




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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By Mamogolo Dirane: GCIS, Free State

Special edition: State of the Nation Address

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STATE OF THE NATION ADDRESS

Together we move South Africa forward



Maluti-a-Phofung Local Municipality Mayor Vusimuzi Tshabalala and Municipal Manager Advocate Tshupa at the State of the Nation Address (SoNA) live viewing at QwaQwa in the Free State.



Community members watching the SoNA during the live viewing at QwaQwa.

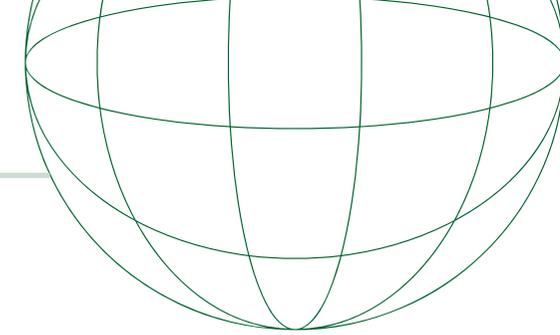


Members of the Phuthaditjhaba Disability Forum also attended the event.



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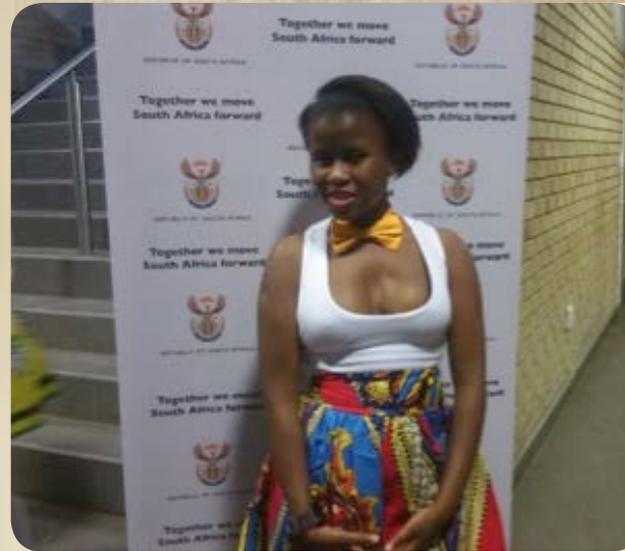
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Puseletso Maboyaa said:

What do you think about the speech?	"It was a good speech because it touched on education, which is a very important subject."
Did the speech meet your expectation?	"Partly. I was expecting the President to also speak about funding challenges that we are facing at tertiary institutions."
Anything interesting that you picked from the speech that you would like more information on?	"How national government is going to monitor and ensure that municipalities are accountable and serve communities."
Anything you would like to share with the President after listening to the speech?	"No."
General remarks	"Nothing."



Masabata Tale said:

What do you think about the speech?	"The President made it clear on the issue of education and also mentioned a lot about development."
Did the speech meet your expectation?	"Yes it did."
Anything interesting that you picked from the speech that you would like more information on?	"Yes, the new investment that will be done by South Africa and other countries for youth skills development."
Anything you would like to share with the President after listening to the speech?	"The President has said it all."
General remarks	"The speech was well presented. As a student, I am looking forward to studying and contributing to the growth and development of our country."



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

By Jacob Molete: GCIS, Gauteng

President Jacob Zuma promised to tackle the country's ailing economy, remove constraints to economic growth, accelerate infrastructure development in order to radically transform and stimulate economic growth. He was delivering his State of The Nation Address (SoNA) to Parliament on 11 February 2016. The speech was delivered under the theme: "Following up on our commitments to the people".

“A resilient and fast-growing economy is at the heart of our radical economic transformation agenda and our National Development Plan,” said President Zuma.

He also said that government would accelerate the growth and success of small medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) through high-quality innovative business support to foster economic transformation and black economic empowerment.

“Economic transformation and black empowerment remain a key part of all economic programmes of government. One of our new interventions is the Black Industrialist Scheme, which has been launched to promote the participation of black entrepreneurs in manufacturing,” said the President.

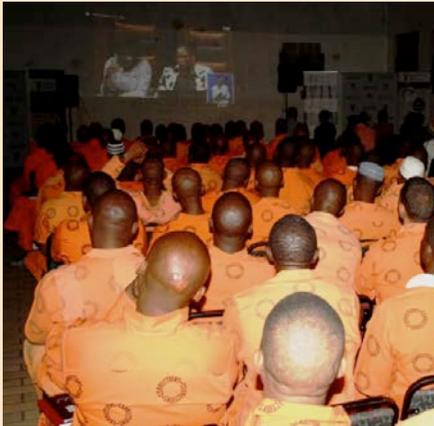
Some of the people watching the SoNA were inmates and parolees at the Boksburg Correctional Services. They say that even though the country does its best to empower SMMEs, they feel left out because of their criminal records.

“It is good that the country has not abandoned the black economic empowerment. We have been trained and have gained vocational skills, we hope to get jobs when we are released,” said Kenny Zulu, one of the outbound parolees.

Some inmates suggested that government considers expunging criminal records as part of rehabilitation programme to allow former inmates to start on a clean slate so that they can gain employment or start small businesses.

“I am currently doing welding and carpentry but when we get released, we still struggle to improve our socio-economic situations because of our criminal records. Expunging our criminal records would allow us to start afresh and use our skills to take care of our families,” said Godfrey Adams.

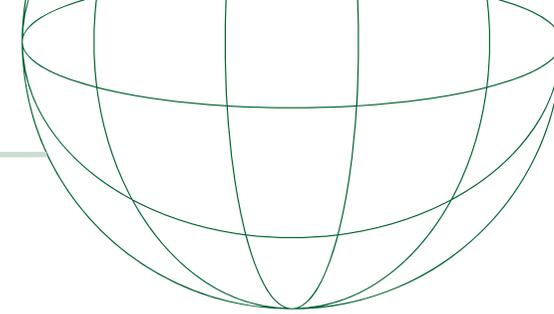
The SoNA takes place during the official opening of Parliament, when the sitting President presents a speech to a joint sitting of the National Assembly and National Council of Provinces.



Inmates watching the SoNA at the Boksburg Correctional Service Centre.



Boksburg Correctional Centre outbound parolees watching the SoNA.



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

By Mlungisi Dlamini: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The Government Communication and Information System partnered with the Impendle Local Municipality to provide community members with a live screening of the State of the Nation Address (SoNA).



Community members watching the SoNA at Impendle Thusong Service Centre.



Mayor Ndlela summarising the SoNA to community members.

The live viewing of the speech has not only given residents an insight of what government is planning to do, but has also afforded them the opportunity to learn how local government is going to implement its programmes.

Impendle Local Municipality Mayor Sizwe Ndlela said one of the major challenges facing the municipality is the high level of unemployment and drought. However, the municipality is working hard to create employment for the youth and continuous relief to those who have suffered the impact of drought. He said the council has initiated an education programme that provides youth with financial assistance for higher education.

He also mentioned that the programme has assisted many students this year.

The Mayor highlighted that the municipality would invest more in economic development, which includes construction of a shopping centre, continuous support to cooperative businesses and making industrial sites available for businesses. "In the past few months we have made significant strides in improving basic services, especially electrification of all wards. We are working on improving roads infrastructure in and outside the town of Impendle, which covers Inzinga and Novuka," he said.

Maoh Mbambo said:



"I wish government could create job opportunities for the youth. This can be achieved through the establishments of programmes that will enable people to be their own employers."

Mnyamezeli Ngcobo said:

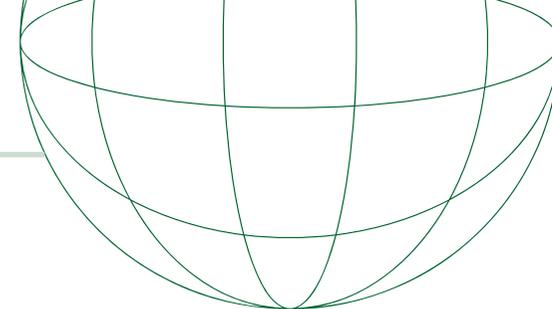


"I would like the President to make farming easily accessible to aspirant young black farmers. It is currently difficult to get land ownership."

Njabulo Cele said:



"I would like to see government intensifying its fight against crime and also ensure that both the education and health sectors run smoothly."



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

By Sikelela Zokufa: GCIS, Western Cape



Community members queued to register their names and were also provided with government information products at the registration table.



Community members preparing to watch the President's speech.



Community members from Nyanga and Gugulethu watching the State of the Nation Address.



Community youth leader Linda Kabeni raising his views on the President's speech.