




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:

EASTERN CAPE

Ndlelantle Pinyana
043 722 2602 or 076 142 8606
ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za

FREE STATE

Lineo Sehlabaka
051 448 4504 or 082 722 9445
tshenolo@gcis.gov.za

GAUTENG

Peter Gumede
011 834 3560 or 083 570 8080
peterg@gcis.gov.za

KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420
ndala@gcis.gov.za

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

President unveils pedestrian bridge in Botlokwa

By Madire Mocketla: GCIS, Limpopo



President Jacob Zuma arriving at the spot where he unveiled the N1 bridge plaque.



Service-delivery drive during the handover of the N1 bridge.

It was a jovial moment when President Jacob Zuma unveiled the multimillion rand infrastructure projects to the community of Botlokwa in Limpopo. The event took place on 17 October 2017. The President was accompanied by the Minister of Transport, Joe Maswanganyi, Limpopo Premier Stan Mathabatha and members of his executive council. Botlokwa bridge is part of government's broader infrastructure development in the province. The bridge was part of the many projects that government is showcasing during Transport Month, which is being celebrated under the theme: "Together we move South Africa Forward." The Department of Transport and its entities are showcasing transport infrastructure services in aviation, maritime, public transport and roads.

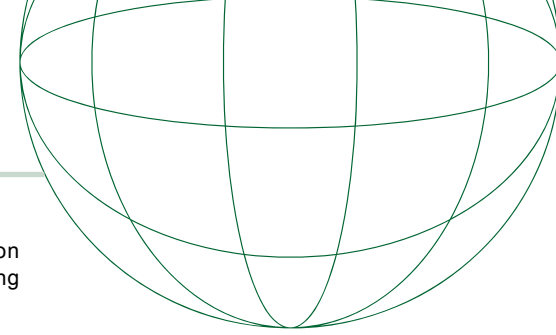
The construction of the bridge started in 2014 by the South African National Roads Agency Limited to ensure improved road safety for road users, pedestrians and motorists in general. The project is made up of a bridge and two pedestrian bridges. It also benefited local businesses and the community of Botlokwa by creating close to 200 employment opportunities.



government communications

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





LIMPOPO

Thanyani Ravhura
015 291 4689 or 082 421 3461
thanyani@gcis.gov.za

MPUMALANGA

Jerry Nkosi
013 753 2397 or 082 316 5295
Jerry@gcis.gov.za

NORTH WEST

Kagisho Merementsi
018 381 7071 or 084 318 9179
kagisho@gcis.gov.za

NORTHERN CAPE

Marius Nagel
053 832 1378/9 or 083 778 9179
mariusn@gcis.gov.za

WESTERN CAPE

Ayanda Holo
021 697 0145 or 061 488 0634
holo@gcis.gov.za



The President officiated the handing over by unveiling the plaque and proceeded to cut the ribbon on the beautifully crafted state-of-the-art over-head bridge joining Mphakane village and Botlokwa shopping complex.

President Zuma stated that the Botlokwa bridge is a visible example that government is committed to delivering strategic infrastructure projects that are aimed at transforming the economy, creating job opportunities and stimulating opportunities for growth. The Zion Christian Church brass band entertained the audience with their melodius songs.

The Botlokwa bridge was one of the most needed infrastructure project following the community quest for government intervention due to many fatalities from car crashes and pedestrians being run over by vehicles on the busy N1 heading to Musina. The community indicated that there were about five to six accidents on some weekends. People cross the road to access fruit and vegetable markets, shopping complex and taxi ranks to various destination hence there are always pedestrians in all parts of the road. The President indicated that the Botlokwa project “demonstrates the fact that government responds to the needs expressed by communities and the priorities they identify”.



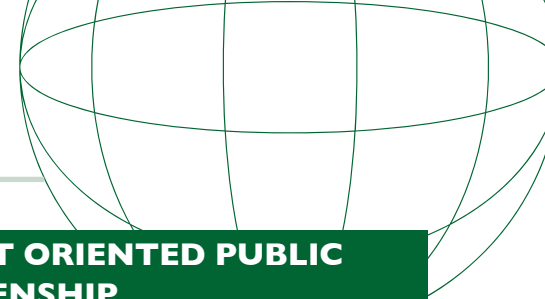
Community members came in their numbers to witness the handing over of the bridge.



Maria Mohale said:
“We appreciate the bridge, it will reduce accidents, we lost our brothers and sisters on this road. We could not take it any longer.”



Moyahabo Ramokgopa said:
“We are grateful to government for listening to our concerns, which resulted in the construction of this bridge.”



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

Newcastle Municipality launches Transport Month

By Nompilo Mchunu: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Amajuba Driving School Association raising awareness about illegal driving schools.



Shadrack Msimang said:
 “The aim of launching Transport Month is for motorists to understand that road accidents can be prevented if they abide by the rules of the road.”

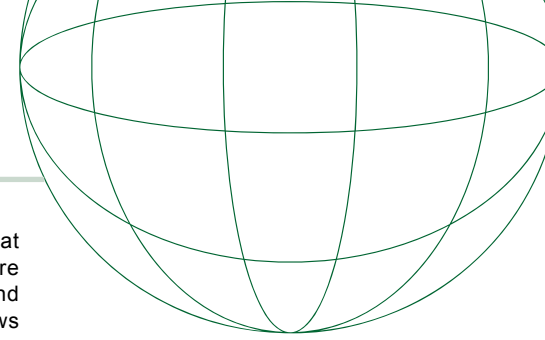


Dumisani Thabethe from community services and Newcastle Deputy Mayor Dudu Sibiya interacting with motorists respectively.

The Newcastle Municipality conducted a road intersection activation at Hilldrop on Allen Street on 5 October 2017 to launch Transport Month. This year’s Transport Month is observed under the theme: “Together Moving South Africa Forward”. The purpose of the road intersection was to advance the municipality’s road safety initiatives, transport infrastructure and raise awareness on illegal driving schools. The event was attended by stakeholders such as the Amajuba Driving School Association, Road Traffic Inspectorate, departments of transport and health, Government Communication and Information System, fire fighters and the South African National Taxi Council.

The activation targeted public-transport operators, motorists, commuters and pedestrians.

Dumisani Thabethe from community services said, “The transport sector contributes highly to job creation, growing the economy and also in the economic empowerment of the people. That is why as a municipality, we will continue to invest in our transport infrastructure as part of skills development and to improve the lives of people.”



William Smith said:

“I definitely abide by the rules of the road and my vehicle is roadworthy. I drive cautiously in order to ensure that other drivers do not suffer because of me.”



Phumelele Mhlongo said:

“Such activities are important as they shine the spotlight on the transport sector and the impact it makes on growing the economy and creating jobs.”

While interacting with public-transport operators, Thabethe pleaded with them to remember that the safety of passengers was their responsibility. “Drivers need to ensure that their vehicles are roadworthy and compliant with the rules of the road. This will help to reduce road fatalities and carnages. As a municipality, we are also committed to reducing the fatality rate by enforcing laws and regulations,” he added.

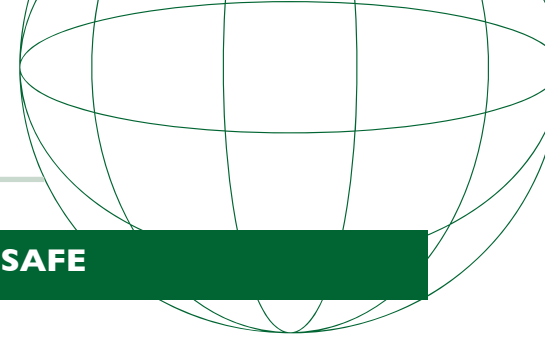
Jeff Nkosi, chairperson of the Amajuba Driving School Association, said the aim of the activation was also to raise awareness about illegal driving schools and the impact that they have on road fatalities. “These driving schools sell fake drivers’ licences, as a result, drivers do not even know the rules of the road or even how to obey them. We urge people to be cautious and not engage in these illegal practices as they impact negatively on the sector and the safety of other road users,” said Nkosi.



Traffic officials enforcing law and order.



Road Traffic Inspectorate officials at the activation



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

Transport Month lessons for community members

By Ntombi Mhlambi: GCIS, Free State



Disebo Khantshi said:

“I am very happy that government leaders do not come to us only when they want our votes. I would appreciate if government can bring these important offices to our small towns.”



Kagiso Tsokolibane said:

“I learned the importance of claiming for social insurance within three years of the accident. Most of us did not know that. I also learned that even if an accident was a hit and run I could claim.”



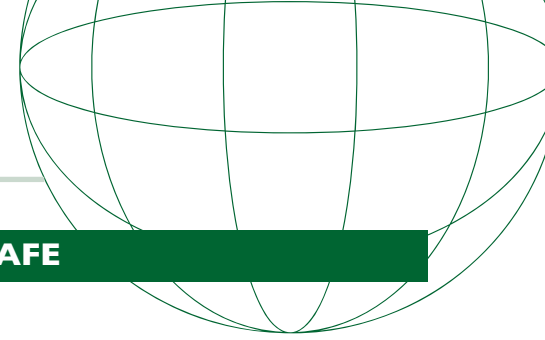
Suzan Lebona and Karabo Logabane from the RAF addressing the audience. Community members at the event.



An official from SANTACO presenting on the negative impact of travelling by unlicensed taxis.

Theunissen is a small town near the R30 road in the Free State. Community members in this area prefer to use unlicensed taxis to travel to their respective destinations. However, they are not aware of the dangers that come with that. To address this, Government Communication and Information System hosted a dialogue to create awareness on the dangers of travelling in unlicensed taxis and provide information on how communities can claim from the Road Accident Fund (RAF).

The event was also used to commemorate Transport Month under the theme: “Together We Move South Africa Forward”. Suzan Lebona from RAF encouraged the community to stop using attorneys to apply for their social insurance as it delays the process and in some cases, the attorneys get more money than the applicants. An official from the South African National Taxi Council (SANTACO) said travelling by their taxis is safe as they record the names of their commuters, which makes it easy to identify passengers in case of an accident. He told the community that licensed taxis have stickers on the door, which state the owner’s name and it has a taxi signage on top of the vehicle, which the unlicensed taxi does not have. He also mentioned how travelling by unlicensed taxis impact on their business financially and also defeats government’s efforts of encouraging communities to create their own businesses within the transport sector.



Chief Nqevu said:

“Let us go back to our roots where men were providers for their families so that our children can stop being victims of gender-based violence and women and child abuse.”

OUTCOME: ALL PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE AND FEEL SAFE

Heritage Day celebration

By Tabita Ngqunge: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Community members showcasing various traditional outfits at the event.

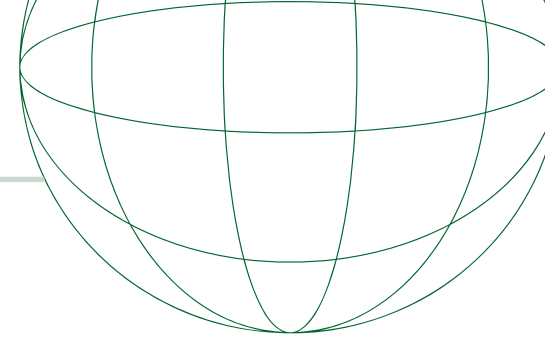
The Xhosa Kingdom located in Mbashe Municipality, observed Heritage Day on 20 September 2017 in Nqadu Great Place. The event enabled community members to showcase different aspects of South Africa’s diverse heritage. The day was also dedicated to educate the South African youth about the importance of preserving their culture with a special emphasis on arts and heritage. About 300 people attended the event.

The day was also used to educate people about gender-based violence (GBV). The traditional leadership from the area, government departments, civil society and faith-based organisations participated in the programme. The event was also used as a vehicle for nation-building, national reconciliation, moral regeneration, economic development, social cohesion and the creation of a common national identity. Traditional leaders encouraged people to go back to their culture and roots and work towards reducing the high rate of GBV.

For this reason, the Provincial Core Team, comprising the Government Communication and Information System, Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), and the South African Local Government Association held a two-day induction programme targeting the newly appointed communicators. It took place on 27 September 2017.

The main objective of the workshop was to introduce the new entrants to the systematic functioning of the government communication system and the national communication framework. The event also sought to enhance and strengthen their communication capacity and also instil a culture of working together for an effective inter-sphere government communication system. Furthermore, the workshop, aimed at positioning communication as a strategic tool for service delivery and better coordination of the government communication system at a local-government level and to forge a common understanding in the application of the Local Government Communication System within the context of back-to-basics.

During the workshop, officials were taken on tour to the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) and Lowveld Community Newspaper offices.



New Minister of Communications



Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi (MP) is the new Minister of Communications. She was appointed to this position on 17 October 2017. The Minister has served as Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Telecommunications and Postal Services. She has also served as the Whip of Parliamentary Committee on Basic and Higher Education and Training, and also in the Standing Committee on Appropriations.