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PRIORITY 6: A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Eastern Cape launches the Provincial Development Plan

By Zimkita Maqokolo: GCIS, Eastern Cape

Hope was restored to the people of the Eastern Cape when the province's Premier Lubabalo Oscar Mabuyane launched the Provincial Development Plan (PDP) on 17 October 2019 at the Regent Hotel in East London.

The PDP's Vision 2030 has been updated and is now the blueprint for the sixth administration, which mainly focuses on higher economic growth, creating more job opportunities and serving the people of South Africa better. It envisions an Eastern Cape that will be enterprising and connected, where all people will be able to reach their potential. The Premier encouraged Eastern Cape leaders to go beyond being thinkers or visionaries and implement their ideas.

"This will be an era of reconstruction and development in our province and we should all commit ourselves to make sure that we deliver on it. It will be an era in which more of our people will have access to water and sanitation," said the Premier. He also outlined implementation plans for the PDP during the next five years.

Various stakeholders from Chapter 9 institutions, civil society organisations and government departments attended the launch.



Premier Mabuyane addressing various stakeholders who attended the launch of the PDP.



Stakeholders attending the engagement session.



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MEC Siphokazi Mani-Lusithi said:

"The PDP gives us an opportunity to lobby all Eastern Cape citizens behind Vision 2030. I think it is a vision where the people must take ownership in building the Eastern Cape they want. We want to build a capable citizenry that is going to plough back to our province."



Anele Magwentshu said:

"I think this plan provides hope and a greater future for the province. It is something that we can take forward and if we all play our parts, then it might be a success."



Nomkhita Mona said:

"The PDP is a clear vision for the development of the province. What is critical is the involvement of all citizens. Government, business, academia and civil society are urged to take a keen interest in the plan and its implementation."



Siphamandla Zulu said:

"Good luck to the national team, Amabhokobhoko. I hope they win the 2019 World Cup, and thanks to the government for organising this platform for us young people. We are so motivated as young rugby players."



Rudolph Mukwana said:

"I am wishing Amabhokobhoko good luck for the 2019 Rugby World Cup in Japan. We are with them, they must come back with the cup."

PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Citizens support the national rugby team

By Livhuwani Todani: GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Government Communication and Information System in collaboration with Emakhazeni Local Municipality and Wonderfontein Thusong Service Centre conducted an activation at Platorand School in Belfast on 18 October 2019. Learners and educators came in their rugby regalia, holding South African flags to show their support for Amabhokobhoko, ahead of the team's world cup quarter-final game with Japan on Sunday, 20 October 2019.

The activation was aimed at raising social cohesion and uniting the diverse nation. Learners and teachers welcomed the activation and urged government to create more awareness on sports so that young people can stay away from drugs and other illegal engagements. Government information material like *Vuk'uzenzele*, the South African flags and Thusong bags were distributed to the learners.

The team won the game and will now play the Wales in the semi-finals of the 2019 Rugby World Cup on Sunday, 27 October 2019.



The Platorand School rugby team during the activation.



Learners posing with the posters they received during the activation.



Matshidiso Nkomas said:

“As a community, we should take it upon ourselves to be the eyes and ears of the police. We should work hand in glove with the police to reduce crime. We are urged to report crimes, especially now that we can report anonymously.”



Mantoa Makoti said:

“We should also consider cultural beliefs. Sometimes encouraging our children to take contraceptives or any form of sexual precaution seems as though we are giving our children permission to engage in sexual practices.”



Lebogang Ditsebe said:

“Social media has become a house of hate speech. I encourage the youth to form social media communities that serve as a platform to build and empower each other. These communities should convey positivity at all times.”

PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Awareness campaign on gender-based violence

By Moleboheng Maphutsi: GCIS, Northern Cape

On 15 October 2019, the Government Communication and Information System created a platform for stakeholders to address gender-based violence (GBV) at Betty Gaetsewe Clinic in Galeshewe. The information session was aimed at informing community members about their role in the fight against GBV.

Representatives from the departments of Health and Social Development, the South African Police Service (SAPS) and Thuthuzela Care Centre spoke about their services to the community and how they can be accessed. They also elaborated on how their services complement each other in addressing GBV. Sergeant Bonolo Masao from the Family Violence, Child Protection and Sexual Offences unit of the SAPS encouraged community members to report cases immediately.

“An interview is arranged with the victim in order to determine the correct procedure that is required. Thereafter, victims are transferred to either the Thuthuzela Care Centre or the local clinic, which will provide them with the necessary medical attention. Lastly, the victims receive counselling from a social worker,” said Sergeant Masao.

Sister Alisha Nduna from the Betty Gaetsewe Clinic highlighted the dangers of not receiving medical attention on time for victims of GBV. She explained that the victims undergo an HIV test, followed by a pre-exposure prophylaxis – a prevention method in which HIV negative people take HIV medicine daily to reduce their risk of getting the virus if they are exposed to it.



Sergeant Masao presenting on the role of the SAPS in curbing GBV.



Sister Nduna explaining the services offered at the clinic.

PRIORITY 6: A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Public Protector conducts a community outreach

By Peter Titus: GCIS, Western Cape

On 16 October 2019, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) mobilised the community of Zwelethemba, in the Western Cape, to attend an outreach programme organised by the Office of the Public Protector.

Before the event, Public Protector Busisiwe Mkhwebane engaged representatives from various institutions, including the Independent Electoral Commission, the GCIS, Breede Valley Local Municipality, Cape Winelands District Municipality and departments of Home Affairs, Social Development and Labour.

Issues raised by the community members include the employment of illegal foreign nationals in some farms in Breede Valley; a need for a swimming pool for community usage; tender processes for Small, Medium and Micro-sized Enterprises; sanitation and the use of language with regards to communication by the Breede Valley Municipality. The concerns were referred to the relevant institutions and municipalities. The Department of Labour was requested to engage and capacitate farm workers on their labour rights.

After the engagement, Public Protector Mkhwebane went on a surprise visit to the Department of Labour where she asked clients if they are satisfied with the services offered by the department.



The Public Protector engaging with clients at the Department of Labour.



Public Protector Mkhwebane during a visit at the Department of Labour to check on service delivery standards.



Zwelethemba community members air their concerns with government departments and municipality.