




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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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 the people

By Reki Skosana: GCIS, Mpumalanga



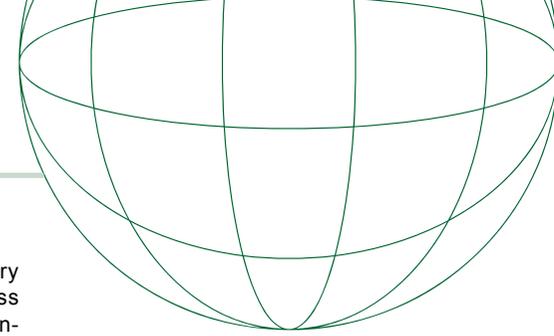
Government officials rendering services and sharing information with community members at the event.



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





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The Dr JS Moroka Stakeholder Forum collaborated and embarked on an integrated service delivery outreach at Katjibane village on 28 June 2017. Community members travel long distances to access government services. In an effort to respond to community needs, government departments, non-governmental organisation, Chapter 9 institutions and other stakeholders render services to more than 600 community members.

Some of the stakeholders who were at the event include the National Youth development Agency, who catered for the needs of young people, Small Enterprise Development Agency who assisted those who needed to establish and advance their businesses, South African Social Security Agency attended to grant beneficiaries while the Road Accident Fund assisted those with claims originating from road accidents.

The Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality issued affidavits and other documents and also shared information on the importance of paying for services. The Independent Electoral Commission registered those who wanted to be on the voters' roll to be able to cast their votes in the next elections while the Department of Home Affairs attended to the issues of legal documentation. The Department of Social Development assisted community members with social and domestic issues.



Mary Mokonyane said:
"Receiving government services at our doorsteps is good and helpful because there are people who do not have money to travel to access services. Community development is brought about by information that we receive at these events."



Mavis Masina said:
"These kinds of events assist our communities a lot. We need more of them."



Kate Taulela said:
"We are grateful of today's event because it assisted us. I had a problem with the deductions of money in my social grant but that has now been resolved. The issuing of food parcels is one of the many services that benefit our community because they make a difference in various deserving families. The registering of newborns is also important. We therefore thank all service providers who attended this event."



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

Government embraces education

By Abigail Batala: GCIS, North West



Graduates at the event.



Acting Executive Mayor Bongani Ngobeni presenting learners with certificates.

The Department of Environmental Affairs in partnership with LGSETA held a graduation ceremony for 90 learners who completed the Environmental Practice Learnership Programme. The event took place on 23 June 2017 at Mafikeng Hotel School. The graduation ceremony was aimed at addressing the environmental sector skills shortage at local government level and assists in strengthening the skills pipeline within the environment sector, thereby delivering on its mandate by supporting organisations in the sector. The ceremony happened at a relevant time when South Africa is commemorating the national Youth Month, under the theme: “Year of OR Tambo: Advancing Youth Economic Empowerment”. Graduates from the North West-based municipalities of Rustenburg, Ratlou, Ngaka Modiri Molema, Mamusa, Mahikeng, Kgetleng Rivier, Ditsobotla, and Bojanala were in a jubilant mood as they received their Further Education and Training Certificates.

Councillor Steven Van Royen of Mahikeng Local Municipality encouraged the learners to use their potential to the best of their ability.

Furthermore, the Acting Executive Mayor for Mahikeng Local Municipality, Bongani Ngobeni, motivated learners by telling them that graduation is not the end of the journey but the beginning of greater things to come.

“The learnership was a long journey and full of challenges but at the end of the day the group made it to the top. I am very proud and really happy about the graduation. Now it is time for me to further my studies in the environmental field and I wish all learners who participated in the programme the best of luck,” said Slindile Siwa.

Dimakatso Motlele, who also received a certificate, said, “I am very fortunate to be part of this learnership, now I am a better person and I am willing to turn the world into a better place and a best environment ever. I am one of the happiest graduates today. I am a qualified environmental officer. I am not just certified but also ready to provide the skills and knowledge that has been imparted through the whole programme.”



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

Youth expo empowers young people

By Nkopodi Mokgoma: GCIS, Limpopo



Amos Mohlala said:

“We are very grateful to be awarded this opportunity to interact with our leaders so that we can be informed about opportunities.”
Sekhukhune District.



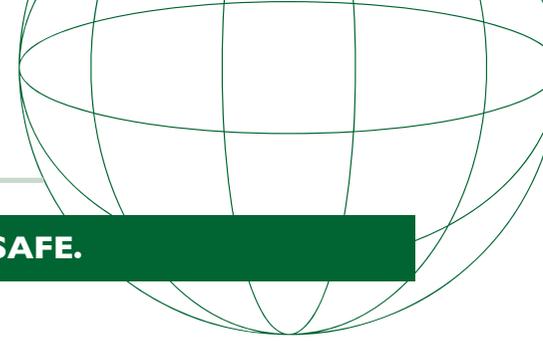
The Acting Executive Mayor Mbusi Mahlangu visiting the exhibition stalls.

Sekhukhune District Municipality held the 3rd Annual Youth Opportunity Expo at Thaba Moshate Casino and Conference Centre in Burgersfort, Fetakgomo-Greater Tubatse Local Municipality on 9 June 2017. This event was part of the national Youth Month activities. It was celebrated under the theme: “The year of OR Tambo: Advancing Youth Economic Empowerment”.

Members of the mayoral committee, Mbusi Mahlangu, Alfred Matlala, Thembekile Sihlangu and Peter Mnisi, honoured the event and represented the executive leadership of the Sekhukhune District Municipality. In his keynote address, representing the District Executive Mayor, Mahlangu said that the Annual Sekhukhune Youth Opportunity Expo is a platform to empower, promote and inspire the youth to play a meaningful role in the development of the whole district.

“The Department of Human Settlements will offer skills transfer through the building of 10 human settlement units to be built in communities of Fetakgomo-Greater Tubatse Local Municipality” said Titus Mafolo, the advisor to the Minister of Human Settlements. He was delivering the message from the Office of the Minister of Human Settlements.

Mahlangu urged the youth to protect OR Tambo’s legacy, “Let us use Youth Month to honour the sacrifices and the contributions of OR Tambo towards a free, non-racial and democratic South Africa. We should also learn more about the immense sacrifices our struggle icons made to where we are today,” said Mahlangu.



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

Government to intensify service delivery in Lusikisiki

By Ndlelantle Pinyana: GClS, Eastern Cape



Community members at the event.

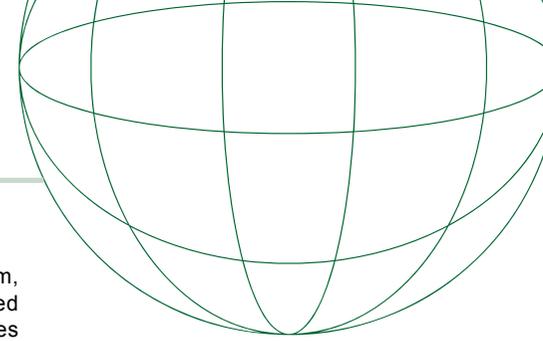


President Jacob Zuma speaking at the event.

President Jacob Zuma has made an undertaking to the community of Lusikisiki and surrounding areas that government would intensify the delivery of basic services to the people to improve their living conditions and would also ensure that a decisive action against crime is taken. This was made at the Siyahlole Presidential Monitoring visit at Lusikisiki on 24 June 2017. The event had a strong emphasis on building safer communities and improving service delivery in the area.

President Zuma began his visit by taking a guided tour to the new Lusikisiki Police Station, which he remarked was modern and had sufficient facilities to tackle crime. The state-of-the-art infrastructure has been built at the estimated tune of approximately R70 million and once operational, it will have all the South African Police Service units, which among others, the Tactical Response Team and the Dog Unit.

“We believe that this new police station will make a significant contribution to our fight to reduce crime in this community and defeat the scourge particularly of gangsterism in the form of Amavondo, about which I have received a number of complaints,” said the President. President Zuma then proceeded to the community-engagement part of his visit where community members voiced their grievances and also provided suggestions.



President Jacob Zuma during the walkabout at the police station.

They told the President that government needed to address the root causes of crime and gangsterism, which were unemployment and the absence of service delivery in the community. They also appealed to the President to help promote investments in the area and that there was enough land for factories and industries to be built.

The community also asked for the improvement of the R61 road. The Ministers of Police, Justice and Social Development as well as the Premier and local government leaders undertook to attend to all the issues raised by the community and directed them to begin by accessing the mobile services that they had brought to the community engagement. Other community members recorded their challenges with various government departments represented at the event.

President Zuma concluded the programme by vowing to ensure that all the levels of government he brought to Lusikisiki work speedily together to address all the challenges of the community. He said he would be asking for updates on progress especially from the departments he had brought with including Social Development, Justice, Energy, Water and Sanitation as well as Police.

In particular, the Minister of Police, Fikile Mbalula, announced that the new Lusikisiki Police Station would be officially opened on 1 August 2017.

The President also made a strong appeal to members of the community not to take the law into their own hands.

“I would be failing in my responsibility if I do not tell you that nobody has a right to kill or burn anybody. Suspected criminals must be handed to the police. Allow the law to take its course,” he said.

The President also visited the St Elizabeth Hospital, which provides primary healthcare services to the Lusikisiki community and surrounding villages. He was briefed by hospital management on the dire need for water at the hospital and other essentials such as professional staff, medicines, specialist nurses and doctors as well as the construction of new wards.

The hospital management also complained to the President about a construction company in the hospital that built only the basement and stopped the construction mysteriously in 2010. The President undertook to bring the matter and other issues raised to the departments of health and public works.

“I am very certain that now that we have brought this Siyahloa visit to Lusikisiki, the services are going to follow and the departments will deliver on their promises. That is why I have brought them here. But everywhere that we have taken this programme especially in rural areas, positive change has resulted in these communities,” said President Zuma.

President Zuma then appealed to the community to work with government especially the new police station to build safer communities in Lusikisiki.

Community members are urged to contact the toll-free number: 0800 428 428 to report all cases of rape, sexual assault or any form of violence to the police.