



MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 24/ June 2018

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

Government intervenes to ensure safe initiation schools

By Nomaxabiso Tata: GCIS, Eastern Cape



► MEC Fikile Xasa, King Azenathi Dalindyebo and Deputy Minister Obed Bapela at the briefing.

The 2018 Winter Initiation Season in the Eastern Cape began on 12 June. Government has pledged to make the initiation season safe. This commitment was pronounced by Obed Bapela, the Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) in unison with traditional authorities in the province.

This falls on the backdrop of a sorrowful Summer Initiation Season where the Eastern Cape regrettably recorded 17 lives. The Deputy Minister therefore saw it very fitting that resources and



► Deputy Minister Obed Bapela addressing the media.

intergovernmental efforts be made to curb deaths and create a safe passage to manhood.

Government conducted the event to share information and galvanise all custodians of this custom to engage and play their role in ensuring that deaths are reduced. Although the focus was on highlighting saving lives, the Deputy Minister also noted that amputation of body parts should also be reduced.



government
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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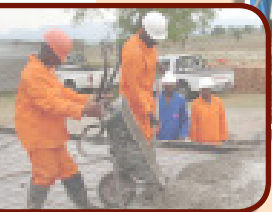
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The launch was embraced widely by traditional authorities who offered messages of support. Chairperson of the National House of Traditional Leaders, Ikosi Mahlangu said that “efforts must be made by each sector and stakeholder to work as a team in reducing the number of deaths, especially since the Eastern Cape is such a vast province”.

The MEC for CoGTA, Fikile Xasa, opened his address by paying homage to Queen Bongoletu Ndamase, requesting the house to observe a moment of silence. Although the mood was sombre, the MEC continued to acknowledge that, 2018 is the year to celebrate Mama Albertina Sisulu and Tata Nelson Mandela, and that their values need to be inculcated in this custom. Mama Sisulu was a woman of virtue, a forerunner of health for all around her and beyond, while Tata Mandela, in his book, *Long Walk to Freedom*, shares that he too underwent this custom. MEC Xasa reminded the house that it is these footsteps in this customary path that Tata Mandela took, leading him and contributing to being a great world leader. The MEC stated that “in safeguarding the custom, we need to bring custodians closer, as legislation is to support and not to hijack ownership from parents and traditional authorities”.

The MEC’s address set the tone for Deputy Minister Bapela, who cautioned that there must be clarity in terms of the exact number of deaths of initiates. He added that this helps in addressing the challenges faced by the province. He also said parents should teach good behaviour to their children as bullying in schools has also been observed as one of the precursors to boys going to the mountain before age, which is legislated as strictly 18 years.

The MEC noted that comparatively the Eastern Cape has been plagued by disasters including veld fires, which increased the number of initiates deaths. The King of Isizwe Sa BaThembu, King Azenathi Zanelizwe Dalindyebo briefly addressed the house, stating that unemployment and criminals have contributed to the misdirection of the custom, and therefore implored that this situation be addressed. The King also cautioned that those in positions of authority must take responsibility as required. Cars were handed over to the province for

the monitoring of the Winter Initiation Season, for officials to travel to various initiation schools, to ensure safety of initiates, and to conduct medical check-ups.



► MEC Xasa addressing the stakeholders.



► MEC Xasa, Deputy Minister Bapela and Chief Mwelo Nokonyane handing over car keys to drivers who will monitor the winter initiation season.



Buyisi Sithongwane said:

"We should support government programmes like this one and work together with the police to stop crime. People are very poor, there is high rate of unemployment, yet many people want to live the high life, which leads them to crime. To stop crime, government must help create more jobs especially for the youth."



► **Community members at the prayer meeting.**

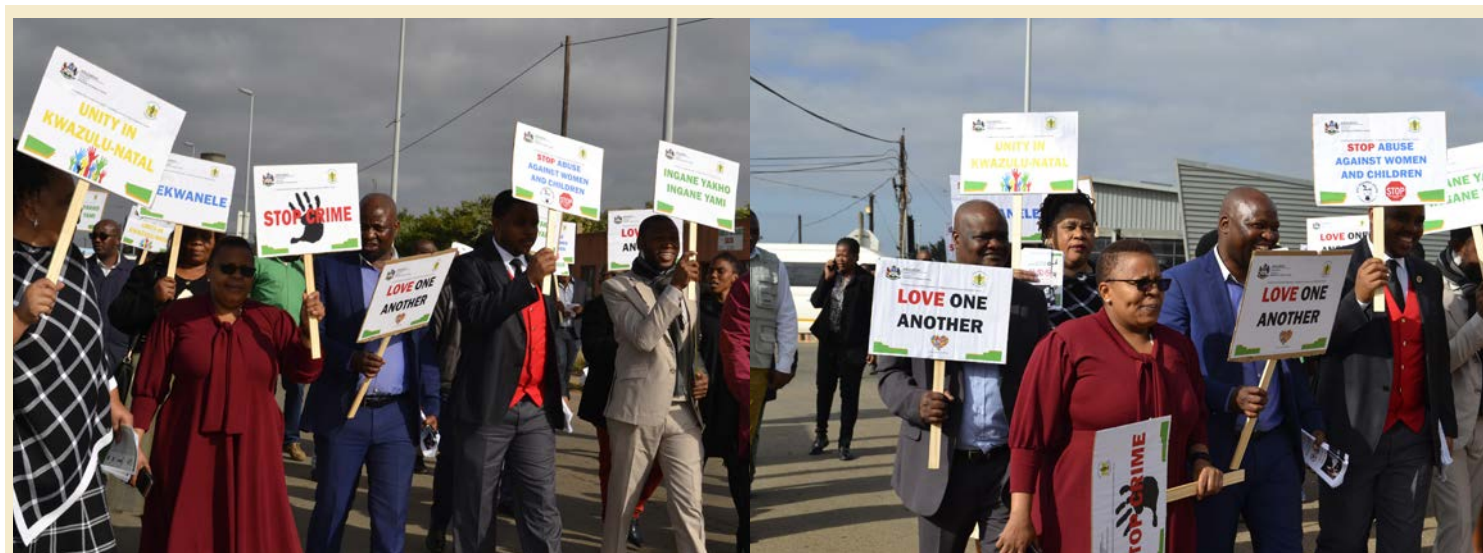


► **MEC Mthandeni Dlungwane engaging with the youth at the Ndwedwe taxi rank.**

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

Peace Walk to foster social cohesion

By Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



► **The Peace Walk from Ndwedwe Local Municipality to Nombika grounds led by the political leadership.**

The KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government, together with various faith-based organisations and community leaders, dedicated 27 May to 27 June 2018 as Prayer Month. The purpose of the prayer sessions was to mobilise and unite communities in the province with the aim of finding solutions to various challenges, in particular femicide and political killings, which have reached a crisis level. The campaign adopts a holistic approach to educate the public about nation-building and social cohesion.

Violence in communities, abuse and killing of women and children, femicide, rape, substance abuse, discrimination against and attacks on people with albinism, trans-gender, gay and lesbian community, have highlighted the need for greater citizen participation in social cohesion and nation-building. The campaign falls within Youth Month

and will also address challenges faced by youth as our future leaders and sensitise them to the need for respect, tolerance, non-violence hence helping them to be agents of positive and constructive change.

The Ilembe Prayer Meeting on 19 June 2018 at Nombika Grounds in Ndwedwe Local Municipality, commenced with a peace walk, led by MEC for Education, Mthandeni Dlungwane, accompanied by the District Mayor, Cllr Sduduzo Gumede and Local Mayor, Cllr Nkosinathi Chili, and various inter-faith leaders. It included an element of community engagement with a pamphlet-distribution drive at the taxi rank and the new shopping complex. Messages of peace, political and cultural tolerance, and respect were echoed by all the leaders. The procession gained momentum as community members, especially the youth, joined along the way.



Solomon Mathabela said:

“Local mines and the power station do not impart skills to local people, they only employ people from other provinces with skills.”



Doctor Mnisi said:

“Government is focusing on young people to empower with skills and opportunities but the adults are also equally affected by the socio-economic environment.”



Jabu Nkuna said:

“Youth representation in South African Parliament needs to be increased. I also want to know how the national government intervene in local municipalities that do not perform and deliver services.”

OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Young people exposed to economic opportunities

By Vuyisile Cindi: GCIS, Mpumalanga

On 23 June 2018, the Department of Telecommunications and Postal Services in partnership with the Government Communication and Information System, departments of economic development, correctional services and trade and industry, Gert Sibande District and Msukaligwa Local Municipalities held a Youth Walk to Economic Opportunities Imbizo at A.J Swanepoel Stadium in Ermelo, Mpumalanga. The event was attended and addressed by Deputy President David Mabuza, together with Mpumalanga Premier, Deputy Ministers, district and local municipality executive mayors, and councillors.

As a precursor to the youth EXPO, the Deputy Minister of Communications, Pinky Kekana, conducted a youth dialogue at the Msukaligwa Local Municipality on 22 June 2018. The session was held jointly with the District Executive Mayor and Msukaligwa Executive Mayor to empower young people from the Gert Sibande Region with skills and knowledge.

This was followed by a visit to Ubuhle Bentuthuko Youth Service Centre in Msukaligwa Municipality. The main objective of the visit was to monitor and evaluate the Youth Centre as a distribution point for government and a channel to communicate with young people in the area. The Deputy Minister also led the digital migration registration and installation programme, where she visited different households educating them about Digital Terrestrial Television (DTT) programme and the installation of set-top boxes.

The 3km Youth Walk on 23 June 2018 started in Joubert street to the A.J Swanepoel Stadium. The Deputy President and Deputy Ministers were joined by more than 2 000 young people. Deputy President Mabuza urged to take the initiative to improve people's lives. He further responded to the issues raised by the public regarding their everyday challenges. A range of information products from various government departments and institutions were exhibited and shared with the youth at the event.



► Deputy President David Mabuza leading the 3km walk.



► The Deputy President addressing the youth in front of one of the stalls at the event.



► Young people who attended the dialogue with Deputy Minister Pinky Kekana.



► Deputy Minister Kekana joined by Deputy Ministers Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams and Madala Masuku at one of the youth household beneficiary explaining the DTT programme.



► Deputy Minister Pinky Kekana during a community radio dialogue with Ubuhle Bentuthuko Youth Development Centre Manager outlining the Youth Walk to Economic Opportunities event.



Waldo Van Der Ross said:

"I came to the Department of Labour to report my unfair dismissal and was quite surprised to get invited to take part in the career guidance information session. The information that I received here today will assist me to start real job hunting. I have learned that officials at the department can help me to develop my CV, and also assist me to complete the Z83 form for government vacancy application. I am very grateful for the information that I have received and will definitely share with my unemployed friends and family."



Leandrea Stalmeester said:

"Thank you for the information and assistance. The computer kiosk at the Department of Labour office assisted me to know exactly what career path to follow. I will recommend this to all who do not know what career path to follow."

OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Career guidance brings relief to job seekers

By Jethro Grootboom: GCIS, Western Cape



Job creation is one of government's key priorities. Statistics South Africa has indicated an increase in youth unemployment. To address this challenge, the Department of Labour conducted a career guidance on 19 June 2018 at their office in Oudtshoorn. The event also targeted walk-ins to educate them about various careers, interview skills and developing a curriculum vitae. The participants were also assisted to register on the job seekers database of the Department of Labour. The department informed the youth about its mandate and role in assisting community members.



Maxwill Malgas said:

"I will definitely visit the Department of Labour soon for assistance on how to write a cover letter, develop my CV and how to prepare myself for interviews."



Marianna Mei said:

"I came here today to apply for the UIF after working for eight years in George at the SABS. I have received more than I had expected. The skills and tools on how to hunt for a job, and being registered on the department's database of job seekers will help me to get into the job market soon. Thank you to the officials of the Department of Labour."