




MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 11/ March 2018

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:

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OUTCOME II: CREATE A BETTER SOUTH AFRICA AND CONTRIBUTE TO A BETTER AFRICA AND A BETTER WORLD

German delegation traces Mandela footsteps

By Mlungisi Dlamini: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Brian Zuma giving a presentation on the history of Manaye Hall.



German delegation tour at Manaye Hall.

On 15 March 2018, uMgungundlovu District Municipality leadership took a German delegation on the Nelson Mandela's footsteps journey in Pietermaritzburg. The visitors had been in the city for five days as part of a learning alliance on urban development and also the development of new forms of cooperation. The tour began in Imbali to learn about the significance of the Manaye Hall.



government
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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The District Head of Communications, Brian Zuma, briefly explained that Manaye Hall was the last place where former President Nelson Mandela made a public appearance before his arrest in 1962 for allegedly conspiring to overthrow the State. “Nelson Mandela served 27 years in prison, initially on Robben Island, and later in Pollsmoor Prison and Victor Verster Prison,” he said.

uMgungundlovu District Municipality Municipal Manager Ray Ngcobo used the opportunity to market the development programmes of the municipality, which includes those that honour the life of Nelson Mandela, such as the annual Mandela Day Marathon. He urged the delegation to consider injecting funds to the Mandela Capture Site Rehabilitation Project. “This is one of the projects that has the potential to boost economic spin offs in the district,” he said.



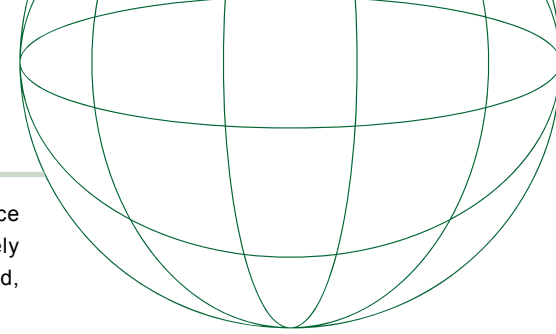
Nompumelelo Buthelezi said:

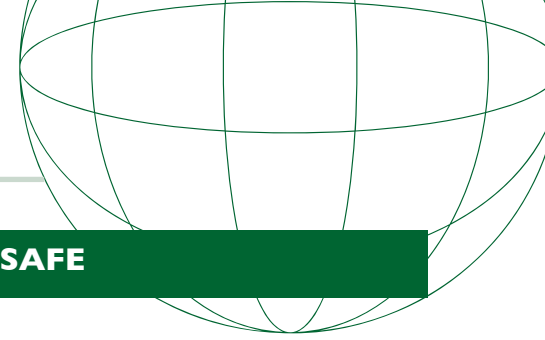
“It is a great pleasure to welcome the delegation from Germany to the site where our former President was captured. If it was not for Mandela, we would not be having such good relations with other countries.”



Edward Dladla said:

“The Manaye Hall has a great significance as it is the last site where Mandela made his last speech before he was arrested. The visit gives us an opportunity to showcase our tourism sites such as the Mandela Capture Site.”





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

Campaign to tackle corruption

By Nkopodi Mokgoma: GCIS, Limpopo



Mabatho Aphane said:

“I think corruption must also address the Expanded Public Works Programme as some of the people who are employed there do not really do their work.”



Sodi Kgole said:

“I am pleading with government to bring services such as those of SARS closer to our villages. Offices of many government departments are far. It is very expensive to reach out to them especially when you are unemployed.”



Community members received information materials.



Community members at the event.

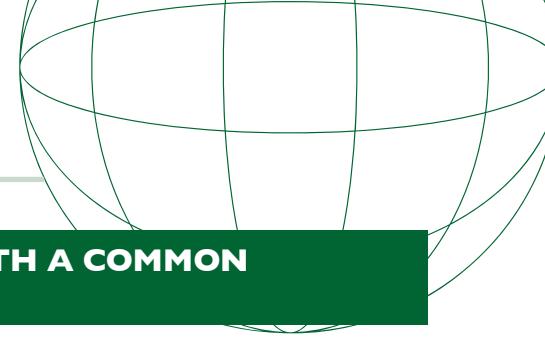
The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in partnership with National Treasury and the Department of Social Development held an anti-corruption campaign for the youth of Dichoeung village in Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality on 8 March 2018 at Dichoeung Tribal Hall.

The Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster has prioritised the fight against crime and corruption. The GCIS, as the custodian of communication has the responsibility to communicate that information to the public. The youths of the Dichoeung village were targeted due to high level of unemployment, crime and corruption.

The Manager of the Provincial Treasury in Sekhukhune District, Maiza Sehale, indicated that if corruption was not fought in various institutions, National Treasury will not have enough money for services that the communities need as the South African Revenue Services (SARS) will not have anything to collect.

“I am encouraging you to establish companies properly so that you can get work offered by our various departments in government,” he said. The GCIS presented on anti-corruption.

Attendees were grateful to receive government information and also guidance on how to deal with certain challenges.



Phumzile Phakhathi said:

“I am happy about the Human Rights Dialogue. Here at Kwazamakuhle we are still struggling to access basic rights. We have to travel for over 50km to Ermelo or Middleburg to access government services and information. Our children do not have any entertainment or sports facilities and our youths end up doing drugs.”



Gcobisa Masingili said:

“As a person with disabilities, my rights are mostly violated. Hendrina is an old town with mines and farms but people living with disability are discriminated as there is no building that is accessible for people living with disability.”



Julia Mthombeni said:

“The session was an eye opener as we learn more about our human rights and we know where to report violation of our rights. I was dismissed from a farm and I did not know that the CCMA could assist for free.”

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

Human Rights Month commemoration

By Todani Livhuwani: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Community of Kwazamakuhle displaying different messages during a Human Rights March at Hendrina.



Commissioner Jonas Sibanyoni during an interview with the South African Broadcasting Corporation.



Community members during the Human Rights Dialogue.

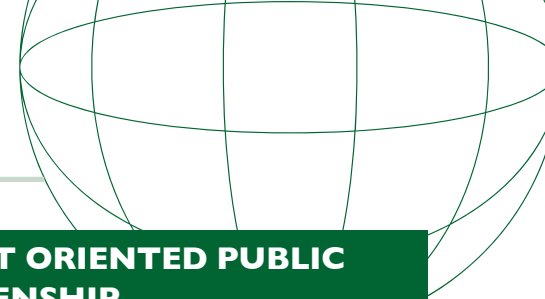
The Human Rights Commission (HRC) in partnership with Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), Department of Health, the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration (CCMA), Department of Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries (DAFF), Pan South African Language Board and the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality organised an information-sharing session with the community of KwaZamokuhle in Hendrina at Cosmos Community Hall on 14 March 2018. The event was celebrated under the theme: “The year of Nelson Mandela. Promoting and deepening a human rights culture across society”, and it was attended by Commissioner Jonas Sibanyoni.

Hendrina is an old town surrounded by farms and mines, which have employed most of the community members. Their living conditions are very poor and some live in mud houses. Community members employed at farms are allowed to have only 10 cattle by their employers who owns farms. The HRC received various complaints including shooting incidents, forceful removals from the farms and other forms of human-rights violation.

The Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration shared information on Section 23 of the workers' rights, unfair dismissal and basic human rights. The GCIS spoke about the right to information while the DAFF addressed the issue of land, where more complains were received.

In his keynote address, Commissioner Sibanyoni reminded the community of Kwazamakuhle that heroes died in 1960 fighting for human rights and that it is the responsibility of the society to know their rights to be able to report all forms of abuse and violation of rights to the relevant institutions.

“I will also fight for law enforcement so that our courts can punish all those who are found guilty of killing people with albinism. They must get harsh sentences so that community members can learn that people with albinism are human beings with equal human rights. Nelson Mandela fought for all races and he said “the people shall govern,” said Commissioner Sibanyoni.



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

Government observes World Consumer Rights Day

By Mojalefa Senokoatsane: GCIS, Free State



Dudu Thendezwa said:

“I am very happy. The programme really opened my eyes about my rights as a consumer. I will educate others about what I learned today. I hope more programmes such as this one will come to our town again.”



Ellias Lechalaba said:

“We are very happy with the event as we have been educated through the information we received. We have also been provided with contact details of people we can call should we encounter problems in the future.”



MEC Malakoane and the political leadership of Moqhaka Local Municipality at the event.



Community members listening to different at the event.



MEC Benny Malakoane interacting with members of the community.

The Department of Small Business, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (Destea) in the Free State prioritises consumers rights against unscrupulous service providers and has a section dedicated to address this important task. On 15 March 2018, as part of celebrating World Consumer Rights Day, Destea hosted an information-sharing session in Kroonstad for the citizens of Moqhaka Local Municipality.

The event was led by the MEC for Small Business, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Benny Malakoane, supported by the head of the Department, Gadija Brown and the political leadership of Moqhaka Local Municipality. MEC Malakoane reminded the community about their rights as enshrined in the Constitution and that they should ensure that they are never exploited by service providers, as his department had capable people to assist them. He also reiterated the message of service delivery and told the municipality of Moqhaka Local Municipality to ensure that it provides its citizens with the best service. The MEC urged residents to pay their municipal bills to keep the municipality running.