



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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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 9. A RESPONSIVE, ACCOUNTABLE, EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM

Premier reaches out to community members

By Lwando Helesi: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Community members from Engcobo Local Municipality gathered to listen to Premier Phumulo Masualle.

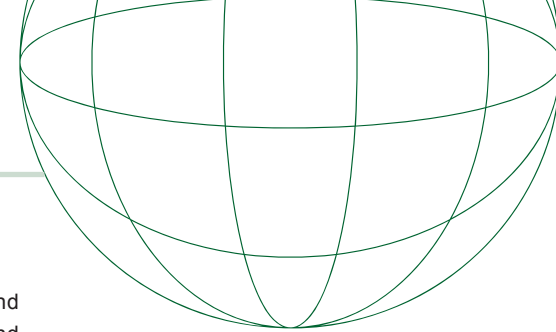
Eastern Cape Premier Phumulo Masualle met with Engcobo residents on 24 May 2018 at Engcobo Local Municipality offices. The meeting sought to listen to the community members' grievances concerning service delivery. The arrangement came after residents, businesses and the taxi industry marched to the municipal offices on 16 and 17 May 2018, demanding that Mayor Lizeka Bonga-Tyhali, the entire council and the Municipal Manager, Silulami Poswa, step down over allegations of corruption and nepotism.



government
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





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The community members raised the issues of maladministration and corruption at the municipality and called for the appointment of an administrator; forensic audit to be done to all municipal projects and assets; provision of street lights and refuse collection; the addressing of RDP housing backlog and unemployment; and for action to be taken against implicated councillors who allegedly spent municipal finances irregularly.

Premier Masualle indicated that the provincial government had invoked Section 154 of the Constitution, which allowed for an intervention to be taken. He said an intervention team, consisting of officials from the Office of the Premier, the departments of cooperative governance and traditional affairs, and provincial treasury would descend to the municipality from 28 May 2018 to investigate and find practical solutions to mitigate the challenges faced by the municipality. The Premier further revealed that a forensic investigation would be undertaken to look into corruption, flouting of supply-chain processes and projects implemented, which yielded shoddy outcomes. Those who will be found to have transgressed laws and policies will face the full might of the law.

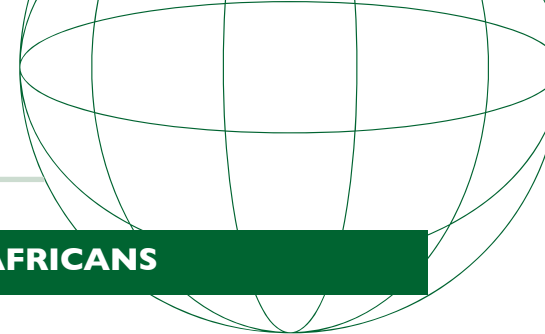
Premier Masualle thanked the community for a peaceful protest, which did not involve destroying municipal offices/assets and other public properties such as schools and clinics, as these are spaces that communities attack to express their frustrations.



Premier Masualle engaging community members of Engcobo.



Premier Masualle being interviewed by the media.



OUTCOME 2: A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS

Government takes services to the people

By Reki Skosana: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Lebo said:

"I am happy to have received eye treatment. My eyes were troubling me and I used to cry at night."



Dora Matshiane said:

"We received good treatment and we were also given medicine."

Most of the community members of Victor Khanye Local Municipality rely on the Witbank Hospital to access quality and specialised health services due to the lack of certain specialised treatment in the local healthcare institutions, Samuel Bernice Hospital and the local clinics. Every week, mini buses transport patients from the local hospital to Witbank for them to receive treatment.

The Government Communication and Information System and the local municipality partnered with the departments of health and social development to provide communication support and encourage communities to access free healthcare services at Phelophepa train, which provided health services in Delmas from 28 May to 6 June 2018. Different engagements in the form of outreaches, which targeted various groups such as learners, old people, drug addicts, people living with HIV and AIDS and cancer patients were held in the community. Some of the services rendered included dental care, eye care, and cancer and health screening in general.



Mariam Mandlazi said:

"I am happy that my eyes were checked. I used to struggle with headache, not knowing what the challenge was."



Morné Linden said:

"I am honoured to be part of this event today. We have been hearing of the building of the solar farm, but now I can see it. This is a big investment in the economy of our district, the province and our country. It will greatly reduce our dependence on coal-based power stations and in the process, also benefit the global climate. I just wish that there could be more permanent jobs at the solar farm."



Berenice Nero said:

"This is a great project, many local people got employed during the building of the plant. The social responsibility activity of Abengoa also promises to keep on investing in upgrading infrastructure in the area. There are so many people who benefitted from the project in our area. It is great."

OUTCOME 6: AN EFFICIENT, COMPETITIVE AND RESPONSIVE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

Launch of Xina Solar One plant

By Willem van Dalen: GCIS, Northern Cape



Minister Jeff Radebe and Premier Sylvia Lucas unveiling the plaque at the official opening of the Xina Solar One plant.



CEO of Abengoa, Fernandez de Piérola, Minister Jeff Radebe and Premier Sylvia Lucas at the official opening of the Xina Solar One plant.



Stakeholders and community members at the event.

The Xina Solar One plant was hailed as a milestone achievement towards the provision of clean renewable energy during the official opening of the plant by the Minister of Energy, Jeff Radebe, in Pofadder on 18 May 2018. The Xina Solar One is the third solar project in the Namakwa region and the sixth in the Northern Cape to be fully functional, each contributing more than 100 megawatt of "clean" electricity to the national grid.

Minister Radebe said that the Northern Cape truly can be called the "sunshine province of South Africa". Radebe went on to praise the Spanish firm, Abengoa, for the investment in our country. The total amount invested so far is in the region of R40 billion. All construction material and labour were sourced from South Africa.

Northern Cape Premier Sylvia Lucas said that the slogan for the Northern Cape is "Follow the sun, not the people" and that she appreciated the investment of Abengoa in the province. "We, as the Government of the Northern Cape, are constantly looking for opportunities to boost the economic growth and stop the poverty and inequality in the province," she said.



Emily Cloete said:

"I am glad that the plant was built here. The people who work here buy their groceries in Pofadder, which then improves the economy of our little town. During the past year, the town was always busy with people buying their necessities."



Siphokazi Luvuyo said:

"We have learned a lot about the importance of reporting sexual abuse by our uncles."



Lwandile Cele said:

"Our school is grateful to be visited since it is in the farm. The team of nurses gave us toothbrushes to continue cleaning our teeth to prevent the risk of losing our teeth."



Benele Sithole said:

"My dream is to become a doctor. So, I was happy to see the doctor examining our eyes. I have learned that as children, we should not be abused verbally by teachers or family members."

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

Child protection awareness campaign

By Thandinkosi Zulu: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Learners at the event.



Learners received toothpastes and toothbrushes.



Health screening session at the event.

Dundee Hospital mobilised sector departments to the child protection awareness drive, which was focused on schools in Dundee, Edumeni Local Municipality as part of Child Protection Week campaign. The event took place on 17 May 2018. The focus was on oral health, child abuse (physical, sexual or emotional), exploitation and also giving awareness on social ills that may affect the growth of school pupils. The team was led by Ayanda Hadebe and stated that every year, Child Protection Week is commemorated in South Africa to raise awareness of the rights of children. The team also indicated that its primary objective towards 2018 was to ensure that children are safe and they are given the healthcare at an early age to prevent health risks.

Lungile Mahlobo, Dundee Hospital oral health practitioner, demonstrated to Dundee Primary School learners and teachers, best oral health practices that can benefit children. "Teaching children proper oral care at a young age is an investment in their health that will pay lifelong dividends. It is important to help children to protect their teeth and gums and that alone greatly reduces their risk of getting cavities," said Mahlobo.

Kgabo Lepheba, a ward base nurse, told learners to report sexual abuse at the nearest police station. She further advised them to avoid being victims of abuse – be it sexual abuse at home, emotional abuse or any other form of abuse at school. She encouraged learners to take action immediately.

The Department of Social Development has a 24-hour call centre dedicated to provide support and counselling to victims of gender-based violence. Call 24-hour toll-free number: 0800 428 428, dial free SMS line *120*7867#, call ChildLine toll-free number 0800 055 555 or Child Welfare South Africa: 0861 4 Child (24453) or 011 452 4110, or send an email to: info@childwelfaresa.org.za