



# MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 39/October 2016

## 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](mailto:ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za)

### FREE STATE

Lineo Sehlabaka  
051 448 4504 or 082 722 9445  
[tshenolo@gcis.gov.za](mailto:tshenolo@gcis.gov.za)

### GAUTENG

Peter Gumede  
011 834 3560 or 083 570 8080  
[peterg@gcis.gov.za](mailto:peterg@gcis.gov.za)

### KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi  
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420  
[ndala@gcis.gov.za](mailto:ndala@gcis.gov.za)

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

### Commemoration of the 30th Anniversary of Samora Machel's death

By Owethu Mthethwa and Livhuwani Todani: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Different communities in attendance inside the hall.



Community members also came in large numbers to support the event.

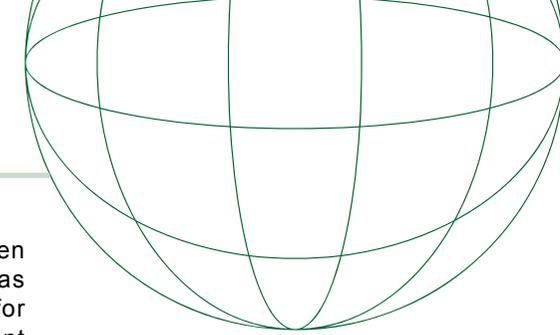
Hundreds of people gathered at the Samora Machel Museum in Mbuzini to celebrate the 30th anniversary of the plane crash that claimed the life of Mozambique's first President, Samora Machel. The incident was commemorated on 17 October 2016 by the South African Government. Dignitaries from Mozambique and South Africa were in attendance. The event was graced by the South African Deputy President, Cyril Ramaphosa, Mozambican Prime Minister Carlos Agostinho de Rosario, Minister of Arts and Culture, Nathi Mthethwa, Mpumalanga Premier David Mabuza and Graca Machel and Samora Machel's family.



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](mailto:thanyani@gcis.gov.za)

**MPUMALANGA**

Jerry Nkosi  
013 753 2397 or 082 316 5295  
[Jerry@gcis.gov.za](mailto:Jerry@gcis.gov.za)

**NORTH WEST**

Kagisho Meremetsi  
018 381 7071 or 084 318 9179  
[kagisho@gcis.gov.za](mailto:kagisho@gcis.gov.za)

**NORTHERN CAPE**

Marius Nagel  
053 832 1378/9 or 083 778 9179  
[mariusn@gcis.gov.za](mailto:mariusn@gcis.gov.za)

**WESTERN CAPE**

Ayanda Holo  
021 697 0145 or 061 488 0634  
[holo@gcis.gov.za](mailto:holo@gcis.gov.za)



In his address, Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa reflected on the relationship between South Africa and Mozambique when Samora Machel was still alive. “Samora Machel was not only Mozambican, he was also South African as he fought along us in South Africa for the liberation of our people against oppression and the apartheid government. President Machel is ours as he is yours in Mozambique. We will continue to remember and honour him,” said Deputy President Ramaphosa.

Minister Mthethwa made references to Samora Machel’s struggle in efforts to unite the southern region of Africa and made calls against xenophobia and that we should welcome one another and treat one another better as brothers and sisters without discrimination. Samora Machel’s son, Samora Machel Jnr, shared a few memories and sang a song about his father. Graca Machel also took to the podium to remember her late husband. There were also survivors from the plane crash who were honoured by the Deputy President Ramaphosa at the event.



**The five men who survived the incident presented by Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa.**



**The South African National Defence Force band played Mozambican and South African national anthems.**



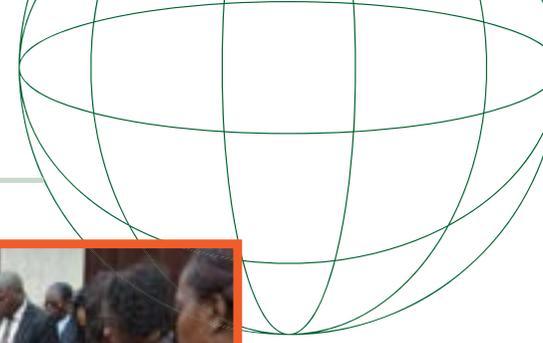
**The South African National Defence Force raising South African and Mozambican flags.**



**Graca Machel, Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa and Prime Minister Carlos Agostinho de Rosario arriving at the event.**



**Minister Nathi Mthethwa and Premier David Mabuza arriving at the commemoration.**



**Lucas Masina said:**

“As the Mbuluzi community we get an opportunity for piece jobs during this once-off commemoration. I request government to look at assisting farmers because of this drought. Most of us depend on growing vegetables to feed our families.”



**Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa and Mozambique Prime Minister Carlos Agostinho de Rosario observing protocol during the singing of the national anthems.**



**Family members paying their respect.**



**Deputy President and Prime Minister with the family of Samora Machel.**



**Remaining parts of the plane that killed Samora Machel.**

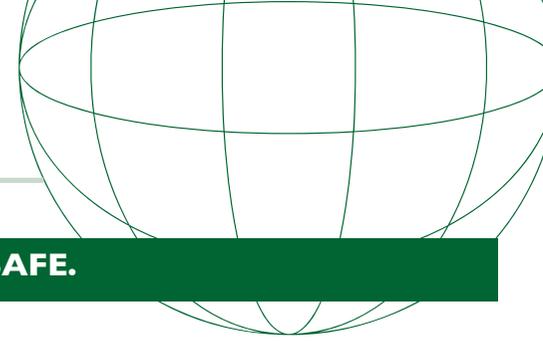


**Mfana Zitha said:**

“I acknowledge that government recognises the tragedy of Samora Machel.”



**Traditional dancers providing entertainment.**



**Heleen Sliep said:**

“The campaign is very important because we have lots of children running around bunking school. There is also a bad element of people drinking early in the morning and our children become vulnerable. This will really help the kids.”



**Basil Swarts said:**

“This is going to be good for the community.”

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

**MEC launches the Walking Bus Project**

*By Portia Mlisa: GCIS, Western Cape*



**The MEC interacting with learners before the commencement of the walking-bus project.**



**MEC Dan Plato taking part on the walking-bus project.**

MEC for Community Safety in the Western Cape, Dan Plato, visited Kleinmond on 14 October 2016. The purpose of the visit was to launch the Walking Bus Project, which is aimed at safety and security of learners. This initiative was started by the MEC in March last year and it is the first of its kind in South Africa. During his address, Minister Dan Plato said, “Education is the key to empowerment. To get out of poverty will not happen in the flick. Parents need to ensure that children finish school. Girls who get pregnant wait for boyfriends that will never come back instead of getting qualifications for themselves. The mindset of relying on the South African Social Security Agency grants should get away, people should know how they can get out of poverty. Even a handyman should show a certificate of being a handyman to get a job. That means it is becoming more difficult to get a job if you are an ordinary man.”

The initiative entails members of the broader community or parents volunteering to walk groups of children to school and back home. The campaign provides peace of mind for parents especially those working and concerned about children’s safety.

The Department of Community Safety provides the kits for the members of the walking bus, such as bibs and whistles, and once training is complete and they are registered with the department as a division of the Neighbourhood Watch, they will be geared up further, with jackets, boots, etc. As this is currently on a voluntary basis, there are existing methods whereby the department supports them further with potential projects with the possibility of a small amount of funding each month, however, most importantly, this depends on the registration process of the walking-bus team and further training.



**The MEC and his delegates during his visits to school.**

The initial launch of the walking bus was held six months ago in the area of Wesbank and started with 150 members, covering four schools. The team grew to nearly 300 members within three days. Since its inception in the area of Wesbank, crime was visibly reduced by 34% within a week and schools were feeling more secure and protected. Children are excited and eager to walk to school as part of this initiative and members of the walking bus keep an eye on children attempting to play truant or those who purely choose to stay at home without their parents' permission. The walking bus also acts as a deterrent to those would-be perpetrators of crime and as a preventative measure for high-school learners who attempt to take a turn in the wrong direction. Members also ensure that schools are a safe place. This was repeated with a launch in the areas of Lentegeur, Beacon Valley, Bishop Lavis, Scottsdene, Blue Downs-Eersteriver, Leonsdale-Elsies River. This move has seen similar positive results with urgent requests from schools and the community in general in other areas that are requesting a launch of this initiative at the department's earliest convenience.

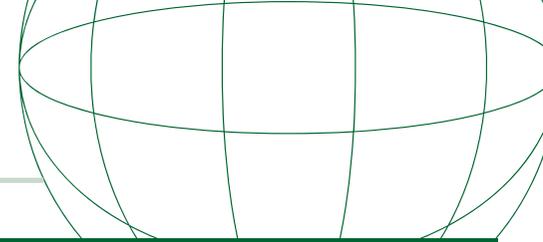
Jemayne Andrews who is the official responsible for Community Outreach in the Minister's office said, "This has become a little baby to nurture to make sure that our children access education, which is their right. This is a collective and a uniting process. After a few weeks, you will notice the difference, our children will be happy and laughing when walking to school. Principals and teachers now feel more relieved that parents guard school grounds and toilets and even during break they monitor bullying and bad behaviour."



**MEC Dan Plato standing with learners and two ward councillors.**



**MEC Plato during his radio interview arranged with DISA FM.**



**Anna Mamega said:**

“The programme was very informative. My concern is drug abuse and the people who bring drugs into Paballelo.”



**David Van Wyk said:**

“The programme was informative. The problem that I have is the low morals in the community. The Moral Regeneration Movement needs to be revived to be able to see the difference.”

## OUTCOME 13: A COMPREHENSIVE, RESPONSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM.

### Dialogue to discuss child foster care

By Esmarelda Mckay: GCIS, Northern Cape



Community members attending the dialogue.



Connie Demu addressing the community of Paballelo.

The Inter-Ministerial Committee on Social Development visited Paballelo in Upington on 13 October 2016 to engage on issues relating to child foster care. The purpose of the visit was to find ways of dealing with the backlogs. A total of 280 community members interacted with the stakeholders such as the South African Police Service, departments of social development, health, justice and constitutional development, and other civil society structures.

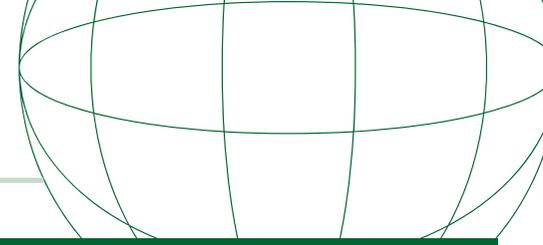
Community members who were experiencing frustrations due to slow progress on resolving foster child-care issues raised their concerns and appreciation of intervention by the committee. They were also offered the opportunity to assist the department by offering solutions in that regard.

The Inter-Ministerial Committee promised to return after consulting with the Minister of Social Development. Connie Demu, a member of the committee, added that social workers need the support of communities to do their job.



**Grace van Wyk said:**

“My problem is alcohol abuse and the social ills that go with it. We need more programmes to stop alcohol abuse.”



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

### Government interacts with community members

By Tabita Ngqunge: GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 14 October 2016, Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) visited Ngqushwa taxi rank and distributed information and also engaged with commuters. It was a humbling experience to interact with community members and empower them with information during Transport Month and with new information from the *Vuk'uzenzele* newspaper, which speaks about numerous things such as bursaries that will be available for 2017. The good thing about *Vuk'uzenzele* is that it covers everything from community upliftment programmes, helping young people to better their skills, tips for saving water, equal and better education for all and making infrastructure in South Africa safer for users.

The taxi-rank activation was done in partnership with the Ngqushwa Municipality, community development workers from the Eastern Cape Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and the Eastern Cape Liquor Board, which walked alongside the GCIS at the taxi rank to promote road safety, educating the public about the dangers of drunk driving as well as distributing promotional materials. As the GCIS interacted with community members, some of them expressed their concerns and how they would like government to assist them. One woman from Nobumba village in Ngqushwa, a street vendor at the Peddie taxi rank said, "This programme was very successful as people accessed information that could change their lives for the better."



**Mrs Ngesi said:**

"Government must supply us with shelter especially at the taxi rank where we sell goods and vegetables because there are problems when it rains."



**Mam'uMaswana said:**

"Government must intervene in this #FeesMustFall issue because we are getting worried as parents now. It seems as if we are going to lose the whole year because of this."