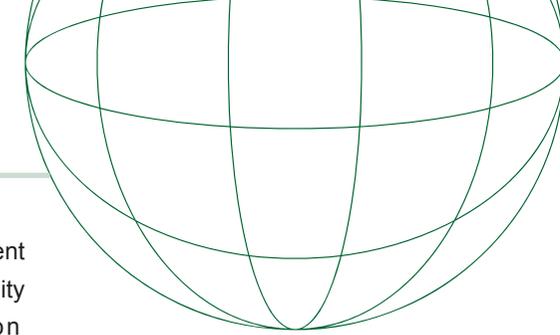
“Government is aware that you cannot afford these set-top boxes. We are subsidising five million indigent households for the set-top boxes. We launched the registration programme last year in the Northern Cape. All you need to do is to go to your nearest post office with your TV licence and proof that your combined household income is less than R3 200,” said the Minister.

Minister Muthambi was at the village as part of her outreach campaign to raise awareness on migration from analogue to digital terrestrial television programme. She was accompanied by executives from the South African Broadcasting Corporation, Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, Media Development and Diversity Agency, Film and Publication Board, the South African Post Office and officials from other government departments, including the Office of the Premier.



government
communications

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



LIMPOPO

Thanyani Ravhura
015 291 4689 or 082 421 3461
thanyani@gcis.gov.za

MPUMALANGA

Jerry Nkosi
013 753 2397 or 082 316 5295
jerry@gcis.gov.za

NORTH WEST

Mareka Mofokeng
018 381 7071 or 083 382 5909
mareka@gcis.gov.za

Kagisho Meremetsi
018 381 7071 or 084 818 0613
kagisho@gcis.gov.za

NORTHERN CAPE

Marius Nagel
053 832 1378/9 or 083 778 9179
mariusn@gcis.gov.za

WESTERN CAPE

Ayanda Holo
021 697 0145 or 061 488 0634
holo@gcis.gov.za



Patience Ngobeni requested the Minister to ask Parliament to intensify its fight against rape.

July Ndima from Youth Development told the Minister that the community was in need of information on economic opportunities for young people.

“Services by Small Enterprise Development Agency and the National Youth Development Agency are needed the most in this community because many young people are unemployed. Information on how to start our own businesses and the available funding programmes will address this challenge,” said Ndima.

Ndima also requested for the construction of a community hall, adding that the local municipality should also assist with recreational facilities. “Many people before me spoke about the challenge of crime, but what they did not say is what the root cause is. Young people are not active in sport and that leads to crime. We are appealing to government to build recreational facilities, including grading of this football field.”

Earlier on, the Minister conducted door-to-door visits. She met Elisa Maswanganyi, a single mother of seven children and five grandchildren. “Thank you Minister for visiting my house,” said Maswanganyi.

Ellen Mdaka, an unemployed single mother of four, appealed to the Minister to build her an RDP house and thanked her for promising them a television set.

Minister Muthambi later used the opportunity to urge the community to be part of the National Freedom Day celebrations to be held in Giyani. “We are aware that there are people saying you should boycott the celebrations, but as government we are saying, go and celebrate because by celebrating Freedom Day, you are defending freedom and democracy.”



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

Deputy Minister conducts Post-SoNA seminar

By Willem van Dalen: GCIS, Northern Cape



Marius Nagel of the GCIS outlining the purpose of the post-SoNA seminar.



Executive Mayor of Namakwa District Bentley Vass introducing the Deputy Minister.



Guests listening to the speaker during the post-SoNA seminar.



Deputy Minister Oliphant addressing the audience at the event.



The Deputy Minister having his blood pressure tested.



Guests listening to the speaker during the post-SoNA seminar.

Mineral Resources Deputy Minister Godfrey Oliphant conducted a post-SoNA seminar communication drive intended to unpack the State of the Nation Address (SoNA) speech by President Jacob Zuma, delivered on 12 February 2016. The event took place in Springbok, Namakwa District on 14 April 2016 and was characterised by three activities: The walkabout at Technical Vocational Education and Training, the community radio interview and the post-SoNA seminar.

The programme was coordinated by the Northern Cape Provincial Office of the Government Communication and Information System in partnership with Namakwa District Municipality. The seminar is a government nationwide communication drive to interact with the public on the SoNA. These seminars form part of an integrated multimedia communication approach for the 2016 SoNA.

Deputy Minister Oliphant interacted with the college principal, the Speaker of the Namakwa District, the Mayor of Namakhoi, the teachers and the students. The college will soon be introducing a mining qualification to prepare students in this mining town for jobs in the mines. The Deputy Minister interacted with the community on the purpose of his visit to Namakwa, unpacked SoNA and with a focus on government's Nine-Point Plan.

The Deputy Minister unpacked the role of the Department of Mineral Resources and informed the audience on aspects that touch their lives. Hundreds of people from businesses, mining houses, non-governmental organisations and other relevant stakeholders attended the seminar and during question time, they used the opportunity to ask questions, which received responses from the Deputy Minister and the Mayor of Namakhoi.



GCIS Provincial Director Jerry Nkosi briefing political leaders.



Mxolisi Manana said:

“People with disabilities were not given opportunities and skills in the past but are now given equal opportunities. We are also happy about the Deputy Minister’s visits



Moratiwa Molefe said:

“Government has made life easier for TVET students. Almost 92% of the students are benefiting from National Students Financial Aid Scheme.”

OUTCOME 5: A SKILLED AND CAPABLE WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT AN INCLUSIVE GROWTH.

Deputy Minister takes information to the people

By Poppy Maloka: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Learners also attended the skills development seminar.



Different stakeholders at the event.



Young people at the event.



Deputy Minister Manana interacting with students at the campus workshop.



The Deputy Minister interacting with students on skills development.

Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mduduzi Manana, engaged with the youth and government stakeholders on skills development and post-school opportunities. The engagement was also to elaborate more on the promises made by President Jacob Zuma during the State of the Nation Address early this year. The seminar was also graced by the presence of Gert Sibande District Executive Mayor, Mishack Nhlabathi. About 400 delegates participated in the seminar.

Deputy Minister Manana visited the Gert Sibande Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) college and engaged with management to get an update on the progress of the college and engaged with students at the campus workshop.

Another visit was at the construction site of a library to determine the progress that has been made and to instil hope and confidence to communities.



Hendrick Blaauw said:

“I am happy with the visit of the Parliament today in our facility. We were provided with advice and assistance. Our challenge in the institution is funding, which is not enough for all our needs and programmes. The programme has helped the institution to partner with other departments.”

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

Government reports back to the people

By Sikelela Zokufa: GCIS, Western Cape



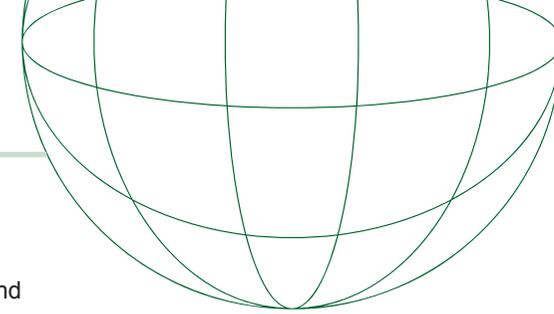
The National Council of Provinces (NCOP) has embarked on a report-back exercise on the first Taking Parliament to the People programme in the fifth Parliament held in the Western Cape in 2015. The purposes of the programme is to enhance public participation and provide an opportunity for public education and integrated oversight to participate in government.

NCOP leadership directed the report-back to the Eden District Municipality from 18 to 21 April 2016. Members of the NCOP committee divided themselves to the different local municipalities within the district.

Nine Members of Parliament and Members of the Provincial Legislature joined the Knysna Local Municipality Executive Mayor Georlene Wolmarans on site visits to four projects that were visited in April 2015. The purpose of the site visit was to verify the progress that has been made concerning challenges that were raised in 2015. The Select Committee committed to resolve the challenges, working together with other departments and the municipality. The following sites were visited: Vermont Old Age Home, Water Treatment Plant, Khayaletu Community Library and Chris Nissen Primary School.

Delegates were welcomed by Mayor Georlene Wolmarans. “These sessions form a vital part of the functioning of our democracy and fostering greater cooperation not only between all spheres of government, but also between government and the people it serves. It is through the spirit of cooperative governance that we, the servants of our citizens, are held to account to the values of transparency, responsibility and involvement,” said the Mayor.

Vermont Old Age Home Manager Hendrick Blaauw presented the progress report and the delegation committee advised on the things that are not yet done, but promised to follow-up on the relevant departments as it is their duty to ensure that people are served by government.



Mr Makhaphela said:

“I am happy with the follow-up visit to see what is happening in this school. There is no space for sports grounds and car parking. I have learned that government cares. This programme has helped the school as the Executive Mayor committed to be in touch with the school principal and resolve some of the challenges.”

The committee also visited a R24-million project of Water Waste Treatment Plant renovation and preservation. They have appointed the technician, which was the major challenge on the previous visit and the plant was also repaired. All the housing development of Knysna depended to that plant. The main challenge was the overload of flood remover. The machines are very expensive and they are exported from outside the country.

The last two visits in Knysna Local Municipality took place in Khayaletu followed by a community meeting in Khayaletu Community Hall. There were also visits to the local library, which has a progress on the staff capacity, one of the library’s volunteer has been permanently employed and the library officials have met with the province, which committed to give new computer equipment and Internet connection. The library is an asset to the community, because it offers basic computer classes to unemployed youth.

Community members expressed their appreciation to government for visiting their community. They also raised new issues that needed to be addressed by government. The community requested a Home Affairs office because in Knysna, people have to travel to Bitou or George to apply for an Identity Document. High rate of youth unemployment with no access to information and they do not know where to get information to start small businesses.

