Government engages community members on service delivery

By Ephraim Malema: GCIS, North West

On 17 May 2018, the Inter-Ministerial Task Team (IMTT) on the North West Province held an engagement session with the Madibeng Local Municipality officials and stakeholders. The Executive Mayor of Madibeng Local Municipality presented about the state of governance in the municipality during a closed session.
The IMTT was appointed by President Cyril Ramaphosa to look into allegations of service-delivery problems, which led to protests in some parts of the province. The team was led by Minister in The Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, who was accompanied by Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Minister Zweli Mkhize and North West Acting Premier Wendy Nelson. Community members raised various issues, including water shortages, pot holes, electricity problems and corruption.

Traditional leaders from Mabolaka and Mmaka spoke about the chieftaincy disputes in their areas. Minister Dlamini Zuma assured community members that their concerns were noted and promised to give them feedback on the issues raised.

Community members attending the session.

A community member raising concerns during the session.
On 25 April 2018, the Government Communication and Information System in partnership with the Ga-Rakgoadi Traditional Authority, the Limpopo Provincial Treasury and the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) held a Youth Business Opportunity Workshop at Ga-Rakgoadi Village Traditional Hall. The aim of the workshop was to provide unemployed youth with information on business opportunities provided by the government.

SEDA representative, Moreen Boshielo, explained the processes and procedures that should be followed when establishing a business or a company. Maiza Sehale from the Limpopo Provincial Treasury provided information on how the youth can get tenders from government institutions.

"We appreciate government’s effort to come and show our unemployed youth how they can benefit from what government institutions offer," said Maserumule Moraswi representing King Rakgoadi Matlala. The youth who attended the workshop said they were happy to get the information they can use to better their lives. They also asked for frequent interaction between government institutions and the youth to ensure that they are exposed to more opportunities.
On 18 May 2018, Government Communication and Information System launched the Legends Fridays initiative at the Graaff-Reinet taxi rank in the Eastern Cape to promote the Nelson Mandela and Albertina Sisulu centenary celebrations.

Legends Fridays emanate from the Mandela Fridays initiative which urges all citizens and organisations to practise the legacy of the two Struggle icons. The event will be officially observed every last Friday of the month but individuals and organisations can implement the initiative on any Friday of the month.

People, organisations and businesses can participate in the initiative by doing acts of kindness, such as:

- helping promote the love for education by buying books for children or assisting them with homework and exam preparations
- encouraging leadership and active citizenry amongst the youth by mentoring young people
- protecting children’s rights and well-being by visiting and making donations to children in need
- helping to reduce poverty by assisting with skills development or planting food gardens for the less privileged
- promoting a value-based society by supporting culture and tradition
- promoting an active and healthy lifestyle by organising sports events or donating sports equipment.

The Legends Fridays initiative can be done by anyone in any area – selflessness can be as simple as helping a child or an elderly person.

Pictures of people taking part in the initiative can be uploaded on social media using: #BeTheLegacy #Mandela100 #MaSisulu100
GOVERNMENT COMMUNICATION AND INFORMATION SYSTEM (GCIS) AND THE NORTHERN CAPE OFFICE OF THE PREMIER recommitted to work more closely with community radio stations during a workshop organised by the National Community Radio Forum (NCRF) in Upington on 9 May 2018. The aim of the three-day workshop was to elect a new executive committee for Northern Cape’s NCRF and to look into how to solidify the relationship between government, other stakeholders and the community media.

Charles Moeti from the GCIS expressed government support to community media because they contribute to community development. He said the survival of community radio stations depends on the available budget and content. He urged the stations to comply with the legislation because failure to do so will make it difficult for government to use their services.

MEC Norman Shushu delivering the keynote address.

Delivering the keynote address, the MEC for Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development in the Northern Cape, Norman Shushu, reminded community radio stations that their fight to free the airwaves resulted in the unintended consequences of monopolisation of media by private individuals. He urged the community media to lobby government to promulgate legislation that will ensure that corporate companies spend certain percentages of their profits on advertisement in the community media as part of corporate social investment because they get the money from communities. He said the void in the media space must encourage community radio stations to provide accurate information, entertain and educate their communities. Addressing the financial sustainability of the radio stations, MEC Shushu suggested that the communication budget across the provincial government be coordinated by the Communications Unit in the Office of the Premier to ensure proper usage. He said this would also result in communication of government programmes through community radio stations.

Radio Riverside Station Manager, Thabang Pusoyaone, presented the Northern Cape NCRF secretarial report which formed part of discussions over the three-day strategic planning session. He boasted of the impact of community radio stations in the media space.

The workshop was also attended by NCRF President Mduduzi Manana, management and board members of the six community radios across the province and Ntombi Makwetu from the Department of Communications’ Public Broadcasting Directorate.