



**MY DISTRICT TODAY**



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## OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP.

### Dialogue on cultural representation in films

By Nthabiseng Khotlele: GCIS, Head Office



Deputy Minister Pinky Kekana giving a keynote address.

The Film and Publication Board (FPB) held a public dialogue on 20 September 2018 at the Constitutional Hill focusing on cultural representation in FPB Guidelines. The aim of the dialogue was to assist the FPB to review its Classification Guidelines. This came after the organisation identified some challenges in the composition of its current classification guidelines as it relates to complex and sensitive cultural content. The Classification Guidelines is a tool used by the FPB classifiers to standardise the process of reviewing films, games or publications.

Giving the keynote address at the dialogue, the Deputy Minister of Communications, Pinky Kekana, said, "The guidelines are there to explain to people, the nature of the content they may be exposed to, so that people may choose whether they are ready to view society through the lens of a particular film or artistic works."



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The film, *Inxeba – The Wound*, was used as a case study as there were court battles where the House of Traditional Leaders indicated that the film misrepresented the Xhosa culture and the FPB changed the film's classification rating a number of times. The dialogue included a panel that comprised a cultural expert, Human Rights Commission representative, *Inxeba* creators, a gender activist and a representative from the House of Traditional Leaders in the Eastern Cape.

The discussions focused more on how the FPB can ensure that the South African cultures are protected and represented appropriately while also ensuring that the right to freedom of speech and expression is upheld. Members of the public from different sectors who attended the dialogue were also given the opportunity to state their views on culture versus the freedom of expression. While most views were on *Inxeba*, the public was encouraged to provide views on all classifiable elements that will assist the FPB to review its Classifications Guidelines so that it can consider all elements when classifying materials.

The FPB is currently embarking on roadshows around the country, aimed at soliciting inputs from the public to draft the revised guidelines. Inputs can also be sent through the email: [classificationguidelines@fpb.org.za](mailto:classificationguidelines@fpb.org.za)



**Malusi Bengu said:**  
"The problem with the African culture is the secrecy. Documentaries and films mean exposure if we are to 'preserve' culture."



**Nkosi Ndevu said:**  
"You cannot write about people and not consult them. It is important to consult relevant stakeholders when it comes to issues of culture."



Some of the people who were in attendance.



Different stakeholders participating in the discussions.

**OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP.**

**Government reaches out to community members**

*By Portia Mlisa: GCIS, Western Cape*



**Nosakhele Mbatyazwa said:**  
“I am thankful to the GCIS for ensuring that departments come here today. I received help from SEDA, CWP and SASSA”



**Charlotte van deer Watt said:**  
“We received a great service today, we really appreciate the effort made by government.”



**Community members receiving services at the event.**



**Government officials engaging with community members.**

Government departments and non-governmental organisations brought services to the people of Swellendam during the opening of the annual Thusong Service Centre Week. The event took place on 17 September 2018 in the Overberg District Municipality and was initiated by the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in partnership with Swellendam Local Municipality. Stakeholders such as the Department of Home Affairs, South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), South African Post Office, Department of Social Development, Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA), Child Welfare, Community Works Programme (CWP), local government and the Municipal Social Relief Unit rendered services on the day.

In 1999, the conception of the Thusong Service Centres was government’s breakthrough access strategy to bring government services and information closer to where people live and development communication projects, which aims not only for information dissemination but strive for a behavioural change which will ensure a better life for citizens. The Thusong Service Centre programme’s primary mandate is aimed at redressing the imbalances of the past by taking services closer to where people live, bring hope, access, redress, equality and empowerment to those previously marginalised from the mainstream of socio-economic development.

It is against this background that the Thusong Service Centre programme in partnership with different stakeholders nationally and provincially, hosted the 2018 annual Thusong Service Centre Week that commenced from 17 to 21 September 2018, under the theme: “Thuma Mina: Taking Public Service to the People”.

**OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTATED PUBLIC SERVICE AND EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP.**

**Tlaskgameng residents receive government services**

*By Fatima Modise: GCIS, North West*



**Veterinary services vaccinating livestock at the event.**



**SASSA and SAPO assisting social-grant beneficiaries.**



**Community members accessing information materials at various stalls.**

North West Thusong Service Centre Week opening event was held at Tlaskgameng Thusong Service Centre on 17 September 2018. Various government departments in the province participated in the event under the theme: “Thuma Mina: Taking Public Services to the People”.

The Department of Agriculture assisted subsistence farmers with vaccination of livestock through their veterinary services, while the Department of Finance and Enterprise Development assisted with small-business registration on Central Supplier Database and compliance verification of Small, Medium and Micro-sized Enterprises.

The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and the South African Post Office (SAPO) provided services to social-grant beneficiaries, also helping them to swap to the new social grant card. The South African Police Service also participated in the event, providing administrative issues such as affidavits and certification of documents, while the Government Communication and Information System distributed anti-corruption leaflets and other government publications. The community of Tlaskgameng was happy to receive government services brought to them.



**Thobile Sibiya said:**

“I am here looking for job opportunities as I have a degree in Social Work, so now I am just looking for any opportunity that may come or either go back to school to further my studies.”



**Sam Mhlanga said:**

“I am looking for SASSA officials as they said they were closing down the Kamaqhekeza offices. I want to enquire about the money deducted from my social-grant card last month.”

**OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP.**

**Government takes services to the people**

*By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga*



**A government official engaging with community members.**



**SAPO and SASSA officials doing social grant card swap on site for Steenbok community members.**



**Community members visiting different exhibition stalls for information.**



Mpumalanga held its annual Thusong Service Centre Week opening event through the integrated mobile services at Steenbok, in Nkomazi Local Municipality on 18 September 2018. Steenbok was identified as the area for the annual week celebration after a feasibility check was done by the Nkomazi Stakeholder Forum. It was discovered that the area has a backlog of new social grant card swap. It was noted that Steenbok communities have a huge challenge to access government services as most offices are far from them.

The Nkomazi Stakeholder Forum in collaboration with Mbangwane Thusong Service Centre held a community outreach at Steenbok to bring government services to the community during the annual Thusong Service Centre Week celebration. Different stakeholders such as Government Communication and Information System, National Prosecuting Authority, Legal Aid SA, Mpumalanga Regional Training Trust, Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Thuthuzela Care Centre, Department of Basic Education, Road Accident Fund, South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), Department of Home Affairs and the South African Post Office (SAPO) rendered services at the event. SASSA vehicles fetched elderly citizens from their homes to the event.

The session brought services to the community of Steenbok, thus saving them time and money. Bursaries, information about government programmes and other communication materials were distributed at the event. Luggedlane Traditional Council, Nkomazi Local Municipality and Nkomazi FM played a critical role in creating awareness and mobilising communities to access government services.