



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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OUTCOME I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Deputy Minister engages community members

By Tabita Ngqunge: GCIS, Eastern Cape

In line with the 2016 State of the Nation Address (SoNA) pronouncements and government priorities, the Deputy Minister of Communications, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, led a post-SoNA information seminar in Mbashe Local Municipality in Idutywa on 18 April 2016. The Deputy Minister was accompanied by Mayors and senior government officials from government and its entities. The event took place at King Hintsa Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) college and afforded members of the community an opportunity to engage directly with the Deputy Minister. Government had also engaged and reflected on service delivery, plans, milestones and challenges as part of ongoing feedback to communities.

Preceding the post-SoNA information seminar was a project-monitoring visit where the Deputy Minister checked on the progress of the Online Video Editing course, which is currently ongoing at the King Sabata Dalindyebo TVET college in Cicira, Mthatha. The project was rolled out in partnership with MICT SETA and Atos, benefiting 70 unemployed youth in the Eastern Cape.

Local leadership and senior government officials participated in the event. Some of the issues that were raised, were challenges with students accommodation, which often exposes students to crime and communities. People also raised concerns over the lack of access to information in their communities and appreciated the seminar for broadening their minds. Entities such as the Media Development and Diversity Agency, Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, Film and Publication Board, and MICT SETA attended the event.

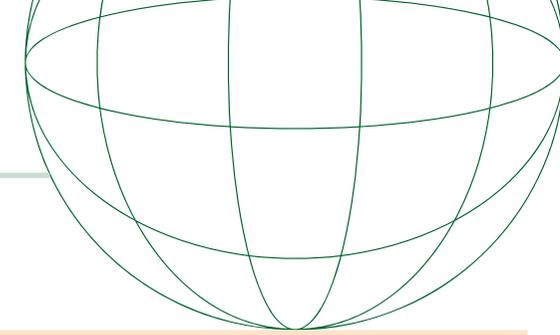
Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams called upon students to tap on available opportunities, venture into cooperatives, and explore other fields. Working with its entities, the Department of Communications will continue to engage in community interactive sessions around the country to engage directly with community members and stakeholders.

These engagements are part of government's participatory democracy approach where members of the public are allowed space to raise issues with government leaders and offer advice on resolving their challenges.



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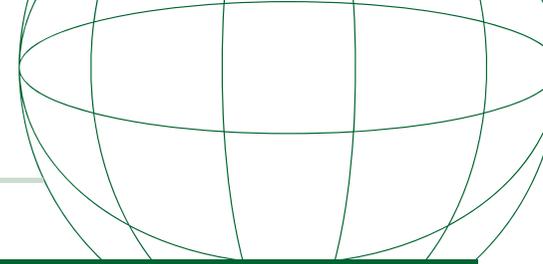
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Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams interacting with students at King Sabata Dalindyebo TVET college.



Deputy Minister addressing students and community members at King Hintsa TVET college.



Deputy Minister Manana speaking at Thiboloha Special School for the Blind and Deaf in QwaQwa.



Learners from Thiboloha listening to the Deputy Minister's address.



The Deputy Minister honouring educators who attended a sign-language programme at Wits University.

OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Government creates opportunities for people with disabilities

By Mamogolo Dirane: GCIS, Free State

The Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mduduzi Manana visited Thiboloha School for the Blind and Deaf in Phuthaditjhaba, QwaQwa on 25 April 2016 as part of promoting the "Opportunities for People with Disabilities" programme.

The purpose of the programme was to expose career opportunities within the Post-School Education and Training (PSET) to learners with disabilities and further share funding opportunities. The department's intention is to mainstream issues of persons with disabilities in the PSET sector.

Learners were exposed to opportunities available within the Sector Education and Training Authority's (SETAs), National Student Financial Aid Scheme, Maluti Technical Vocational Education and Training college, University of Free State and many other opportunities available within the PSET. The Deputy Minister also used the opportunity to award certificates to teachers who attended and successfully completed Sign Language Training at Wits University.



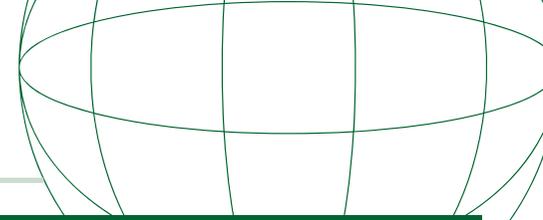
Mosidi Matjele said:

"The session was good because we accessed information about the SETAs that can assist us as blind and deaf students. We were also informed about opportunities we can access from government. I thank the Deputy Minister for giving us information."



Letsielo Nyamane said:

"The event gave us all the information that we needed. I would like to thank government for reaching out to us."



Dallen Kerff said:

“Country freedom luxuries allow me to participate in other cultures’ dances and beliefs. This helps me to conduct my studies research because I know and respect all cultures.”



Million Makumbila said:

“Today things have changed, nevertheless we are in democracy but people no longer respect it, instead of maintaining it they are destroying it.”

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

President Jacob Zuma urges communities to defend their freedom

By Doctrine Netshikweta and Nkuna Eunice: GCIS, Limpopo

President Jacob Zuma urged South Africans to defend their freedom and ensure sustainability for its achievement. This was during his Freedom Day speech at Giyani Stadium, which was aimed at encouraging communities to focus on optimistic thoughtful for prolific democracy of South Africa.

The event was attended by many dignitaries across the country. Among others were Khosi Khulu ya Vhavenda, King Toni Mphephu Ramabulana, senior traditional leaders, Ministers, Premier Stanley Mathabatha, Heads of chapter nine institutions and Mayors.

President Zuma stressed the concern of collective responsibility to defend the country’s freedom. “This freedom was not free, some people died for it. We must unite and not allow anything to threaten the freedom and democracy we fought so hard for. This means we must stop actions that undermine our hard won freedom such as engaging in violence. For example, when people are angry, there is no reason for them to burn factories, schools, trains or clinics because all those were built to provide better life for all,” said President Zuma.

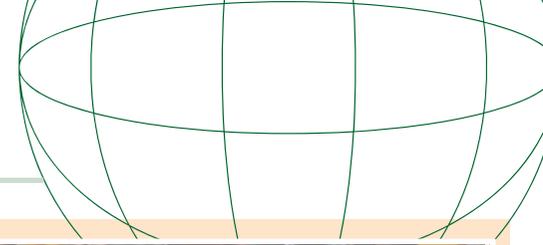
Million Makumbila from Giyani said during the Struggle, the key cause was fighting discrimination and equal access to state resources. he said.

Three youth from Mpumalanga, Dolly Skhosana, Khosi Mathlangu and Prince Bennett who attended the event said they were happy to be celebrating Freedom Day because freedom brings more changes to the lives of the youth.



Dolly Skhosana, Khosi Mathlangu and Prince Bennett said:

“As youth we are no longer deprived to access vital careers, unlike before. Even at lower level government is doing a lot to ensure quality education for all. We just pray that the President will call for free tertiary education. As youth we have a good story to tell. Nothing could stop us to pursue our favourite careers of choice in life.”



Xigono Mathonsi said:

“We are happy with the work of government and the initiative to bring Freedom Day celebrations to our area. The President loves this place. We are happy with his work. We used to have serious water problems in my ward, especially at Sifasonke and Thomo villages, but since the launch of the water project by President Zuma, we always have water. We cannot complain. We have every reason to celebrate.”



Agnes Machethe said:

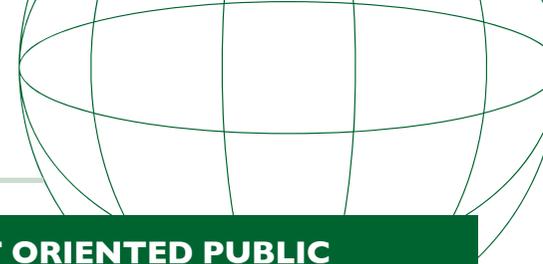
“It was important for me to be here, not only to celebrate but also to show support to the President and his government that we are happy with the work they are doing. They should ignore the critics and continue to serve the people.”



President Jacob Zuma greets community members at the packed Giyani Stadium during the Freedom Day celebrations.



Executive Mayor of Mopani Municipality, Councillor Nkakareng Rakgoale, President Zuma, Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa and Limpopo Premier Mathabatha at the event.



Hisham Salem said:

“We just need to know what is happening in South Africa. Mamelodi was one of the areas that we wanted to visit. The place is really nice and the people are so kind. This was such a really fruitful visit. It makes me happy to see that the centre is making a difference within the communities. We are grateful that we were welcomed with both arms.”



Thabo Mosehla said:

“Welcoming visitors is part of our work, we have to interact with all stakeholders. This shows that we are doing something good. We would love to say to the community, if they look after the centre, the centre would provide them easy access to government services and information.”

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

Thusong Service Centres inspire hope

By Robbie Senoelo: GCIS, Gauteng

A high-profile delegation from the Egyptian Ministry of Planning, Monitoring and Administrative Reform visited Mamelodi Thusong Service Centre on 15 April 2016. The visit formed part of their South African study trip to among others, understand the Thusong Service Centre programme of government and serve as a benchmarking opportunity to learn from the South African experience on how to bring government services and information closer to the people in an integrated way.

The visit began with a presentation by Peter Gumede, Government Communication and Information System Gauteng Provincial Director, on the critical role played by the Thusong Service Centre programme, as access points for development and in particular as service-delivery machinery. It was followed by another presentation by Tshepo Mokwena, Mamelodi Thusong Service Centre Manager. The presentation touched on the overall typology of Mamelodi with its different components in the centre as well as intergovernmental relationships that are underpinning the success of the Thusong Service Centre. The presentations were followed by a walkabout through the centre that included door-stop at Customer Care Centre with the main focus on the kiosk for online platforms and door-stops at various service providers to see the kind of services that are offered, resources, workflow, etc.

According to Hisham Salem from Egypt, the delegation was spending two weeks in South Africa to visit local services development areas and made their first stop at the Mamelodi Thusong Service Centre. This was their second visit to Mamelodi. They did a walkabout at the centre to see how the services were operating.

Melato Chikane, the Director of Customer Care showed them around. Another delegate, Salwa Tobbala, from the United States Agency for International Development said the visit was very nice and inspirational.



Egyptian delegation during their visit to the Mamelodi Thusong Service Centre.