




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

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

Civic and democracy education for learners

By Tshidi Mokoka: GCIS, Gauteng



West Rand District Speaker Councillor Nonkoliso Tundzi addressing learners about democratic processes that take place in the municipality.



Randfontein IEC official Ntombizodwa Thakhuli educating learners about electoral process.

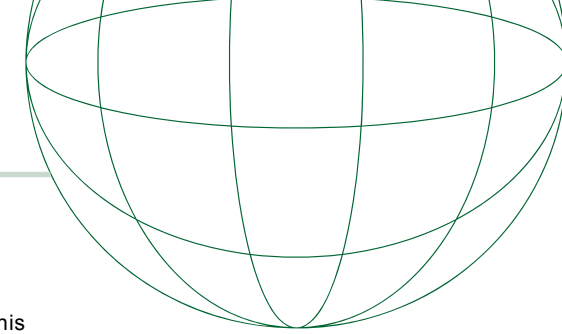
The West Rand Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) office in partnership with the West Rand District Department of Education conducted a civic and democracy education programme targeting learners at various schools. The event was held on 25 April 2018 at the West Rand District Council Chamber in Randfontein. The IEC has conducted this programme for the past six years with the purpose of educating learners on the electoral processes. This programme was conducted under the theme: "Let us be responsible citizens".



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Ntombizodwa Thakhuli from the regional IEC office said, “The reason we are targeting learners for this programme is to encourage them to participate in democratic processes. The school programme is geared towards learners who are on the brink of registering to vote with the purpose of educating them about their rights, responsibilities and electoral processes in a democratic state.”

Addressed by the West Rand District Speaker Councillor Nonkoliso Tundzi, learners were taken through the process of knowing how people are elected in municipalities and how decisions are made in the council. The Speaker encouraged learners to register to vote and when the time for them to vote arrives, they must participate in municipal activities and hold the municipality to account for the services it delivers to the community.

Schools that were targeted for the programme in the district included Townview High in Krugersdorp, Randfontein Secondary School, Phahama Secondary and Thuto Lehakwe Secondary School in Mohlakeng. One of the learners, Tshepo Motaung from Thuto Lehakwe Secondary School was very impressed with the information that he received. He said that this was the first time that he had ever set foot in a municipal building and that it was interesting to learn how local government works.

“As a young person I understand that people like Nelson Mandela fought for me to be where I am now. Today I got a chance to sit in a council chamber where councilors sit and democratic processes are conducted. I am grateful for this opportunity and as a responsible citizen I will make sure I participate in the electoral processes when the times arrives,” he said.



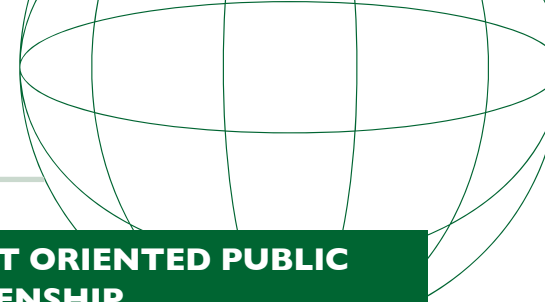
Caitlyn Hoff said:

“I have learned that the municipalities work very hard to make democratic decisions that are fair to the community. The problem with our people is that they do not participate in processes in the municipality such as *Imbizos* and they get angry when decisions are made without their inputs. It is important that communities also get this type of education from the IEC to enable them to understand how government functions.”



Lebogang Melesi said:

“I have learned how government operates especially the local government as represented by the municipality. I now believe that it is important as a citizen to take part in electoral processes so that you can have a say on issues and decisions that are taken in the municipality.”



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

Launch of De Doorns labour office

By Peter Titus: GCIS, Western Cape

The farmworker community of De Doorns comprises an estimated 18 000 workers that work in the vineyards of the Hex Valley. The majority of these farmworkers also reside on the farms in and around De Doorns.

On 12 May 2018, the Department of Labour launched an office in De Doorns to assist the community with their labour issues. Before the launch of the office, farmworkers had either spent about R40 on public transport to get to the nearest office, which is 35 kilometres away.

The new labour office in De Doorns is seen as a much-needed resource for the community of De Doorns. This office will ensure that the community of the Hex Valley receives all labour services, which includes the Unemployment Insurance Fund (UIF) support, Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act, information and support, the support for unemployed people who want to register at the Department of Labour jobseekers' database and the services from the Commission for Conciliation, Mediation and Arbitration.



Heinrich Sok said:

"I am looking for work, so I am here to place my name on the database for jobseekers."



Rosly Pietersen said:

"I did not have all my documentation for the UIF but I was informed of the documents that I need to bring along. It will be much easier now that the department has an office in De Doorns, as I do not have money to take a taxi to Worcester."



Community members who were in attendance.

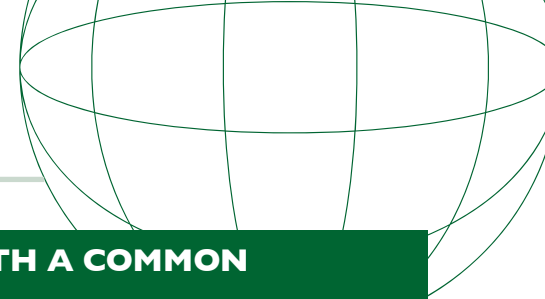


Stakeholders engaged with the community.



Community members accessing information at the exhibition stalls.





Kgositse Motsoenyane said:

“I am disappointed that there is high unemployment rate in South Africa and the overwhelming majority of the population of South Africa is the youth. When young people try to come up with concepts their ideas are stolen.”



Kelebogile Thulo said:

“The first thing is that nation-building is one sided because it is only the black people who attend the dialogues on social cohesion and nation-building. When we talk about freedom, we talk about economic freedom, the freedom of expression regarding the LGBTI community.”

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

Dialogue on social cohesion

By Lehlohonolo Manoto: GCIS, Free State



Professor Vuyiswa Mazwi, Commissioner Nomasonto Mazibuko, Minister Nathi Mthethwa, SRC President Asive Dlanjwa and Dr Chicha Twala at the event.



Some of the people who attended the event.

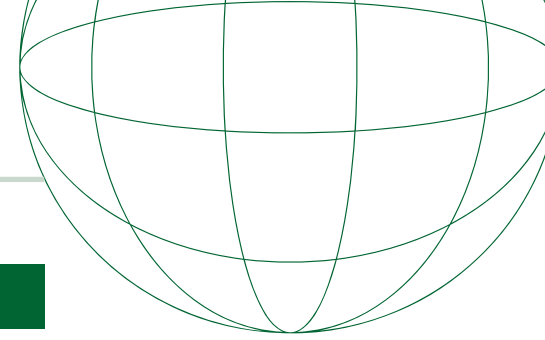
The Minister of Arts and Culture, Nathi Mthethwa, hosted a social cohesion dialogue at the University of Free State in Bloemfontein on 26 April 2018. The Deputy Director-General of Arts and Culture, Dr Kelebogile Sethibelo, gave the purpose of the dialogue as it sought to share and exchange ideas on how to build a better South Africa. This was in line with the Department of Arts and Culture’s mandate which is to lead, coordinate, support and to report on social cohesion and nation-building initiatives. This initiative supports Outcome 14 of Medium Term Strategic Framework that talks to building a socially inclusive nation.

The students engaged the panelists during a live show on SA FM and raised views about freedom, social cohesion and also contributed to the nation-building project. Among the issues that were touched during the dialogue were Africa borders, politics, social order, the arrival of Jan van Riebeeck, unity, land expropriation without compensation, film commission, removal of apartheid statues, writing and publication, and arts and culture. The panel consisted of Professor Vuyiswa Mazwi, Commissioner Nomasonto Mazibuko, Minister Nathi Mthethwa, the university’s SRC President Asive Dlanjwa and Dr Chicha Twala.



Prudence Mncube said:

“Freedom, democracy and acknowledging each other’s existence. South Africa has no choice but to work towards the unity of its own people. Is democracy more democratic than usual? Do we value our education enough to acknowledge the other? Can freedom be taught? Questions that will forever linger in the minds of our youth that want to move forward because it is said that those who do not move forward do not notice their chain.”



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

Community radio dialogue on corruption

By Diba Nkume: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Diba Nkume and SAPS official Sandra Jansen van Rensburg during a dialogue on corruption.

Government has launched the anti-corruption campaign to raise awareness and fight corruption in South Africa. The campaign also aims to regain government's public confidence as corruption has been rife in the Public Service and subsequently tarnishes government's reputation.

As part of a drive to rebrand and reposition the South African Government, the Government Communication and Information System coordinated and facilitated a community radio dialogue in partnership with the South African Police Service (SAPS) at Bay FM studios on 25 April 2018 in the Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality, Port Elizabeth.

Information on tackling corruption and plans to uproot it were shared with the listeners through the dialogue. Issues such as bribery, embezzlement of public funds, stealing of goods, awarding of tenders unjustly and other forms of crime were discussed as some of the key elements hindering service delivery. Community members were urged to fight corruption and report it using the National Anti-corruption Hotline: 0800 701 701.