



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

South Africa celebrates Heritage Day

By Mthunzi Mkhungo, GCIS: KwaZulu-Natal



Some of the groups that performed at the Heritage Day celebrations.

KwaZulu-Natal Premier Willies Mchunu with the descendants of Adam Kok III at the event.

More than 10 000 people from different parts of the country gathered at the Riverview Stadium in Kokstad, KwaZulu-Natal on 24 September 2018 to celebrate Heritage Day.

Deputy President David Mabuza addressed the nation, calling for unity across all cultures. He encouraged collective usage of land for the benefit of the people and also fight against poverty. "Ours is a land of abundance. It can provide for everyone. There is enough to go around, enough to share and enough to end poverty. All we must do, is live up to our potential under a just and equitable system. This is what our heritage means," said Deputy President Mabuza.



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He also referred to former President Nelson Mandela’s legacy on issues of unity and rainbow nation, as he made reference to Madiba’s vision to see South Africans united against all sorts of social ills.

The event attracted diverse communities. Adam Kok III was honoured by government through the unveiling of his statue and the renaming of the newly built Greater Kokstad Local Municipality building after him. Different artists from various music genres came together to celebrate and entertain thousands of people who were in their cultural regalia, symbolising their cultural backgrounds. Soul Brothers also gave a wonderful performance.



Veronica Methius said:

“Truth be told, previously we felt like rejects as the Khoi nation, thanks to the current government for having recognised our existence. To us, Heritage Day symbolises united culture and diverse background. This is the day in which we all celebrate who we are and get the opportunity to learn and teach each other about our cultures. How I wish Heritage Month could last the entire year, because meeting different racial groups with their various cultures in a single platform like this one reminds me of what life was intended for by the Creator.”



Thembi Khumalo said:

“Heritage Day reminds us of who we are and where we come from. It also paints a picture for the young ones who do have direct interaction with their cultural background. Yes, we are a rainbow nation, and it has been growing very well with the current government system. The world can learn one or two things from South Africa, especially respect, that is what makes us different.”



Thenjiwe Shange said:

“Heritage Day symbolises our cultural backgrounds. As much as we have evolved from ancient ways of doing things as Africans, we need to be reminded of what it means to be an African. This is rare opportunity to see integration of various cultural groups in one platform, and such must never end because it will unite the nation and maybe minimise the elements of racial segregation and instead address equality over hatred. South Africa is a rainbow nation and there is great growth in terms of seeing cross cultural relations, such as marriage from different cultural backgrounds.”



Khensani Mathebula said:

“Thank you guys for coming here, I really appreciate it and I will move around to learn about the services of different government departments and see how they can help me.”



Mashosho Philemon said:

“The birthdate on my lost ID is incorrect. It suggests that my younger brother is older than me. I need my ID to reflect my correct age when I apply for a new one. I have the required documents to prove that the identity number on my ID is wrong. I would be very thankful and happy if I could get my correct age reflected on my ID because it is not nice when you are old but your ID says you are young.”

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

Government Exhibition Day in Pretoria

By Valencia Rachuene and Willy Phalane: GCIS, Head Office



Community members visiting some of the exhibition stalls.



Community members receiving information materials.

Different stakeholders at the event.

Government's ability to provide optimally transparent, productive, communication and interaction at all levels is key to the country's future achievements. Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) plays a critical role in helping to shape the national mood and nation-building.

On 28 September 2018, the GCIS hosted the 5th annual government Exhibition Day at Soshanguve Crossing Mall in Pretoria. Different government departments and entities participated in the event. The exhibition sought to ensure that citizens receive information on services and programmes provided by various institutions of government, which are aimed at empowering the public.

Officials from government departments and entities interacted with the public at their stalls. The community members received information and had access to services from institutions such as departments of labour, health, basic education, social development, trade and industry, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, Film and Publication Board, National Research Foundation, National Gambling Board, Civilian Secretariat for Police, and the South African National Defence Force.



Akhona Mnka said:

“I feel very special today with my traditional attire. I have learnt more about the history of Gugulethu and that of our national icons. I wish that government could continue supporting the good initiatives which educate our children about their heritage.”



Vincent Domingo said:

“This was a remarkable day for Gugulethu to celebrate Heritage Day this way and to have participated in all activities of the day. I am very happy and enjoyed the day. I also call on government to make African history a compulsory subject at school as I believe this could help to unite Africans and create a deeper understanding of each other’s cultures.”

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

Gugulethu celebrates 60th anniversary

By Sikelela Zokufa, GCIS: Western Cape



Some of the women who were in attendance.



Government officials and leaders of religious groups who were in attendance.



A cultural group performing at the event.

On 24 September 2018, the community of Gugulethu, not only celebrated Heritage Day but also the 60th anniversary of the township at Gugulethu Civic Hall. The Deputy Minister of Human Settlements, Zou Kota-Fredericks, led other dignitaries in a cleaning campaign around Khikhi and Gugulethu next to shell garage before proceeding to the hall for the main event.

Deputy Minister Kota-Fredericks said they have to celebrate and honour the diversity of cultures that exist in the country and to recognise the rich history of Gugulethu. She also appealed to parents and grandparents to pass on their knowledge to their children. The Deputy Minister said language was the carrier of history and one of the most important parts of one’s culture.

“We must be proud of our culture. We should also use such days to talk about the history and heritage of our areas. We must teach our children the values and importance of keeping tradition and culture. I applaud young people who take part in cultural activities because it is through them that we can preserve our culture. The future and growth lie with us,” said Deputy Minister Kota-Fredericks said.



James Molepo said:

“Wow! I have never been exposed to so much information before. I learnt about the importance of having a Will so that there are no fights in my family should I die.”

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

Government takes services to the people

By Robbie Senoelo: GCIS, Gauteng



Community members accessing services from some of the exhibition stalls at the event.

Government’s effort to extend its reach in terms of services and information received a boost when the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in conjunction with other stakeholders coordinated an outreach at the Denneboom Precinct next to Mamelodi Thusong Service Centre on 19 September 2018 in line with the Public Service Month. The aim of the outreach was among others, to bring government services closer to the people and ensure that public servants provide mobile services closer to where people live.

The 2018 Public Service Month was commemorated in September under the theme: “Thuma Mina: Taking Public Service to the People”. During the campaign, public servants are reminded to be efficient and effective in serving communities.

Some of the stakeholders that were involved in this outreach were the Road Accident Fund, National Credit Regulator, Companies and Intellectual Property Commission, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Legal Aid South Africa, Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator, Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, Gauteng Department of Economic Development (and its entities), Credit Ombud and Motor Industry Ombudsman of South Africa, the Department of Labour, the South African Police Service, the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and the City of Tshwane.

The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development conducted educational campaigns on wills and deceased estate. “We are here to provide free legal advice and heighten access to the department’s services, especially free assistance with the drafting of wills and advice on the execution of deceased estates,” said Siyanda Sibiyi. George Moeketsi from the GCIS said, “The Public Service Month is a service delivery improvement programme and an integral part of the Batho Pele principles, which are about getting public servants to perform their responsibilities diligently.”