




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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OUTCOME 7: VIBRANT, EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES WITH FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL

Government reflects on achievements and plans

By *Lwando Helesi: GCIS, Eastern Cape*



Patience Tamba chairing the meeting.



Various stakeholders at the event.

The Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (DRDAR) facilitated the Eastern Cape Provincial Outcome 7 Technical Implementation Forum meeting in Queenstown, Chris Hani District Municipality on 19 March 2018. The event was aimed at tracking progress on service-delivery programmes and plans to develop rural areas. Outcome 7 is about the creation of vibrant, equitable, sustainable rural communities and food security for all.



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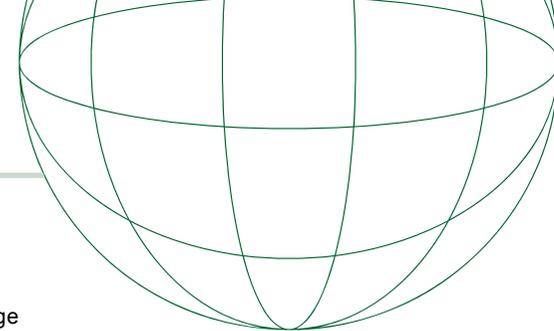
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The objectives of the session was to operationalise the MUNIMEC resolutions, promote knowledge sharing and learning, and develop a provincial Programme of Action. Particular focus was on supporting community and commercial projects to contribute towards the rural economy and food security for all.

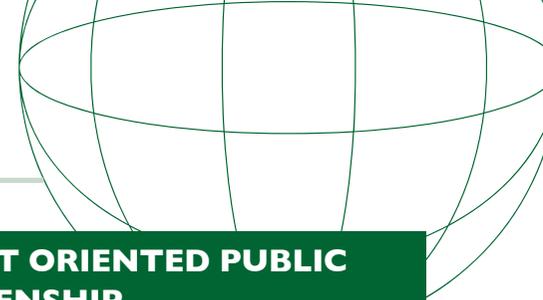
DRDAR official Patience Tamba said, “We are here to engage on how best we can implement the Programme of Action in a coordinated and integrated manner to achieve greater results.”

“This structure coordinates the implementation of the outcome, reviews progress, provides interventions when required, and monitors and evaluates the level of achievements,” she added.

Various government departments, municipalities and agencies presented their progress on service-delivery initiatives for 2017/18 and also plans for 2018/19. They included:

- Providing support to local businesses for sustainable rural economy through funding, handing over of equipment, capacitation and skills development
- Supporting agricultural programmes that will contribute towards food security
- Implementation of government programmes to create jobs for the local people
- Provision of basic services such as electrification, housing, water and sanitation
- Health programmes and clinics aimed at improving the lives of rural communities

The provincial report and Programme of Action will be developed and be escalated to the Ministry of Rural Development and Land Reform.



Mmanku Phehla said:

“I am happy that there is a commitment to deal with crime in our area because we do not feel safe in this area. I am also pleased to hear that those occupying houses illegally will be dealt with, otherwise there could be lawlessness here.”



John Monyepao (In black cap) said:

“It is good that the Premier and his MECs are here to engage with us but I was expecting them to also focus more on unemployment. In my view, youth unemployment is a ticking time bomb that needs attention.”

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

Gauteng conducts outreach programme

By Robbie Senoelo: GCIS, Gauteng



Community members at the Ntirhisano meeting.



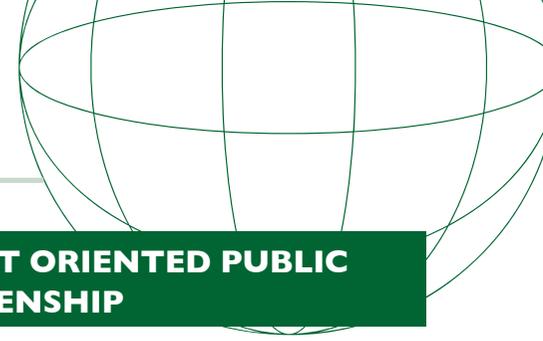
Premier David Makhura addressing the community.

Government’s effort to bring services and information closer to the people and deepen democracy through face-to-face interaction received a major boost when Gauteng Premier David Makhura and his Members of the Executive Council (MECs) visited Olievenhoutbosch as part of the Ntirhisano Outreach Programme on 15 March 2018. The programme, which took place at the state-of-the-art Seshegong Secondary School, afforded residents the opportunity to raise their grievances.

Some of the issues that were raised related to policing and crime, unemployment, housing and land invasion. The Gauteng Provincial Government committed to resolve policing and crime issues in the area. According to the evidence from the department and the South African Police Service, the Olievenhoutbosch Police Station has 26 vehicles. However, residents complained that police visibility in the area was limited, claiming that only three police vehicles are mostly seen and not the 26 that have been deployed to the station.

Community Safety MEC Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane promised to immediately investigate the claims and also instigate disciplinary hearing against corrupt officials.

In addition, Premier Makhura told residents that government has received complaints about houses that are occupied by people who are not rightful beneficiaries. “We are going to deal with this problem immediately and we are involving the SAPS’s Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation, the Hawks, to investigate and deal with the matter so that houses can be handed to the rightful beneficiaries,” he said. The Premier also informed residents that they were part of President Cyril Ramaphosa’s ‘New dawn’, where government would be on the ground to attend to priority issues.



Gcobisa Masingili said:

“As a person with disabilities, my rights are mostly violated. Hendrina is an old town with mines and farms but people living with disability are discriminated as there is no building that is accessible for people living with disability.”



Wilhelm Brand said:

“I feel great about my computer. I am going to work very hard to understand it and I shall teach other children as well. I am not going to allow them to play with it as it is only meant for school work.”

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

Leaders conduct outreach programme

By Willem van Dalen: G CIS, Northern Cape



Government leaders addressing the community.



Departments rendering their services to communities during the outreach.



Learners receiving presents at the event.



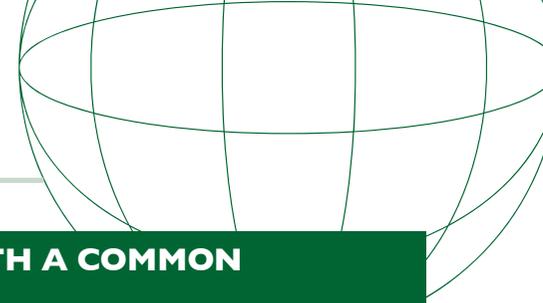
Learners listening to various speakers.



Children at the creche received toys and learning tools.

The Government Communication and Information System participated in an outreach campaign organised by the Northern Cape Executive Committee to Frasersburg in the Karoo-Hoogland Municipality of the Namakwa District on 15 March 2018. The departments of social development, health, agriculture, sport and recreation, arts and culture, home affairs and the South African Police Service (SAPS) also participated in the event. The purpose of the campaign was to reach out to the needy communities of the Northern Cape.

Numerous activities took place, with departments rendering services and political leaders sharing information with community members. Plants, rubbish bins, school uniforms, sportswear and sanitary ware were given to various beneficiaries. A cerebrally handicapped learner was presented with a laptop to assist in his learning.



Africa Gunguluza said:

“I am very happy that our school has been invited to this important programme of Human Rights Day celebrations. I have learned a lot in this event and I feel that we are also important to government as children and learners with special needs.”



Nonkululeko Hlakula said:

“I am happy for this day, from the day we meet with the GCIS and committed to have this programme. Today, our learners with special needs have been taught about their rights. The department has committed to work with our school. This must also apply to those children who are not at school but want to be at school. We appreciate the GCIS for ensuring that this event becomes a success.”

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

Government reaches out to learners with special needs

By Sikelela Zokufa: GCIS, Western Cape



School principal addressing the audience.



Learners and some of the people who were in attendance.



Learners singing the National Anthem in sign language.



Lathitha School for Special Needs rendering an item.

It was a great joy with the learners of Noluthando School of the Deaf joined by Lathitha School of Special Needs when the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) held a Human Rights Day celebration in their school in Khayelitsha on 23 March 2018. The event was aimed at educating the learners with special needs about human rights. The session was opened by the singing of the National Anthem, which was led by the sign-language choir from the school.

The learners displayed their skills through entertainment directed to guests. Sign-language interpretation was offered in all items, speeches and songs to ensure effective communication.

The school principal, Ayanda Ncinane, tackled the meaning of human rights if other children are still discriminated. “Some children with special needs are not attending school because the few schools we have are full and the children are still on the waiting list. It is the children’s right to be at school and access education. Government must build more schools for children with special needs, it is the role of teachers and government to ensure equality,” he said.

GCIS official Mbuyiseli Boqwana also encouraged the learners to know their rights as enshrined in the Constitution and also ensure that no one infringes on their rights. “The GCIS has the responsibility to ensure that government information reaches out to each and every community, all sectors and different groups. We are happy to partner with the school of special needs and we will continue to partner with all sectors and different groups of society,” he said.

An official from the Western Cape Department of Education said, “Human rights go with responsibilities. Noluthando School of the Deaf has learners with different disabilities and it is our responsibility as the department to ensure that all learners have access to better education”.