



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

For more information about similar programmes that are run across the country, contact one of the following provincial offices:

EASTERN CAPE

Ndlelantle Pinyana
043 722 2602 or 076 142 8606
ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za

FREE STATE

Lineo Sehlabaka
051 448 4504 or 082 772 9445
Lineo@gcis.gov.za

GAUTENG

Peter Gumede
011 834 3560 or 083 570 8080
peterg@gcis.gov.za

KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420
ndala@gcis.gov.za

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

Government meets communities ahead of the Siyahloa campaign

By Nomhle Sibanyoni: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Minister Muthambi engaging with different exhibitors during the Imbizo.



Minister Muthambi addressing community members.

The Ministry of Communications held an Imbizo at the Kwaggafontein Community Hall on 3 June 2016 as part of the lead-up programme to the Presidential Siyahloa monitoring visit, which took place on 10 June 2016. The Department of Communications and the Government Communication and Information System partnered in hosting this event, working in close collaboration with the Nkangala District Municipality and Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, particularly the communication units.

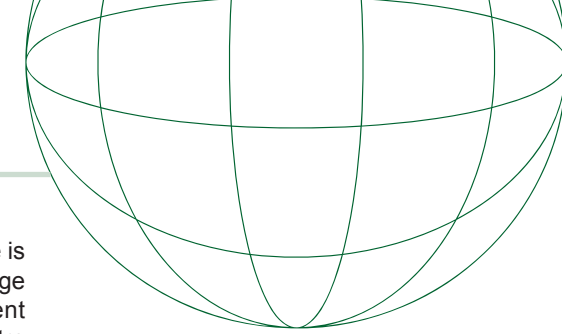
Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, David van Rooyen, was part of the briefing session together with the MEC for Culture, Sports and Recreation, Nora Mahlangu, who was representing Premier David Mabuza. The Imbizo was also graced by the presence of the Executive Mayor of Thembisile Hani Local Municipality and the Nkangala District Municipality Mayor.

The Minister of Communications, Faith Muthambi, visited two households where she registered two elderly women to be beneficiaries of the set-top boxes to be connected by end of June 2016. One beneficiary, Tununu Nkosi, cried tears of joy and mentioned that her grandchildren had never watched television before due to poor signal around the area. Minister Muthambi said, "We are a government that cares for its citizens".



government
communications

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



LIMPOPO

Thanyani Ravhura
015 291 4689 or 082 421 3461
thanyani@gcis.gov.za

MPUMALANGA

Jerry Nkosi
013 753 2397 or 082 316 5295
jerry@gcis.gov.za

NORTH WEST

Mareka Mofokeng
018 381 7071 or 083 382 5909
mareka@gcis.gov.za

Kagisho Meremetsi
018 381 7071 or 084 818 0613
kagisho@gcis.gov.za

NORTHERN CAPE

Marius Nagel
053 832 1378/9 or 083 778 9179
mariusn@gcis.gov.za

WESTERN CAPE

Ayanda Holo
021 697 0145 or 061 488 0634
holo@gcis.gov.za



In celebrating Youth Month, the Minister visited Ndlelehle Youth Centre. The centre's main objective is to raise awareness on social challenges facing young people in the community and also try to bridge the gap of youth unemployment by introducing basic computer classes and skills development programmes. The Minister mentioned that the Ministry of Communications was adopting the centre for nine months to help it develop.

The last session was an Imbizo where community members had an opportunity to raise their challenges, concerns and possible solutions, held at Kwaggafontein Community Hall. The Minister promised community members of Thembisile Hani that the department would assist them in coordinating relevant stakeholders to resolve most of the challenges encountered by the residents of Kwaggafontein. She concluded by encouraging those who are earning below R3 500 to go and register at the nearest post office in order to get free set-top boxes.



Tununu Nkosi signing her set-top box application form.



Gogo Masango signing her set-top box application form.



Exhibitions by government departments at their respective stalls.



Tununu Nkosi said:
"The set-top box will really make me happy as I will be able to watch my favourite TV shows".



Patricia Ndaba:
"I am very happy that the Minister visited us, I am hoping that through her visit the youth centre will grow further. Ndlelehle Youth Centre assists us a lot with photocopying our CVs and qualifications as job seekers."



Zanele Ndaba said:
"I know Ndlelehle Youth Centre because it assists job seekers and I have attended a computer training. They also provide us with career guidance."



Inkosi Ngangomhlaba Matanzima from the Eastern Cape House of Traditional Leaders said that the major challenge facing the initiation ritual was the obvious lack of involvement of parents to ensure that everything that is supposed to be done is correctly and accordingly executed. He urged the forum to establish similar structures in other villages to encourage parental and community involvement.

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

Government engages communities for a safer initiation period

By Ndyabo Kopo, GCIS, Eastern Cape



Inkosi Ngangomhlaba Matanzima of the Eastern Cape House of Traditional Leaders, Inkosi Mahlangu and the Speaker of the Council in Umzimvubu Local Municipality, Councillor Sisilana at the event.

Umzimvubu Local Municipality partnered with the House of Traditional Leaders at national and provincial level to launch an initiation forum at an event held on 16 May at Sophia Recreational Park in Kwa Bhaca in Mount Frere.

The Speaker of the Council, Councillor Sisilana, explained that the Initiation Forum would work with the municipality on issues related to initiation school. The forum would be a link between the municipalities and all other stakeholders that are in Umzimvubu that are dealing with the issues of initiation.

The work of the forum will include creating awareness about safe initiation, link with the municipality on matters of infrastructure for initiation schools, facilitate and advocate parental and community involvement in order to achieve safe initiation.

“The National Initiation Policy, which is currently operational, states that there should be local initiation coordinating committees and be supported by all government departments dealing with initiation.

While we are waiting for the Bill on initiation to be finalised, the policy is there to deal with the gaps that are there. The Bill has been sent to provinces for consultation,” said the Deputy Chairperson of the National House of Traditional Leaders, Inkosi Siphoh Mahlangu.

He also announced that community members can call 0800 1111 66 to raise a query or report illegal initiation schools. “We are working with provinces to ensure that when people are calling from a particular province and a query of that person is immediately directed to that province for



MEC Albert Fritz said:

“This new youth café follows the success of the first three youth cafés in Mitchell’s Plain, Athlone and George. The youth cafés offer entrepreneurial, leadership and other skills training, including Internet access for job seekers or entrepreneurs. This café will allow young people in Oudtshoorn access to a developmental space that is limited only by their creativity.”



Oudtshoorn youth:

“We would like to thank the MEC for Social Development for the youth café that will help us to better our lives. Unemployment is high in our community and with this platform we will get the opportunities to make us independent and also be able to contribute to the economy.”

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

Initiative creates an enabling environment for youth

By Jethro Grootboom: GCIS, Western Cape

The youth of Oudtshoorn are the beneficiaries of another breakthrough initiative of the Western Cape Department of Social Development (DSD). This development comes in a form of a youth café.

The aim of the Oudtshoorn Youth Café is to develop and grow the youth of Oudtshoorn. By launching these initiatives in the Western Cape, the DSD wants to ensure that every young person in the province is inspired, educated, responsible, independent and healthy, and also productive by the age of 25.

The services that the youth can look forward to receive at the café include: empowerment initiatives, job readiness training, community development and wellness programmes, arts programmes, personal development training, leadership mentoring and entrepreneurial training. Through these services, the youth café seeks to make the youth more employable or start their own businesses.

The Oudtshoorn Youth Café will offer a renewed and dedicated focus to address the many complex challenges faced by the youth within the greater Oudtshoorn municipal area. The inauguration, which took place on 24 May 2016, marked an address by both the Administrator of the Oudtshoorn Municipality and the MEC for Social Development in the province, Advocate Albert Fritz. The youth café is the vehicle that will be used to implement the provincial youth development strategy.



Samonique Loggenberg said:

“I am proud to be African; our diverse culture, my Christianity makes me to be an African. It has been five months for me at the youth café and I can proudly confirm that this platform makes a difference in our lives. We get exposed to life skills, leadership training, arts and culture programmes, as well as entrepreneurship, and also receive all the support we need to capacitate ourselves to face the outside world. I am very thankful for this opportunity that government has brought to our door step.”



Elrico Van Rooyen said:

“Young people are very close to my heart. I established SUFF in 2011, where we engage and capacitate young people to become independent, through photography, film making and directing, as well as events management. The youth café in Oudtshoorn is a second one in the Eden District. It presents our youth with various opportunities such as events management and health programmes. We also capacitate pupils with the necessary life skills. We have partnered with the Oudtshoorn Local Municipality’s Youth Coordinator and Oudtshoorn’s Small Enterprise Development Agency on an entrepreneurship programme for Youth Month through a competition where youth will be invited to present their business plans. The top three business plans will win prizes that will assist them in making their business ideas a reality.”



Dr Linda Makuleni said:

“Flooding occurs when water overflows its normal channels such as streams and storm water drains. It can occur with prolonged periods of rain, with continuous heavy rainfalls or in the form of flash floods, which are usually associated with severe thunderstorms. Never try to walk, swim or drive through such swift water. Stop! Turn around and go another way.”



Berneditte Moitse said:

“Water is life and everybody should endeavour to save it. Let us teach our children to respect and take care of water. Let us refrain from wasting and polluting water.”

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

Seminar sensitises the public about climate change

By Robbie Senoelo: GClS, Gauteng



Some of the participants listening to presentations about the impact of climate change on their lives during the Climate Change Awareness Seminar.

Disaster preparedness is important in the case of severe weather events and South Africa is likely to suffer from such weather conditions, which can be a direct threat to the lives and properties of citizens. This includes, among others, hazards associated with heavy rain and flooding, lightning, drought and water scarcity, high temperatures, thunderstorms, hail, fires, severe cold and environmental degradation. In an effort to build a weather-smart nation that can take care of its environment, the South African Weather Service, in collaboration with community development structures of the City of Tshwane conducted the Climate Change Awareness Seminar held at Arcadia Hotel on 22 April 2016. The seminar was aimed at educating the public and empowering community members with the ability to respond proactively to severe weather events.

Information was shared through presentations, exhibitions and distribution of relevant publications and topics such as thunderstorms, weather phenomena associated with thunderstorms like lightning and tornados, tropical cyclones, flooding, severe winds, cold and snow, thick or dense fog, high discomfort and heatwaves as well as conditions favourable for the spread of runaway fires were adequately covered. The public was also educated on the importance of saving water and also waste management.