




MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 2/ February 2018

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

Gugulethu conducts prayer and Imbizo

By Sikelela Zokufa: GCIS, Western Cape



Young people at the prayer session.



Mayor Patricia De Lille, Deputy Minister Bongani Mkongi, Deputy Minister Mcebisi Skwatsha and other leaders at the event.

Residents and members from various churches gathered for a mass prayer at the Gugulethu Sport Complex. The event was organised by the Gugulethu Development Forum and the South African Police Service, supported by the Government Communication and Information System and faith-based organisations.

More than 2 300 residents celebrated the community's 60th anniversary, the second-oldest black community in the province after Langa. The attendees prayed for safety of learners and the 2018 matriculants, among others.

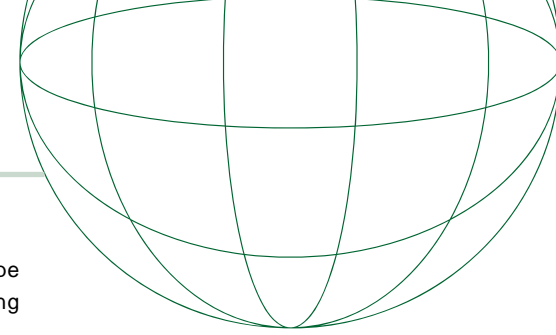
The service was attended by Mayor Patricia de Lille, Western Cape police commissioner Khombinkosi Jula, Deputy Minister of Police, Bongani Mkongi, Deputy Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform, Mcebisi Skwatsha, and community development leaders from Gugulethu, Heideveld, Khayelitsha and Philippi.



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The first part of the service kicked off with prayers by the Methodist Church, Worship Centre of Hope and the Reformed Apostolic Mission of South Africa. The second part of the service focused on building youth crime prevention capacity and increasing community partnerships against crime and social ills.

Gugulethu Development Forum chairperson Samora Nompunga said the response from the community was beyond what had been expected and they were grateful for the attendance and support. "This shows commitment from our community. More than 2 300 people were in the venue and there were more in the tent outside. I wish we continue to support each other the whole year," he said.

Mayor De Lille said, "Gugulethu is 60 years old but it feels like it is older. All forms of violence against women and children need to stop. We as government must do more, create more jobs for our children and thank you for what we have achieved in Gugulethu."

Deputy Minister Mkongi said the prayer service was being held "against crime and social ills" in Gugulethu. He reiterated that the police wanted partnerships with community members to put criminals behind bars.

Youth of Gugulethu and learners were encouraged to focus on their studies and not to run after everything. Deputy Minister Skwatsha stated that despite hailing from the dusty streets of Gugulethu, today he is Deputy Minister.



Community members attended in their numbers.



Lamani said:

"I am very happy to be part of this event. The prayer brings back our hope and it was motivational to the youth to focus on their studies. The Deputy Minister has warned the criminals that they will not get away with crime. I also learned that this programme brings unity among community members."



OUTCOME 9: A RESPONSIVE, ACCOUNTABLE, EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM

Campaign to curb initiates deaths

By Lwando Helesi: GCIS, Eastern Cape

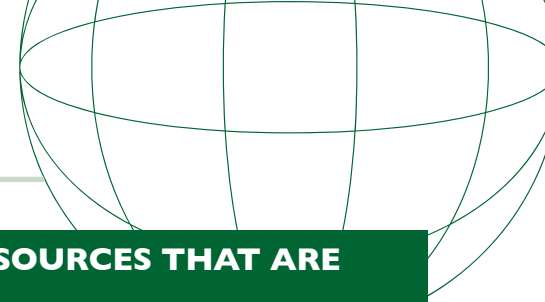


Chief Mbali with the secretariat of the Chris Hani District Municipality Initiation Forum conducting an interview.

The Chris Hani District Municipality has reported a record of low initiates' death in the last summer initiation season of 2017/18. This was revealed by the chairperson of the Chris Hani District Initiation Forum, Chief Mbali, during a radio talk show at Lukhanji FM on 29 January 2018.

Development-communication initiatives impact positively on the lives of communities. This was evident in the efforts made by the Chris Hani Initiation Forum stakeholders to help curb initiate deaths.

The District Summer Initiation Season 2017 started on 23 November 2017. A number of awareness campaigns were conducted around the district. These included road intersection blitz, taxi-rank activations, school awareness programmes, stakeholder engagements, radio talkshows, etc.



OUTCOME 10: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS AND NATURAL RESOURCES THAT ARE WELL PROTECTED AND CONTINUALLY ENHANCED



Sibusiso Maseko said:

“This year I intend pursuing a career in Chemical Engineering at Wits University. Sasol will fund my studies.”



Kagisho Montwedi said:

“I am hopeful that the Deputy Minister will help us and will alleviate poverty. We do not want to be chased away; we want to continue mining in peace. We want to be in a position to sell diamonds; we need the Deputy Minister to help us with that.”

Deputy Minister engages illegal miners

By Masego Motshidisi: GCIS, Northern Cape



Deputy Minister Godfrey Oliphant addressing illegal miners at the city hall in Kimberley.

Mineral Resources Godfrey Oliphant visited Kimberley to engage illegal miners in the Northern Cape on 22 January 2018. The visit was aimed at finding solutions to illegal mining. The Deputy Minister was invited by the Premier, Sylvia Lucas, in the wake of the battle between illegal miners and the security personnel of Ekapa Mine. In 2017, the mine successfully obtained an eviction order from the Constitutional Court, which illegal miners refused to abide by.

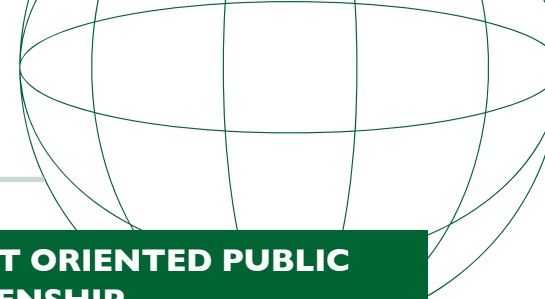
Before engaging them, the Deputy Minister met with stakeholders to find a lasting solution. The mine agreed to support illegal miners to obtain mining rights and also give them a portion of land as long as they agree to mine the topsoil.

The Deputy Minister’s plan of intervention to assist illegal miners to mine legally was welcomed by many of them. Ekapa Mine committed 400 hectares of land that they could review when applying for permits. The Department of Mineral Resources committed to provide skills development training and to send safety officers to advise miners on health and safety measures to ensure that they make their operations as safe as possible.



Thabo Manabe said:

“I attended this meeting because I need land, we all do. We need a much bigger land to mine so that we can eat. Where we are currently digging, we are just trying our luck, there is nothing there.”



Bintu Jalia Ngozi said:

“My main concern is that we have always been propelling the implementation of women in Parliament but what has gone wrong? Some time has gone and we are not even realising 50/50 in Parliament. Maybe our constitutions needs to be revisited, analyse our different constitutions and check whether they are gender compliant. Of course there are those other countries, as one presenter stated, which have tried to ensure that their laws and policies are gender compliant and when you look across the board, some of those countries, their women representation is a bit high. We should look at the laws for political parties. You will find a political party filled with candidates when they do not actually have women representation.”

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

Women’s parliamentarians workshop a success

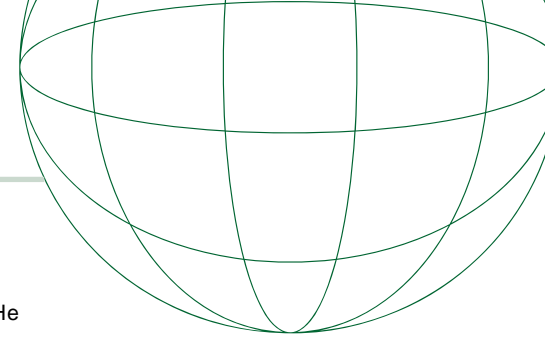
By Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Women who attended the workshop.

The KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Legislature hosted the Commonwealth Women’s Programme Workshop, Africa Region at the Zimbali Resort in KwaDukuza Local Municipality, Ilembe District from 25 to 27 January 2018. The workshop, under the theme “Mechanism to strengthen Gender Equality”, was a platform for women Mayors, Speakers and Parliamentarians from other African countries to robustly discuss and strategise for gender equality and increased participation of women in the region.

Countries such as Nigeria, Mauritius, Zambia, Tunisia, Uganda and Botswana were represented. Minister of Communications, Mmamaloko Kubayi-Ngubane addressed the forum on the Fourth Industrial Revolution, benefits and possible challenges of this revolution, especially for women. The Minister stated that her ministry has been engaging with Google about the right to be forgotten that will ensure online news stories about women, especially victims of gender based and sexual violence, have a specified lifespan and thereafter be deleted to protect their right to privacy, respect and dignity. Minister Kubayi-Ngubane also spoke about the benefits and compliance to the roll out of digital migration in line with global requirements, cost of data and technological advancement of women, specifically in deep rural areas.



Botlogile Tshireletso said:

“I met Minister Kubayi-Ngubane in Zambia, It was not for the first time today. There was a vacancy for the SADC Region to fill the position of Presidency of Democracy and Human Rights in International Parliamentary Union. She was a member before she became a Minister. She nominated me and most of the others agreed with her. She is a very good woman, well-mannered. People say women do not support each other but when they support each other, we hide it. I am a new member here and this is my first time and the speakers this morning were eloquent and educative because, really, we are just here to listen to people, we get a lot from their speeches.”

The keynote speaker at the event was MEC for Human Settlements and Public Works, Ravi Pillay. He said that the majority of households were headed by women. This and other issues such as violence against women, economic emancipation, gender equality and urbanisation should inform developmental plans of African countries. The KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government follows the agenda set by government in terms of radical economic transformation, eradicating gender based violence and promoting gender justice. He paid tribute to women stalwarts and activists such as Mama Albertina Sisulu whose centenary will be celebrated in 2018 while informing that 2018 is also the year which commemorates the centenary of Mr Nelson Mandela. “2018 is a year of unity, renewal and jobs,” he said.



Women making their points at the event.



Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane addressing the Commonwealth Women's Parliamentarians.