



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Open day to address service delivery

Lehlohonolo Manoto: GCIS, Free State

Government Communication and Information System invited different government departments to render their services to the community of Thapelong at Van Stadensrus on 26 October 2017. This was done as part of the ongoing OR Tambo centenary celebrations as October was declared OR Tambo Month. Van Stadensrus is a small rural town situated in Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality.

The community was empowered with information on different topics such as wills, burial rights for people living on farms, evictions, divorce, estates, road safety, systematic corruption, murder, rape and sexual offences, refuse removal, disaster and relief, land claims, gender-based violence, inheritance, human trafficking, skills development and entrepreneur development, registration of cooperatives, National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) grants, market linkage, National Students Financial Aid Scheme and scholarships.

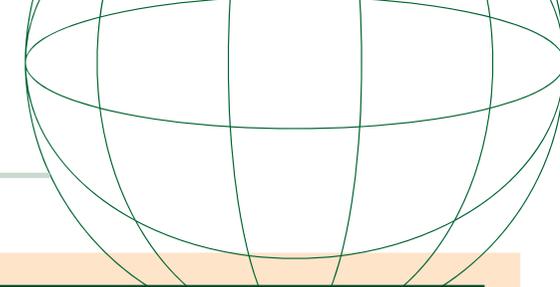
Different stakeholders such as the NYDA, Commission for Gender Equality, Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, Legal Aid South Africa, Office of the Public Protector, Department of Economic And Small Business Development, Tourism And Environmental Affairs, Independent Police Investigative Directorate and Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality were part of the event. About 200 people attended the event.



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Vivian Police and Thembeke Kosana inform the community about land claims and Public Protector services.



Thapelong community members listening to different representatives of government departments at Van Stadensrus.



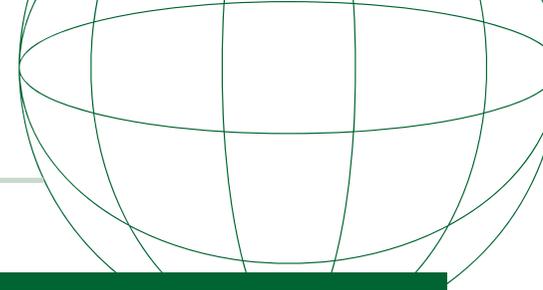
Nico Maritz said:

"I am grateful to have received government information. I am happy to see the NYDA, which addressed youth opportunities."



Elias Mokgorosi said:

"I was happy to see the Office of the Public Protector and the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform. The information was very important."



Thubelihle Myaka said:

"We are created by God and we believe that we must be treated equally."



Nonhlakanipho Thusini said:

"I believe that people have learned a lot about our lives as people living with albinism. We wish to encourage community members to protect us and support our circumstances since we did not choose to be like this."

OUTCOME 3: ALL PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE AND FEEL SAFE

Campaign to highlight albinism

By Thandinkosi Zulu: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

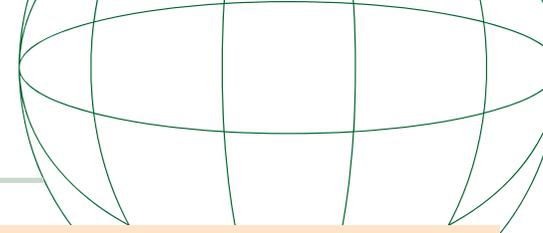
Government and community members gathered at Dundee Moth Hall on 18 October 2017 to discuss issues and challenges affecting albinism within the Umzinyathi District. The event was organised by the Department of Social Development, South African Police Service, Department of Arts and Culture, Albinism Society of South Africa and safety volunteers.

Nompumelelo Thompson from the Department of Health, Dundee Hospital, explained that albinism is simply a genetic condition that is caused by a recessive gene, carried by a person's parents. That person's body then has little or no ability to produce melanin, which colours the skin, hair and eyes. "People with albinism are especially prone to skin cancer due to the fact they have a particularly high mortality rate, and they tend to suffer a range of eye problems," she said.

South Africa has a growing number of incidents of violence attacks, kidnaping and killing of people with albinism. The joint stakeholder engagement awareness gave all stakeholders the opportunity to share their contribution towards supporting albinism. Civil society and faith-based organisations were part of the gathering to fight the spread of killing and discriminating of albinism.

Musician Sgwili Zuma, told the gathering that community members must play their part to fight the discrimination against albinism. "We are called white monkeys, which is a dehumanising and derogatory term. We are denied professional opportunities because of our skin colour. We are human, please accept us and do not isolate us," he said.

Stakeholders agreed to be united to fight discrimination and violent attacks against people with albinism. Parents were also encouraged to take care of their children with albinism. They were also given advice on how to to achieve this.



Luyanda Nhlemela said:

“Discriminating against us does not only affect our well-being – it is also emotionally destructive. Our confidence as human beings is just destroyed and we are pleading with everyone to support us.”



Community members at the meeting.



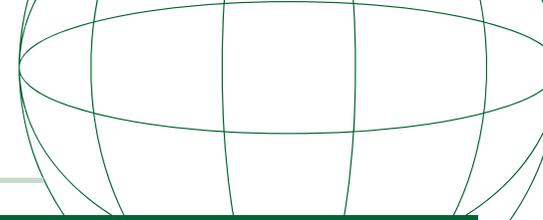
A traditional healer addressing members of the community at the event.



Stakeholders and community members at the albinism awareness event.



Sgwili Zuma addressing different stakeholders.



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

Hhoyi Tribal Authority celebrates achievements

By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Hhoyi Trust Ummemo cultural celebration showcased a variety of cultures in Nkomazi. This included their history, heritage and traditions through colourful traditional attires and dances. The event took place on 14 October and provided a platform for the Inkhosi to interact with the community and report back on the year's achievements. This is the first cultural gathering since Inkhosi Sandile Ngomane was elected chairperson of the Mpumalanga House of Traditional Leaders.

The event was attended by *amakhosi* from Mpumalanga and other provinces, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Obed Bapela, the Minister of Home Affairs in Swaziland, Princess Tsandzile Dlamini, MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Refilwe Mtsweni, and Nkomazi Executive Mayor Thulisile Khoza.

Deputy Minister Bapela said, "African cultures and languages need to be protected and nurtured. *Amakhosi* must work with communities to restore Ubuntu, dignity, African morals and respect.

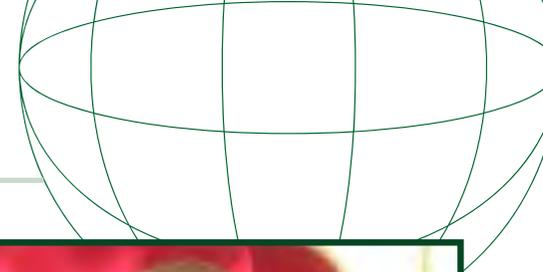
The Mayor appreciated the event, which was used to celebrate and create awareness about the various cultures.

Inkhosi Ngomane encouraged community members to embrace their culture and teach their children to follow the old African ways of doing things. He also stated that they were in the process of building working relations and cooperation between government and *amakhosi*. "We are slowly getting there, we must work together to avoid land invasion."

Communities were encouraged to exercise their rights correctly when protesting and not to destroy properties. All structures must work together in creating awareness on how communities must raise issues and also attending to issues raised, and providing feedback at all times.



Inkhosi Sandile Ngomane (middle) with community members in traditional attire at the event.



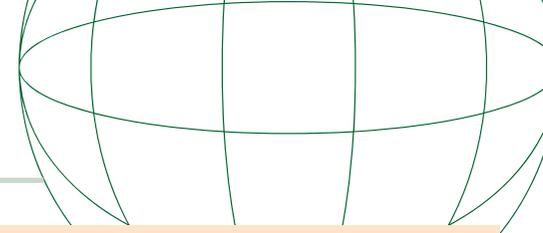
Inkhosi Sandile Ngomane with other traditional leader at the event.

Moses Magagula said:

“I am here today to celebrate my culture as an African. I like these events as they instill our cultural values and educate children on how they should behave. Every year I attend such gatherings around Nkomazi.”



Xibelani Cultural Group and Sibhaca Group entertaining the community.



Sibhaca Group and BoMake Belutsango showcasing their dance.



Community members from various villages attended the event.



Boston Letsholo addressing the audience at the event.

OUTCOME I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Career expo gives hope to unemployed youth

By Masego Motshidisi: GCIS, Northern Cape

A province-wide campaign on skills development and job opportunities was organised for the unemployed youth in Kimberley on 27 October 2017. The career expo comes amid the Statistics South Africa Quarter 2 Labour Survey, which revealed that 45% of young people in the province are unemployed.

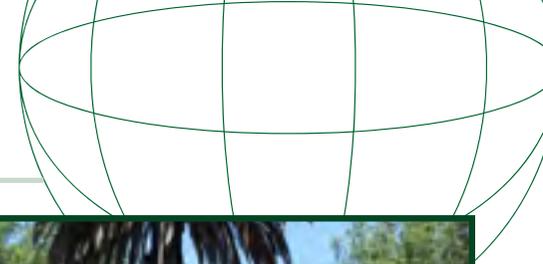
The event was held at the Northern Cape Urban Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) college's City Campus in Kimberley with the aim of compiling a database of unemployed youth. This would assist with referrals, intervention and also to create awareness on government and private sector career opportunities that are available.

The event was facilitated by the Government Communication and Information System, Northern Cape TVET college, SKM Legacy and the HWSeta.

The expo was a gathering of education institutions, private businesses and relevant government departments such as Standard Bank, Vodacom, Henrietta Stockdale Nursing College, Boston City Campus College, government and Setas. They all showcased and highlighted various career opportunities available in their respective sectors. Job opportunities, improving and upscaling initiatives for youth employment were among the topics that speakers addressed at the event.

The National Youth Development Agency afforded people the opportunity to register on their database and also share information about their skills-development programmes. Young people were given information on bursaries, learnership, internship and skills programmes. Others were able to complete bursary application forms and submit on site.

Stakeholders committed to a follow-up programme in order to reach more people and also assist community members. They also committed to implementing similar joint programmes with service providers in the area.



Some of the young people visiting different stalls for more information.



A Health and Welfare Seta official explaining interacting with young people.



Young people listening to various presentations.