



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Endumeni receives houses during Freedom Month

By Thandinkosi Zulu: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

On 26 April 2016, KwaZulu-Natal Premier Senzo Mchunu, MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, Ravigesa Pillay and Endumeni Mayor Councillor Thulani Mahaye, made it possible for the community of Endumeni to enjoy Freedom Month by handing over 287 title deeds to homeowners at Sthembile township. The provincial government handed over more than 1 000 houses that were built in decent condition, which is the first project of its kind in the province.

"I want to congratulate the new RDP homeowners who have received their houses today. It is a delight to see that our people are enjoying decent housing and title deeds, which is the ownership of land and houses. With the limited budget that we have as the province, we have been successful in building brick houses and I am proud that these houses are delivered to all race groups as we see beneficiaries from different race groups and that is a symbol of true freedom. Our government does not discriminate, for as long as you are needy we will deliver," added Premier Mchunu.

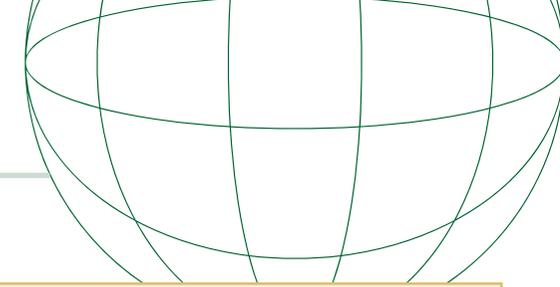
The celebration began by handing over of a multi-million rand park project for the community. The park is one of the projects that seeks to revive public open spaces that were previously used as commonage kraals for Sibongile township for emerging farmers. Through this project, the Mayor of Endumeni has responded with dignity to township community members by opening a park for everyone to use their leisure time and enjoy themselves there. MEC Pillay told thousands of community members that it is not enough for them to deliver such outstanding projects but the department would be coming back to implement the 217 housing units project for Dlamini township and 300 housing units for Foresdale community.

It was tears of joy when Endumeni community members, who waited for many years, finally received their houses from the provincial government. "I just cannot believe that after so many years my husband and I will get our house, title deeds of our own and groceries. I want to thank Endumeni and government for their effort in changing our lives for the better," said Marchelle Goosen.



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Endumeni Mayor Thulani Mahaye, MEC Pillay, Halalisile Mbatha, Premier Mchunu and Endumeni Ward Councillor Mbele standing in front of one of the houses.



MEC Pillay, Premier Mchunu, Marchelle Goosen and Legislature Chairperson standing in front of one of the houses.



Marchelle Goosen said:

“I am very happy that I am the beneficiary of this house and I am happy that government is looking after the poor. I want to tell other community members that they must be patient and pray to God because government is coming to deliver. My dream came true in 2016, I have a house and title deed.”



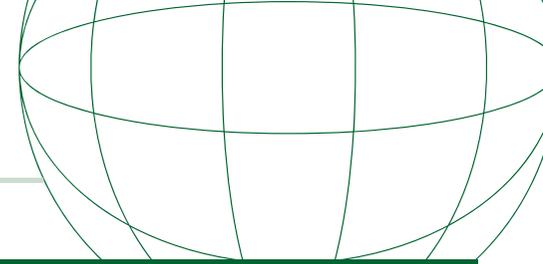
Halalisile Mbatha said:

“I am very happy to have received a house from government without having to pay even a single cent. This is a remarkable experience in my life. I am also excited that my house was officially opened by Premier Senzo Mchunu. I wish that government can also improve the state of our roads.”



Linda Ndlovu said:

“It is my first time to be excited like this. I want to thank Endumeni Mayor and the provincial government for giving me the house after having lived in a dilapidated condition. I am happy about this government for taking care of us and I now believe that government is delivering to the poor without discriminating. I wish young people can get job opportunities.”



The community meeting in Concordia was opened with the singing of the South African and the African Union anthems by the school choir.



Members of the Concordia community listening attentively to the MEC's address.



Nama Riel dancers entertaining community members.

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

MEC commemorates Freedom Month with community members

By Willem van Dalen: GCIS, Northern Cape

The Northern Cape MEC for Transport, Safety and Liaison, Pauline Williams, visited Concordia in Namakwa District for a Freedom Month Memorial Lecture on 25 April 2016.

MEC Williams reflected on the origin of Freedom Day on 27 April 1994, when the first democratic elections in the history of South Africa were held – when all South Africans were given an opportunity to vote regardless of the colour of their skins.

The 2016 Freedom Day celebration comes at the time when South Africa commemorates the 20th anniversary of the signing of the final draft of the Constitution, hailed by many as the best in the world.

The MEC quoted the late former President Nelson Mandela, “It is not our diversity which divides us; it is not our ethnicity, or religion or culture that divide us. Since we have achieved our freedom, there can only be one division amongst us: between those who cherish democracy and those who do not.”

She also urged the audience to continue to protect this democracy that our forefathers fought and gave up their lives for everyone to enjoy.

The event was attended by about 800 community members.

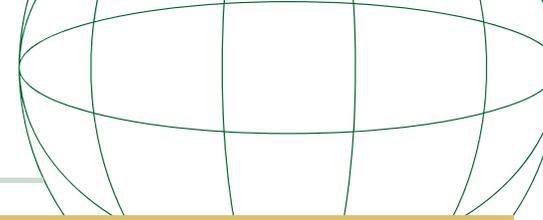
MEC Williams later interacted with community members through a community radio station where she gave a summary of her speech to those who could not attend the community meeting.



Executive Mayor of the Namakwa District Municipality, Bentley Vass, introduced the keynote speaker at the event.



MEC Williams addressing the audience.



Keenan Cloete said:

“Freedom Day is a historic day. Previously disadvantaged races can now live out their uniqueness. Now we can live our heritage and be true to our culture. I am 16 years old now and am looking forward to vote for the first time, although I still have to wait for two years. Being able to vote is a huge responsibility, it is not just to draw a cross on a piece of paper. You have to know what you want.”



Hermanus Cloete said:

“We definitely are better off now than before 1994. The only problem is unemployment. There are no jobs available.”



Member of Parliament Charl de Beer, MEC Williams, Councillor Vass, Councillor Groenewald Namakwa District Speaker, Nama Khoi Mayor Boeboe van Wyk, Lynette Miggel and Nama Khoi Speaker Lorenzo Faber.



MEC Williams visited Radio NFM.

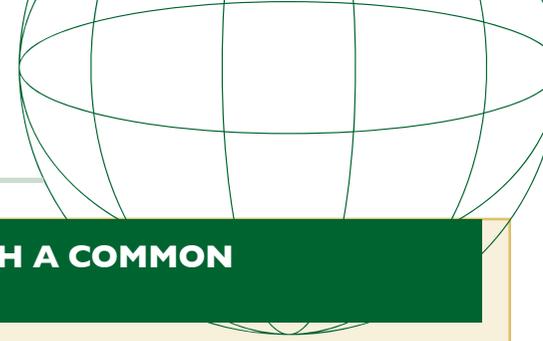


MEC Williams being interviewed at Radio NFM.

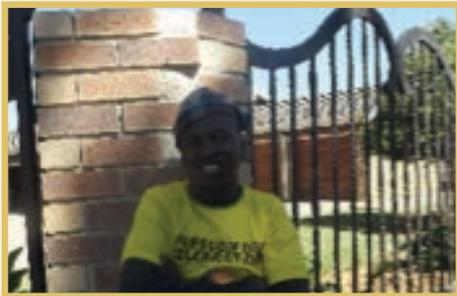


Bradley Barend said:

“Freedom Day means an opportunity to be able to say what you want to say and being able to choose your leaders. Freedom Day has ensured a new and a better life for me. Now I can enter any shop, buy anything that I want and get served as a human being.”



Executive Mayor of Lejweleputswa District Municipality outlining the successes of the municipality.



Thabo Makume said:

“I request government to speed up the process of providing us with stands.”

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

Free State celebrates Freedom day

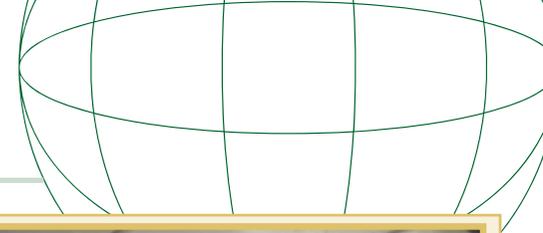
By Ntombi Mhlambi: GCIS, Free State

This year’s Freedom Day was a highly significant occasion as South Africans are celebrating 22 years of democracy and 20 years of the Constitution. The Free State government held an event at Zuka Baloyi Stadium on 24 April 2016. The event was held under the theme: “Celebrating our freedom and democracy through radical economic transformation”. The 22 years of democracy in South Africa, coincide not only with the 20 years of our Constitution but with the local government elections, which will be held in August. Free State Premier Ace Magashule encouraged communities to cast their votes during local government elections. He also said the communities must remember all those who died for this freedom we are enjoying today and that local government is everyone’s business.

The Lejweleputswa District Mayor, Nkosinathi Speelman, outlined the successes of the district in terms of service delivery. Community members danced to different local artists who performed their favourite songs and were motivated to participate in the local elections.



Premier Magashule addressing members of the community.



Mapulane Diphlane said:

“I am happy that government acknowledges that we need jobs.”



Monica Nyamane said:

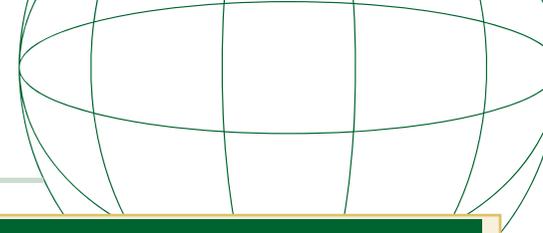
“I am happy to be celebrating Freedom Month.”



Teboho Mloi, DJ Lovers and Lerato Mpopo entertaining the community members.



Community members with some of the leaders who attended the event.



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

Minister Radebe visits Khayelitsha

By Zusiphe Mtirara: GCIS, Western Cape

Minister in the Presidency for Monitoring and Evaluation, Jeff Radebe, said that government is serious about dealing with issues of settlement and sanitation and also to improve the lives of the people of Khayelitsha.

The Minister was addressing hundreds of residents at the OR Tambo in Khayelitsha Community Hall on 29 April 2016. Minister Radebe visited Khayelitsha to meet with all the leadership of Bosasa to discuss challenges regarding construction process that delayed the relocation of fire victims from the temporary relocated structures to Bosasa.

Minister Radebe was disappointed with the dire living conditions at the temporary relocation structures in Khayelitsha and said it was a matter that needed urgent attention.

He also tabled a progress report provided to him by the Western Cape Provincial Government.

Loyiso Nkohla of Ses'khona, an organisation fighting for the rights of the people, appreciated the Minister's visit and appealed to government to improve service delivery.

Minister Radebe appreciated all the inputs from the community and committed to come back for another Imbizo.

"I am committing to come back with all the service-delivery departments for another Imbizo in Khayelitsha. The national government will leave no stone unturned in ensuring that all service-delivery issues are attended to," he concluded.



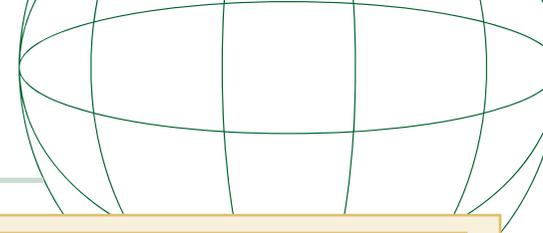
Residents of Khayelitsha and surrounding areas listening to the Minister's address.



Minister Radebe greeting community members.



Minister Radebe responding to questions and concerns raised by community members.



Siphokazi Mnyamana said:

I am very happy that the Minister visited Khayelitsha. We are convinced that he will return and solve our service-delivery problems.”



Chairperson of Khayelitsha Development Forum, Ndithini Tyhido, giving opening remarks during Minister Radebe's Imbizo in Khayelitsha.