




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Umkhanyakude water project

By Jacob Mkhize: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Minister Nomvula Mokonyane cutting the ribbon as other government leaders watch.



Minister Nomvula Mokonyane together with District Mayor Solomon Mkhombo and Delani Mabika cutting the ribbon and unveiling the plaque.

The Minister of Water and Sanitation, Nomvula Mokonyane, launched a multibillion rand water project at Jozini on 19 August 2017. This was a response to a community outcry about their inability to draw water from Jozini Dam.

The Department of Water and Sanitation therefore budgeted R2.1 billion to change the lives of people by funding the Jozini Regional Treatment Works. This massive project will then supply water to Jozini and Umhlabuyalingana communities, while the Big 5 Hlabisa will benefit from the water scheme coming from the Zululand District. Both projects draw water from the Jozini Dam.

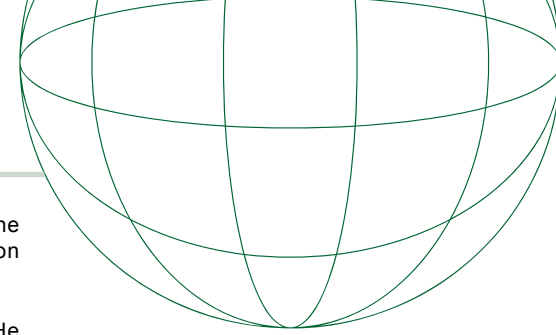
Minister Mokonyane mentioned that government would not stand by and watch while the Umkhanyakude community suffers. This district was amongst those which were hardly stricken by drought. She also said that water knows no boundaries of political affiliation, since water is a need for all citizens. The community was then urged to own the project and protect it against vandalism.



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The treatment works will continue to be under the service provider, Umhlathuze Water, until the Umkhanyakude District is capacitated to run this massive project. The project needs a proper operation and maintenance plan to ensure that it benefits more generations to come.

District Mayor Solomon Mkhombo was pleased that Umkhanyakude has benefited from government. He said that this was the biggest budgeted project in the region, which supercedes Inkululeko and Makhathini flats projects.



Government leaders during a walkabout at the plant.



Community members at the event.



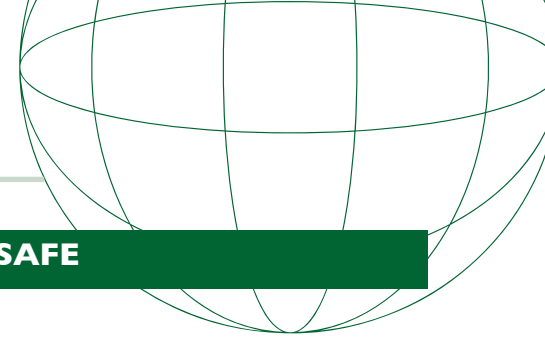
Minister Nomvula Mokonyane:

“The Department of Water and Sanitation ensured that R2.1 billion is made available to change the people’s lives of Umkhanyakude. This project will service most areas of Umkhanyakude and ease the burden of water shortage.”



Mayor Solomon Mkhombo:

“We are very thankful and delighted to benefit from this huge funding. As the district, we will ensure that water users pay for service retention. Those who qualify for free basic water will still benefit.”



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

Government reaches out to inmates

By Thembi Matjokana: GCIS, Gauteng



Bafana Nebulane:

“Today we were afforded the opportunity to be part of something positive, which is safety and most importantly, change. It is all up to us to change our mindset and contribute to a better South Africa and a better Sedibeng in our communities.”



Johannes Mosia:

“We are thankful for government visit. This shows us that we are not forgotten and we know that government has not given up on us. We should all change the way we used to view and do things.”



Lekoa FM Station Manager, Reggie Banda.



Thembi Matjokana speaking at the event.



Leeuhof inmates listening attentively as officials address them.

Sedibeng District Communication Forum team visited prisoners at the Leeuhof Prison on 28 June 2017 as part of government service delivery outreach. The visit was part of the regional resolution in the prevention of violence against women and children and as part of re-integration of inmates back into their families and community who are on the pre-release programme. Departments from national, provincial and regional levels integrated with prisoners informing them about their role in assisting government and society to end violence against women and children.

As part of the visit, Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) gave a motivational talk to encourage inmates to change, “Government has not forgotten about you, I believe that everything said is not about what it is said but how it is said and how the message is received. We can come here and tell you about all the wonderful programmes in government that are there to help you change your life but if you have not set your mind to change, our visit will not bring any change to your lives,” said Thembi Matjokana during her motivational talk.

Government informed inmates about gender-based violence and how women and children are victimised.

An official from Lekoa FM shared his story on his role in changing the lives of young men and women at his radio station. He shared information on the role played by the community radio station, which has employed 30 young people who are able to gain experience and removing them from bad elements such as crime, substance abuse and also girls being vulnerable ending up falling victims of abuse and prostitution.

Government departments further address the needs of the prisoners to inform them of government programmes such as skill development, employment after prison, establishing businesses and furthering their studies. An outreach will be organised where more government departments will bring their services and information to the inmates to assist the Department of Correctional Services in re-integration programme.

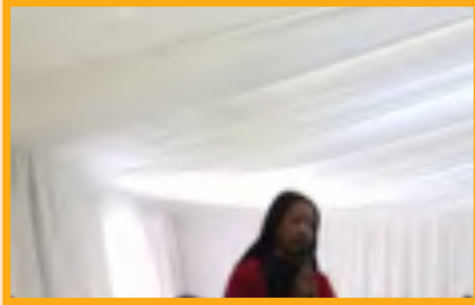
Leeuhof inmates welcomed government initiative and also motivated one another to do better and emphasised the importance of change and taking action to better their lives. “We are privileged to have this visit and wish to thank all the officials for the message of hope and also for reminding us that it is possible to change our circumstances and play a role in ensuring that no harm comes to our women and children,” said Bafana Nebulane, who is serving his last year in prison.



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

Department conducts Women's Month dialogue

By Ntombi Mhlambi: GCIS, Free State



Tshepiso Masike:

"We request that the offices of the the Department of Home Affairs offices also be in the townships."



Veronica Sothenjwa:

"I think there should be no payment for people who want permanent citizenship."



Minister of Home Affairs, Hlengiwe Mkhize, addressing Lejweleputswa women.



Lejweleputswa District women participating in the dialogue.

The Department of Home Affairs hosted an interactive dialogue on 26 August 2017 in Welkom, in partnership with other spheres of government, international organisations and private-sector stakeholders. The event was aimed at informing and educate women from various sectors of society on matters concerning legislation that has been implemented by the DHA to secure the right to citizenship, processes of protecting children through registration of birth within 30 days and recognition of customary marriages. The event took place under the theme: "The Year of OR Tambo: Women United in Moving South Africa Forward". It was attended by about 500 women within the Lejweleputswa District. Home Affairs Minister Hlengiwe Mkhize said, "Determination is what led the women of 1956 to march against pass-laws. The DHA has been moved to Security Cluster because we want to secure the identity and protect the citizens".

The Minister also touched on issues of migration that OR Tambo spent all his life moving from one country to another mobilising assistance in liberating South Africa. We also need to accommodate other people from other countries, who are seeking asylum in our country.



Zoleka Gogotho:

“I almost drowned in this river when I was in Grade 12. I was writing final examinations and my classmate and I had to cross the full river, knowing that if we miss that paper we will have to repeat Grade 12. We then threw ourselves in the river which was very full because we did not have any other alternative. This is a great thing that has ever happened to us as the communities of Mncwasa. We are very thankful to our government and this is a sign of a caring government.”



Nokwanda Gwavuma:

“This bridge is going to save our children’s lives and also community members who had to pay a lot of money to get to hospitals, clinics and schools. Many lives have been lost because of this river, we are really thankful to our government for listening to our cry.”



Sisonke Fokotshela:

“We are happy now that we are going to be able to get to our school safely and we will be able to access all what we need from town and the hospital without having to spend a lot of money because the bridge has opened a very shortcut to all those facilities.”

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

Bridge to restore people’s dignity

By Tabita Ngqunge: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Government and traditional leaders visited the bridge.



Community members from all the surrounding villages of Mncwasa during the Minister’s engagement session.



Minister Des van Rooyen being interviewed.

The Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Des van Rooyen, visited the communities of Mbashe Municipality in the Eastern Cape on 15 August 2017. The aim of the visit was to assess progress of a R10-million Mpame Bridge Project. Various villages in the municipality were forced to use dangerous makeshift means to cross the local river to access different institutions such as schools, hospitals, clinics, churches and other public amenities.

Following the intervention of the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), the dreaded rainy season inconveniences will become a thing of the past as the new bridge is set to bring relief to villagers of Kwa Chezi; Manzibomvu; Mdikana; Mpame; Mncwasa; Ngileni; Mkhathazo and Manzamnyama who will now enjoy safe crossing to interact with one another and also access government services.

South African municipalities are faced with challenges when it comes to service delivery infrastructure, which has led to the establishment of the Municipal Infrastructure Support Agency (MISA) under CoGTA as a special purpose vehicle to accelerate the delivery and maintenance of infrastructure in municipalities. Since its establishment, the agency has implemented various projects as requested by various municipalities. The construction of Mpame bridge is one of its latest project to improve municipal service delivery infrastructure.

The communities of Mbashe shared sombre stories of various challenges they had to endure when crossing the local river where in some instances they would need to take off their clothes so to continue with their journey on the other side of the river.

Minister Van Rooyen said his department was excited about the new investment and that MISA is at an advanced stage of completing the new bridge, which will benefit communities in line with the country’s Constitution. He said, “We are here to show that we are a listening and caring government that will stop at nothing to make a positive and lasting difference in the lives of our people wherever they are, hence we have decided to restore the dignity of Mbashe communities by relieving them from this hardship and thus giving hope.”

The event was attended by dignitaries such as the Eastern Cape MEC for CoGTA, Fikile Xasa, Executive Mayor of Amathole, Winnie Nxawe, Mayor of Mbashe, Samkelo Janda, Chief Dudumayo of Mncwasa Administrative Area, MISA Acting Chief Executive Officer, Ntandazo Vimba and government officials from various departments.