




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Army reaches out to community members

By Doctor Marebane: GCIS, Limpopo



Soldiers marching during a parade.



The drill squad entertaining attendees at the event.

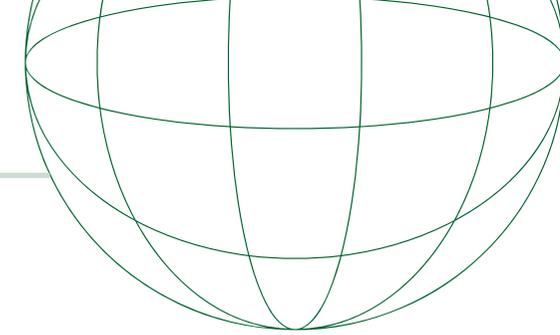
On 20 April 2018, the Army Support Base Limpopo (ASB LP) hosted its first external Flag Hoisting Parade and career guidance event at Moleetjie Thusong Service Centre with the blessing of King Kgabo Moloto III. The aim of the parade was to take the army to the people and also to strengthen its relationship with community members. The army's visit came after an instruction from the Army Support Formation that it should start forging relationships with communities.



government
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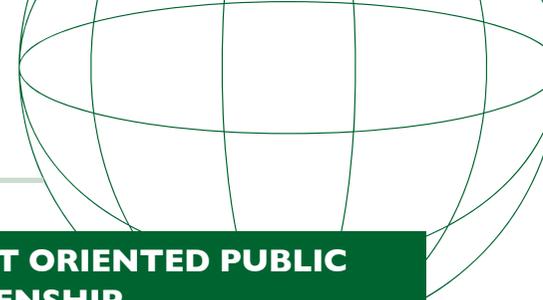
The community was entertained by the drill squad and the Army Band Limpopo. There was also a brief display of the SA Army drills, customs and traditions followed by the actual parade.

During the parade, Colonel Godfrey Netshidongololwe thanked everyone and gave a brief history of the South African Flag, outlined the aim of the parade and informed the community and learners about opportunities available in the South African National Defence Force (SANDF). He also announced that in August, there will be a much bigger parade in and around Polokwane followed by the Armed Forces Day, which will also be hosted in Limpopo in February 2019.

King Kgabo Moloto III also conveyed his gratitude and appreciation to the SANDF for choosing Moletjie to host this prestigious parade for the first time in the province. He also thanked Colonel Netshidongololwe for allowing the soldiers to demonstrate to the learners and the community.



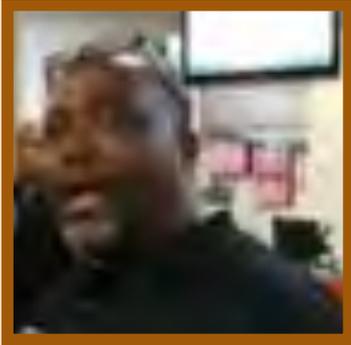
Learners from local schools received information products during the career guidance.



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

Minister calls for efficiency

By Mlungisi Dlamini: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Reverend Sibiya said:

“I am happy to see the Minister visiting our offices. I wish government can open more offices in Pietermaritzburg as we deal with a number of people who get married everyday who need our efficient service.”



Tebogo said:

“I am from Lesotho and arrived in South Africa in 1994 but still have a problem registering my children as permanent citizens. This situation is creating a challenge for them at school as well. I need help.”



Minister Malusi Gigaba interacting with a community member.



Minister Gigaba interacting with employees and clients at the office.

The long queues at the Department of Home Affairs have prompted Minister Malusi Gigaba to initiate a “War on long queues” campaign. “The campaign aims to improve service standards and ensure that our clients receive a dignified treatment”, said Minister Gigaba. He was addressing journalists and community members on 23 April 2018 outside the Pietermaritzburg Home Affairs offices.

The Minister has earmarked this office among others, due to congestion and poor turnaround time caused by the inflow of people from the uMgungundlovu District Municipality and surrounding areas.

“We are going to introduce 78 000 mobile units at the beginning of July 2018 to operate in schools and remote areas,” he said. Minister Gigaba also added that they were considering opening a smart card office in Bulwer or Impendle.

The Minister was particularly emphatic on the department’s plan to strengthen management, opening one-stop service stations and negotiating with local banks to assist with generating smart identity documents cards. Citizens who spoke to the Minister requested him to open more offices around Pietermaritzburg to address long queues, which often compel them to wake up as early as 4:00 to receive services. Minister Gigaba also used the media engagement to call for parents to register their children with the department at birth or within 30 days of a birth.



Minah Maphetho said:

“From what I have learned today, not much is going to change the payments will still continue. The most important thing is to replace the SASSA cards as soon as possible before the time stipulated to avoid waiting on long queues.”



Lucas Letshele said:

“I have received important information today. I will be able to use this information to make sure I do what is required to enable me to continue to benefit from the new SASSA payment system.”



Macdonald Lion said:

“We appreciate the information we received and the work that the CDWs are doing in ensuring that this information reaches us as beneficiaries. Receiving this information so early in the year enables us to make plans to visit SASSA or SAPO to replace the cards as required.”

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

Government commits to serve grant beneficiaries

By Tshidi Mokoka: GCIS, Gauteng



Wedela CDW Pinkie Sesing explaining to the elderly about the new SASSA payment system.



Government official Tshidi Mokoka engaging with SASSA beneficiaries at the local old-age home in Wedela.



The elderly people who were in attendance.

In an effort to create awareness on the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) beneficiaries' payment system, the Government Communication and Information System in partnership with community development workers (CDWs) conducted an awareness campaign at Wedela in Merafong City on 19 April 2018. The purpose of the awareness campaign was to inform social grant beneficiaries about the new developments on their SASSA cards.

Through this campaign, community members were informed about the new partnership between SASSA and the South African Post Office (SAPO) and how these two organisations would together to ensure that payments are made to all beneficiaries from 2019.

“The reason we are making sure that people in Wedela are aware of this information is to ensure that they start early in going to their nearest SASSA offices or SAPO offices and are able to follow all the requirements that are needed to swap their cards,” said Pinkie Sesing, a CDW at Wedela.

She added that she would ensure that SASSA officials are invited to Wedela to continue with the work of assisting beneficiaries, especially the elderly and those with disabilities. She said this would be done in conjunction with the local councillor. The campaign was also used as a platform to visit the local old-age home in Wedela to distribute SASSA leaflets and inform the elderly of all the changes.



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

New social grant payment system ready

By Mojalefa Senokoatsane: GCIS, Free State



One of the first recipients of the new SASSA-SAPO Grants Pilot Project going through the registration process.



Mmakgetla Ngaleka said:

“I am very happy and lucky to be the first person to receive the new card. I hope it will be able to stop these cellphone network and insurance companies from taking our money.”



SASSA and SAPO officials at the launch.



The first recipients of the new SASSA-Post Office grants payment card.

On 18 and 19 April 2018, the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), together with the South African Post Office (SAPO) launched the new grants registration and payment card pilot programme in Kroonstad. The programme was part of a nationwide drive of testing the state of readiness for the new social grants card. The Kroonstad SASSA office was chosen as the venue for this initiative in the Free State. The aim was to test the technology and mechanisms to be used in ensuring that the government continues to pay social grants to recipients when the contract with the current service provider ends and also to check the synergy between the two agencies.

During the launch, which was attended by senior managers from both SASSA and SAPO, community members and recipients of social grants were shown how the new system works. Community members and recipients were assured that the new card would be able to solve the previous problem of inadequate security measures, where companies were able to deduct money from their accounts without their knowledge. They were also informed about the features that would be on the new card, which includes the SASSA emblem at the front and the SAPO emblem at the back of the card. The recipients were also advised to ensure that they do not give their cards to people not working for SASSA.



SASSA Free State Executive Manager Sibongile Setlaba holding the new card.