



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Minister addresses youth festival

By Valencia Rachuene and Willy Phalane: GCIS, Head Office



Minister Nomvula Mokonyane addressing the audience.



Church members who attended the youth festival.

On 6 July 2018, the Minister of Communications, Nomvula Mokonyane, addressed the youth of Bantu Church of Christ at the National Youth Festival, which was held in Soweto at Isaac Morrison High School. This is the school where the youth of 1976 gathered to protest against the Bantu Education.

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Minister Mokonyane spoke about the rich history of the venue and also the area it is situated in. She mentioned few historic areas around the venue such as the Vilakazi Street, which is the only street in the world that has two Nobel Peace Prize winners, Desmond Tutu and Nelson Mandela. The Minister further noted that this year, South Africa celebrates the legacy of Mama Nontsikelelo Albertina Sisulu and Tata Nelson Mandela, as they would turn 100 years. Appreciating the African attires that were worn at the event, the Minister said, "Africans, we should be proud of our African and our diverse culture."

Minister Mokonyane also spoke of the different entities of the Department of Communications (DoC) and their roles in society. She advised people to visit the offices of the Government Communication and Information System to know more about government services and information because its role is to give people such information. She emphasised the issue of cyber bullying and noted that people should be aware and know about it. DoC entities: Media Development and Diversity Agency, Film and Publication Board, Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, the South African Broadcasting Corporation and Brand South Africa exhibited at the event, distributing information materials and also informing the youth about their services.



Youth receiving information materials from DoC entities at the event.



Nthabiseng Matsha said:

“We are not happy about the treatment that the police are giving to us. They take our money and, they also mistreat our clients. We wish that the Minister could assist us and address these challenges.”



Neo Thwala said:

“I am happy about this programme. I have been abused by the police, they treat us bad and they do not even want to pay for our services.”

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

Imbizo tackled gender-based issues

By Mamogolo Dirane: GCIS, Free State



Minister Ayanda Dlodlo speaking at the event.



Sex workers engaging with the Minister and Deputy Ministers.



An official from Qolaqwe encouraging sex workers to use condoms.

On 13 July 2018, the Minister of Public Service and Administration, Ayanda Dlodlo, led a government delegation to engage with various stakeholders of Harrismith in the Free State as part of the National Imbizo Focus Week, which took place from 9 to 15 July 2018. The Minister was supported by the Deputy Minister of Telecommunications and Postal Services, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, Deputy Minister of Small Business Development, Cassel Mathale and Deputy Minister of State Security, Ellen Molekane.

Qolaqwe, a non-governmental organisation, which deals with gender-based issues and sex workers around Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality, formed part of the event. The Department of Social Development presented on the status report of the district around cases of gender-based violence (GBV). The South African Police Service reflected on the statistics of cases of abuse around Harrismith.

Minister Dlodlo engaged with local stakeholders on challenges that they faced when executing their duties to address GBV, sex work and human trafficking. The N3 poses a serious challenge to the community. The route brings a large number of truck drivers to Harrismith and research has shown that truck drivers are among the leading solicitors of prostitution. Young girls in the community have subsequently been sucked into this life of prostitution and the scourge is also affecting other girls in the surrounding farming communities. The Minister committed to return to Harrismith within three months with solutions.



Nwabisa Ngqithi said:

“Today’s programme exposed me to a lot of things that I did not know about and the information was very much helpful. I wish this kind of programmes could be conducted again in the future for the benefit of everyone.”



Mfundo Melane said:

“This session has helped me a lot, particularly in agriculture and land. I have learned a lot.”



Nokwanele Madikizela said:

“This expo has helped me on career opportunities.”

OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Career opportunities for young people

By Ndyebo Kopo: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Young people at the event.

Learners and the youth of Mbhongweni village, where the late Mama Winnie Madikizela Mandela was born, benefited from a wealth of valuable information about various career opportunities, bursary and scholarship information, skills development and learnership opportunities, during an expo that was held at Ngalonkulu Senior Secondary School on 19 June 2018. The purpose of the event was to engage learners and young people about youth development related opportunities offered by government, its agencies and the private sector.

The session was organised by the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in partnership with the Alfred Nzo District Municipality and Mbizana Local Municipality. It attracted Grade 11 and 12 learners from Ngalonkulu Senior Secondary School, Cangci Comprehensive School, Winnie Mandela Secondary School, Zamokuhle Special School and the youth from Mbhongweni village.

Stakeholders presented career opportunities to learners in industries considered to be producing scarce skills, such as fitter and turner, vessel mechanics, aviation lawyers and electrical and mechanical engineers. Zola Antonie, who is a client liaison officer from Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services SETA, encouraged learners to also look into technical skills when choosing careers and that they must not only think that universities are the only option when it comes to post-school education, as the economy needs people with technical skills.

The National Youth Development Agency engaged the out-of-school youth on small business loan and grant funding, skills training opportunities, life skills and job preparedness training. The Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform outlined their Youth in Agriculture Development Programme.

Government has ventured into the oceans economy programme and encourages citizens, especially those from previously disadvantaged communities to take interest in this sector. Trasnet presented a whole range of career opportunities within the maritime industry. Some of the stakeholders that were present were Merseta, Transport Education and Training Authority, Ingwe TVET, Liberty Panel Beaters Training Institute, Mbizana Local Municipality and Alfred Nzo District Municipality. Trasnet (Maritime School of Excellence) was connected telephonically.



Jonathan Shaw said:

“My question is on tender allocations. Tenders are never given to small businesses. If government can give small and big companies a chance, then we will be in a position to sustain, grow our businesses and create employment.”



Mandisa Xalinga said:

“It is not easy to sustain or grow a business. We are sent from pillar to post when we are experiencing challenges, we never get assistance. We have challenges with SARS, most of us are not tax compliant, and we are not making money.”

OUTCOME 5: A SKILLED AND CAPABLE WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT AN INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Minister hosts Youth Indaba

By Masego Motshidisi: GCIS, Northern Cape



Panel members comprising representatives from various entities and the Department of Economic Development.



Stakeholders and entrepreneurs at the event.



Deputy Minister Madala Masuku during his site visits in Kimberley.

Economic Development Deputy Minister Madala Masuku hosted the Youth Indaba at the Horseshoe Inn in Kimberley on 29 June 2018. The event was a follow-up to a dialogue held in June where the need to empower young entrepreneurs with information on entrepreneurial and funding opportunities was highlighted.

Deputy Minister Masuku also embarked on a site visit to various businesses funded by different agencies with the aim of looking into their operations to assess progress and also identify challenges. He was accompanied by the MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mac Jack, officials from the Development Funding Institutions, the Industrial Development Corporation, Small Enterprise Finance Agency, National Empowerment Fund and other stakeholders. The delegates welcomed some of the issues raised and committed to exploring new ways of working with small, medium and micro-sized enterprises.



Cornet Sirurubele said:

“Government does provide financial support for small businesses, however, business owners are not capacitated. There are many things that we struggle with. Some of our applications get rejected without any explanation. How will we know what to rectify if there are no reasons for the rejection? Please meet us halfway.”