




# MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 10 / March 2017

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

### Lessons on the functions of Parliament

By Peter Titus: GCIS, Western Cape



Participants posing for a picture in front of Parliament.



Group of participants being educated about the role of the Two Houses of Parliament.

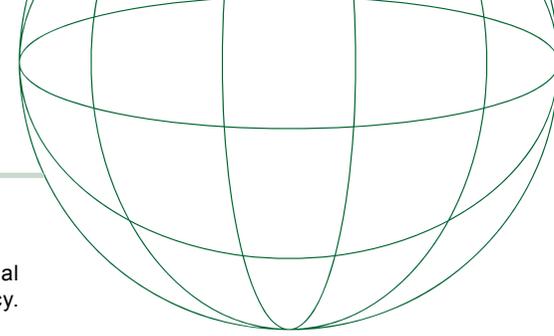
The local coordinator of the Community Works Programme in the Cape Winelands District had requested the support of the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) on educating and informing the participants in the Cape Winelands on various topics. One of the topics of interest was on civic education information, with a particular focus on how government functions interdependently.



government  
communications

Department:  
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The GCIS liaised with key partners such as the Cape Winelands District Municipality, the National Parliament Public Education office as well as the Member of Parliament of the Breede Valley constituency. The group of “eager to learn” participants received information on the following aspects:

1. The National Flag
2. National symbols
3. The law-making process
4. How municipalities function
5. The spheres of government and how it functions interdependently
6. Rights and responsibilities of citizens.

This work session also included an Educational Excursion to National Parliament, funded by the Cape Winelands District Municipality. This educational excursion to parliament really cleared up a lot of questions that participants had during the work session, and the participants perception of parliament was changed.



**A session in the Old Assembly room.**



**The National Council of Provinces building was also visited.**





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

**District observes International Women’s Day**

*By Nkopodi Makgoma: GCIS, Limpopo*



**Mrs Mahlangu said:**

“I am very happy about the young doctor who told us a lot of things that we mothers at home do not tell our young daughters.”



**Rebone Rahlagane said:**

“It is important to have these type of sessions regularly as we get to be informed about issues that affect us. I wish this idea also be rolled out in all villages.”



**Acting Executive Mayor lighting the candle.**



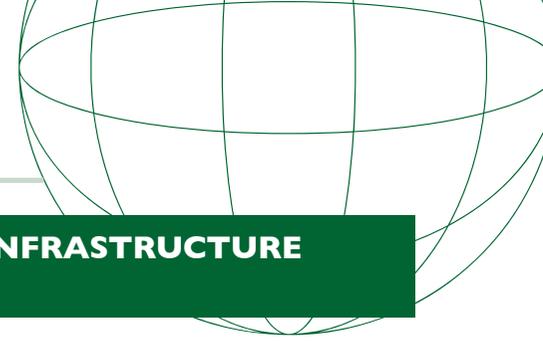
**Some of the women in attendance.**

Sekhukhune District Municipality in partnership with the Department of Health, Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality and the Apostolic Faith Church agreed to organise the International Women’s Day event. The event took place on 17 March 2017 at the Apostolic Faith Church in Ramogwerane.

The institutions agreed that women in general are the most suppressed section of the society even though government has good laws and legislations that recognise and protect them. One issue that was discovered was that the majority of rural women do not have or receive enough information about what government is doing for them. They do not know their rights.

The Deputy Director, Special Programmes and diversity Management from the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, RH Digomo, indicated the processes on how government introduces laws on domestic violence, which affect mainly women and children. She also spoke about the important role played by women in the country. “Today as I speak we have women who are Ministers, Deputy Ministers, Mayors, MECs as well as councillors,” said Digomo.

In her address, Dr Sikwambane from Philadelphia Hospital indicated that women are mainly the ones who take care of families while their husbands are away for work. They know everything that is happening in their households. She also highlighted about various diseases that affect women in particular, which might not be detected easily. She urged all women to visit healthcare facilities for regular check-ups. “You should not only rely on churches and traditional healers when you feel you are not well,” she said. “You need to visit clinics and hospitals next to your homes.” The acting Sekhukhune District Executive Mayor officially unveiled the #365 Days banner for no violence against women and children, and also lit the candle.



**James Ramoolla said:**  
 “The programme was great. Government must always reach out to people and conduct roadshows.”



**Tefo Rathetsane said:**  
 “Our problems stem mainly from issues such as crime because our shops are not functioning anymore in our communities. Government must assist people by creating jobs.”

## AN EFFICIENT, COMPETITIVE AND RESPONSIVE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

### Consumer Commission to empower citizens

By Mojalefa Senokoatsane: GCIS, Free State



**MEC Benny Malakoane with the new consumer commissioners who will serve the people of the Free State.**



**Some of the agencies rendering services at the event.**



**Community members listening to MEC Benny Malakoane during the Consumer Rights Day information session in Kroonstad.**

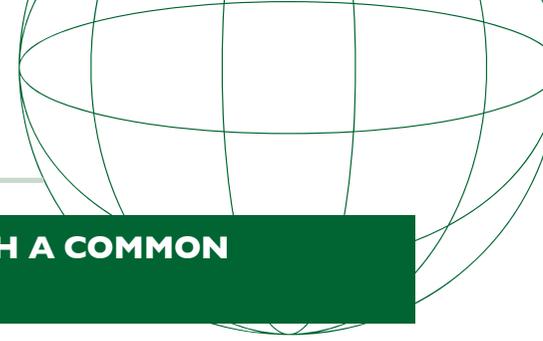


**Community members listening to MEC Benny Malakoane during the Consumer Rights Day information session in Kroonstad.**

Since the dawn of the new democratic government, South Africa has been able to come up with progressive mechanisms to empower its citizens. These mechanisms and institutions include the Office of the Public Protector, Commission for Gender Equality the Consumer Protection Act, 1998 (Act 68 of 1998) just to mention a few. With the latter, the government has managed to protect its citizens by probing for answers from businesses that have not been treating citizenry fairly.

As part of celebrating World Consumer Day and celebrations of Human Rights Month the Free State Department of Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA) hosted an information session in Kroonstad at the Seisoville Hall. The session took place on 16 March 2017 and was aimed at informing Free State citizens about their rights so that they can make informed decisions when making purchases and if they want to lay a complaint against service providers. The DESTEA in its quest to fight injustices had recently appointed Provincial Consumer Court officials that will be responsible for assisting citizens with their fight against unscrupulous businesses within the province.

The session was also used to officially introduce these new Consumer Court officials to the people of the Free State. In his address, the MEC for DESTEA, Benny Malakoane, said that citizens would have the opportunity to lodge complaints against unscrupulous businesses with the Consumer Protection Office in DESTEA. He further informed the citizens to make use of all the programmes that government has put in place to empower them. The masses were also provided with a platform to engage with different stakeholders during and after the session through stalls that were set up at the venue. Some of the stakeholders who were part of the event include the National Youth Development Agency, Small Enterprise Development Agency, National Energy Regulator of South Africa, Independent Communications Authority of South Africa and the Road Accident Fund.



**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.”

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

### Minister reaches out to Sol Plaatje students

*By Masego Motshidisi: GCIS, Northern Cape*



**Sol Plaatje University vice-chancellor Prof Yunus Ballim introduced and welcomed guest speaker Minister Jeff Radebe at the event.**



**Minister Jeff Radebe giving his lecture at the university.**



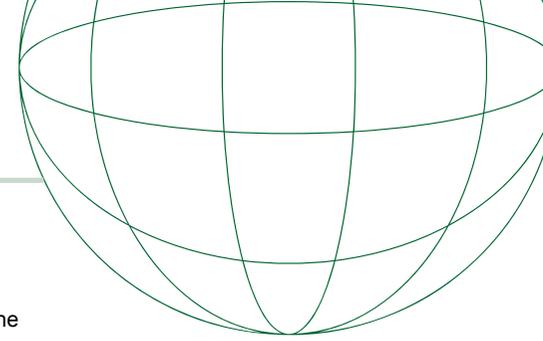
**Students and academic staff at the Sol Plaatje University.**

Minister in The Presidency responsible for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Jeff Radebe, visited the Sol Plaatje University in Kimberley on 16 March 2017 to deliver a public lecture in commemoration of Human Rights Month.

Guided by the objectives of the National Development Plan and the theme of the year, the visit was aimed at promoting active citizenry and broad-based leadership. Minister Radebe was welcomed by vice-chancellor, Prof Yunus Ballim, Student Representative Council President, Thato Kesekile, and a group of robust, aspiring students.

He spoke about government’s radical socio-economic transformation programme, the land question and the mineral resources and education sectors. Minister Radebe said that the Northern Cape boasted a very rich history, heritage and mineral resources, but maintained that it remained one of the most underdeveloped areas in the country.

Students were keen to learn from the Minister concerning how government planned to redistribute land and the wealth acquired from it. They wanted to know government’s stance on the students’ call for free higher education.



**Tduetso Kgogwe said:**

“I was touched by the Minister’s words when he said a child of a farmer or cleaner can become something in the future, irrespective of their background.”



**Bontle Moseithana said:**

“I learned something new today. I learned that Solomon Plaatje was the first African to translate William Shakespeare’s plays into African language about a century ago.”

Minister Radebe articulated that government was clear in its commitment to providing financial assistance to the financially needy. “Government allocated a total amount of R77.5 billion to post-school education and training this year. Amidst the education crisis last year, allocation to the National Student Financial Aid Scheme was increased exponentially as it now stands at a staggering R14. 582 billion.”

He further said their focus must be to safeguard the right to education and encourage academic excellence among students.

The Minister concluded his lecture by echoing the words of former President Nelson Mandela who once said, “It is through education that the daughter of a peasant can become a doctor, that the son of a mineworker can become the head of the mine, that the child of farm workers can become the president of the nation.”

An estimated 300 students were present at this event.



**Some of the students who posed critical questions to Minister Jeff Radebe.**



**Gomolemo Kefoloheste said:**

“The Minister gave me hope this evening. He said we should not undermine ourselves because of our disadvantaged and poor backgrounds. He said we can all progress and prosper in this world regardless of where we come from.”