




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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OUTCOME 2: A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS

Community Health Centre (CHC) to improve lives

By Nompilo Mchunu and Malcom Bagwell: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Premier Mchunu and MEC Dhlomo during the unveiling of the plaque at the newly built Dannhauser CHC.



The emergency entrance to the impressive facility.



The Premier and the MEC interacting with patients.

The lives of more than 104 000 community members of Dannhauser and surrounding areas will be changed for the better. These community members will no longer have to travel over 30 km to the nearest facility to access quality healthcare.

This came after Premier Senzo Mchunu officially opened the Dannhauser CHC on 27 May 2015. Premier Mchunu was accompanied by Health MEC Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo and other MECs during the Provincial Cabinet's monthly community-outreach programme called Operation Sukuma Sakhe in the Amajuba District.

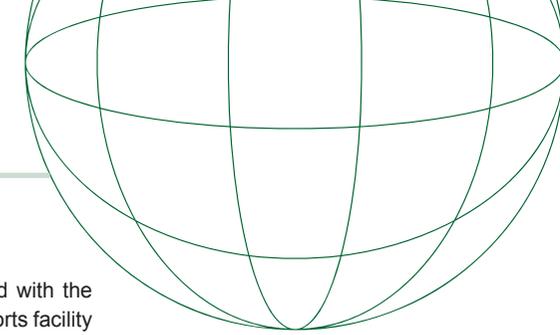
The facility, which was welcomed by residents, will offer services such as TB counselling and testing, Dentistry, X-ray, Ultrasound, maternity with recovery rooms and mothers' lodges, pharmacy, emergency and casualty rooms. It boasts a total of 39 beds and will operate on a 24-hour basis in the long run.

The Premier said the facility would improve the lives of people. "This state of the art CHC is well deserved by the community. It will give them the dignity that has not been accorded to them before. We are making sure that we improve the lives of our people. This is one of the fruits of democracy," he said.



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A stone's throw away from the CHC, the Premier also visited the Dannhauser Sports Centre and engaged with the elderly, who used a sports gym that promotes healthy lifestyles and social engagement. The building of the sports facility has created 117 job opportunities for local women, youth and persons with disabilities. It also developed skills among the labourers and empowered local suppliers.



Sibongile Simelane said:

"I am here today to witness this big event. We waited for too long for a health centre that will service the people of Dannhauser and finally the wait is over. I am happy that I will no longer have to travel to other places to get medical attention. I would like to thank the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health and government for this development."



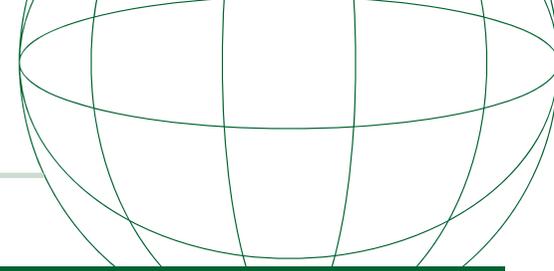
Simon Pillay said:

"We won't have to travel to Newcastle to get health assistance. This CHC has medical resources that we have been asking for from government. We are thankful that government has responded to our needs. We will not suffer like we used to because we have a health centre at our doorstep."



Zinhle Zwane said:

"The CHC will change our lives. I have been traveling to other areas for my child's check-ups, now we will have similar services offered here. Even the elderly will no longer have to wake up early to queue for services at other hospitals. It feels good to have a health centre in our community."



Community members reading the Vuk'uzenzele newspaper while waiting for the event to start.



John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality Speaker addressing the audience.

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

Government engages with community members

By Karen Foutie: GCIS, Northern Cape



Officials from SASSA and the DSD at their respective stalls.

The community of Batlharos in the Ga-Segonyana Local Municipality participated in a two-week Citizen Base Monitoring (CBM) programme, initiated by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation (DPME) in The Presidency.

According to Jonathan Timm, Director in the DPME, the CBM programme is a short perception survey on the services provided by different government institutions. "Between 600 and 800 surveys are conducted using a team of local community members and government staff. Feedback from the survey is documented in a report used to come up with ideas and plans to improve the service," said Timm.

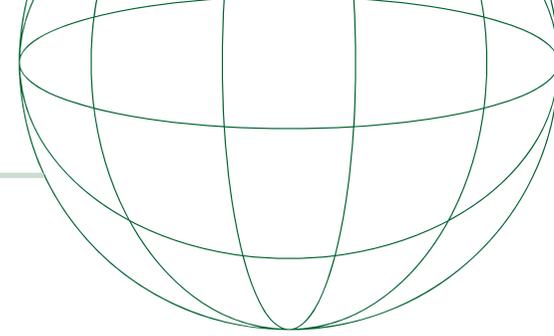
Services at different facilities and employees from the departments of social development and health, South African Police Service (SAPS) and the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) were surveyed. Some of the challenges that were identified from SASSA were related to infrastructure, treatment of the elderly and the institution's accessibility. The Department of Social Development (DSD) issues were related to signage to offices. Community members also raised concerns about the cleanliness of the local hospital, long queues at the SAPS, alcohol abuse and corruption during the survey.

Timm said the outcome of the surveys should not be seen as negative discovery, but as a measure to improve the services to the community.

A feedback community meeting was held to inform the public about the outcome of the survey and also for government to come up with solutions on how it will address the issues identified by the community of Batlharos.

"Issues such as the signage to find the offices of the DSD would be addressed by the installation of signage at the Mothibistad office and the front desk will also be improved. Signage to know where you are, what we offer and where you want to go will also be installed," said a DSD official in the district.

The feedback meeting was attended by about 200 people who also had the chance to share their opinions by meeting with different stakeholders during the feedback sessions. The feedback from the surveys was also communicated to the broader district through the local community radio afterwards.



Members of the community attended the event.



Group sessions with DSD officials.



Nelson Morena said:

“The session was good. The community wanted to know how government will improve its services. The survey was done and showed government what the people needed and how services can be improved. The commitment from different institutions will bring change. People struggled to access the DSD and with the signage, they will now manage to.”



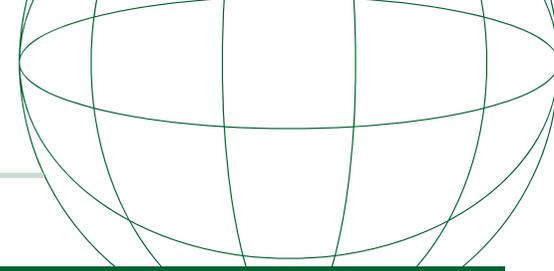
Kutlwano Botwe said:

“It was good to interact with the community. Departments can now start making a difference in the way they work. The commitments they made will have an impact and once they stick to them, service will improve. Community members were able to voice their opinions. Normally people are afraid of being victimised and then do not want to speak at meetings, but I am happy they were able to talk about their challenges.”



Sannah Sepadile said:

“The survey was a good thing for the community. If government institutions would do some of the things they committed to do today then it would make an impact. We hope that the commitments made will help government to improve its services to help people.”



Members of the community came to show their support.

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

Deputy Minister attends initiation season launch

By Nkopodi Mokgoma: GCIS, Limpopo



Delegates at the official launch of the initiation season at Mdibanisweni Great Place.

Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) Deputy Minister Obed Bapela and CoGTA Eastern Cape MEC, Fikile Xasa, hosted the launch of the initiation season on 19 June 2015. The launch was preceded by site visits to initiation schools. Key stakeholders including traditional leaders, Mayors, members of the National House of Traditional Leaders, Kings and Queens, MECs and Heads of Department, members of the Portfolio Committee on CoGTA and officials from the South African Police Service also attended the launch. The launch was held at Mdibanisweni Great Place in the OR Tambo District. The theme of the initiation campaign is: “Mabaye bephila babuye bephila, yiyazingca ngesiko lethu.”