



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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A COMPREHENSIVE, RESPONSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM

Deputy Minister engages with small businesses

By Reki Skosana: GCIS, Mpumalanga



The community received government services and information products at the event.

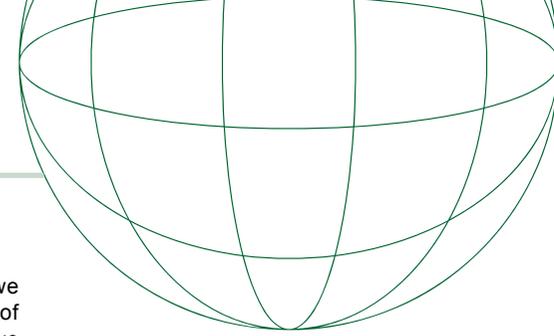
On 10 March 2017, the Deputy Minister for Economic Development, Madala Masuku, visited the community of Pieterskraal A in Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality. The event was attended by cooperatives and small businesses from both Dr JS Moroka and Thembisile Hani local municipalities. During the event, representatives from different small businesses from Dr JS Moroka and neighbouring areas were afforded an opportunity to raise their concerns regarding the development of their businesses. The Deputy Minister addressed them accordingly and outlined that the local municipality together with the Local Economic Development within the municipality would work hard to ensure that their challenges are being addressed to grow the local economy.



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Dimakatso Bodirwa said, “This event is going to change people’s lives for the better provided that we voice out our concerns and come up with suggestions, we need to make things to happen instead of waiting for things to change on their own. We are faced with unemployment and as young people we need to also contribute in changing that will develop our lives.”

The community also had an opportunity to access government services and information from various stakeholders during the exhibition.

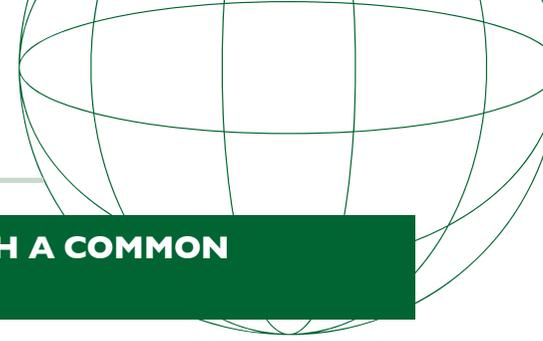


Small businesses and cooperatives showcasing their products.



David Phiri said:

“As people in the country, we struggle regarding businesses and today we are here with the Deputy Minister to try to address that issue. I am certain that today’s meeting will yield positive results.”



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

Learners commemorate Human Rights Month through moot court

By Karen Foutie: GICS, Northern Cape



Cherlene Sekwe said:

“Preparing for this event made me aware of my human rights and responsibilities. What I also learned was that my rights must not infringe on the rights of others. I want to help people to fight for their rights in the court of law. The Constitution plays a major role in South Africa, it protects its citizens and is very important.”



Boipele Mokomele said:

“This event gave us an opportunity to experience justice in action though simulation. It felt real. I am very aware of my human rights and also very appreciative of the rights that I have. I think the magistrate gave clarity on the whole case and how he explained human rights and the Constitution. I realised that the Constitution is important and I now understand its role.”



Moot court events in process.

The John Taolo Gaetsewe District commemorated Human Rights Month through schools moot court competition. Moot court is a simulated court proceedings, which gives learners an opportunity to participate in the court hearing. Learners were given a fictitious set of facts and had to argue for both parties, the applicant and the respondent. A hypothetical problem, involving constitutional issues was set. The moot court aims to create an awareness in school about the Constitution work and the values that it embodies through active participation. It also encouraged learners to consider careers in law.

This activation empowers learners to do research, know their Constitution and test how the judicial process works. Magistrate Cupido from the Kudumane Magistrate Court guided the learners in their interpretation of how the Constitution should have been applied in this fictitious case.

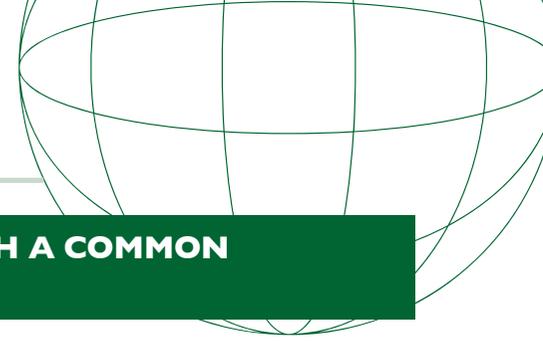
This unique opportunity for learners enabled them to develop their skills in terms of writing and oral advocacy as they attempted to win their case with the Constitution issues presented to them.

Bankhara Bodulong, Bathharo Tlhaping, Phakane and Hotazel high schools participated in the moot court with Wrenchville High, Government Stakeholders and the Thuthuzela Care Centre as observers.



Bongani Magida said:

“In preparing for this case I realised many things. I know that the Constitution is important and I am expecting that I will find out more today and learn more. I know about my human rights, but I think it is important that emphasis must be put on the responsibilities too.”



Sandra Ramohabi said:

“Today I am here to celebrate with all South Africans as we commemorate Human Rights Day and also this is my mother’s birthday, which makes this day more important for me. I am happy to be here and I am enjoying myself.”



Siphwe Nhlapho said:

“I feel great and honoured that people did not die for nothing, those 59 people died for our freedom and here we are, commemorating Human Rights Day because of their heroic acts.”

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

Premier leads Human Rights Day commemoration

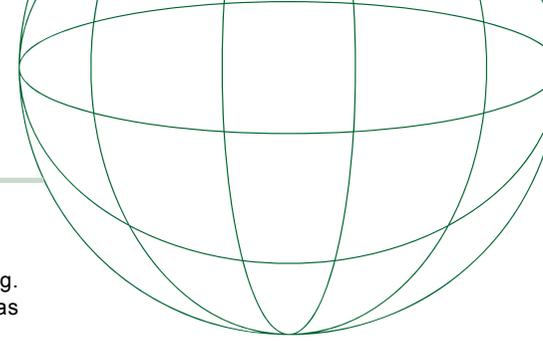
By Thembi Matjokana: GCS, Gauteng



Premier David Makhura speaking at the event.

Gauteng Premier David Makhura led Human Rights Day commemoration in Sharpeville, Sedibeng on 21 March 2017. The day started with wreath-laying ceremony at the Phelindaba cemetery, where the victims of the massacre are buried, and at the monument next to the police station where they were shot. The commemoration was preceded by a 2-km anti-racism and anti-xenophobia walk from the monument to George Thabe Stadium. Throughout the day, various departments from national, provincial and Emfuleni Local Municipality exhibited outside George Thabe Stadium rendering various services and information to the public. Institutions such as departments of health, labour, government communications, Human Rights Commission, sport and recreation, arts and culture, Office of the Public Protector, South African revenue Services, Independent Electoral Commission, Arcelor Mittal Science Centre and local business were at the event.

People came in huge numbers from all parts of Gauteng to commemorate Human Rights Day and remember the 69 people who were killed by the police in 1960, during a mass march against pass laws. Many young people who came to celebrate the day were excited and understood that the day would always be remembered.



Community members at the event.

Premier Makhura spoke of the Struggle fought then and the current one that people are still facing. He mentioned that while South Africa has made advances since the dawn of democracy, there was still more to do to ensure that all citizens enjoy freedom.

“We still have a long way to go. We have come a very long way but we have a long way to go as we still have too many of our people without houses and living in poor conditions.” said the Premier.

He said that it was time that government prioritises Sedibeng and West Rand municipalities. He also mentioned that government needs to look into housing, township economy, education and health to ensure that the people of Sedibeng are not left behind.

“It is important to support families who lost their loved ones in the massacre on this day in 1960. Premier Makhura emphasised the importance of equal opportunities for all citizens to enjoy equal resources. “We do not want a South Africa where there is racism, xenophobia, unemployment and poverty and we do not want leaders who believe that colonialism was good, colonialism was bad,” he said. The Premier quoted from Steve Biko, “To Africans we must remind blacks that they too are also human being, they are not inferior, we must remind white people that they are not superior they are just human beings”.



Government departments rendering services at the event.



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

Premier commemorates Human Rights Day with community members

By Nonhlanhla Sithole: GClS, KwaZulu-Natal



Sophie Mthembu said:

“It is very important to respect other people’s rights. We pledge not to abuse the rights of people as requested by the Premier.”



Sophie Mkhwanazi said:

“Government must provide jobs so that people do not end up drowning their sorrow by abusing drugs and alcohol.”



Sizakele Buthelezi said:

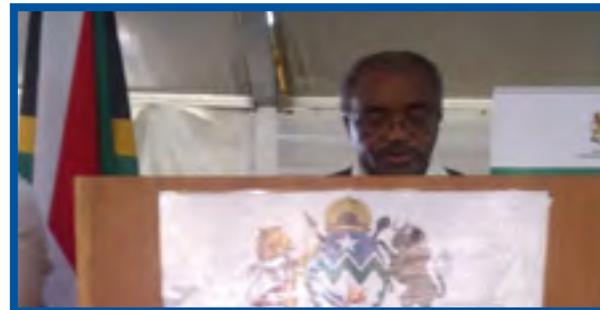
“I hope to get my child-support grant at the end of the month because I last received it in September because I did not renew my application as required.”



Government leaders at the event.



Zululand community members at the event.



Premier Willies Mchunu speaking at the event.



Community members queuing to access health services at the event.

On 21 March 2017, KwaZulu-Natal Premier Willies Mchunu addressed community members in uPhongolo Municipality at Sithambi Sports Ground to commemorate Human Rights Day.

The Premier reminded the community of the many rights that they enjoy in the country as enshrined in the Constitution and encouraged people to respect the rights of all people. “We are allowed by law to voice our unhappiness with regards to services, but we must never destroy infrastructure such as schools and libraries. Call us and tell us your problems without being destructive, and we will listen and attend to whatever you request of us. We are also warned not to disrespect the rights of people who are providing essential services when picketing,” said the Premier.

Many people applauded the Premier when he assured those who are receiving government social grants that they will get their money as President Jacob Zuma had promised.

As part of ensuring that the right to health is respected, the Department of Health rendered health screening services and other services to 125 people in the community who attended the event.