



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Government bridges the socio-economic gap

By Vasanthi Naidoo and Lihle Luthuli: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Minister Dipuo Peters, Premier Senzo Mchunu and MEC Willis Mchunu officially opening the Umngeni Interchange.



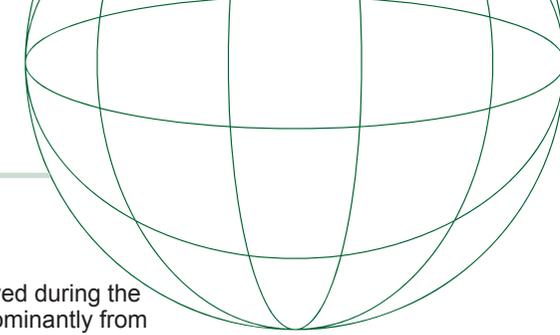
Minister Peters, Premier Mchunu and MEC Mchunu engaging with the media after the official opening.

The Umngeni Interchange was officially opened on 20 October 2015 by the Minister of Transport, Dipuo Peters, together with KwaZulu-Natal Premier, Senzo Mchunu, MEC for Transport, Willis Mchunu, Deputy Mayor of eThekweni Municipality, Nomvuso Shabalala and Chief Executive Officer of the South African National Roads Agency Limited (Sanral), Nazir Alli. The entourage then proceeded to the Reservoir Hills sports field to address the community of wards 23 and 24 of eThekweni Metropolitan Municipality. During her engagement with the media at the interchange, Minister Peters congratulated Premier Mchunu, MEC Mchunu and Deputy Mayor Shabalala for the "wonderful investment in infrastructure".



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The Sanral CEO told community members that 17 small businesses sub-contractors were employed during the construction of the bridge, earning a combined R55 million. The project enabled 265 people, predominantly from the eThekweni area, to be trained in various skills. The total number of jobs created goes beyond 20 000, including all people and companies who work behind the scenes to manufacture and provide raw materials.

The Umngeni Road Interchange is a significant achievement in infrastructure as it is strategically located on the M19/N2 intersection on the N2 corridor between the port in the south and the Dube Tradeport Industrial Development Zone in the north and is part of Government's Strategic Integrated Project 2. The Minister informed the community that, in recognition of civil-engineering excellence, the Concrete Society of Southern Africa chose the Umngeni Road Interchange as the winner of the Fulton Award in the category for civil-engineering structures over R100 million in value. The KwaZulu-Natal branch of the South African Institute of Civil Engineering (SAICE) conferred the Award for Technical Excellence to the Umngeni Interchange Project. The project was also commended for technical excellence at the SAICE National Awards in October.

Minister Peters encouraged community members to come forward and give testimony about how the Umngeni Interchange and government's infrastructure programme have improved their lives.



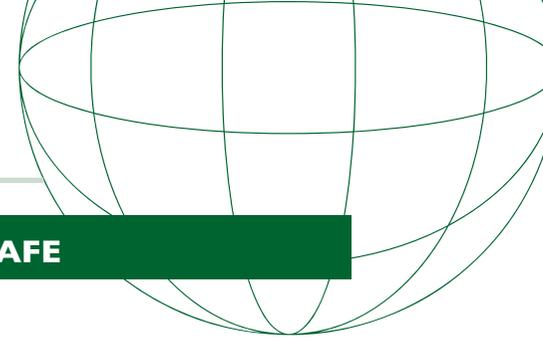
Sifiso Mkhize said:
"There used to be traffic congestions and a trip to town used to take about 30 minutes. Now there is no traffic and the same trip takes only 20 minutes. I am very happy about the bridge."



Jay Bridgelal said:
"I travel from Port Shepstone to Reservoir Hills regularly. The new interchange is excellent, traffic flows smoothly and it is safer as there are no more robots, which were sometime defective. During the construction phase, it was frustrating but now it is excellent."



Xolisile Nkala said:
"I travel once a month to the farm in Nkandla. I had to take a taxi to get to town and another one to Nkandla. It used to take me a very long time because of the heavy traffic. Now we just go over the bridge and we are there. I like this new bridge."



OUTCOME 3: ALL PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE AND FEEL SAFE

Government acts to ensure learner safety

By Tabita Ngqunge: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Yandisa Ndoya said:

“We are happy to have coaches dedicated to us because we are going to be alone and our celphones will no longer be forcefully taken from us. We really appreciate this because we have been victims of crime on our way to and from school for so long.”



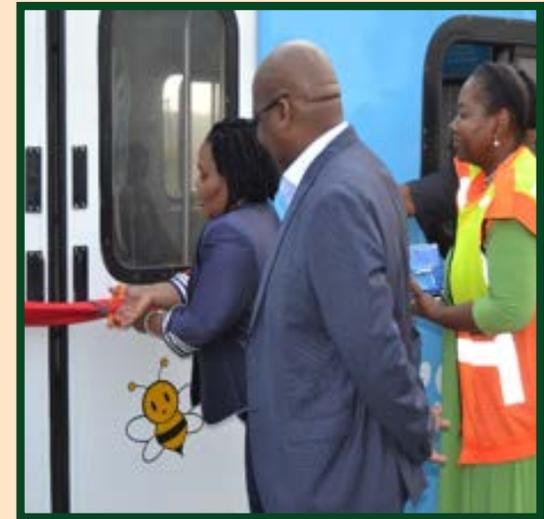
Mivuyo Tinta said:

“We are very excited. We are going to network and get to know one another better as we will be in our own coaches as learners from various schools. We are no longer going to worry about being robbed by thugs as they will not be allowed in our coaches. We hope that police are going to make this campaign a success.”

As part of the 2015 October Transport Month campaign, the Eastern Cape MEC for Transport, Safety and Liaison, Weziwe Tikana, in partnership with Metrorail, engaged in various programmes in the Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality on 15 October 2015. The day began with a train trip from Berlin to East London train station between 6:30 and 7:45. During the trip, MEC Tikana and her entourage interacted with commuters and learners from various schools and handed out promotional material and information leaflets. Learners expressed their excitement about the coaches that have been specifically dedicated to them and they saw this initiative as something that was going to keep them safe as they have been victims of crime inside the trains while going to and coming from school.

There was a breakfast session with dignitaries and presentations were made by Metrorail Regional Manager and the departmental officials about the planned programme to improve transport services to the people of South Africa.

After the breakfast session, MEC Tikana and her entourage headed to Orient Theatre for the launch of the car-wash cooperatives and handed over vehicles to various government departments. There was also a career expo, which took place at the same time as the activities in Orient Theatre where learners had an opportunity to access information from various government departments and state-owned entities such as Boarder Aviation and the South African National Roads Agency Limited.



MEC Tikana officially launching dedicated coaches for learners at Berlin train station.



MEC Tikana interacting with learners during the train ride.



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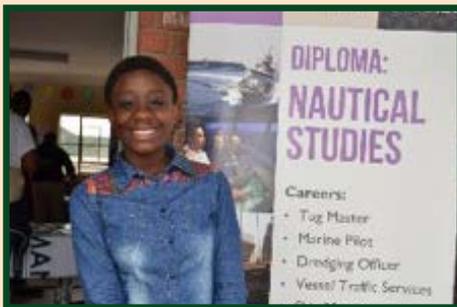
Government acts to ensure learner safety

By Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Emerald Abigail Pillay said:

"I left school in Grade 10. I wanted to do drama and my school was not offering it. The knowledge I obtained today motivated me. I can do my matric through Damelin and then study drama. The displays were very informative."



Thandlowethu Khushi said:

"The information we received today was very helpful. We learned about bursaries offered by the Durban University of Technology. I am in Grade 8 and have not decided what I want to do when I complete matric but today I received information about careers that I can do. It was very helpful."



Young people engaging with officials from Berea Technical College and MANCOSA.



Officials from Oval College having a conversation with prospective students.

Lecturers and students from the University of South Africa (Unisa) Bright Site Project in Welbedacht, Chatsworth, hosted a career expo on 6 October 2015 at Nomzamo Mandela School. The target audience was out-of-school youth and learners living in Welbedacht, a low-cost housing development and home to a culturally diverse population.

Apart from information display stands, there were presentations by all stakeholders such as Unisa, Durban University of Technology Maritime Studies Unit, Berea Technical College, eThekweni Municipality Skills Development, e-Careers and Science and Technology Education Unit, R.K. Khan Nursing College, Damelin, Oval College, Management College of Southern Africa (MANCOSA), South African Police Service Career Information Department, National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), Department of Social Development, PC Training and the YMCA. Many Unisa law students were very interested in the NPA's Aspirant Prosecutor Programme.

Although many young people arrived later than expected, the attendance was good when the presentations by various institutions were made. Young people acknowledged that the exhibition and engagements with officials from various institutions were very helpful. However, institutions offering courses in the field of construction were not represented and there was a need for this type of information. For the stakeholders, the event presented them with an excellent networking opportunity to expand their own database, establish contacts for purposes of referral and assistance to youth who approached them for advice on careers. The career expo was very effective and it was a huge success.



Ndumiso Willy Mthembu said:

"I have passed matric and wanted to become a nurse because I like helping people, but I do not have enough points. Now I do casual work as a painter. The information was very useful and I spoke to the nursing school. They advised me on how to apply and what I should do to be admitted into the nursing course."



Unisa law students enquiring about the NPA's Aspirant Prosecutor Programme.