




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Operation Vuka Sisebente launch

By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Executive Mayor Thulisile Khoza delivering a welcome address.



Acting Chief Director from the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison BP Kubhayi giving message of support.



Executive Mayor Thulisile Khoza speaking at the event.

The lives of community members of Nkomazi Local Municipality will never be the same again. This comes after the successful launch of Operation Vuka Sisebente. All local structures including government department representatives came in numbers to be part of the fruitful and enlightening launch by the Executive Mayor, Thulisile Khoza. The operation was first launched in August 2015 by the Premier of Mpumalanga, David Mabuza, and adopted by the provincial executive council, hence all local municipality were mandated to comply.

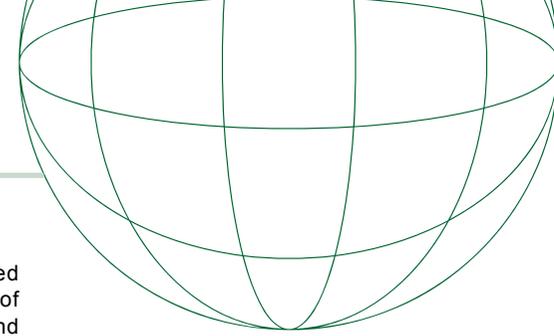
During the launch, Executive Mayor Khoza emphasised that all departments must ensure that they do away with working in silos operation and also that programme duplications will be the thing of the past. "As Nkomazi Local Municipality, we stand ready and committed to provide leadership and support to the various elements that are ingrained in the programme and to ensure that it succeeds in making the envisaged impact in the lives of our people," she said.



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Furthermore, stakeholders were encouraged to embrace the ethos and values that are entrenched in Operation Vuka Sisebente as a vehicle for social development, social cohesion and integration of resources. During the presentation by an official from the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, he cited that ward councillors would chair the operation and ensure that they work closely with the ward committee and community development workers as secretariat in ensuring that feedback is done immediately once community members had brought forward an issue. Matters should be referred to the departments as per community needs and follow ups be done.

In his message of support, an official from the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison said, "This operation afford us an opportunity to plan together and see what are the challenges around each ward and come up with solutions such as campaigns, dialogues in line with the community needs."

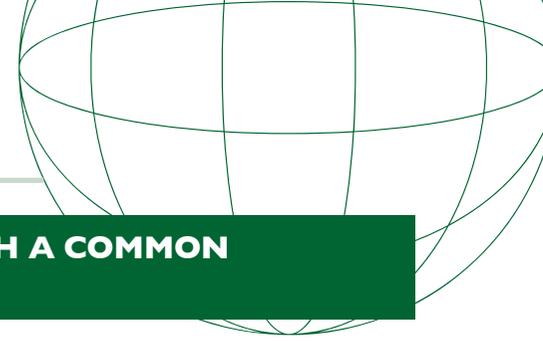


Community representative from all the local structures and government officials attending the launch.



Boshof said:

"I appreciate the effort that government is making. I also request government to conduct monitoring to ensure that people who are assisting in the operation really belong to certain local community structures."



Rea Ngwane said:

“South Africans should put more effort in branding their country positively by telling all good stories that surround them and impact positively on all citizens.”

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

Citizens urged to brand South Africa positively

By Kaone Moshwela: GICS, North West



Different stakeholders at the event.

Brand South Africa joined stakeholders in North West to discuss how strong provincial and city brands can contribute to a cohesive nation brand.

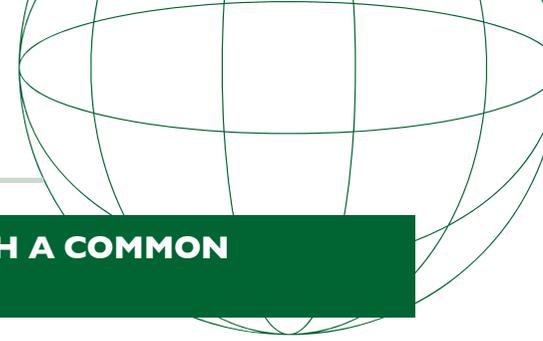
This is part of Brand South Africa's ongoing programme to work with stakeholders to consolidate efforts to position South Africa as a globally competitive nation brand with a host of advantages.

Tony Gumede from Brand SA presented about nation brand's six core areas, which are: “Investment and immigration, exports, people, culture and heritage, governance and tourism.”

“The investment potential and attractiveness to outsiders, levels of satisfaction in terms of good quality products and services when we talk about exports, are our people skilful and open. In culture and heritage, the focus is on commercial and cultural products and sporting while in governance the focus is on human rights, international contribution and competency fair governance. In tourism, the focus is on potential attractiveness and economic contribution,” he said.

Gumede further elaborated on the issue of immigration on how immigrants perceive us in terms of service delivery impact. Home affairs should play an important role in providing information and servicing immigrants hence President Jacob Zuma is in the discussion process to have one-stop shop centre to be launched in Pretoria to service solely immigrants. This centre will make it possible for immigrants to be assisted in one place without being taken from one place to another. He concluded by encouraging stakeholders to use the Brand SA logo and play their part in nation branding.

Brand SA has also partnered with the Department of Trade and Industry (dti). Fuziwe Khubeka from the dti also encouraged stakeholders to promote the departmental programmes as they are not participating enough to be able to play a role in nation branding in terms of our economy. Brand SA also highlighted on the feedback given emanating from research conducted from all provinces.



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

Premier delivers State of the Province Address (SoPA)

By Vuyani Sibene: GClS, Eastern Cape



Langa said:

“I was employed for only three months and I wish there can be more permanent jobs for us. The Premier should focus on infrastructure development, farming and electrification.”



Boniwe said:

“The event was well organised and it had all the service-delivery commitments.”

The SoPA becomes the anchor platform where government accounts to the public on what it has done to change their lives as well as to map out new priorities in the new financial year. On 17 February 2017, the Premier of the Eastern Cape, Phumulo Masualle, delivered the SoPA for the people of Eastern Cape. Part of the publicity campaign was to activate a live television broadcast in the legislature precinct. This was achieved through a live television outside broadcast via a live uplink to satellite, via the Parliament studios in Cape Town, to the DSTv bouquet. The screening was at Mhlontlo Local Municipality, Tsolo Town Hall. The Premier emphasised to the Provincial Development Plan, which, since 2014 has been implementing the following seven broad strategic priorities:

- Better access to quality education
- Promoting better healthcare for all people
- Stimulating rural development, land reform and food security;
- Transformation of the economy to create jobs and sustainable livelihoods
- Strengthening the developmental state and good governance
- Intensifying the fight against crime
- Integrated human settlements and building
- Cohesive communities and nation-building.



Mangece said:

“I appreciate that the Premier spoke about electricity and lack of water supply also upscaling on service delivery.”



OUTCOME 2: A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS

District hosts a successful NHI stakeholder engagement

By Thandinkosi Zulu: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Zakhele Ntanda said:

“We are happy as traditional healers to be part of the programme. I have gained a lot from today’s session. For example, community members who seek help from us as traditional healers, we must encourage them to continue with their HIV-positive treatment, which is their lifetime medication. Even though we give them traditional medication but they must continue with their medication from clinics or hospitals.”



Bhekumuzi Nzuza said:

“We have been taught that as clinic committee members we have a serious responsibility to support the functioning of clinics around us. We salute the improved reduced rate of teenage pregnancy within our district. Our work is to continue to educate communities about the role of the NHI in their lives as per lessons learned today.”



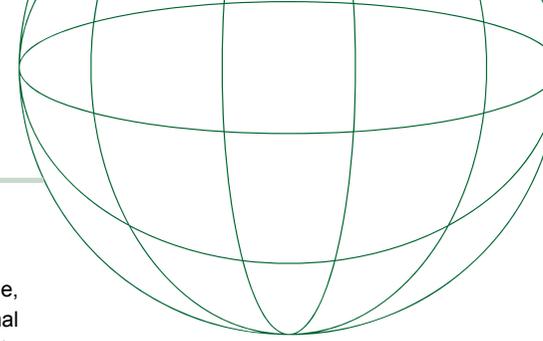
Gugu Shabangu addressing stakeholders during the engagement meeting.



Stakeholders from various formations attentively listening to the presenters.

The Department of Health within Umzinyathi is moving forward on the implementation of the first phase of the National Health Insurance (NHI), which is a major boost to a 93% (486 205) community members who do not have medical aid and rely on government health services. This was seen during Umzinyathi district health stakeholder engagement meeting following the 2017 State of the Nation Address and the State of the Province Address reflections that was held on 2 March 2017 at the Battlefield Country Lodge.

Outlining the purpose of the meeting, Acting District Manager, Gugu Shabangu, stated that it is very important for Umzinyathi District as the health sector to work together with its stakeholder by giving feedback on the work that has been achieved so far, further outline the plans for the upcoming financial year with the aim of seeking community input on how to channel its services as informed by the citizen charter. “We planned to meet with all DoH [Department of Health] stakeholders that we are within our district. We felt that we need to give feedback to the community and progress on NHI since it was incepted in 2012 and also to seek input from the stakeholders on our plans and priorities that we have as Umzinyathi going forward. The meeting was also used to get the views of community representatives on how do they feel about the services that we are rendering as the district. We did not want to implement any plans without their input and endorsement. We also wanted to share the *NHI White Paper*, which will be shared with all the forums within Umzinyathi so that everybody understand the whole NHI and its objectives,” she said.



Thuleleni Nene said:

“It is very delighting to be invited and being recognised by Umzinyathi District Health as the hard working non-governmental organisation to be part of today’s programme. It is my wish that the Department of Health can assist us to facilitate training of our volunteers who are helping sick and needy community members since we do not even have budget for that. We are happy to see the results of the NHI within our district.”

The meeting attracted a number of stakeholders including sector departments on Operation Sukuma Sakhe, Umvoti Speaker Wilson Khoza and Endumeni Ward Councillor Sandy Bedassi, religious leaders, traditional healers, non-governmental organisations, clinic committees and hospital boards. The meeting was also used to orientate more than 200 stakeholders on the *White Paper on NHI*. It was indicated that the implementation of NHI will take place in three phases over a 14-year period.

Shabangu added that the district was committed and doing very well to implement the NHI first phase. She further stated that the progress report on Primary Health Care Re-engineering confirms that Umzinyathi is doing a fantastic job to implement the NHI, which includes strengthening of the service-delivery platform and the overall improvement of quality in the health sector.

The fully packed stakeholders’ meeting applauded the work done by the district in making their contribution to the health system. Community members shared their sensitive living testimonials on how primary healthcare outreach teams have improved their livelihood.



Traditional healers and clinic committee members during the stakeholder engagement meeting.