




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Celebrating World Maritime Day

By: Peter Titus, DoC, Western Cape



The Department of Transport's Head of Communications made the opening remarks.



The event was opened with the singing of the National Anthem.



Minister Dipuo Peters delivered her keynote address.

Every year, during the last week of September, the International Maritime Organisation (IMO) celebrates World Maritime Day at the IMO Headquarters in London with parallel events being hosted by various countries across the globe.

This year on 25 September, the Minister of Transport, Dipuo Peters, hosted the World Maritime Day career expo, exhibition and gala dinner at Club Mykonos Resort, Athene Conference, Langebaan in the Western Cape. The event was celebrated under the theme: "IMO conventions: effective implementation." Minister Peters, who gave the keynote address, was joined by the Western Cape MEC for Transport Donald Grant, maritime industry Chief Executive Officers and captains, and senior national and provincial government officials.

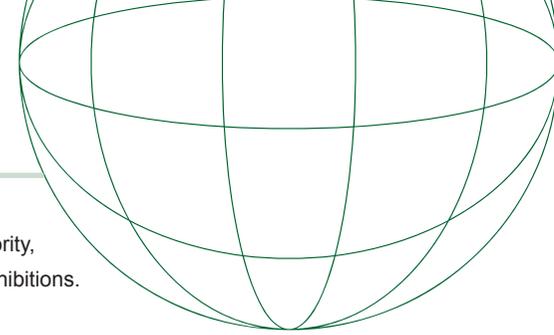
In the Western Cape, the celebrations were attended by learners from previously disadvantaged communities. They showed off their knowledge of the maritime sector through some eye-catching educational displays and exhibitions. The day was also used as a platform to create awareness about careers in the maritime industry among the youth.



communications

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Key maritime stakeholders such as the South African Maritime Safety Authority, Transnet National Ports Authority, Transnet Port Terminals, Grindrod Shipping Company, Smit Amandla and the Western Cape had interesting exhibitions.

Maritime experts engaged with the learners and educated them about the details and activities of the industry, including vocational experience. Schools from the Saldanha area in the Western Cape will participate in a competition involving a variety of topics such as:

- ship designing
- essay writing
- drama
- art.



Nandipha Totie assisted learners with information at the World Maritime Day event.



Grindrod was one of the exhibitors at the event.



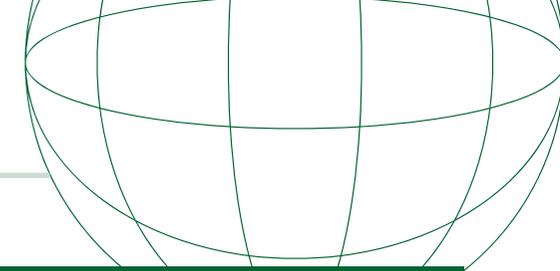
Transnet was also one of the exhibitors at the event.



Baldwin Mekhoe, a senior communication officer at the Parliamentary office supported the youth by supplying them with youth-related information.



Key stakeholders in the Maritime Industry in South Africa at the IMO celebrations.



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

Sekhukhune takes media on heritage sites tour of Limpopo

By: Doctor Marebane: DoC, Limpopo

When local and national journalists took a tour around Sekhukhune heritage sites, they were not expecting a tough trip. The tour was to celebrate Heritage and Tourism Month and also popularise Sekhukhune heritage sites.

The tour started with a visit to the 1842 Voortrekker cemetery near Ohrigstad. The next stop was at the Museum of Man, which is situated along the R37 road leading to the Kruger National Park. It is in the cave where the museum is, where it is thought that the evolution of man started about three million years ago. The cave has the San's engravings on the stones. It is believed the San first lived in the cave before they were defeated by the Bapedi tribe who used it as a war hideout and where they performed rituals. Other tribes apparently also used it as a hideout.

The most difficult part of the tour was the 1,5-km walk through the Echo Caves' passageways, which has sharp steps and tough climbs. In some parts of the cave, the journalists had to crawl to get to the other side, which was even more difficult for those who are "full-bodied." The journalists completed the 1,5-km walk in two hours and it tested their strength and agility.

Inside the caves, the journalists were told how a rock is formed and saw a rock formation named "Madonna" that resembles a statue of a woman. They also saw areas where the Bapedi tribe slept, cooked and ground mealies. They were shown rocks that could make loud noises that sounded like drums and could be heard about two kilometres away. It was used to notify the tribe of dangers or approaching invaders.

Among the media houses that visited the sites were: Thobela FM, Capricorn FM, Turfloop Community Radio, Moutse Community Radio, Tubatse Community Radio, Masemola Community Radio, Sekhukhune Community Radio, *The Sunday Independent*, *Steelburger News* and *Platinum Gazette*.



A tour guide took the journalists into the Museum of Man.



The journalists viewed the wonders of the Echo Caves.



It was just a little bit too much for some who were tired after taking the strenuous 1,5-km walk through the Echo Caves.



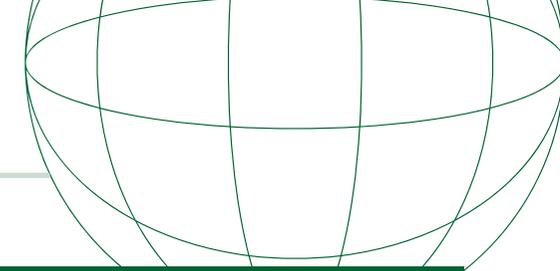
Sara Mdluli said:
"I love my culture and I'm proud to be Mswati."



Theledi Seroka said:
"I have been dancing Dinaka for a long time and it is part of my culture. I will pass on this dance to my children."



Marry Moropane said:
"I came here to commemorate Heritage Day. We should encourage our children to take pride in who we are as it is part of our everyday lives."



Dr Mbulelo Diba said: “We are working together with the department and satisfied with the progress they are making. These platforms are very crucial for strengthening partnerships for better health outcomes.”



Maria Malinga said: “We are very excited by these types of meetings. Indeed it is an eye opener for us. We are happy with the progress the department is making.”

OUTCOME 2: A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS

Free State 2014 Provincial Health Indaba

By: Tebogo Oepeng and Zama Lekhula: Department of Health, Free State



Premier Ace Magashule at the podium.



The MEC for Health, Dr Benny Malakoane addressed the Indaba delegates.



Delegates attending the Provincial Health Indaba



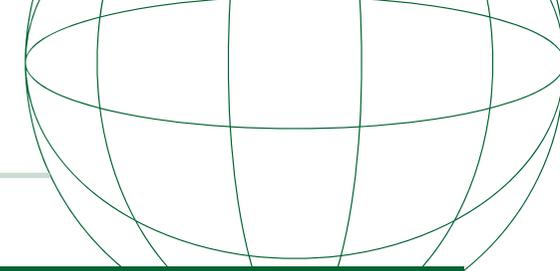
Premier Magashule participating in the HIV Counselling and Testing campaign.

From 29 to 30 September 2014, the Premier of the Free State, Ace Magashule and the MEC for Health, Dr Benny Malakoane, hosted the 2014 Provincial Health Indaba in Bloemfontein under the theme: “Sharing turnaround strategy with stakeholders.” The Indaba was attended by, among others, the MEC for Education, Tate Makgoe; the MEC for Public Works and Infrastructure, Sam Mashinini; the MEC for Environmental, Tourism and Economic Affairs, Msebenzi Zwane; the MEC for Treasury, Elsabe Rockman; the MEC for Police, Roads and Transport, Butana Komphela; the Care and Support to Improve Patient Outcomes; the Hospice Palliative Care Association of South Africa; the Chief of Party, André Wagner, and other stakeholders and partners.

Various speakers delivered presentations, models and strategic documents that included “Primary Health Care Re-engineering” by Papi Maorohanye; “Excellence, innovation, transformation and building the capacity of the next generation of health leaders” by Prof Hendricks from the University of Pretoria; “Quintuple burden of diseases” by Dr Sepele Matela; and “Transformation of tertiary services to enable service delivery and a culture of learning” by Dr Nathaniel Mofolo from the University of the Free State.

Premier Magashule emphasised that there could be meaningful recommendations emanating from the Indaba if different stakeholders work together. Dr Benny Malakoane shared the sentiment and he alluded to the fact that without adequate and proper financing, the department would not be able to deliver proper healthcare services.

The Provincial Health Indaba’s main focus was to share the departmental turnaround strategy with partners and stakeholders. There were various committees that discussed the responsibility of district health services and programmes, the burden of diseases, healthcare financing, health personnel training, development and deployment, and health infrastructure support.



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

Shale gas Imbizo

By: Puleg Kekana: DoC, Eastern Cape

“The development of petroleum, especially shale gas, will be a game changer for the Karoo region and the South African economy. Having evaluated the risks and opportunities, the final regulations will be released soon and will be followed by the processing and granting of licences,” said President Zuma in his sixth State of the Nation Address. As part of the izimbizo programme, the Eastern Cape Premier, Phumulo Masualle, and the MEC for Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Sakhumuzi Somyo, had a consultative session with government structures and stakeholders of Camdeboo, Blue Crane, Ikwezi and other affected areas on 10 October 2014 in the Graaff Reinet Town Hall. This engagement sought to strengthen partnerships to escalate the implementation of shale gas.

The session created a platform for stakeholders to engage with the Premier and the MEC on issues that concern them such as water and air contamination. The Premier and the MEC mentioned that government went into partnership with the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) to research on those issues to show that government cares.

The session emphasised issues such as:

- strengthening partnerships between government and crucial stakeholders for excellerating the shale gas programme
- making people aware that their challenges are considered
- reporting what is being done to address people’s fears regarding shale gas
- the Government invested R60 million at NMMU and R4 million for each year for skills development and ensuring engineers are trained to for such programmes
- creating opportunities for youth development by encouraging young people to concentrate on science and technology to move the country forward.



Xolile Galada said:

“How many people are going to benefit from this project? This will benefit scientists with scarce skills. Are we just going to be pushing wheelbarrows? If the project comes here it must first benefit the Camdeboo people, especially the youth.

“It will not benefit me. The Premier and the MEC made it clear that government has already invested R60 million with NMMU for the youth to develop their skills for the Shale Gas Project. Those with science and maths will benefit. At the end of the day it is about youth development.

“But one hopes and wishes that even those of us who do not have such skills would be empowered by other skills-development programmes that would allow us to get decent jobs in this project because not everyone is going to be a scientist.”



A group of Inkwa-Khoi San, led by Dantjie Japhta, was of the opinion that shale gas was poisonous and it was going to contaminate the air and water. “They tried this in the early 70s at Vrede Farm. The water was contaminated at Klipplaat. When Klipplaat people opened the taps they saw oil mixed with water, resulting in the Klipplaat people not being able to use or drink their water.

“But I am glad for such consultations and government needs to do more and more consultations as well as research about the safety of the water and the air.

“The project won’t help us because the skills needed are scarce in the country, especially in Graaff Reinet.”



Attendees at the Imbizo event.