



# MY DISTRICT TODAY



4 860 farms have been transferred to black people and communities between 1994 and March this year.

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

### Courageous conversations aim to bring the nation to reconciliation

By Jabulani Mkhonza: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The Ncome-Blood River heritage site is probably one of the most unique battlefields in South Africa. The site witnessed a major confrontation between the Voortrekkers and amaZulu on 16 December 1838. Historians provide different and contesting versions of the events leading to the Battle of Blood River. To mark the 175th anniversary of this battle and with the purpose of seeking to bring about reconciliation, the KwaZulu-Natal Provincial Government organised a conference held over a three-day period from 6 to 8 November in Ncome.

A number of academics and members of the public participated in these courageous conversations. In her welcoming remarks, the Mayor of Nquthu Municipality, Councillor EN Molefe, thanked the organisers of the event by saying it would help to heal the wounds of the past. She hoped that working together and putting differences aside would assist in job creation and bringing about reconciliation in the country.

Dr Ben Khumalo took to the stage first. He started by criticising the generations of history writers and teachers who have – with a few exceptions – generally preferred to adopt and promote the trekker-version uncritically. The result is that this version is presently being treated in textbooks and research as the only valid account

of the Battle of Ncome. He also questioned the purpose of renaming the site from Ncome to Blood River, as it is known today.

Dr Somadoda Fikeni, a political analyst, gave an account of cases where heritage symbols and spaces have been consciously used or invoked as a catalyst for reconciliation. He warned, however, that no reconciliation in the world is void of justice and that it was unfortunate that engagement occurs in a country where honesty and courage are mistaken for reconciliation. Dr Fikeni said our Constitution is an injunction for multicultural consciousness.

Prof Jabulani Maphalala challenged the Afrikaners to have a dialogue with the amaZulu and King Zwelithini to map a way forward in bringing the two sides to an amicable solution. Dr Bheki Mngomezulu said the Battle of Ncome marked one of the prominent episodes in the history of Afro-European encounters on the African continent. He said before and during this battle, religious and cultural belief systems of the two factions were put to the test as they each competed for supremacy.

Prof Pieter Labuschagne from Unisa said various initiatives have been launched in post-apartheid South Africa after 1994 in an effort to

deal with divisions in society and its contested apartheid legacy. In this regard, the Truth and Reconciliation Commission was an important instrument that played a leading role during the post-apartheid phase to bring about peace and reconciliation in a divided country.

Ms Alana Bailey from Afriforum told the audience that the commemoration of the Vow of 1838 is the longest ongoing historical commemoration in South Africa. As such it has had a significant impact on South Africa's cultural-historical landscape; not only as it influenced the historical consciousness of the Afrikaner in particular, but also the relationship between Afrikaners and other cultural communities, including international communities.

Ms Dolly Khumalo from the KwaZulu-Natal Museum Services elaborated on the Constitution as a document that is a success story of our country, since it affords all citizens equal rights. However, she was concerned about the absence of women's voices in issues pertaining to heritage, arts and culture in general. She said there is a lot we can gain as a society if we include women in the courageous conversation, not just to be politically correct but because it is the right thing to do.

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948 468 food gardens have been established to enable poor households to produce their own food.

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

**Manyeding Cooperative feeds the people**

*By Kgalalelo Motsage: GCIS, Northern Cape*

Community participation is central to sustainable food security, which ensures that every family have meals on their table. Government programmes support development cooperatives. Manyeding Agricultural Cooperative was established as one such an agricultural project, aimed at cultivating vegetables to generate an income.

The project was recently launched by President Zuma and the Minister for Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries, T Joemat-Pettersson, as part of the Fetsa Tlala ("eradicate hunger") programme. Fetsa Tlala is intended to increase food production in communal areas, as well as redistribute land for the purpose of improving household food security and stimulating sustainable job creation in the poorest districts of the country.

At its infant stage, the Manyeding Cooperative was funded by Khumba Iron Ore Mine. The cooperative consists of 159 members and 24 permanent staff members. The project cultivates different types of vegetables on 24 hectares of land, and their water is supplied by an irrigation system from a well nearby.

Its supplies are sold at a provincial markets to well-known national retailers and at a local markets. Some of the produce is sold at social grant pay-points at an affordable price.

According to Esther Moseki the cooperative also donates vegetables to struggling members of the community as a means of giving back. They also employ seasonal workers during

harvesting time. A vegetable packaging store is under construction, and this is good news for unemployed members of the community, since it creates even more jobs.

Members of the cooperative received training in financial management from Seda, which will ensure that the cooperative is sustainable once funding from donors are stopped. Other sponsors of the projects are the National Development Agency and Department of Agriculture.



*Some of the members of the cooperative (left). Apparatus used by the cooperative (right).*



*The crops that are cultivated (left) and equipment used (right).*



*The dam that supplies crops with water (left) and the management team (right).*



By 2012, almost 95% of households had access to water infrastructure equal to RDP standards, which was well above the Millennium Development Goal standards.



The SAPS rendered services during the Batho Pele event at Thothololo sport grounds.



Sassa rendering services during the event.

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

### Batho Pele Day saves communities cost and time

By Doctrine Netshikweta: GCIS, Limpopo



Executive Mayor Tshitereke Matibe (left) and Makhado Mayor David Mutavhatsindi (right, with the tie) visited stalls at the Thothololo Batho Pele event.

Communities from deep rural villages around Muila outside Makhado could easily access government and financial services on their doorstep. This was thanks to the Vhembe District Municipality's Batho Pele Day celebrations at Thothololo sport grounds recently.

A community member, Phineas Murendi, supported the fight against ghost pensioners on the day by confirming his existence with the South African Social Security Agency (Sassa). "The Batho Pele Programme is helpful because it is cost-effective and saves people time. I have accessed services from the South African Police Service (SAPS) and Sassa at the same time without any travelling cost," commended Mr Murendi.

Various departments rendered services on the day, namely Sassa, Home Affairs, Agriculture, Provincial Treasury, SAPS, Roads and Transport, Public Works, Health and the GCIS. Financial institutions such as Old Mutual, Nedbank and Absa were also on site to provide financial advice to community members.

During his welcoming remarks, Vhembe Executive Mayor Tshitereke Matibe urged government departments and all stakeholders to render services to communities with pride. "As government, we have developed Batho Pele principles aimed at improving the standard of service delivery to our people. I am so proud seeing our people accessing several services under one roof

without travelling long distances," said Mr Matibe.

He also reminded Muila communities to root out and fight corruption within the public service. Vhembe District Municipality, together with its four local municipalities, launched an anti-corruption hotline last year. The overall objective of the hotline is to afford the people of Vhembe an opportunity to raise issues and concerns regarding the misuse and abuse of state resources. "I appeal to you, the people of Vhembe, to be vigilant and intolerant, and to expose corruption – irrespective of who is involved. Government cannot succeed in rooting out wrong elements within the public service without your support," he concluded. The hotline number is 0800 668 538.



As of March 2009, the number of households with access to electricity has increased from 4,5 million (50,9%) in 1994 to 9,1 million (73%) in 2008.



Afika Mbasane and Mvumikazi Vimbani are employed as field workers. Afika (26) and Mvumikazi (25) started in 2010 as trainees, having graduated from the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University and Walter Sisulu University respectively with a diploma in Electrical Engineering (Heavy Current). They then worked as field workers with electricians on electrification projects. Later they moved to planning and capital projects and developments, where they now deal with surveys, new connections, quotes and material.

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

### President Zuma visits King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality

By Yolisa Blom: GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 22 November 2013, President Jacob Zuma undertook the Siyahloa presidential monitoring visit to King Sabata Dalindyebo (KSD) Municipality in Mthatha in the Eastern Cape, as part of government's service delivery monitoring campaign. The President assessed progress with the implementation of the KSD Municipality's presidential intervention launched in 2009 to help refurbish rundown infrastructure in and around Mthatha.

Previously, in March 2010 when the President visited KSD, he was disturbed with the state of the area. He said, "We cannot allow this region to decay and the town of Mthatha to be in a state of collapse. We must ensure that something is done, and we will send a delegation to make an assessment of what can be done, working with the provincial government." Projects that were identified as part of the intervention included economic development through local infrastructure investment and improved service delivery.

During the Siyahloa visit, the following four projects were visited by the President:

- Mthatha Airport: Mthatha Airport is being refurbished and expanded, with a new runway completed and the work in progress for the construction of a new terminal building. This project is funded at R200 million.
- Thornhill substation: The new transformer at the Thornhill substation was handed over and switched on. This substation will ensure adequate

power supply for the central business district (CBD), Mthatha West, the Nelson Mandela Academic Hospital and Mthatha's police headquarters. The substation is ready to receive another transformer, which will ensure that Breaking New Ground (BNG) projects are catered for. The project is funded at R40 million. The project has employed 31 general labourers and 14 artisans to date. The project will bring power stability to parts of the CBD and prevent overloading.



Thornhill electricity substation

- Thornhill water purification plant: The existing system is being upgraded for the Mthatha CBD and surrounding areas, as well as to accommodate

the new Ngangelizwe BNG phase 1 for 6 500 households. Two reservoirs are also being built, with a capacity of between 60 and 80 million litres a day. The project is funded at R51 million.

- Mthatha Bridge: The launch and handover of the new bridge will alleviate congestion into and out of town, and ensure smooth traffic flow. The bridge allows for a one-way system that facilitates the free flow of traffic, at a cost of R107 million.

The President emphasised that government is working hard to build the power supply capacity of the country and urged communities to take responsibility for saving electricity as a scarce resource and to report illegal connections. He also highlighted that there are still some constraints regarding planned developments, due to unresolved land claims. He stated that a lot has been done in the past 19 years and a lot still needs to be done, and everyone should work together to expand services and improve people's lives.

President Zuma was accompanied by the Minister for Cooperative Governance, the Minister for Transport, the Minister for Energy, the Deputy Minister for Human Settlement, the Acting Premier, the MEC for Roads and Transport, the MEC for Planning and Treasury, the MEC for Local Government, KSD Executive Mayor and King Ndamase Ndamase.



The total number of grant recipients was 14,87 million as at March 2010.



*The Acting Mayor of the Greater Giyani Municipality speaks to the audience.*



*Members of the audience listened attentively to the various speaks during the awareness campaign.*



*Reckson Ndlovu, a manager at the Dzumeri Sassa office, speaks to the audience about Sassa services with reference to disabled people.*

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

### A joyous day for people with disabilities

By Collins Ndlovu: GCIS, Limpopo



*Happy disabled people danced to the delight of the audience during a disability awareness campaign at Ndhambi Village in Greater Giyani.*

People living with disabilities danced to the delight of the audience and refused to leave the stage after the DJ played a song by Benny Mayengani, one of the popular artists in Limpopo, during a disability awareness campaign at Ndhambi Village.

“Let us have more music in our programme because that is the main reason these people are here,” said the programme director, Cllr Joyce Makhubele, who is also disabled. “We need to start inviting them to join us whenever we have parties and different celebrations,” continued Cllr Makhubele.

The event was part of the activities that the Greater Giyani Municipality organised to celebrate Disability Month in honour of disabled people. “Disabled people should participate in all community structures without looking down upon themselves,” said Mr



*The Chairperson of the Greater Giyani Disability Forum, Mr Mathebula, gives a message of support during the disability awareness campaign.*

Mathebula, Chairperson of the Greater Giyani Municipality Disabled Forum. Mr Mathebula further appealed to the municipality to employ disabled people whenever they have vacancies.

Chief Dzumeri appealed to the audience that families should not keep disabled people inside the house but they should take them out to social centres for help. Families who bring members to the disabled centres should support the centres by attending meetings whenever they are called, and also ensure that they make payments on time, added a social worker.

Cllr Rikhotso, representing the Mayor of the Greater Giyani Municipality, said the community should ensure that all government buildings are accessible for disabled people. “While the municipality is busy constructing the new building, please tell them



*A disabled Cllr Joyce Makhubele of Greater Giyani, who was the programme director, addressing the audience.*

that the building should be accessible and user-friendly to disabled people,” added the acting mayor.

During deliberations, members of the audience raised a concern that government should build centres for disabled people and develop their skills in areas in which they show potential. “People should not come to the centre just to eat and go, but they should be helped to realise their dreams,” said Dr Mabunda, a community member who attended the event.

It was indeed a big day for disabled people, who were all dressed in red T-shirts. Traditional leaders from the neighbouring villages of Mphagani, Matsotsosela, Mung-honghoma and Ndhambi also attended the event to support disabled group from their respective villages.