



MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no.24 / July 2016

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:

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

Government delivers services to community members

By Nonhlanhla Sithole: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Community members listening to various speakers.



Distribution of information products during the activation.



Department of Health officials rendering services at the event.



Municipal storm water drainage staff fixing one of the drainage systems.

The uPhongolo Local Municipality in partnership with district communicators, hosted the Back-to-Basics Programme on 26 May 2016 at the local taxi rank. The campaign was aimed at communicating achievements of the democratic government in serving communities better.

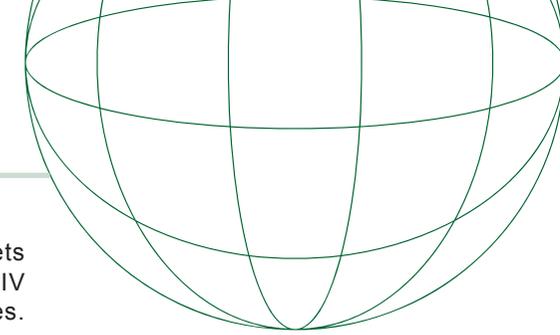
Local government has been a primary site for the delivery of services in South Africa since 1994. Great progress has been made in delivering water, electricity, sanitation and refuse removal at local level.

The speaker of the municipality, communicators of the Zululand District Municipality supported by the municipal waste management, grass cutters and storm-water drainage staff participated by removing the refuse, fixing the V-drainage and patching potholes during the campaign. The speaker said, "The idea is for us as the citizens to keep the environment clean and that is why we said let's go to our community in town so that they will see how important it is to have a clean environment."



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Over 200 government information products such as newsletters, brochures and leaflets were distributed at the taxi rank. The Department of Health also conducted a TB and HIV and AIDS counselling and testing session. Condoms were also distributed to communities.

The programme is the initiative of the District Communicators and it will be conducted in all municipalities within the Zululand District Municipality.



Mduzuzi Mathe and Mpilo Skhosana said:

“We would like to be part of the people who are cleaning the town because we appreciate what the municipality is doing.”



uPhongolo youth said:

“It is a good programme and we are happy to see our public spaces being cleaned. As young people we encourage people to refrain from making our environment dirty. We will report leaking taps and blocked drains to our municipality.”



Bhekani Simelane said:

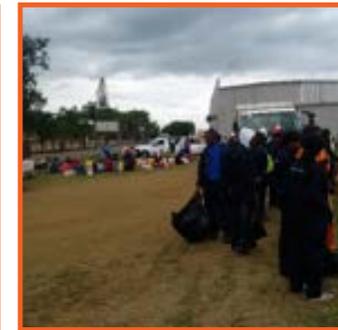
“I am glad to be walking in clean streets and taxi ranks. We will help the municipality to keep our town clean.”



Grass cutting in one of the public places outside the rank.



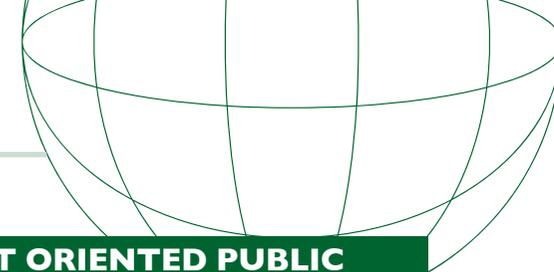
Refuse collection around uPhongolo taxi rank and public places.



Cleaning of the waiting areas outside the taxi rank.



Community members at the event.



Amogelang Dladla said:

“I appeal to government to assist people like me who are always rejected when seeking employment due to past criminal record.”



Sonwabile Ramcwani said:

“Playing the Trombone helps me to stay away from trouble, while doing what I enjoy. I urge other youths to participate in the skills programmes of government.”



Shadrack said:

“I have learned to play music while in prison. I am now more confident and honest. I am looking forward to a brighter future when I am released.”

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

Young people showcase talents and fight gangsterism

By Xolani Mndaweni: GCIS, North West



Deputy Minister Makwetla and other government leaders standing with two offenders who received certificates of excellence for their artworks.



Mayor Khaoue and Deputy Minister Makwetla signed the Pledge of Cooperation during the Art Gallery launch at the Klerksdorp Museum.



Deputy Minister Makwetla speaking against gansterism and encouraging youth to develop their artistic and cultural skills.



Over 3 000 community members of Kanana attended and participated in the Youth Imbizo.

The youth of Matlosana and Kanana townships were given an opportunity to voice their challenges and exhibited their talents, during the Klerksdorp Art Gallery launch and Youth Imbizo held at Mpeqeka Stadium on 21 June 2016. Addressing youth and community at the Klerksdorp Museum where the Art Gallery is situated, Correctional Services Deputy Minister Thabang Makwetla said, “In launching this Art Gallery, we are saying our doors are open to all, especially youth who share common cause to develop their skills and knowledge that can even bring about economic benefits!” The morning event entailed exhibition of art works, jazz and cultural dance performed by a mix of offenders and local youth.

“We have a twice-a-week training schedule with offenders, this has improved my focus and discipline in life and school,” said Mathapelo, a young girl from Jouberton who plays the Alto Saxophone.

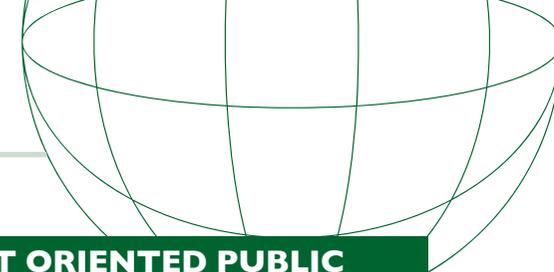
In the afternoon the government delegation drove to Mpeqeke Stadium and arrived to crowd of over 3 000 youth, which included gangsters who had gathered to discuss issues of gangsterism and crime facing Kanana township. Young people highlighted their challenges, which included unemployment due to criminal records, drug and substance abuse; these challenges, according to them, lead to crime and gang activity in their community

The Deputy Minister conceded that there were after-release support programme aimed at linking ex-offenders to work and economic opportunities was not at the level they desired, and they are dealing with these problems; however individuals should not use these as excuses to do crime.

“National South African Police Service will soon release a construction contract for a fully-fledged police station in Kanana, we are also in the process of installing a special task team to deal with gangsterism activity in the area,” said MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management, Mpho Motlhabane.

Matlosana Mayor Michael Khaoue reassured the youth by saying, “In our municipality we have employed two ex-offenders, government has sent three young people from Kanana to study medicine in Cuba, our learnership and internship programmes provide stipends and experience to 100 young people over a 12-month period, there are bursaries offered. I therefore urge more of you to take advantage of various government programmes.”

Youth and community members can contact the local offices of Government Communication and Information System on 018 462 8519 / 018 487 9000 or visit www.gcis.gov.za for government programmes and opportunities.



Leighton Boyce said:

“I have been waiting for a programme of this nature for a very long time. I feel privileged to be part of the programme. I am going to work hard so that I can plough back to my community and the mining sector. I hope that there will be opportunities for all these students when they finish the course so that they do not sit at home with their qualifications.”



Derring Ngalane said:

“I am very grateful for the opportunity to be part of this group of students who can qualify as artisans. In my planning, this is only the beginning, as I really want to become an electrical engineer one day. My biggest concern is that we will qualify and then there are no employment available for us afterwards.”

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

Young people to benefit from skills development programme

By Willem van Dalen: Northern Cape



Students that will be part of the development programme waiting for the Deputy Minister to arrive.

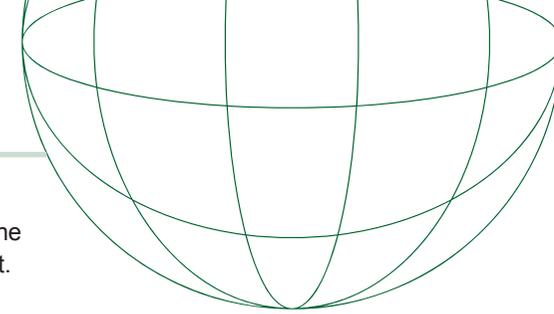


More than 350 people attended the launch of the artisans training programme in Namakwa District.

The Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources, Godfrey Oliphant, visited the town of Concordia on 28 June 2016 to officially launch the artisan programme that was made possible through the cooperation of the Mining Qualifications Authority (MQA), National Skills Fund and Namakwa District Municipality.

A total of 250 students were identified for the different courses that will be presented at the Technical, Vocational Education and Training college in Okiep. Courses in boilermaking, sheet-metal work, welding and motor mechanics are just a few that will be offered at the college. A total of 750 people had applied for the programme, but only 250 could be accommodated.

In his address, Deputy Minister Oliphant mentioned that the subjects were chosen because of the mineral-rich area that the students find themselves in. This means that they can be assured of jobs when they complete their studies. The Northern Cape is a province with vast mineral resources. The Gamsberg mine that was recently opened, yields the richest deposits of zink in the world. “To extract that zink from the earth, artisans would be in great demand in this area in the next year or two and by then the current students will be qualified,” said the Deputy Minister.



Elwardo Cloete said:

“I am so proud to be part of this training. I want to get my red stamp to become something in my life. That way I can also bring change and better my community. I would really like to be economically independent and able to look after my family one day.”

It is believed that the mine-mineral deposit will last for 100 years. The Deputy Minister said that he believes that the Council for Geoscience will discover even more minerals in the Namakwa District.

He mentioned the new Sol Plaatje University in the Northern Cape and motivated the youth to use the opportunities afforded them, because “an opportunity squandered never returns”.

“The university has to become the hub of mining and scientific knowledge for the youth of the Northern Cape,” said the Deputy Minister. He also reminded attendants that the South African Large Telescope and the Square Kilometre Array telescope (SKA) are also part of the Namakwa District. For that reason, scientific excellence has to come out of this district.

Deputy Minister Oliphant continued by saying that the mining industry in South Africa is one of the largest and steadiest contributors to the country’s gross domestic product with close to 500 000 jobs that are being created in the sector. Currently, the mining workforce has an average age of 55-year olds. This will change the moment these students finish the course and join the workforce.



Deputy Minister Godfrey Oliphant addressing the audience.



Acting CEO of the MQA, Tebogo Mmotla, addressing the students.



Acting Premier of the Northern Cape, Mxolisi Sokatsha, introduced and welcomed the Deputy Minister.



Director Kgaogelo Hlongwane motivating the students.



Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams delivering her keynote address.



Deputy Ministers Magwanishe and Ndabeni-Abrahams with MEC Mayathula-Khoza.



Andries Maphosa reflecting on the 10 years he served in prison.

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

Launch of Ithubalami: my rehabilitation path to new

By Pakeng Matsetse: GCIS, Gauteng

The South African correctional system has been transformed from prisons to rehabilitation centres, where human rights and dignity are recognised and valued. Through in-depth discussions with various role players, Ithubalami brings to the fore the thrust of offender rehabilitation and showcases correctional centres as places of new beginnings where education and skills development are the cornerstone of corrections. The programme further addresses social issues such as poverty, crime and unemployment among offenders released on parole. Additionally, the documentary examines the interventions put in place to increase the chances of employment and reintegration of former offenders.

On 29 June 2016, the Deputy Ministers of Justice and Correctional Services, Communications and Public Enterprises officially launched the documentary, Ithubalami: my rehabilitation path to new beginnings at the SABC's M1 Studio in Auckland Park. Deputy Minister of Public Enterprises, Bulelani Magwanishe, speaking on offender skills and enterprise, reiterated that his department grants access to all the ex-offenders who upon release will need guidance and assistance to pursue skills that they have acquired during imprisonment. He said, "Schools are running out of desks, and therefore this is an opportunity for those with carpentry skills to create their own enterprises."

Terrence Raseroka, who was representing the National Commissioner Zach Modise, said that offender rehabilitation is at the heart of correctional services and this launch could not have come at the right time than during the closing of the Youth Month. He said "the programme is responding to the National Development Plan's call for ex-offenders to access improved education."

Delivering her message of support, the Gauteng Department of Social Department MEC Nandi Mayathula-Khoza said: "Ithubalami is a good story to tell indeed. I congratulate the national leaders and all stakeholders involved in making this documentary."

The MEC said that she was impressed by how the ex-offenders have used their time in prison to study and learn skills that they would be able to use when they are released. She then encouraged them to use their skills to contribute positively to society. "The Government will welcome and support you when you are released. Township economy will positively welcome you," she said. The MEC concluded by appealing to the communities to assist in integrating ex-offenders into the society and refrain from calling them names.

Communications Deputy Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams spoke of Ithubalami documentary as an expression of social cohesion and nation building. "The Struggle has now changed from that of attaining political freedom to economic freedom and therefore it is the mandate of the Department of Communications to contribute to building an informed society because informed people make informed decisions. Andries Maphosa got an opportunity to be employed because someone told his story."

Andries is one of the beneficiaries of the Ithubalami. He served a 10-year sentence and was released few weeks ago on parole. He currently works for Furniture City as a carpenter, a skill he acquired in prison. Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams appealed to the South African Broadcasting Corporation (SABC) to come on board and broadcast this documentary to the millions of South Africans.

She concluded by saying, "Please go and tell the story to your communities and the world and also remember to pay your TV licences so that the SABC is able to continue telling the stories of the ordinary people of this country."

Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams's plea to the SABC did not fall on deaf ears, at the end of the programme, the SABC COO Hlaudi Motsoeneng had already committed that the SABC would work closely with all the partners to ensure that the story is told. He further committed that they would make funds available to rework the programme and improve its quality and ensure that it is inclusive of all races.