



# MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

### Dialogue celebrates Albertina Sisulu

By Nontuthuzelo Jas: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Women from different institutions attending the dialogue.



Exhibitions conducted by various stakeholders provided information to the community members.



The Acting Director-General of the Department of Communications addressing women who attended the centenary celebrations dialogue.

As a build-up event to the Nelson Mandela International Day celebrations, Government Communication and Information System in partnership with the Department of Communications, Gert Sibande District Municipality, Govan Mbeki Local Municipality, SASOL, and other stakeholders held a MaSisulu Women in Dialogue session at Difa Nkosi Community Hall in Leandra, Mpumalanga on 17 July 2018. The event was led by Govan Mbeki Executive Mayor, Cllr Thandi Ngxonono, and the Acting Director-General of the Department of Communications, Mashilo Boloka.



government communications

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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The roundtable dialogue was aimed at educating women about women empowerment and the values of Mama Albertina Sisulu, whom the country is celebrating her centenary this year. The event targeted women who are community workers, civil society groups, women leaders, female youth leaders and government officials.

The event began with a briefing session where the Local Environmental Assessment Report for the Govan Mbeki Local Municipality and status of Mpumalanga Thusong Service Centres was presented. The Executive Mayor and her entourage conducted a walkabout at Tholulwazi Thusong Service Centre, engaging with public servants and community members accessing services at the venue.

Over 200 women were addressed by the Executive Mayor and Boloka, appreciating the good work they have been doing in raising children and taking care of family and society. They also encouraged women to take advantage of available opportunities and make their mark in the community. In encouraging other women and requesting interventions, Thoko Yende, said, "I was once a drug addict but through the mercy of the Lord I was delivered from the addiction. The efforts of MaSisulu and Tata Mandela paid off as I was assisted by government to attain sewing skills, which I now want government to assist me to transfer them to the youth."



**Blankets, furniture, heaters and food parcels donated by SASOL to Sifiso Sabadala Old Age Centre.**



**Nurse Mbonani said:**

“Our concern as the youth is that our sports facilities are neglected, yet sport is critical in keeping the youth out of crime and substance abuse. We request that our grounds be renovated and more facilities be built.”



**Danisile Nkosi said:**

“I am the manager of Sifiso Sabadala Old Age Centre. We are very thankful for the donations we received from SASOL. We received blankets, food parcels, heaters and furniture cabinets. We also received blankets and food parcels from Assupol. As we celebrate Mama Sisulu today, we have learnt to protect others, just like she did.”

The dignitaries also visited the Sifiso Sabadala Old Age Centre where SASOL donated blankets, furniture, heaters and food parcels.



**A walkabout at Tholulwazi Thusong Service Centre.**



**Sipho Nkosi said:**

“I am the Chairperson of the Board of Sifiso Sabadala Old Age Centre. We appreciate the donations made to this centre by SASOL and Assupol. The only challenge we have is the structure. This is an RDP house and the male shack is not in a good condition. There are six females and six males in this centre. We call on other stakeholders such as the Department of Social Development and the municipality to assist us with a well-developed settlement.”

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

**Nelson Mandela Day outreach**

*By Jen Wenn: GCIS, Western Cape*



Officials preparing food for the children.



A GCIS official interacting with stakeholders at Heatherdale Children's Home.

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) visited the Heatherdale Children's Home on 18 July 2018 in honour of the 100th birthday of former President Nelson Mandela. Children have always been close to Madiba's heart. Heatherdale Children's Home is situated in Belgravia Athlone. It was founded by the late Rev. Marsh for orphaned girls, which changed over the years to also accommodate boys. The home has become a safe haven for orphans and children at risk of drugs and alcohol or physical abuse. They were placed in the home's care by the Commissioner of the Children's Court.

GCIS Western Cape officials showed true citizen activism by reaching out to the most vulnerable group of society, those without the love of parents and family. They adorned the young ones with sweet treats and interaction. Jen Wenn entertained the young ones with a Nelson Mandela quiz, which showcased the children's knowledge and awareness of Nelson Mandela's life, his struggle and his achievements. GCIS Western Cape Provincial Director, Geraldine Thopps also interacted with stakeholders at the home to form a possible partnership to improve relations and services to the children in terms of their education and future endeavours. All these were aimed at building a South Africa that will allow for Nelson Mandela's spirit of Ubuntu and his astounding humility to always prevail.



**Matahleho Tsiane said:**

“The winter camp was so informative and it assisted us to understand and resolve learning challenges we encountered. It also debunked the myth that maths and science are difficult subjects.”



**Rethabile Mahasha said:**

“I was impressed with the Minister’s address, it was so motivating and he spoke to us like a father speaking to his own children. I wish my colleagues understood him when he said that there is no future with the so-called ‘blessers’ as they may leave you more destitute and sick.”

**OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION**

**Imbizo focusing on education**

*By Robbie Senoelo: GCIS, Gauteng*



**Minister Thulas Nxesi addressing learners and educators attending the winter camp.**



**Minister Thulas Nxesi with some of the participants attending the camp.**

As part of Imbizo Focus Week observed from 9 to 15 July 2018, the Minister of Public Works, Thulas Nxesi, addressed the winter school camp that was held at Pure Joy Lodge and Conference Venue, in Kameeldrift, Tshwane, on 11 July 2018. The event sought to encourage learners from across the country to use programmes such as the department’s Winter School Camp to their benefit. Hand-picked from 22 schools across the country, 113 learners were taken on by the department for a week-long extra tutoring session during the last week of the school holidays.

The purpose of the camp was to expose Grade 10 and 12 learners to consider alternative careers, and to educate them about the available industry opportunities and also to encourage them to consider capacitating the country’s scarce skills. The Winter School Camp ran from 7 to 14 July 2018.

Learners participating in the programme were provided an opportunity to be bursary beneficiaries from the department in partnership with the Construction Education Training Authority. Mathematics and physical science tutorials were offered for the duration of the camp in a bid to address learning gaps and to focus on remedial work.

Minister Nxesi implored the youngsters to consider numerous opportunities available to learners taking mathematics as a subject. “One can never say they are too old to learn something new. As old as I am, I am still learning because the truth of the matter is that we learn every day until the day we die. Education is not about disrespecting teachers and parents, going out drinking and experimenting with drugs. It is a tool that others fought for so that the black child may be empowered and become self-sufficient,” he said.

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

### March against women and child abuse

By Xolani Mndaweni: GCIS, North West



Executive Mayor of Matlosana Municipality signing the #100MenPledge.



Reverend Masibi addressing the marchers at the venue.



The #100MenMarch on the OR Tambo road in the Klerksdorp.

As part of the centenary celebrations of former President Nelson Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu, government and various social partners hosted the Dr Kenneth Kaunda district #100MenMarch to stop violence against women and children. The event took place on 13 July 2018 in Klerksdorp. Government officials, faith-based organisations leaders and community members spoke in one voice: "Stop the abuse of women and children".

Felix Maleke from the Department of Social Development said, "The march is very important because the abuse of children and women must stop. They must be protected by these men, not abused."

Meisie Dintwe said, "This campaign led by men gives hope and courage to most women. When men lead, they can open dialogues in their different platforms to encourage one another to claim back their important status in society of protecting, providing and educating their children and also be good partners to their loved ones."

After receiving and signing the #100MenPledge, the Executive Mayor of Matlosana Local Municipality Cllr Maitu Kgaile said, "This pledge is a concrete commitment by real men that they will promote and protect women and children against violence and abuse, I salute these real men!" The march ended with a prayer by Anglican Bishop Victor Phalane.