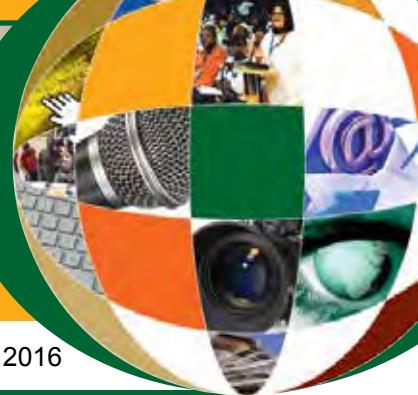




MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 47/December 2016

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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GAUTENG

Peter Gumede
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KWAZULU-NATAL

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

Government takes services to community members

By Dibandlela Nkume: GCIS, Eastern Cape



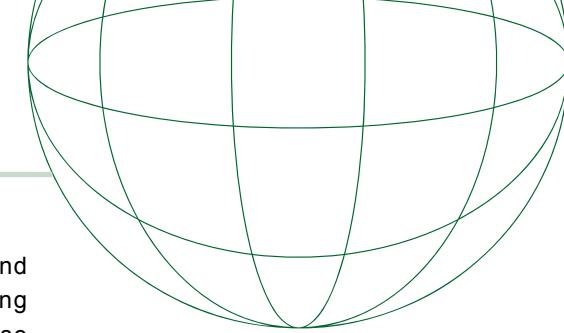
Members of the Walmer community members queued to access government.



Diba Nkume distributing *Vuk'uzenzele* to Walmer Community members at the event.

Communities of New-Brighton and Walmer received integrated services on wheels on 3 and 4 November 2016. This was an initiative by the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), Port Elizabeth district.

Multiple government departments and state agencies converged at Nangoza Jebe Hall on 3 November 2016. On 4 November, the same services were offered in Walmer.



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Social Development Month aims to engage communities to identify their challenges and put together action plans to deal with these challenges. SASSA was aiming at informing communities about different social security programmes available to them and how these can be accessed. In his presentation, the District Manager, Vuyo Toto, mentioned challenges that they come across, which include lack of knowledge within communities, struggling to register for the benefits because the required documentation is unavailable and other more challenges.

Among other departments that were present at these event are the departments of health, labour and social development, Government Communications and Information Systems and the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality Customer Care Unit.

Communities were afforded an opportunity to seek clarity on the presentations that were made while services continued to be rendered at different service points and members of the community served on a one-on-one basis.

This concerted approach to government services and community engagement saw the community of Walmer and New-Brighton afforded the opportunity to raise questions directly to government leaders who gave them responses directly as part of a two-way communication instantaneously.



Nyameka Tshikila said:
“I am quite impressed by this programme. I can see the strides that government is making to better our lives and we appreciate it especially SASSA who feeds us and our families.”



Kholeka Zondani said:
“I have taken and made notes on each and every speaker who made a presentation here. I think this really was a learning session, I appreciate the effort.”



Themba Phillip said:
“I missed out on the presentation about electricity, I would have loved to get more information on it.”



Zandile Kheswa said:

"The programme has brought better life to us. We however request an increase in the stipend."



Sicelo Thusi said:

"Government has to look at employing us on a full-time basis because we are doing a great job for the municipality and there is only a few general workers employed on a full-time basis in this municipality."

OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH.

Government programme changes people's lives

By Mlungisi Dlamini: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) established by the government in April 2004 to increase employment opportunities and skills development, is flowing smoothly for iMpendle Local Municipality. The programme started operating in 2009 in the area and it has already created employment opportunities for 68 people, which include men, women and young people. This government initiative is led by the Department of Public Works.

Phelelani Bhengu has worked in the programme for five years. He says he is very excited about this programme because it has afforded him the opportunity to obtain a bricklaying certificate. "We are doing the most extensive work, more than anticipated because the municipality has only 17 full-time general workers. Our contribution ensures that the town is clean."

He said his life has changed a lot since he entered into the system and is now able to put food on the table. He added that the municipality should look at options to absorb them permanently.

Sthembile Sokhela described the process as the most helpful one: "With the small amount of money we receive, we are able to feed our families," she said. She also said she and other colleagues in the programme do not enjoy equal treatment when it comes to employee's rights such as entitlement to public holidays, and urged management to look into the issue.

Sandile Mkhize, who works as the Local Economic Development Officer under the Impendle Municipality, said the EPWP ensures that participants receive training to perform some tasks before they exit the programme. He said in 2015, a total of 17 participants were trained in bricklaying and the other 33 were trained to become security personnel.



Phelelani Bhengu said:

"EPWP has assisted us, we are able to put food on the table. Though on contract, I am thankful for the opportunity to upgrade myself. Today I have a certificate in bricklaying, the only thing missing is permanent employment."



Themba Monethi said:

"I am very grateful to the Department of Communications and to Deputy Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams.

The graduation ceremony marks the beginning of great things in our lives. We will remain indebted to the good gesture shown to us. We want to inform the Deputy Minister that we will not disappoint. And we wish the programme to help others of the same background as us."

OUTCOME I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION.

Deputy Minister rewards excellence

By Sikelela Zokufa: GCIS, Western Cape



The Deputy Minister of Communications, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, awarded 35 learners from the disadvantaged communities in the Western Cape with certificates of merit after completing a six-month course in Film and Television Skills programme at the Lusaka community hall on 25 November 2016.

Mandisa Matshoba, who is Member of Parliament, urged the excited youth to grab these opportunities with both hands as opportunities of this nature were rare.

She also praised government for investing in the youth and also caution the youth "to do the right thing with the skills imparted."

"Now the ball is in your court. The only thing we are awaiting for from you is to make us proud. Go and improve your lives because South Africa needs story tellers and historians," she said. Matshoba also praised the parents for the support shown in the event.

The learners will be placed in various departments in the media and information and communication technology sector. Certificates are equivalent to an NQF Level 5 qualification.



Nomthitha said:

"I want to thank the Deputy Minister of Communications. What she is doing here is good. Today she came to present certificates, which is encouraging and also motivates us to go further bettering our lives and communities by telling our stories."

South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) official, Andile Noganta, also sent hope to the new graduates. He said the doors of the SABC were open for the new graduates especially on new content. He advised them to be on the alert for new internship vacancies that will be advertised soon.

A learner who spoke on behalf of the other graduates, Themba Monethi, said they were very grateful to the department of and wanted to inform the Deputy Minister that the graduation ceremony would mark the beginning of great things in their individual lives. "We are so indebted to the good gesture shown to us. We want to inform the minister that we won't disappoint her. And we wish the programme to help others of the same background as well," he continued.

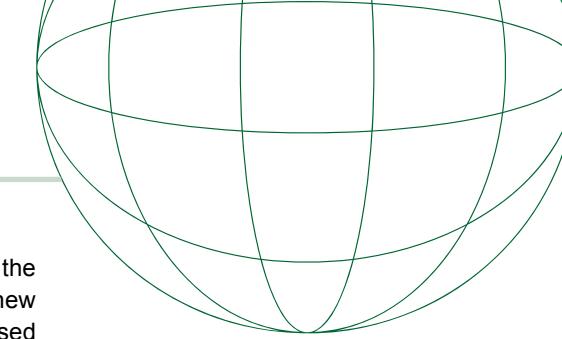
Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams, praised the 35 learners for the hard work and sterling job. She said the Western Cape was the best in everything in terms of performance in the programme. She also said, that the learners beat both the Eastern Cape and Gauteng. The Deputy Minister said the learners will receive statements of results and a certificate of completion in Film and Television Skills Programme. "You will now tell your own stories using the skills imparted during the course of this programme. Go out there and shine to the best of your abilities," said the Deputy Minister.

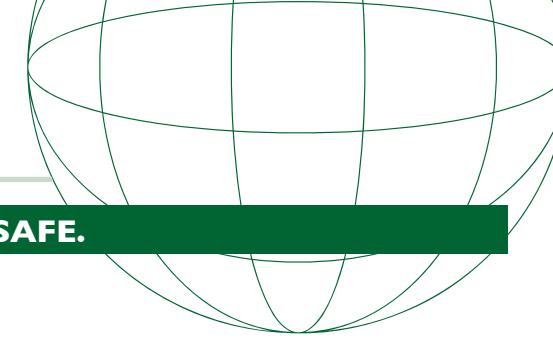


Community members at the event.



Graduates displaying their certificates.





Nomalanga Shabalala said:
“I volunteer on the CWP programme, but today I am working here as a marshal. I think it is a good campaign because men still beat women and children, some men even rape young children. I think it is important because it encourages women and children to speak out and report at the police stations.”



Mxolizi Khumalo said:
“I am involved in youth activities in the local youth forum. I think it is important to remind one another to protect children and not abuse one another. If children are protected and get support from parents and relatives, children will rise and achieve their dreams.”

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

Government declares war against violence and abuse

By Bongani Mazibuko: GCIS, Mpumalanga



The brand new house beneficiary, Nompi Shongwe, Mkhondo Local Municipality Executive Mayor, Vusi Motha, Member of the Provincial Legislature, Tshabalala and MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Petrus Ngomane.



Mpumalanga Provincial Police Commissioner, Bethuel Zuma, cutting the ribbon of the new house.

On 26 November 2016 Mpumalanga MEC for Community, Safety, Security and Liaison, Petrus Ngomane, handed over two fully furnished brand new houses to two beneficiaries who had previously been living in shacks. This was during the provincial launch of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children campaign at Saul Mkhizeville, Mkhondo Local Municipality. The beneficiaries are 66-year-old Nompi Shongwe who is living with her grandchildren and the 28-year-old Nomusa Gumbi who leaves with her five orphaned siblings.

“Down with the abuse of women and children down! Domestic violence and abuse must fall!,” said Councillor Daniel Thwala.

When handing over the house to Shongwe, MEC Ngomane said, “We are visiting you today on a special day when we advocate for the protection of women and children and by giving you this house today as a symbol of protection. We want to say we commit ourselves as government to protect women and children”.

**Siphiwe Hadebe said:**

"As a young woman in the women's league we strongly condemn any form of domestic violence, and abuse of women and children. I was happy today, because we were taught not to hide criminals, or perpetrators of abuse in our homes."



Nompi Shongwe and her grandchildren appreciating the new house.

Shongwe could not hold her tears of joy receiving the house from the MEC and she appreciated government for what it has done for her and her grandchildren. She has been voting during elections and today her vote has brought her a better life.

In the formal event held at Saul Mkhizeville, MEC Ngomane addressed the community members who attended. In his address he urged community members especially women not to hide perpetrators of abuse. He made a stern warning and cautioned women who give their children to step-fathers and to the so called "blessers", that they must not hide abusers. The law will take its course. He urged community members to report crime and in particular, incidents of domestic violence and abuse.



MEC Petrus Ngomane and Mayor Vusi Motha handing over the house key to the beneficiary Nomusa Gumbi.



Community members attending the provincial launch of the campaign.