



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Government fulfils its promise in Eersterust

By Robbie Senoelo: GCIS, Gauteng

Government's effort to bring services and information closer to the people received a major boost when the Minister of Communications, Faith Muthambi, addressed the launch and the inaugural annual general meeting of the Eersterust community radio station, Poort FM, at the local Civic Centre on 16 September 2016.

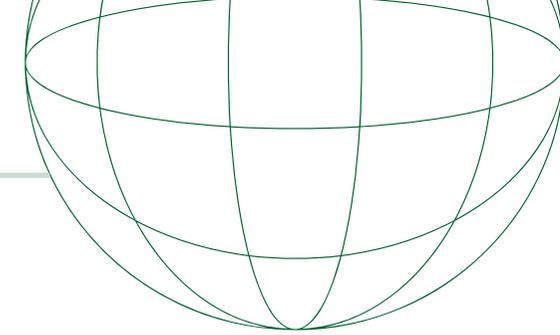
This was a second major milestones to be achieved following the Presidential Imbizo in Eersterust on 21 August 2015 where government agreed to establish a multi-purpose community centre. The ICT Centre, sponsored by the Vodacom Foundation, was launched on 1 July 2016. It was linked to a one year Media, Information and Communication Technologies Learnership for 50 learners from Eersterust. The ICT Centre marked a new and exciting chapter in the history of Eersterust as it is viewed as an incubator that could produce many skilled learners who will become gatherers, receivers and transmitters of knowledge. It will also help local unemployed residents, especially the vulnerable youth by offering them access to information, skills training and entrepreneurship. Future plans include providing educational and developmental programmes to broaden the skills of learners. Equally so, the community radio station provides a platform for instant interactive community dialogue.

During the Presidential Imbizo last year, the community of Eersterust pleaded with President Jacob Zuma for assistance to get a community radio station as a communicative tool in their fight against the scourge of drug abuse. The Ministry of Communications felt obliged to assist. The radio station will be owned and operated by the Eersterust community. This development provides a platform and opportunity for the community to tell its own stories and also share its experiences. Entities such as Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, Sentech, National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa, Media Development and Diversity Agency played a role in the launch of this radio station



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When addressing the meeting, Minister Muthambi said that governance and sustainability of community broadcasting is one of her department's key priorities.



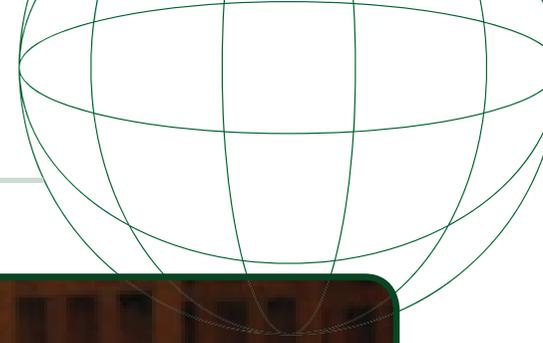
Minister Faith Muthambi delivering a keynote address during the Poort FM's inaugural annual general meeting.



Minister Muthambi said:

"My presence here is a declaration of our readiness as a department to go all the way to ensure that your communication needs are met. Secondly, President Jacob Zuma made a commitment to this community when he visited last year. Ours as the department is to make sure that the President's wishes for this community are fulfilled.

Today we are here for the launch and the annual general meeting of the Eersterust Community Radio (Poort FM). This is the beginning of many good things to come for the Eersterust community."



Elaine Jones said:

“I am happy to have been elected as one of the board members and I hope to contribute towards the community’s social upliftment, social cohesion and ultimately nation-building through the radio medium.”



Desiree Fisher said:

“This is one of the facets that demonstrates how government in partnership with business and local communities can effectively deliver on the national agenda of improving the lives of citizens. Needless to say that this initiative is also a great contributor towards the success stories emanating from the 2015 Presidential Imbizo in Eersterust.”



Minister Faith Muthambi interacting with Lindiwe Baloyi as other government leaders watch, during the Mtititi Digital Migration Imbizo.



Mtititi and surrounding areas community members registering for free set-top boxes.

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

Mtititi community joins the digital TV world

By Enny Giliana, Ndivhuwo Makhado and Doctrine Netshikweta: GCIS, Limpopo

Minister of Communications, Faith Muthambi held a Digital Migration at Mtititi Thusong Service Centre in Malamulele on 3 September 2016. The Imbizo saw the Minister distributing set-top boxes (STBs) to indigent families for the purpose of digital migration. The Imbizo was not only focusing on the digital awareness programme but also on changing the lives of destitute families.

Government's efforts to empower people brought joy and celebration to the community of Mtititi and surrounding villages. Community members were happy for the Baloyi and Ngobeni families, who received new television sets and STBs.

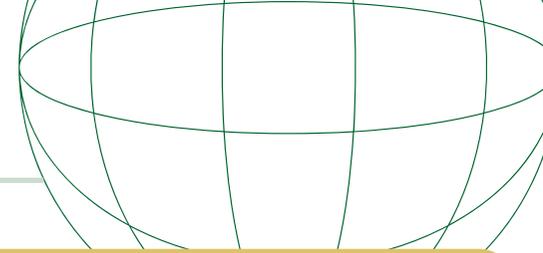
Muthambi commended the Mtititi community structures for the rightful selection of the two beneficiaries. "I am pleased giving over this TV set to the indigent family. The objective of government is to ensure that all South Africans go digital regardless of their financial status. Today we are here witnessing a child-headed household becoming the first family to go digital within the entire community. The digital migration programme aims to bring more TV channels with quality pictures to the entire South African community. As government, we will be glad when entire community goes digital. Those who qualify for the free set-top boxes, make sure you have applied at the post offices," said Minister Muthambi.

The Minister used the Imbizo to also showcase how migration from analogue to digital terrestrial television (DTT) programme should look like. The community was over the moon witnessing the quality pictures of the DTT pictures compared to that of analogue at the Baloyi family. The family of nine is a child-headed household. Lindiwe Baloyi referred to the Minister as a good Samaritan.

This sentiment was supported by Elisah Ngobeni, one of the beneficiaries of the TV set. "My children used to divide themselves into groups to go and watch TV at the neighbours' households," she said.

The Minister used this opportunity to also hand over 10 tablets to the best grade 12 learners of Mtititi High School. She was accompanied by the South African Broadcasting Corporation, Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, Media Development and Diversity Agency, Sentech, Film and Publication Board, Post Office and officials from other government departments.

Hosi Samuel Chauke welcomed government's efforts of improving people's lives.



Elisah Ngobeni said:

“From today we will spend the evening together in our house because my children will no longer spend their time outside watching TV at the neighbour’s house.”



Hosi Samuel Chauke said:

“I am glad to see my people being selected to be beneficiaries of the DTT programme. Today, Post office is registering people for set-top boxes without them having to incur any traveling costs. The beneficiaries will no longer watch TV from neighbours. This area is not safe during the night due to the animals at the Kruger National Park.”



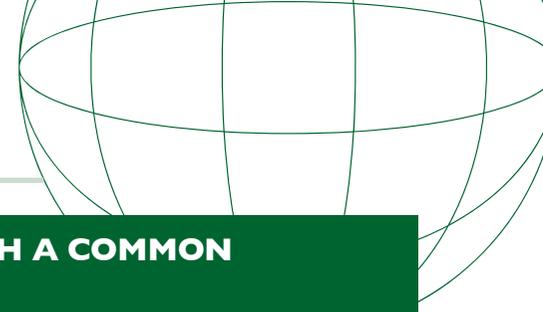
Best Grade 12 Mtititi High School learners received tablets as tools to support their learning.



Lindiwe Baloyi said:

“You have changed our family status. We used to be known as one of the poverty-stricken families but today we are known as the family that was the first to go digital in this community.

We will no longer go to our neighbours to watch soap opera and news. You make us feel important and happy to be alive.”



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

Limpopo celebrates Heritage Day

By Humbulani Giliana and Ndivhuwo Makhado: GCIS, Limpopo

Limpopo Premier Stanley Mathabatha had Limpopo residents thrilled and ululating during Heritage Day celebration aimed at asserting African Identity. The event was held at Samson Phophi Stadium in Vhembe District on 24 September 2016.

Premier Mathabatha was addressing community in the company of MECs and traditional leadership. His speech was focused on infusing indigenous knowledge to the youth and encouraging community members to uphold African tradition. He urged Limpopo ethnic groups to use the day to share their indigenous knowledge. "It is time to celebrate this day in style as a nation because as province we see people of different areas, culture and religion sitting under one roof and exchanging their cultural talent. Know your clan and impart indigenous knowledge to our young people," said the Premier.

He also pleaded with parents to educate young people speak African languages as a way of preserving them. Traditional leaders were urged to also educate children about the importance of initiation school, which teaches young people about the dangers of societal ills such as alcohol and substance abuse.

Fetogang Makgarebe, a traditional group, was praised by the Premier for the wonderful performance of the Pedi culture. The celebration was not only restricted to South Africans but foreign nationals within the province as well. Students from the Netherlands also joined the celebration and expressed their happiness at seeing diversity of African cultures under one roof. Nigerians were also given platform to display their traditional dance as part of upholding their tradition and to show a unified Africa.

The crowd was entertained by Ray Phiri, Colbert Mukwevho, Xigubu xa Hasani, Venda Boy and Pedi people. Mbavhalelo Rambau from Ha-Mpofu appreciated the celebration of Heritage Day. "Celebrating Heritage Day helps South Africans to maintain their pride and restore culture. Today as a province, we are showcasing our culture under one roof," he said.



Guard of honour during the Limpopo Heritage Day celebration.



Nigerian nationals showcasing their tradition through a dance.



Vatsonga dressed in their traditional attire at the event.



Hasani Baloyi said:

"Culture is my life and my life is my culture. Nobody can separate me from my culture. Let us be proud and show the world about our tradition."



OUTCOME 6: AN EFFICIENT, COMPETITIVE AND RESPONSIVE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

North West Provincial Government joins hands with Botswana

By Kaone Moshwela: GCIS, North West

The North West Provincial Government, led by the MEC for Arts, Culture and Traditional Affairs, Ontlametse Mochware and Dikgosi from Botswana engaged in a round-table session to discuss a way forward on how they can collaborate and ideas in improving business opportunities among the villages of their communities. The event took place from 21 to 22 September 2016.

MEC Mochware said the engagement was the beginning to prepare for bigger things between both countries. She also said the relationship is very important since the North West Provincial Government has come up with plans to improve its economy and develop villages, towns and small dorpies, with Tshidilamolomo as one of the villages in the picture. “The marriage of both countries will assist us to explore business opportunities as we will learn different approaches from Botswana and likewise they learn from us,” said the MEC.

Council Chair from Botswana, Kgosi Segokgo, said they have a good relationship with the Kgosi of Tshidilamolomo, the village in the border of Botswana, hence they came up with the idea of collaborating in improving business opportunities of their villages. “We see each other as one community with same tradition and culture,” he said.

“Previously, there was a challenge of our community and his community when they had to attend events and funerals crossing the border, they had to have permits, which was a very disturbing issue when you have an emergency. Our relationship with Kgosi Lekoko of Tshidilamolomo has solved that hiccup,” continued Kgosi Segokgo.

Before the session, delegates visited business areas at Tshidilamolomo village, which is at the border of Botswana with the purpose of sharing information and learning on the approach of establishing business opportunities for communities. Delegates from Botswana said the model used in South Africa is much better compared to Botswana. They also said that in their country, opportunities are just imposed to communities without assessing the needs or passion to perform them. They also said that what they have learned from South Africa can have positive economic impact if it could be practised in their country.

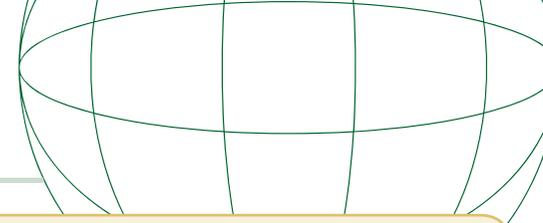
Various business sectors from both countries exhibited their services and products



Attendees during the round table discussion at Tshidilamolomo.



Community members accessing government information at the event.



Kgosi Segokgo said:

“This engagement shows that we are one nation with one culture and tradition. We hope to have a long relationship.”



Keanewa Enterprise owner said:

“I am surviving through this opportunity thanks to this government.”



MEC Ontlametse Mochware addressing attendees at the event.



MEC Mochware at one of the stalls where they were serving caffeine-free coffee made from tree roots.



Delegates from Botswana and MEC Mochware visiting a bakery at Tshidilamolomo.