




MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 33 / August 2015

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:

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

Deputy Minister engages community to address electricity backlog

By Nonhlanhla Sithole: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Deputy Minister Majola holding a solar light that will provide solution to some of the energy challenges facing the KwaVilakazi community.



Zululand District Deputy Mayor Esther Qwabe, Abaqulusi Mayor Patience Khaba and Deputy Minister Majola interacting with the community.



Members of the KwaVilakazi community listening to solutions to their energy problems.

The Deputy Minister of Energy, Thembisile Majola, visited the Abaqulusi Local Municipality and Kwa-Vilakazi community on 7 August 2015. The Deputy Minister engaged with the municipality on issues of energy access with a specific focus on the progress around the electrification programme in the municipal area. The municipality presented its plans to electrify 9 576 households to eradicate electrification backlog.

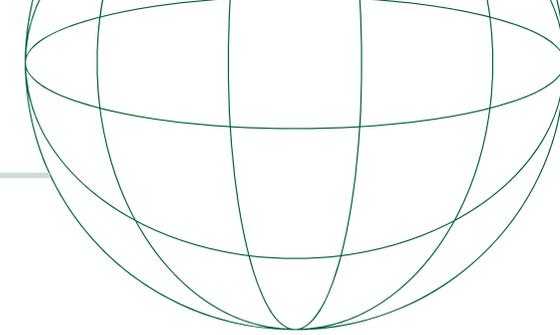
The engagement concluded with recommendations on areas that needed urgent attention, which will speed up the execution of the municipality's plan when the department releases funding.

The engagement with communities provided a great opportunity to interact on issues of energy access. Solar lights were presented to 72 households to use while waiting for the municipality to complete its electrification plan.



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Bongekile Maduma said:
“We would be happy if our homes could be electrified so that we could buy appliances such as refrigerators and also be able to charge our phones’ batteries.”



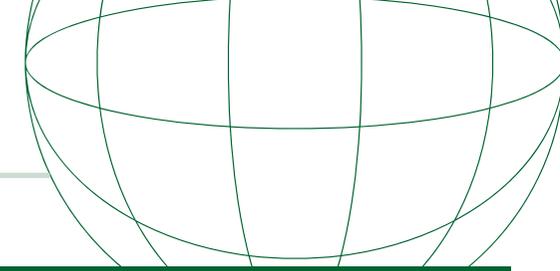
Mama Fakude said:
“We are grateful and happy. We feel very important because the Deputy Minister and municipal officials are here to share their plans with us.”



Celiwe Nene said:
“We appeal to government to electrify our houses as we buy food that never lasts for days to avoid waste. There is no wood to collect anymore.”



Mama Mazibuko said:
“We need electricity so that we can do research for school projects for our children and also about job opportunities. We are lagging behind with information as we do not have access to TV due to lack of electricity.”



An electrical engineer showing learners the difference between heavy and light current.



MEC Mhaule viewing the new fuel efficient race vehicle designed by Sasol.



Learners accessing bursary application forms.



Mpumalanga Basic Education MEC Reginah Mhaule and other dignitaries at the event.

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

Career exhibition empowers young people

By Vuyisile Cindi: GCIS, Mpumalanga



MEC Mhaule officially opening the event and giving a keynote address.



Learners exploring various ways to generate electricity.



Motor mechanic engineering was also part of the field of study that learners were encouraged to explore.

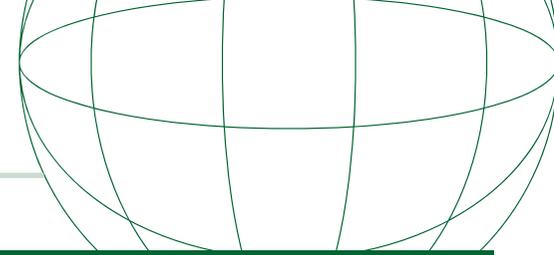
Sasol has been sponsoring Sasol TechnoX for 14 years. The event has grown in popularity to become the largest career guidance exhibition in the inland provinces. Last year, over 24 400 visitors attended the expo in Sasolburg in the Free State. This year's event took place in Secunda, Mpumalanga from 3 to 7 August 2015. This initiative was a first for the region.

The Sasol TechnoX career guidance exhibition attracted learners from seven provinces. The career exhibition sought to stimulate interest in the technological application of science and mathematics among learners, teachers and the public. This was done by giving visitors an opportunity to see and experience science and technology through exhibitions, workshops and lectures, and by going on site tours to industries in and around Secunda.

The main objective of Sasol TechnoX was to showcase the fun element through the activities at the expo and to encourage learners to consider the various artisan disciplines.

This was done to demonstrate Sasol and Mpumalanga Provincial Government's commitment to develop the next generation of leaders in the fields of mathematics, science and technology, and to demonstrate commitment to the creation of sustainable partnerships that lead to community development, especially in the communities surrounding Sasol Secunda operations.

Learners from schools in the province attended the career exhibition and they were very happy to be informed about various field of study and are looking forward to passing their Grade 12 exams with flying colours so that they can seize the opportunities made available to them.



OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE GROWTH



Regina Huna said:

“In the 21 years that this government has been in power, we have seen progress especially when it comes to women emancipation. I wish young women could take advantage of the opportunities that are presented to them.”



Nomsa Lankete said:

“I am happy that I was able to meet the Minister and share my vision for my business with him. I hope that through this programme, we will be able to get assistance from government to be able to sell our products internationally.”



Women attending the event.

Minister reaches out to empower women

By Mojalefa Senokoatsane: GCIS, Free State



Minister Mthethwa speaking at the event.



Minister Nathi Mthethwa interacting with businesswomen during the Women’s Month Business Dialogue.



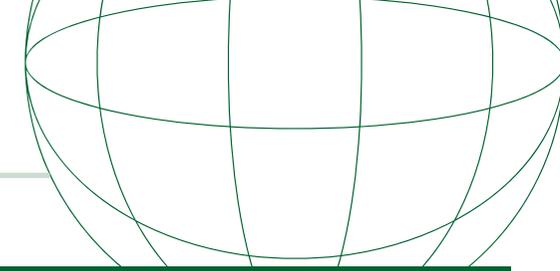
The new democratic dispensation has brought many opportunities that women can use to better their lives. The dawn of democracy has ensured that women are able to break barriers and enter into areas that were previously dominated by men. On 8 August 2015, Minister of Arts and Culture, Nathi Mthethwa, hosted a business dialogue with women of Fezile Dabi District as part of celebrating Women’s Month.

The main aim of the session was for the Minister to provide a platform for women, especially those in the manufacturing and craft businesses, to engage and share ideas on how the Department of Arts and Culture can assist them in breaking barriers and enter into international markets and grow their businesses.

This important dialogue was hosted as a curtain raiser for the National Women’s Day event that took place in Sasolburg on 9 August. The dialogue was also attended by women grafters, designers and manufacturers who came with their products to be displayed at the event.

Minister Mthethwa urged women to emulate the women of 1956 who fought for political emancipation by standing together. He told them that they did not need an approval from men to achieve their goals and set purposes in their lives. The Minister said that women had the power to become whatever they want to become.

Participants were also given an opportunity to ask questions regarding different government policies and programmes that are aimed at empowering women. Discussions ranged from the funding models, donations, lack of space to grow businesses and request for capacity-building opportunities for women. One of the women, Nomsa Lankete, wanted government to assist her to empower young women by imparting her skills which she believes would ensure that more women are economically independent.



OUTCOME 9: RESPONSIVE, ACCOUNTABLE, EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Premier launches war rooms to accelerate service delivery

By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Bushbuckridge Executive Mayor, Renias Khumalo, Premier Mabuza, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs MEC Refilwe Mtsweni, Kgoshi Mokoena and SALGA chairperson.



Government leaders and other dignitaries at the launch.



Community members attending the launch and witnessing the elected members of the war room.



Government leaders during a visit to the Mpumalanga Provincial Traffic College.

After the launch of the operation, Premier Mabuza visited the building project for the Mpumalanga Provincial Traffic College where he promised to add another four blocks of residential rooms and classes to increase the number of intake per year from 160 to 320.

The South African Local Government Association (SALGA) Provincial Chairperson said: "We hope this programme will change people's lives in the province and beyond."

Kgoshi Mokoena from the House of Traditional Leaders said: "This is a great channel to communicate directly with our government."

Mpumalanga Premier David Mabuza launched Operation Vuka Sisebente, aimed at establishing war rooms in all local municipal wards. These war rooms seek to address and decrease service-delivery protests by bringing government services closer to communities. Government realised that communities were not receiving enough services and were not satisfied with the level of service delivery. Premier Mabuza said he has heard the grievances of community members that roads, clinics, schools, water and other basic services needed to be addressed. The provincial government promised communities that the war rooms would assist in responding to community needs within six months.

One of the war rooms was officially opened at the Bushbuckridge Local Municipality in Mkhuhlu on 13 August 2015. The Mkhuhlu war room is named after former President Nelson Mandela. The office is equipped with a computer to capture and save issues to be raised by communities. These war rooms will be chaired by ward councillors working closely with community development workers, ward committees, taxi associations and other organised structures. These members will be able to directly contact the Office of the MECs and the Premier.



Government leaders during a visit to the Mpumalanga Provincial Traffic College.



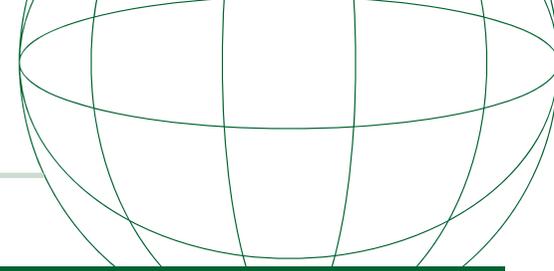
Department of Social Development officials presenting blankets to needy families.



Premier Mabuza and other government leaders with church representatives during a briefing session.



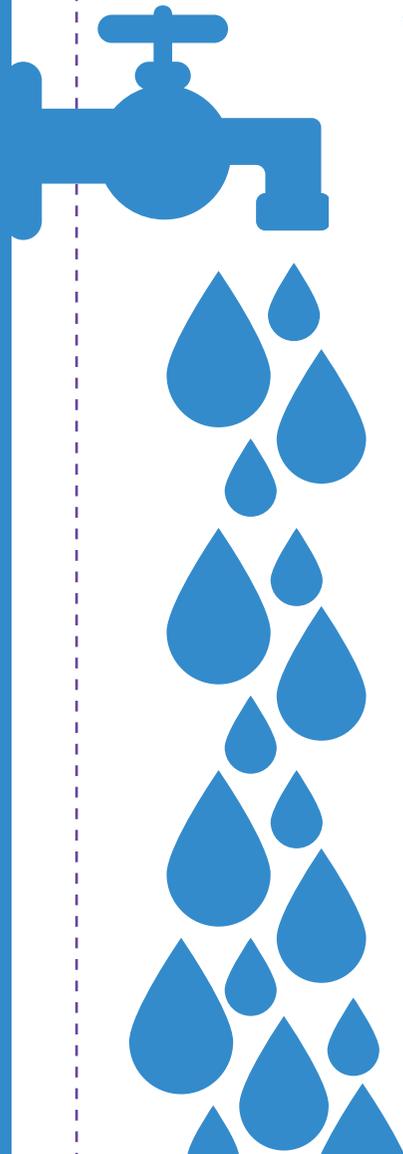
Members of the war room.



OUTCOME 10: PROTECT AND ENHANCE OUR ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS AND NATURAL RESOURCES

In the garden

- Always water your plants in the morning or evening, when temperatures are cooler. Between 10:00 and 15:00 one can lose up to 90% of water to evaporation.
- When you boil an egg, save the water for your house plants. They will benefit from the nutrients released from the shell.
- Focus on indigenous and non-water-consumptive alien plants (but not invasive alien plants).
- Group your plants according to their water needs and to mulch around them.
- Water your garden less frequently, but water it well.
- Store roof water in tanks to water gardens.



Water-saving tips

In and around your home/business

- Turn off the tap when you are not using it.
- Take a shower and not a bath and save up to 400 litres a week.
- If you prefer to bath, do not fill up the bath tub.
- You use between 80 and 150 litres of water per bath.
- Use low-flow showerheads, dual-flush toilet mechanisms and water-efficient washing machines.
- Kettles should not be filled to the brim but with just enough water for your needs. This will reduce your electricity bill too.
- Do not overfill cooking pots, as this may result in using more energy to heat the water.
- Reducing the toilet flush volume can save 20% of total water consumption. This can be done by putting a 2-litre bottle, filled with water and little sand to add weight into the cistern.
- Fix a leaking toilet and save up to 100 000 litres of water a year.
- Avoid flushing the toilet unnecessarily because every time you flush, 12 litres of water is used. Dispose of tissues, insects and other waste in the trash rather than the toilet.
- Use “grey water” (used water from baths, washing machines and other safe sources) to flush your toilet.
- Do not overfill or excessively backwash your swimming pool.
- Use a bucket rather than a hose to wash your car. If you have to use a hose, use a sprayer that can be turned off in-between spraying the car. Using a garden hose could use as much as 30 litres of water a minute.
- Do not pour paint and chemicals down the drain.
- Farmers must ensure that they keep toxic insecticides away from water sources and streams.
- Factories should take care of how they discharge mercury and other heavy metals into waste water.
- People living in rural areas should not use a river or river bank as a toilet.