



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Minister reaches out to community members through an Imbizo

By Tshidi Mokoka and Nokulunga Xala: GCIS, Gauteng

As part of the Imbizo Focus Week, Minister in The Presidency for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Jeff Radebe, visited the community of Kagiso in Mogale City on 11 November 2016. The Minister also made unannounced visits to South African Social Security Agency offices in Krugersdorp, Leratong Hospital. The Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation is responsible for facilitating, influencing and supporting effective planning, monitoring and evaluation of government programmes aimed at improving service delivery, outcomes and impact on society.

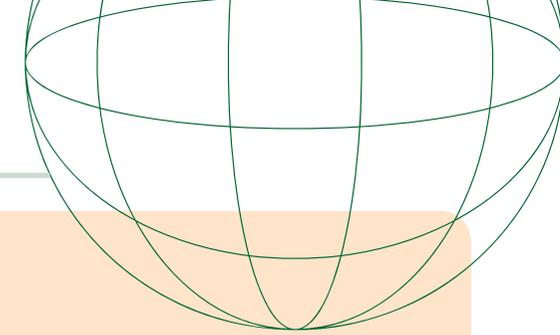
Accompanied by the leadership from both the Westrand District and Mogale City municipalities, Minister Radebe said that the purpose of visiting various service points was to instil a culture of self-monitoring in departments so that improvements on the quality of service delivery are realised, with an overall aim of advancing planning, accountability, responsibility and reporting through monitoring. "The purpose of this Imbizo today is to check on the status of service delivery and monitor the work done by the local municipality of Mogale City. I am happy to say that in all the service points I visited, I have found competent people who are ready to render services to the community," he said.

During the Imbizo, community members were given a platform to raise issues affecting them. Most of the issues raised touched on youth unemployment, lack of housing and poverty. In his response to issues raised, the Minister said that government, in partnership with relevant stakeholders, needs to leave no stones unturned in working together to create jobs. "The National Development Plan 2030 is ensuring growth of the economy, which will enable people to find jobs that will allow them to get out of the poverty cycle they find themselves in," the Minister said. He further went on to say that local government is the most strategic and participatory sphere of government and that Mogale City Local Municipality needs to draw up a master plan on how government can help bring investments closer to communities.



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Annie Vilakazi said:

“I am happy that the Minister came to Kagiso to engage with us as a community because he was accompanied by government leaders from the municipality. I am happy that I managed to engage with the Housing MEC who will look into the issues that I raised.”



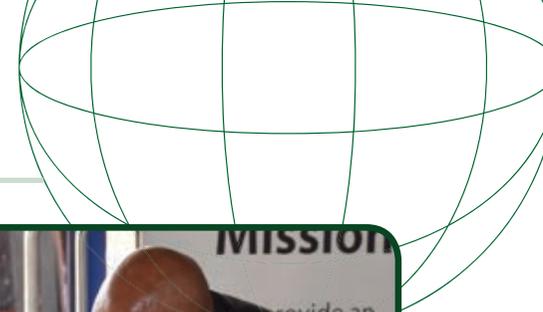
Monto Makgotla said:

“It is important that the Minister came to our area to listen to the issues of the people on the ground. As a resident of Mogale City, I was able to engage with the Mogale City Indigent Office to look into my application.”

Ntsoaki Pule said:

“I wish that government could look into claims that are made by communities about unemployment in local municipalities.”





Minister Radebe addressing and engaging with community members at the community Imbizo at Mogale City in Kagiso.



Community members in Kagiso used the Imbizo platform to raise issues affecting them and to discuss service delivery.



Lulamile Msenga said:

“I am very happy to see the Deputy Ministers visiting our informal settlements because they can see the bad conditions in which we are living. The crime rate is high in these informal settlements because we do not have roads so police vehicles cannot drive for patrol purposes. I hope that government will do something about this situation.”

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

Government moves to address crime in Nyanga

By Sikelela Zokufa: GCIS, Western Cape

As part of the National Imbizo Focus Week, the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) cluster hosted a packed feedback session at the Nyanga Stadium in Cape Town on 9 November 2016.

The day started with the Deputy Minister of Police, Makhotso Sotyu, and the Deputy Minister of State Security, Ellen Molekane, walking around the communities of Philippi. They ended up at the Nyanga Stadium where the Imbizo was hosted.

Hundreds of community members from as far as Langa township and the informal settlement of Siyahlala, in Marikane, attended the Imbizo.

The feedback session was as a result of the request of the people of Nyanga who asked that the clusters visit them to address the barrage of problems facing the community. The department of Justice and Correctional Services hosted an Imbizo in Nyanga in August this year. This followed a public outcry about the scourge of crime.

The latest crime statistics paints the Nyanga township as an area with a high rate of murder crimes. Many complaints were registered with the Ministry of Justice. The JCPS cluster gave the Nyanga residents feedback from the previous Imbizo.

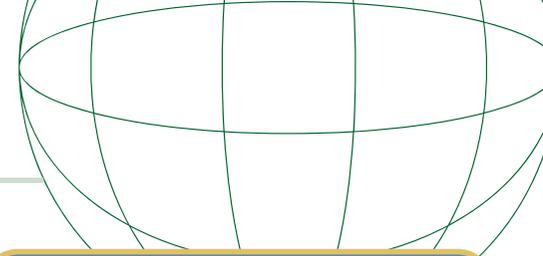
The complaints ranged from shortage of police vehicles, personal cases from residents, a need for an urgent mobile satellite police station in the Phillipi area, parole releases and police visibility in the area.

An excited Mzikayise Nobathana hailed the efforts of the JCPS cluster and suggested that Nyanga needed individual attention from police in order for the crime rate to drop.

“This is a good step in the right direction. More police vehicles, more vans, more police visibility and a satellite police station in this cluster is the way to go. The South African Police Service must stop chop and changing station commissioners as this has a very bad effect on combating the scourge of crime,” he said.

Sizwe Mpinda added, “I fully support this crime Imbizo. Now we are going to be inducted on how operations are conducted in relation to crime and why some cases are dropped as a result of lack of evidence. What are the causes of that, could it be that police drag their feet in investigations or is it just a problem from the community’s part?”

Deputy Minister Sotyu stressed that the Ministry of Police has the best interest of citizens at heart and they were doing everything in their power as a cluster to address the challenges that were facing the residents of Nyanga in addressing the scourge of crime.



Nomfesane said:

“I think government cares about our safety and is willing to fight crime in our areas. There is a little improvement. There are number of interventions that were reported here, the question is whether they are making a difference or not because Nyanga still has a high crime rate. Government must consider investing on bodies such as neighbourhood watch as they are sacrificing their lives fighting crime voluntarily without compensation.”



Deputy Minister Makhotso Sotyu interacting with community members.



The Deputy Minister with government leaders at the event.



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

Launch of a bridge between Botswana and South Africa

By Kaone Moshwela: GCIS, North West

On 7 November 2016, the Minister of Transport, Dipuo Peters, launched a border post bridge between South Africa and Botswana. It was established to aid the communities of Botswana and South Africa to cross the border without any hurdles. The bridge cost R78 million and it created 51 permanent jobs for South African and Botswana citizens. In her speech, the Minister said the bridge has a significance in our country as it is at the border that was used by our freedom fighters such as the late Oliver Tambo. "It was an exit point to find refuge for our leaders who ran for their lives during apartheid regime," she said.

"I am delighted to be here where open a new chapter in the relationship between South Africa and Botswana and to speak at this event where we unveil the infrastructure that will contribute to the growth of trade, commerce and regional integration. The opening of this road and bridge to link the border posts of Swartkopfontein and Ramotswa takes us another step further to make the movement between citizens of our countries so much easier and to strengthen our cultural and economic ties," she said.

The Minister of Transport and Communications in Botswana, Onkokame Mokaila, said this bridge is a demonstration of two countries showing economic interests, promoting trade between two countries. "It also promotes oneness as the Batswana community because we were separated by borders which were imposed on us by the colonial rule," he said.

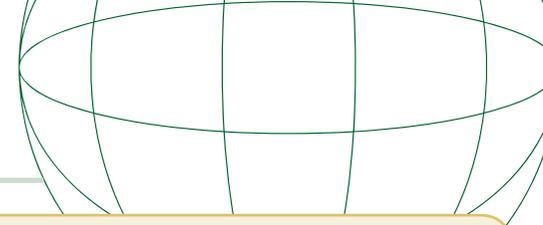
North West MEC for Community Safety and Management, Mokgantshang Motlhabane, thanked Minister Peters for her boldness to commit and to champion the process of the project as well as the South African National Roads Agency Limited for delivering in time and within budget without variance. He said that such conduct shows responsibility and professionalism.



Cutting of the ribbon to officially open the Swartkopfontein road and bridge.



Minister of Transport, Dipuo Peters, and Minister of Transport and Communications, Onkokame Mokaila (Botswana), addressing the audience during the opening launch.



The road and bridge between South Africa and Botswana.



Keaneilwe Segwe said:

“I am from Ramotswa in Botswana. I am very happy about these improvements on the road. Whenever there were heavy rains we had to cancel our planned trips because the road was not safe to be used due to the mud and floods caused by Notwane river. I remember one day I had to turn back at the border because it was scary and not safe to cross the road.”



Mika Solomon said:

“I am from Botswana, Gaborone, and I am a regular user of this road. I am very happy and appreciate what government has done. I have used this road for almost eight years and the experience has been very bad. I had fear every time I had to use this road, but finally here I am driving safely. Thank you again government.”



Sphiwe Machika said:

“I am happy that the department is finally handing over the keys. The place will now be ours and we will be glad if the place can have places to sleep.”

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

Official handover of Komjekejeke Heritage Site

By Reki Skosana: GCIS, Mpumalanga

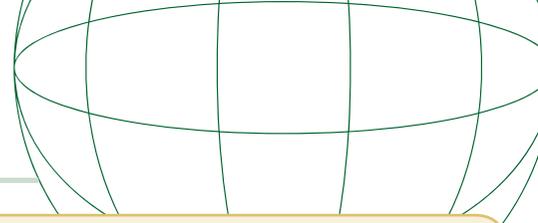
The Department of Tourism, in partnership with Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality and the Mpumalanga Provincial Government, hosted the official launch and handover of the Komjekejeke Heritage site in Walmansthal on 12 November 2016. This was done in line with the Imbizo Focus Week where the Minister of Tourism, Derek Hanekom, and other dignitaries interacted with the communities to address different issues and to come up with ideas on how best to develop the area and make it a good living place.

The multipurpose centre consists of conference centres, a Ndebele exhibition area, amphitheatre, coffee shop, kitchen, ablution facilities and a picnic site with braai facilities. In his address, Minister Hanekom said, “This place must become a real living place, nations must come here and experience something different.” King Ingwenyama Makhosonke 11 received the heritage site on behalf of the Ndebele nation. King Makhosonke said, “The area should be developed to open opportunities for employment and be used to preserve culture, heritage and isiNdebele”.

Community members were encouraged to protect, love and use the site for better lives for all. Minister Hanekom and MEC for Human Settlements, Speedy Mashilo, responded to issues raised during the Imbizo session. The community members, who mostly were from nearby areas, were afforded the opportunity to voice out their opinions, regarding issues of development and different issues were well received by political principals for consideration.



The event was graced by King Makhosonke II, Minister Derek Hanekom and Mpumalanga MEC Speedy Mashilo.



Beauty Mabuzane said:

“Today was fun and I am happy to have seen the women dancing and to have seen the King has really made me happy.”



Community members showcased their different cultural dances during the event.



Community members attended the event in large numbers.