




MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 42/November 2016

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

Road safety is everyone's responsibility

By Nonhlanhla Sithole: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Taxi drivers, health-department officials and community members exercising to improve their health.



Some of the taxi drivers at the event.



Community members listening to presentations by various stakeholders.

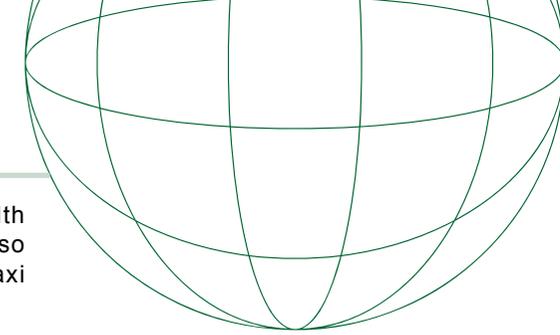
The Transport Month taxi rank activation, which was held on 24 October 2016 at Vryheid Plaza rank under the theme: "Together we move South Africa Forward" showcased partnership programmes aimed at improving service delivery in the taxi industry and road safety around Zululand District taxi ranks. The initiative was a joint venture between the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO) and the departments of transport, health, justice and constitutional development, Hlokomela, Toyota and Scottfin. It was aimed at ensuring that important information is accessed to improve and better the lives of taxi drivers, passengers and the community at large.



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The event kicked off with physical exercise sessions conducted by the Department of Health to encourage taxi drivers to walk and exercise regularly to improve their health. It was also mentioned that health mobile facilities are now accessible at the taxi ranks to afford taxi drivers the opportunity to use them.

SANTACO encouraged taxi owners, drivers and passengers to work harmoniously to eradicate road accidents. “We are moving to all the taxi ranks to emphasise working together to improve service delivery and road safety in order to reduce road carnage. Taxi drivers must learn to treat passengers with respect, understanding that they pay for their salaries. We want to see the taxi industry improve. Drivers must understand that the lives of their passengers are in their hands. That is why we encourage them to heed the rules of the road so that passengers reach their destination safe and alive. The competition is open to all passengers to nominate drivers who they think are good drivers, by obeying the rules of the road, respecting passengers and vehicles that are in good condition,” said Letsoane of SANTACO.

There were presentations from government departments and partners in transport that increased access to information on health matters. Department of Justice and Constitutional Development promoted children’s maintenance, while access to affordable car deals was promoted by Toyota in partnership with ABSA. Funeral Cover was presented from Scottfin, Hlokomela promoted transport safety while the Department of Transport emphasised road safety and law enforcement.



Jerry Nkosi from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development promoting the maintenance programme.



Thokozile Nxumalo from the Department of Transport with road safety forum members talking about safety programmes.



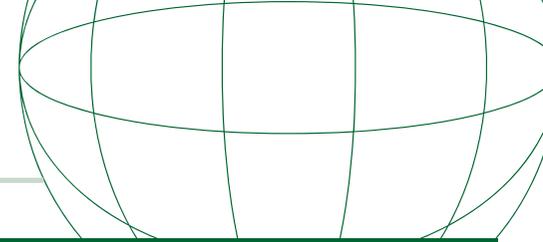
Sibusiso Mavuso said:
“We have benefited immensely from this information, which was valuable to everyone. We will cooperate with all affected parties so that accidents are minimised as it has already been stated.”



Ntombenhle Zulu said:
“We are grateful for talks that are constructive in this taxi industry we work for. We are really thankful for the good relations we enjoy with Hlokomela and the tolerance between passengers and drivers as a result of the information that is imparted. I can say that the situation is much better than before because we now understand that we need to respect our passengers as our bosses. The work of the police officers is now better because all parties are working hand in hand.”



Nonhlanhla Ngcobo said:
“I am really pleased with today’s presentations, we gained a lot. I applaud the organisers for the cooperation among all stakeholders in the efforts to reduce road accidents. The speeches were aimed at taxi drivers so that they can learn to treat their passengers well. It was also stated that it is important for them to drive carefully in order to reduce the rate of accidents. Safety is important, people must be informed.”



Councillor Irene Matetoane said:
 “We expect public officials to uphold the *Batho Pele* principles and treat our community members, especially people living with disabilities, with dignity and respect.”



Thapelo Sekawane said:
 “The Kgetsi Ya Tsie Bursary and Skills Fund from the Premier aims to ensure that all deserving citizens access higher education.”

OUTCOME 9: A RESPONSIVE, ACCOUNTABLE, EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM.

Government reaches out to community members

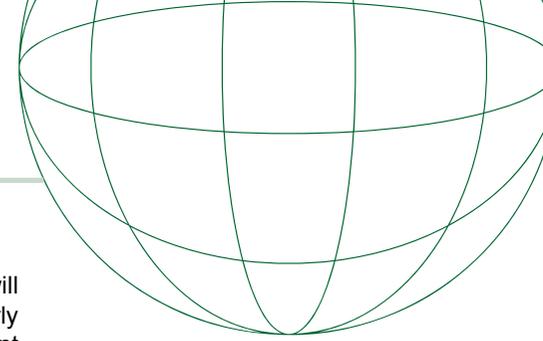
By Xolani Mndaweni: GCIS, North West



MMC for Special Projects Irene Motetoane, Ward 38 Councillor Sylvia Sithole and Modisaotsile Josiah of the Department of Social Development with wheelchair beneficiaries, Matlakala Sebothe, Annie Botman, Sibongile Somani and Oupapa Modise.

Two weeks in succession, the community of Khuma has seen a heightened increase in service delivery initiatives by government and stakeholders. “We are going to restore the dignity of our people, by chasing away poverty from communities,” said Matlosana MMC for Special Projects, Irene Matetoane. The Matlosana Social Development commemorated the Anti-Poverty Day under the theme: “Moving from humiliation and exclusion to participation: Ending poverty in all its forms”.

The event, which took place on 28 October 2014 attracted over 680 community members who accessed a wide range of services that included health and land affairs. Stakeholders such as the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), Capitec Bank, Office of the Public Protector, Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, AURUM, Government Communication and Information System, Department of Social Development, Office of the Premier, South African Social Security Agency and the Department of Justice and Correctional Services rendered services at the event. “We are here bringing services and also collecting donations from citizens for the Kgetsi-ya-Tsie Bursary and Skills Development Fund, which aims to add to the bursary and internship funds of the Premier,” said Thapelo Sekawane from the Office of the Premier.



Sibongile Somani said:

“I am excited to receive my new wheelchair, now I can visit my friends and participate in our dress-making project with ease.”



Annie Botman said:

“I have been struggling to get around since my wheelchair was damaged, now I have new wheels, no more struggling for me!”

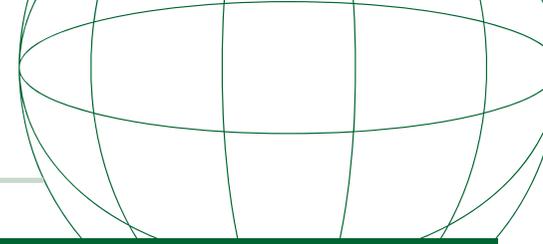
Kobus Setsetse from Capitec said, “Please stay away from unscrupulous loan sharks, they will only add more problems and poverty!” The hot weather could not dampen the mood of the clearly motivated community members as they interacted and networked with officials from different stakeholders. Lerato Huma from Khuma said, “I am excited because today I got assistance on how to access the NYDA grant that ranges from R1 000 to R100 000. I want to establish my salon business.” In her closing remarks, Ward 38 Councillor, Sylvia Sithole said, “We are happy to see the private sector and civic organisations assisting in the war on poverty, because as government we cannot succeed alone.”



The community of Khuma was well entertained by the local traditional dancers at the event.



Community members enjoying themselves at the event.



Dibakwane said:

“I did accommodation services, and will encourage other youths to take part in the programme as it provides skills and exposure to the hospitality industry.”



Shibambo said:

“I will use the certificate to look for employment. I was an accommodation learner. I advise youths to participate and engage in programmes like this.”

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

Government rewards hard work

By Madire Mokitla: GCIS, Limpopo



Some of the beneficiaries of the learnership programme.

Nothing is more fulfilling than achieving something in life. This was evident when Limpopo students who participated in the Tourism Buddies Training programme graduated at the Jack Botes Hall in Polokwane on 1 November 2016. About 500 students around Limpopo joined the first intake for the programme during the 2014/15 financial year. A total of 194 completed the Accommodation Services National Certificate while 195 completed the Food and Beverages services National Certificate.

The Tourism Buddies programme is a Social Responsibility Implementation Programme of the Department of Tourism. The learners enrolled in a 12-month learnership programme comprising 30% theory and 70% practical training. They were placed at various hospitality establishments within the province for workplace training. It is an Expanded Public Works Programme.



Shimmie Kekana (bow tie) said:
“I am receiving official recognition for the journey I undertook in the tourism industry and I am walking tall.”

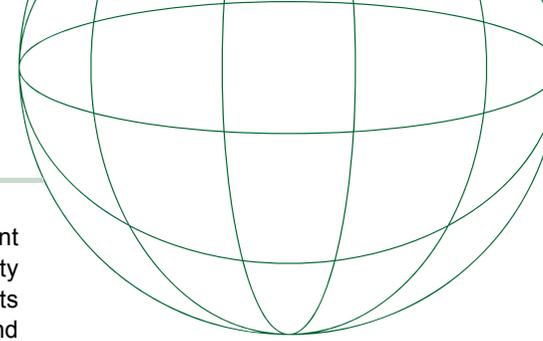
One of the beneficiaries, Linda Makgafela from Blouberg Municipality, thanked the department for presenting them with the priceless skills and opportunities in the tourism and hospitality industry. She indicated that she was happy to be an ambassador of the programme. “It presents an opportunity to youth from rural areas to gain experience and knowledge in tourism industry and move out of their comfort zone,” she said.

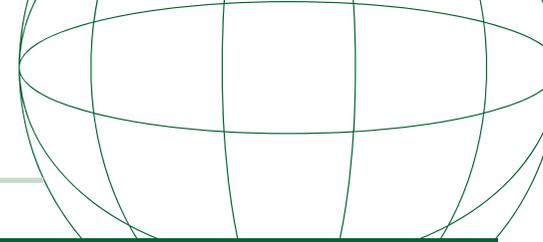
Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism MEC Seaparo Sekoati acknowledged the partnership with host employers for making this initiative a success, and the learners for grabbing the opportunity as presented by government to them. “As government, we have come to the realisation of our programme,” he said. The MEC also expressed words of appreciation to host employers for the magnitude of contribution to the programme by giving the learners the much-needed exposure.

In her keynote address, the Deputy Minister of Tourism, Tokozile Xasa, stated that “the objective of the training is to train the unemployed youth to enable them to acquire skills and gain the valuable work experience needed to enhance on’s employability in the hospitality and tourism sector”. She further wished all the graduates luck for having chosen the tourism industry as it will offer them a fulfilling career.



The moment of truth as learners were presented with their certificates, graduates wearing black and white.





Nqobile Radebe said:

“It is important for us young people to know our history. The celebration of OR Tambo’s life will help us honour his contribution to the Struggle and liberation of South Africa and important in fostering social cohesion.”



Rodah Ndimande said:

“We stand tall on the shoulders of OR Tambo. His leadership has made it possible for us today to enjoy our rights and gain dignity now that we are liberated.”

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

Ekurhuleni remembers Oliver and Adelaide Tambo

By Jacob Molete: GCIS, Gauteng



President Jacob Zuma and Ekurhuleni Executive Mayor Mzwandile Masina laying wreaths at Oliver Tambo’s tombstone.



Dali and Tselane Tambo laying wreaths at the tombstone.



Mayor Mzwandile Masina presents President Jacob Zuma with a letter written by Oliver Tambo for Radio Singapore mobilising international solidarity against apartheid.



The Tambo family at the wreath-laying ceremony.

Every year during October, the City of Ekurhuleni embarks on a month-long programme of activities in commemoration of the lives and legacy of Oliver and Adelaide Tambo. This year’s activities took place under the theme: “Celebrating the life, times and legacy of OR Tambo, 99 years and counting towards the centenary”. Oliver Tambo would be 99 years old this year.

President Jacob Zuma led the wreath-laying ceremony in memory of Oliver Tambo in Wattville, Benoni. The event took place on 27 October 2016. Oliver Tambo shaped the foreign policy of the democratic South Africa and laid a firm foundation as the foremost diplomat and face of the ANC during the most difficult time in the country’s history. Oliver Tambo together with his wife and Chris Hani, dedicated their lives to fight for the freedom and liberation of all South Africans.