




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Mayor reaches out to needy communities

By Thandinkosi Zulu: GCIS, North West



Mayor Ngubane, with the leadership, handing over food parcels to needy families.

On 7 June 2015, the Mayor of Umzinyathi District Municipality, Lindani Ngubane, held the first Mayoral Imbizo at Ezingulubeni community at Msinga where he delivered agricultural implements to registered cooperatives, wheelchairs to people with disabilities and food parcels to four child-headed families.

This was an urgent response by Mayor Ngubane to tackle poverty, create job opportunities and provide food security for the Msinga community. The Mayor was conducting a door-to-door visit in May this year when he discovered the four child-headed families, who had nothing to feed themselves. Mthokozisi Dlamini (17) said that he was very grateful to have received food parcels from the Umzinyathi Mayor. "Last month, the Mayor visited our house and promised to come back with something and I thought he was making false promises. Today I am excited that we will have food on the table with my siblings," said Mthokozisi with a low voice.

The Mayor was accompanied by the local Mayor, Endumeni Mayor Thulane Mahaye and the Speaker of the Umzinyathi District Municipality. The Mayoral Imbizo was very significant to the community of Ezingulubeni since it helped them interface with government leaders. Mayor Ngubane engaged community members and listened to their grievances and other challenges.

He committed that his leadership and the provincial government would come back to deliver houses and electrification projects in the area.



Umzinyathi District and Msinga leadership handing over agricultural implements to registered cooperatives of Ezingulubeni.



Mayor Ngubane, Msinga Mayor Sikhakhane and Endumeni Mayor Mahaye.

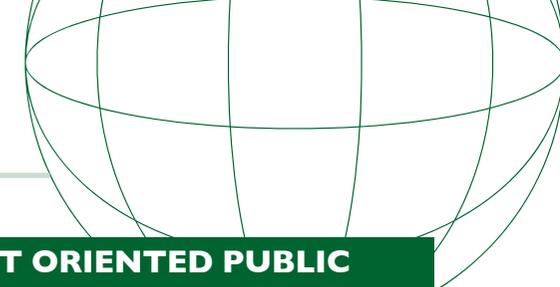


Community members listening to the Mayor's address.



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

Socio-economic opportunities for young people

By Nkopodi Mokgoma: GCIS, Limpopo



Mayor Magabe giving a keynote address.



Some of the young people attending the expo.



Community members standing in front of the casino.



Community members came in their numbers.

On 10 June 2016, young people of Sekhukhune District Municipality gathered at the first and the only casino in the rural Sekhukhune to receive information that would change their lives for the better, during the Sekhukhune Youth Opportunity Expo. Sekhukhune Youth Chamber of Commerce and Industry in partnership with Sekhukhune District Municipality, Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) and the Sekhukhune Development Agency organised this year's Youth Opportunity Expo.

In his keynote and opening address, Sekhukhune District Executive Mayor Councillor Mogobo Magabe indicated the importance of the event as it empowers the youth of Sekhukhune District Municipality with a variety of opportunities that will change their lives and move their families out of poverty. "As a rural district with a population of over one million with only 2.3% higher qualification rate and 88.9% dependency ration worsened by 40% unemployment rate, we aim to use this event medium to break the vicious cycle of poverty through facilitating life-changing opportunities in careers, entrepreneurship, enterprise development and funding," said Executive Mayor Magabe.

About 500 young people in attendance were able to share their business ambitions and engagements with others. Institutions such as the University of Mpumalanga, Land Bank, Department of Labour, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, National Youth Development Agency, LIDA, SEDA, LEDET, Motor Industry Ombudsman, Mining Qualifications Authority, Independent Development Cooperation, Devine Computer Institution, Tshireletso Multi-skill and Training, and Nedbank were able to exhibit their offerings.



Dignitaries at the expo.



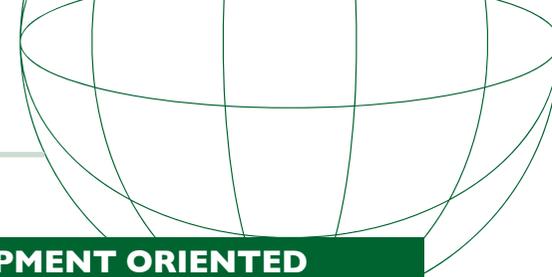
Community members accessing information at the exhibition stalls.



Selia Mohlala said:
"I am very happy to be here today as I was able to gather much information that will assist me in life."



Koketso Kganane said:
"I think the expo will have a great impact in my future as I have learned a lot about certain opportunities. This programme motivates young people and assists them in career choice."



Tshepo Thati said:

“These events do assist but the views should not be kept on paper only. Implementation should be taken seriously because our views are relevant. The poor road conditions and the poor road signage, especially on rural roads where we travel need attention.”



Kenneth Josi said:

“Government needs to host informative and educative events to deliver its messages effectively. The messages would reduce road carnage in uninformed communities. I feel public transport operators do not respect the rules of the road. I feel that drinking and driving amongst youth makes us more vulnerable.”



Mervin Loots said:

“As youth we have to educate ourselves and others. My concern is that we need to address farmers with stray animals because the animals cause accidents. We need to be responsible for our road safety. I was once involved in an accident and I was assisted well by the Road Accident Fund. I feel that more traffic officials need to be deployed. We cannot have campaigns run only during the festive season.”

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

Young people given a platform to air their views

By Boitumelo Boshupeng: GCIS, Northern Cape

“Youth must be vibrant, excited but they also need to be extremely responsible”. These are the words said by MEC for Sports, Arts and Culture, Bongiwe Mbinqo-Gigaba, during the Northern Cape Provincial Youth Road Safety Summit in Kimberley on 28 May 2016. The summit came amid the escalating roads fatalities in the province.

Speaking at the summit, MEC Mbinqo-Gigaba, urged the young people to be cautious and adhere to road regulations in order to avoid accidents. The event, which was attended by 250 youth representatives from different districts, was aimed at soliciting views and perspectives of the youth on road safety, which would later be incorporated into the Provincial Youth Declaration on Road Safety.

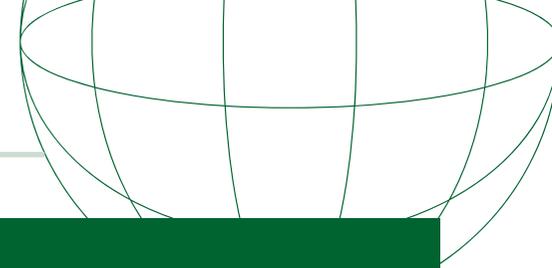
Some of the commission’s inputs were on the inability of road-safety dialogues and awareness to help curb road accidents, therefore it was seen as necessary to capacitate the relevant structures. The behaviour and attitudes of drivers was outlined as the major concern by the young people.



Youth representatives from all five districts at the Youth Road Safety Summit.



MEC Mbinqo-Gigaba addressing attendees.



OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Premier opens the doors of learning in Matjieskloof

By Willem van Dalen: GCIS, Northern Cape



Premier Lucas and MEC for Education, Martha Bartlett unveiling the plaque at the entrance of the school in Matjieskloof.



Community members at the event.



The entrance to the newly built Matjieskloof Intermediary School in the Northern Cape.



The hall was filled to capacity with more than a thousand learners and community members at the opening ceremony.



The school choir singing the National Anthem.



Nama dancers entertaining the audience.



A cheque from ABSA was handed over to the creche at the school.



Premier Lucas cutting the ribbon to officially open the school.

Northern Cape Premier Sylvia Lucas, officially handed over the newly built Matjieskloof Intermediary School to the community on 2 June 2016.

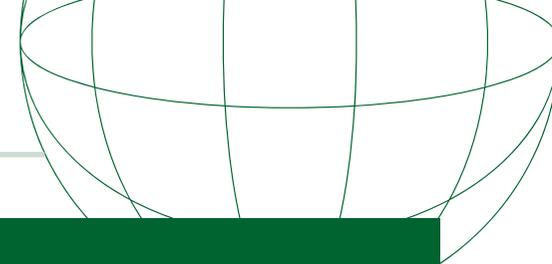
The original school was built by the Roman Catholic Church as a mission school over 120 years ago. Due to the changing learning environment and the development of the education system, the old school buildings became outdated resulting in the construction of the new school.

The building project was completed in December 2015 and the classes started at the beginning of 2016. The school has a capacity of nearly 900 learners, from Grade R to 12. Currently, the highest grade learners at the school, are in Grade 9, as inherited from the old school. Within the next two years, it will be a fully-fledged pre-primary, primary and secondary school.

Facilities at the school are of the highest standard. The Grade R classes are equipped with the best equipment and the kitchen can cater for all the learners that are part of the food programme. The hall can host 1 000 people.

Premier Lucas told the learners and community members that the Matjieskloof Intermediary School is the fourth school in the Northern Cape to be opened this year. "This shows the commitment by government to the people – especially the youth of South Africa for better education for all," she said. The Premier further declared that the school should be used to prepare learners, develop their skills and make them professionals in order to serve the people.

Premier Lucas encouraged the community and the learners to take care of their school and not to burn it down during protests. She also said learners must be in control of their own destinies and warned them against the use of drugs and engaging in criminal activities.



OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION



David Cloete said:

"I think this is a beautiful school. Just the sight of the school as one enters the community makes one get more respect for the whole community. It is really something to be proud of. The whole facility is built in such a way that children would want to learn. This is one of the best things that could happen to our community."



Dawie Hendriks said:

"I think the newly built school in Matjieskloof is an outstanding event in the history of our community. For many years we had only the mission school that did not teach all the grades. Our children had to leave the community at a certain age to go to school somewhere else. With this school in the community, the learners will go to school straight from their respective homes. It will help them prepare for their future. I would like to thank our government for this school."



Jody Henn said:

"Education is a key priority in life. With facilities such as these that were opened today, children in the community cannot say that they never had the opportunity to get educated. With a school like this, the future generations can be much better educated. Moral values, education and integrity will grow from strength to strength in the community because of this school."