



MYDISTRICTTODAY

Issue no. 92 / December 2013

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FREE STATE

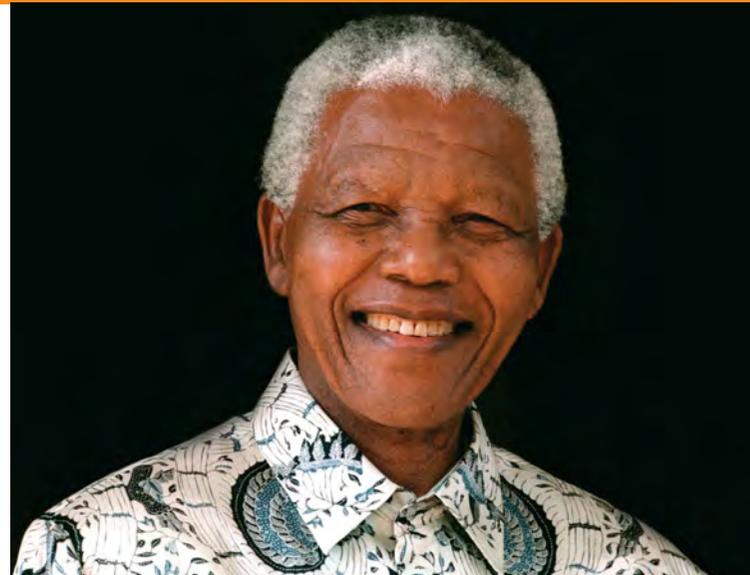
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Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela

"During my lifetime, I have dedicated myself to the struggle of the African people. I have fought against white domination, and I have fought against black domination. I have cherished the ideal of a democratic and free society in which all persons live together in harmony and with equal opportunities. It is an ideal which I hope to live for and to achieve. But if needs be, it is an ideal for which I am prepared to die."

18 July 1918 – 5 December 2013

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In 2012 almost 95% of households have access to water infrastructure equal to RDP standards which is well above the Millennium Development Goal standards.

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

Government is on track to fulfil its electoral mandate

By Eunice Nkuna: GCIS, Limpopo



Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality Mayor Cllr Anna Sono giving a report to residents during the Imbizo held at the Mashishimale sports ground.



Residents of Ba-Phalaborwa raised concerns about the lack of service delivery at an Imbizo held at Mashishimale.



Home Affairs assisted Derrick Mokgalaka, a resident at Mashishimale village, during the Imbizo.

The Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality interacted with communities during an Imbizo at the local sports ground in Mashishimale village. “The purpose of the Imbizo was to listen to people’s concerns about issues of service delivery to find a way of addressing them adequately,” said Municipal Mayor Cllr Anna Sono.

During the event, different stakeholders from the community voiced their concerns and addressed their needs. Cllr Sono responded to their concerns by presenting a progress report for the 2013/14 projects in the Integrated Development Plan (IDP). She highlighted the progress of projects such as: the provision of household refuse removal services, which is at 67%; six projects were implemented through the Extended Public Works Programme; 140 jobs were created through municipal activities; hawkers were assisted with the

allocations of stalls; and culverts to Humulani, Matiko Xikaya, Nyakelang, Mashishimale and the Lulekani police station are in progress. Ms Sono also reported on the upgrading of the Selati sub-station in Phalaborwa, which is completed. She further indicated that 32 high-mast lights will be installed in the current financial year.

Samson Ramachimbila pleaded with the municipality to extend the contract of the Community Working Project (CWP). On this aspect, the mayor told the community that the CWP project does not belong to the municipality; it’s a provincial project.

Residents complained about councillors who do not give feedback each time they have attended an IDP meeting. “Any interested community member should feel free to

attend an IDP meeting to see how the budget has been split for different projects within our municipality,” said Ms Sono. “However, this does not preclude councillors from giving the community feedback each time they attend IDP meeting.”

The Imbizo was one of the objectives aimed at improving the dialogue between the municipality and residents; improve public confidence; and confirming government’s commitment for service delivery.



Government has been putting measures in place to reach 2% of people with disabilities in the public service by 2015.



The Deputy Minister of Women, Children and People with Disabilities demonstrating how the computer for blind people works.

OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Phokeng in Education gets computers for people with disabilities

By Karabo Diale: GICS, North West



The Deputy Minister of Women, Children and People with Disabilities, Ms Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu, MEC of Education, and Wheelchair South African Champion Kgotatso More, at the opening of the Phokeng in Education accessible computer laboratory.

The Deputy Minister of Women, Children, and People with Disabilities, Ms Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu, handed over a computer laboratory donated by Cell C to Phokeng in Education School of Excellence. The school is one of the few institutions in the country that offer Braille, Microsoft IT and Braille printing services.

The institution offers basic sign language workshops, interpreter training programmes, and orientation and mobility training among other services. It is Education Training and Develop-

ment Practices Sector Education and Training Authority accredited. The school was established as a satellite campus and was later registered as an independent training and development institute for people with disabilities in North West.

Cell C donated 10 computers accessible for blind people, with a scanner and Braille printer. The Deputy Minister of Women, Children and People with Disabilities officially handed over the computer laboratory to the institution. "The main purpose of this donation was to break barriers

to ensure equal access to ICT for people living with disabilities," said the Deputy Minister. The occasion was graced by South Africa's number one wheelchair tennis champion who is also number six in the world, Ms Kgotatso More, who encouraged the learners to participate in sports.

The MEC of Education in North West, Ms Wendy Matsemala encouraged learners to use the equipment maximally so that they participate actively in growing the South African economy.



Government has been putting measures in place to reach 2% of people with disabilities in the public service by 2015.



Members of the project, officials from the Department of Social Development and the ward councillor pose for a photo at Tanani Matiko and Multipurpose Cooperative Farming Project.



Members of the project picking some vegetables to sell to the officials of the Department of Social Development.

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

Women prove that disability is no draw-back

By Collins Ndlovu: GCIS, Limpopo



Big chickens ready for sale to the small local businesses and to various communities in and around Giyani.



A blind woman lifts a chicken from the ground during the profiling of the project.

Tanani Matiko is a multipurpose farming project, in the Greater Giyani area, led by 11 disabled women. Members of the group sell chickens and vegetables to a number of small local businesses as well as various communities in and around Giyani. In this year's prestigious Greater Giyani Female Farmer of the Year competition, the project scooped the first prize as Top Entrepreneur of the Year. "Tanani Matiko cooperative is regarded as one of the best run cooperatives in Greater Giyani Municipality," said Awelani Nethenzheni, from the Department of Social Development.

The project started to be productive after receiving funds in 2009 from the Department of Social Development. Since then, these women have never looked back. They proved a point to the community that there is no obstacle that is too great to overcome in life. In 2012, the Department of Social Development gave the project additional funding of R400 000 to expand the project.

When announcing the funding, Mr O Shivambu, then acting District Manager, the Department of Social Development said, "The money will be used to address water shortage, sinking an additional borehole, buying a refrigerator and extending the fence."

The project fulfils its social responsibility by giving free vegetables and tomatoes to poor families, which is a key in food security programme. The project also brings huge benefits to its members by enabling them to finance their children's tertiary education and by helping them to feed their families. "My son earned a degree from the University of Limpopo, which I financed with the little money that I get here. If it was not this project I don't know where I would be today with my family," said one of the project members.

The Department of Social Development further said that in the past the project has received several awards, among them the

Female Farmer of the Year Award from the Department of Agriculture. "It is through great dedication that we have managed to make huge progress as disabled people," said Grace Rikhotso, chairperson of the project.

Another stakeholder that played key role on the success of the Tanani Matiko Cooperative from its inception, is the Limpopo Economic Development Agency, which helped with the registration of the cooperative and also taking its members through the incubation programme. The Department of Agriculture facilitated the training of the cooperative's members at the Madzivandela Training College of Education. Tanani Matiko Cooperative has 11 members – 10 females and one male. Some other challenges facing these disabled people in the project include having AIDS, asthma, stroke, epilepsy, depression and amputation.



The Constitution of the Republic of South Africa ensures that every South African with a disability has the right to life without discrimination and be treated as an equal citizen.



Ms Thandeka of Mdladla Centre for Disabled People sharing her views on municipal transformation.



People living with disabilities engaging in different topics about issues that affect them.

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

Nkomazi opens doors to protect rights of everyone

By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga



From left is Mr Du Toit Nkambule of the Office of Special Disability Programmes in the Mpumalanga Office of the Premier share information about sporting issues that can assist people with disabilities.

The Nkomazi Disability Forum engaged all centres for people with disabilities in a summit to get their views into what could be done to improve their lives. Prior to democracy the majority of people with disabilities did not feel that they were a part of the society. They felt that they did not have political, social and economic rights. Mr Du Toit Nkambule of the Office of Special Disability Programmes in the Mpumalanga Office of the Premier said they support the initiative taken by the Nkomazi municipality to have developed and reviewed the strat-

egy of people living with disabilities and asked for their input. He requested that home-based care workers should assist in identifying households that keep people with disabilities indoors and report it to their nearest disability centres. The Department of Public Service and Administration encouraged people with disabilities to equip themselves through education.

Democracy has brought happiness to many disabled people, Tshepo Mashego said. As a disabled person, he is working

in the transversal unit of the Department of Economic Development. He urged people to come forward and register companies that are viable rather than waiting to be employed. Ideas were shared to improve basic service delivery. The attendees requested to be considered first during the integrated development plan and local economic development within the local municipality.



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

Families and communities have the primary duty to protect their children from harm.

Ever since assuming office, President Jacob Zuma has stressed the importance of building strong families and strengthening communities. He has sought to reverse the legacy of apartheid policies that deliberately set out to destroy family structures of black people.

A recent report by Statistics South Africa highlights that there has been an increase in the number of children who grow up with absent but living fathers. We have to reverse this trend, as building a nation starts with strong families.

The absence of strong family structures in South Africa has led to a myriad of social ills, and all too often women and children bear the brunt. Our annual 16 Days of Activism for no Violence Against Women and Children Campaign aims to mobilise all sectors of society to put an end to the cycle of violence against women, children and people with disabilities.

The President has been at the forefront of encouraging South Africans to play their part in building strong families. "We must promote unity and social cohesion. We must also enhance positive values and build stronger families and communities to strengthen the social fabric of society," he said when addressing Parliament.

The apartheid system forced black families to live apart; men had to travel long distances to find work in the mines and on farms as cheap labourers. This migrant labour system saw men leaving their wives and children for months at a time. The economic circumstances also pushed women to seek employment in towns as domestic workers. As a result children were often left behind and taken care of by grandparents or extended families, mostly headed by females.

The unnatural arrangement put a severe strain on most families and stripped both parents of their role as protectors, and weakened the ability to tighten the bonds with their children. This toxic mix saw entire generations of young black people growing up without the constant love, attention, support and guidance, which all children crave and need to reach their full potential.

Rebuilding our broken families

Phumla Williams is Acting CEO of the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS)

They also missed out on the stimulation of early childhood development, which is considered critical in setting the foundation for lifelong learning, behaviour and a healthy lifestyle. Without a parent being a constant in their lives, children are educationally, economically and emotionally disadvantaged.

The wide array of consequences continues to be felt up to this day. If we are to address these problems we have to understand how they arose. This is the position that the Government adopted in 1994. It recognised that many social ills facing the country were largely as a result of either weak family systems or non-existent families altogether. Hence it responded swiftly to issues that have had huge impact on families over the past nineteen years. They range from unemployment, high mortality rate, HIV and AIDS, poverty, inequality and substance abuse.

President Zuma highlighted progress that has been made over the years, "We have provided social grants and instituted the Early Child Development programme that benefits children, families and communities. In addition, we have created millions of jobs, built houses for the poor and delivered basic services. We have changed the lives of many people and made South Africa a better country than it was before the dawn of democracy. Addressing the Broad-Based Black Economic Empowerment Summit this year."

"The South African economy has expanded by 83% over the past 19 years. National income per capita has increased from R27 500 in 1993 to R38 500 in 2012 – an increase of 40%. Disposable income per capita of households has increased by 43%, which is just over 1,9% a year. Total employment has increased by more than 3,5 million since 1994. As a result of these and other developments resulting from progressive government policies, there has been an impressive growth of the black middle class. The recent income and expenditure survey from Statistics South Africa indicates a significant increase in household consumption, which of all the factors, is plausibly explained by a significant growth in income," he said.

Government has prioritised rebuilding families through policies that focus on the needs of families. In June this year Cabinet approved the *Draft White Paper on Families* and its Implementation Plan. The paper puts forward proposals on how families should be supported to flourish and function optimally.

The proposal is premised on the understanding that well-functioning families would lead to improved social cohesion and are a catalyst to community and national development. The White Paper proposes three key strategic priorities, promotion of healthy family life, family strengthening and family preservation.

Explaining the rationale behind the proposed policy, the Minister of Social Development, Ms Bathabile Dlamini in her budget vote statement this year said, "Research tells us that families are the building blocks of a strong, stable, and cohesive society. The *White Paper on Families* aims to bring a seamless approach in the provision of services to families, with a particular focus on early intervention and family support services. We recognise that without strong and resilient families, our goal to build safer and non-violent communities will come to nothing."

"However, the responsibility of building well-functioning families is not the sole responsibility of government. It is a societal responsibility. We appreciate the role that the media is playing in our country in uniting families and changing their lives," she said.

The Khumbul'ekhaya programme on SABC 1 is one such good example. This programme unites and brings healing to families. It involves tracing long lost members and resolves feuds that have caused rifts and pain in families.

As we head towards celebrating 20 years of freedom next year, we must all take responsibility in laying strong foundations for our families. All South Africans have to make a difference by doing something that could create healthy families and better communities.