




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Government and youth discuss challenges

By Vuyokazi Dube: GCIS, Eastern Cape



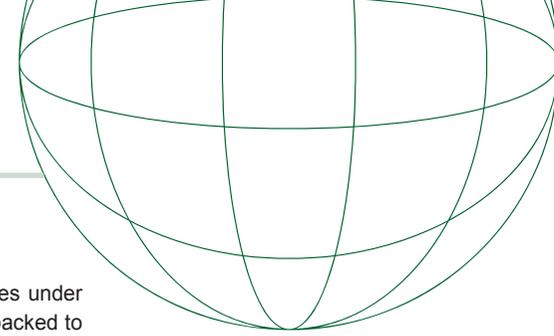
Media briefing at the legislature.

The Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Buti Manamela, engaged young people during a Youth Parliament session that was held on 19 June 2015 at the Bhisho Legislature in the Eastern Cape. The Youth Parliament was part of the countrywide Youth Month activities aimed at ensuring that young people are provided an opportunity to use their voices to deepen democracy and participate in law-making. This year's Youth Month was commemorated under the theme: "Youth moving South Africa forward". Young people have assured government that they are willing to move South Africa forward. The youth also proclaimed their hope for a better South Africa and committed to play their part in achieving this.



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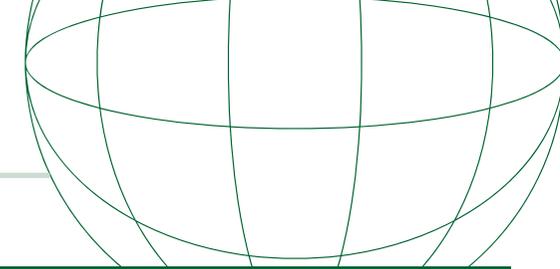
Young people from across the Eastern Cape gathered at the Raymond Mhlaba Chamber and debated issues under the theme: “Empowering young people towards sustainable youth development”. The Youth Parliament was packed to capacity and the youth excitedly engaged with each other. The youth suggested that each department should have a policy and a budget for youth development programmes to address unemployment, poverty and access to land.

It was also agreed that the Youth Parliament should sit annually and a directorate responsible for addressing youth issues should be established in the Office of the Premier. The youth also requested that the National Youth Development Agency offices should be made available in all metropolitan, district and local municipalities and that there should be learnerships that will run for two years and after that, the learners should be absorbed into the workplace.

Deputy Minister Manamela and Eastern Cape Premier Phumulo Masualle responded to the issues and promised that the executive will discuss them and give feedback. The Deputy Minister also encouraged the youth to wake up and do things for themselves and not wait for government.



Young people attended the Youth Parliament at the Eastern Cape legislature.



Jethro Grootboom providing valuable information at the GCIS information stall.



Thuli Dladla, Director of the Digital Migration Programme, educating learners about the digital migration process.



Minister Muthambi with officials from all entities that report to the Ministry of Communications at the event.

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

Communications Minister visits Gugulethu

The Gugulethu Youth Development Council (GYDC) has appealed to national government to help them promote social cohesion in the Western Cape. The chairperson of the GYDC, Adelaide Phankisa, said the Western Cape provincial government had failed to grant them a platform to engage openly as young people in the province.

The GYDC attended a Youth Dialogue and Expo that was organised by Communications Minister Faith Muthambi, who visited the township with all the entities under her department on 19 June 2015. Phankisa said attempts to use the piece of land which is next to a police station to build a wall of hope for young people so that they can tell their stories were also not bearing fruit.

"We also have gangsterism challenge, however, we are very happy that the Minister visited our area today and we hope that our challenges will be addressed," she said.

The youth leader said they will do everything to ensure that they establish their own community radio station so that they are able to air their views. "With all the information we received today, the idea of establishing a community radio station looks promising," she continued.

Umhlobo Wenene presenter, Nonala Tose said: "My message to the young people of Gugulethu is that they must visualise, plan and achieve. Young people in this township must consider themselves lucky, because this dialogue helps to bring back the moral fibre of the community since many young people have lost hope, but with this important interactive dialogue, they will ultimately regain it. A dialogue sparks great ideas and with those great ideas we can change the world. I really thank the visionary Minister for bringing all entities under her department to share with young people all the services that they offer."

Mandisa Matshoba, a Member of Parliament who hails from Gugulethu lauded Minister Muthambi for her tireless efforts of an inclusive communication system for all citizens.

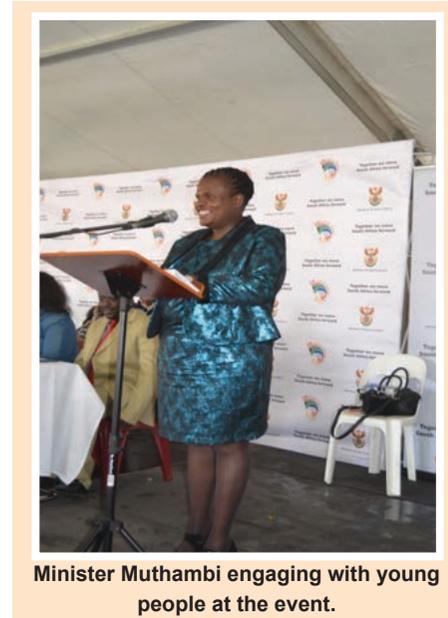
"The fact that you visited Gugulethu twice in less than a month, clearly indicates that you are a champion of service delivery. We are quite certain that through your leadership, the communication service is beginning to benefit all our people," she said.

Minister Muthambi used the platform to urge the youth to use Youth Month to actively encourage greater social cohesion and nation building, while also fostering African unity.

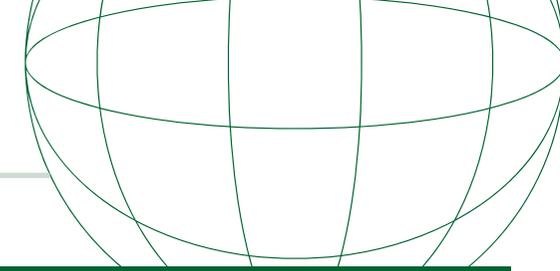
"This National Youth Month is a moment of thanksgiving dedicated to the young people of our country for the contribution they have made to free South Africa from the tyranny of apartheid. Government recognises the fact that our youth are among the most vulnerable members of our society and we will continue to place youth development at the centre of our programmes. Last month, before my departmental budget vote presentation, I came here to get first-hand experience and hear the challenges faced by the community of Gugulethu and neighbouring townships," said the Minister.

"One of the issues that were raised was a need to have community radio station in Gugulethu. As the Minister of Communications, I agree that access to information and access to communication networks will improve education, health and career outcomes," she said.

Minister Muthambi reiterated that South Africa's move towards digital broadcasting will bring more benefits for broadcasters, independent producer, television viewers and community-based stations and publications.



Minister Muthambi engaging with young people at the event.



Lefu Kabai said:

“I am happy with the programmes that government has introduced to empower us. The only problem I have is implementation, which makes the roll-out of these to programmes take longer than it should.”



Mmote Seseng said:

“It would be highly appreciated if government could also increase assistance for non-governmental organisations dealing with youth programmes and not only concentrate on cooperatives as they are also playing a role in building the future of our country.”



Mojalefa Mashao asking a question.

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

Government gives young people a platform

By Mojalefa Senokoatsane: GCIS, Free State

The Department of Correctional Services is not only responsible for the incarceration and rehabilitation of offenders but also plays a role in providing the youth of South Africa with skills development and economic opportunities through internships and learnerships programmes. The Deputy Minister of Correctional Services, Thabang Makwetla, recently hosted a Youth Indaba in Kroonstad to ensure that the youth engage with their political principals regarding opportunities offered by the department. About 500 young people attended the event.

The Free State MEC for Police, Roads and Transport, Butana Komphela and the Moqhaka Local Municipality Acting Mayor Councillor Roos Krans also attended.

Deputy Minister Makwetla opened the Indaba by giving participants an opportunity to voice their opinions regarding government programmes.

Mojalefa Mashao asked the Deputy Minister why the department had spent millions of rands outsourcing Information Technology (IT) projects instead of hiring IT graduates, thus creating jobs and cutting costs.

Other participants wanted to know the criteria that was used by the Department of Correctional Services in identifying candidates to be enrolled for the Correctional Learnerships, as most of these candidates at the Correctional College in Kroonstad were not from their area.

The panel, which consisted of Deputy Minister Makwetla, MEC Komphela and Acting Mayor Krans listened attentively to all questions.

In answering some of the questions, MEC Komphela explained that government has a programme that prioritises skills development and economic opportunities. He further stated that the Free State Provincial Government had engaged different stakeholders outside the province to share skills with the youth in the province.

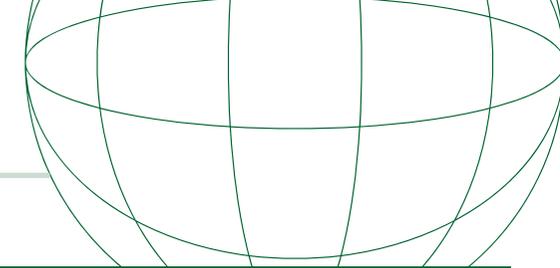
Deputy Minister Makwetla said that, just like the youth of 1976 who sacrificed their lives fighting against the injustices of the apartheid regime, the youth of today also had challenges that they need to overcome. He promised that the leadership will look at solutions to the questions that were asked and that answers would be provided soon. The Deputy Minister said that based on the interaction they had with the youth at the event, South Africa is in good hands.



Deputy Minister Makwetla addressing the audience at the Youth Indaba.



MEC Komphela speaking about the Free State Provincial Government youth programmes.



Emily Mphahlele and Thoko Maramabane at the Africa Public Service Day event.



Public servants across the continent attended the Africa Public Service Day event.



Officials from the Gauteng Department of Economic Development at the event.

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

Africa Public Service Day celebrated in style

By Jacob Molete: GCLIS, Gauteng

South Africa celebrated Africa Public Service Day in Kwa-Thema on 23 June 2015. The day calls for excellence, professionalism and equality in the Public Service. The national celebrations featured a panel of discussion with leading public servants in the country.

The celebrations, under the theme: “The Role of the Public Service in Women Empowerment, Innovation and Accessible Service Delivery” seek to provide a platform for public servants to reflect on the progress and successes, challenges and possible solutions in ensuring efficiency and effectiveness in delivering quality services for all. They also give recognition to public-service innovations and their positive contribution and benefits to public servants and different stakeholders.

In delivering the keynote address, the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) Director-General (DG), Mashwahle Diphofa, urged public servants to play a role in promoting equality, while ensuring professionalism and excellence in the Public Service.

“You should hold public office with pride, promote gender equality, work diligently and professionally in order to ensure excellence in the Public Service,” he said.

Some public servants believe the day provided them with a platform to express their views on equality and fairness in the Public Service. “I think the celebration provided an excellent platform for public servants to express their views on equality, professionalism and innovation, thereby influencing national and continental policies on such important issues,” said Thoko Marambana from Gauteng.

It was also emphasised that public servants should take a leading role and contribute towards ensuring equality, innovation and professionalism in the Public Service. “We must push towards realising equality and professionalism in the Public Service as enshrined in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and other legislations such as the Employment Equity Act to ensure that we move towards 50/50 representation of both genders in the Public Service,” said Emily Mphahlele from Gauteng Provincial Treasury.

Africa Public Service Day is an event entrenched in the African Union calendar. It originates from the conference of African Ministers for Public or Civil Service held in Tangier, Morocco in 1994.

It was agreed at this conference that 23 June should be celebrated annually as Africa Public Service Day to recognise the value and virtue of service to the community. It aims to discover innovations, reward excellence in the public sector, motivate public servants to further promote innovation, enhance professionalism in the Public Service, raise the image of the Public Service, enhance trust in government, collect, document and share best practices for possible replication within a country and across the African continent.



DPSA DG Mashwahle Diphofa delivering a keynote address at the Africa Public Service Day event.