




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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OUTCOME 3: ALL PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE AND FEEL SAFE

Residents lauded for not attacking foreign nationals

By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga

Residents of the Nkomazi Local Municipality have been lauded for living peacefully with foreign nationals and not attacking them or their businesses, as it was the case in some other parts of the country. This emerged during the Imbizo held at Kamaqhekeza Stadium in Nkomazi Local Municipality on 30 May 2015. Mpumalanga Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC Vusi Shongwe encouraged communities to continue living with foreign nationals, reminding them about the role that other African countries played during the country's liberation struggle.

The MEC said Mpumalanga is a shining example of how we should embrace one another as people belonging to one continent because Africa belongs to all who live in it. He said communities need to recognise the fact that South Africa is one of the most industrialised countries on the continent and therefore, it will continue to attract foreign nationals who are looking for refuge from poverty, economic crises and war in their own countries.

MEC Shongwe said while foreign nationals should not be attacked, those who come to South Africa should not break the law or enter the country without proper documentation. He further added that government will always ensure that its citizens are protected at all times. "We should not be relaxed in managing our borders and ports of entry. We should be vigilant in ensuring that our borders are not porous. You elected us into government; we therefore have a duty and a responsibility to ensure that your interests as South Africans come first," said MEC Shongwe.

The MEC also highlighted that there is a belief that the spate of attacks was caused by, among others, competition for resources, unemployment, crime and what other small businesses in the



MEC Shongwe and Nkomazi Mayor Thulisile Khoza arriving at Kamaqhekeza Stadium.



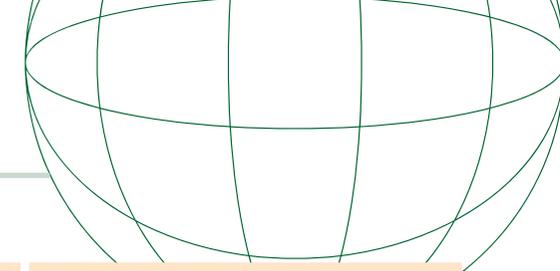
MEC Shongwe and Mayor Khoza seated with Nkomazi Municipality Speaker Jack Macie, Chief Whip Simeone Mabuza and Hirsi.



Somali nationals formed part of the guard of honour before the arrival of dignitaries.



Frelimo Commander Siwela also brought his party's flag to support the Imbizo.



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townships view as unfair advantage enjoyed by foreign shop owners. He added that there have been reports suggesting that in other communities, the attacks were orchestrated by local business people who lost their businesses to foreign-owned shops.

MEC Shongwe further reiterated President Jacob Zuma's call that we must all work together towards lasting solutions to the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality. He reiterated the President's call that it is the responsibility of all South Africans to promote social cohesion, peaceful coexistence and good relations with foreign nationals. He also said that when foreign nationals are attacked, other countries and businesses withdraw their investments and more South Africans will suffer.

An official from the Embassy of Federal Republic of Somalia Cultural Attaché, Abdi Halane Hirsi said: "Attacks on foreign nationals are not part of African culture, because true African culture promotes brotherhood, socialism, solidarity and hospitality for those who are vulnerable." Hirsi also added that through dialogue, community awareness and integration of root causes of attacks on foreign nationals could be addressed.

The South African Police Service (SAPS), Community Policing Forum (CPF), House of Traditional Leaders and church fraternity also thanked the community of Nkomazi and the province as a whole for showing love to foreign nationals.



Community members of Nkomazi attended the event.



Mayor Khoza welcoming all attendees.



Hirsi addressing the audience.



Commander Siwela giving message of support.



Zandile Ngomane of Nkomazi CPF addressing the audience.



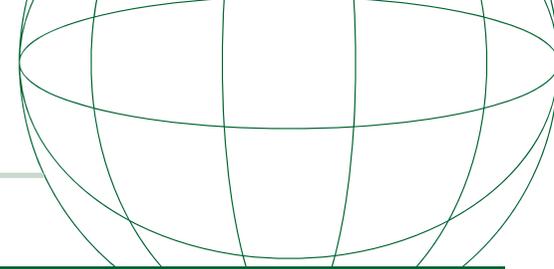
Mabuza speaking at the event.



Major-General Thulane Phahla from the SAPS giving message of support.



MEC Shongwe delivering a keynote address.



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

Minister visits Tsolo Agricultural College

By Vuyani Sibene: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Sitsaba Masiko said: “At first I did not know about the course until I was exposed to it and I have learned skills about animal health, which I find to be very interesting.”



Zimasa Qwayete said: “Many young people do not understand career opportunities in the agricultural field. I am passionate about animal health and I can be a doctor in this field.”



Minister Zokwana, MEC Qhoboshiyane and various stakeholders during the site visit.

Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries Minister Senzeni Zokwana visited Tsolo Agricultural College on 13 June 2015 to engage with agriculture students and the community of OR Tambo District Municipality. This visit was part of the Kicking for Agriculture campaign, which is championed by the Minister as a vehicle to highlight agriculture as a career choice for youth.

The day's programme was a mixture of fun and educational engagements comprising different stakeholders in the agricultural sector. Commercial farmers, leaders in agricultural education, provincial leaders and many other role players in the sector gathered and engaged on different issues pertaining to the agricultural sector.

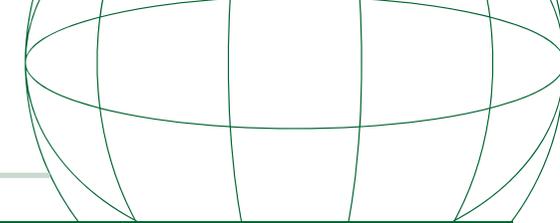
Eastern Cape Rural Development and Agrarian Reform MEC Mlibo Qhoboshiyane said, “This is symbolic history for the youth of the Eastern Cape especially for Tsolo Agriculture students. As the young seed, they are the ones who will move South Africa forward in economic development.”

Minister Zokwana indicated that the institution will have Aqua Culture farming. He also said that they have met with Tiger Brands to buy from this institution of agriculture and have received R2 million from the Netherlands to support the programme.

The programme was launched with Santos soccer team as ambassadors of Tsolo Agricultural College and the team shared the same principle that it is a good idea to be young and working in the agricultural sector.



Sibusiso Danisa said: As the youth of South Africa in the Eastern Cape, our freedom is to choose the right course. I can be an entrepreneur farmer or a technician in this field. I would like to tell the youth that agriculture is a wonderful field.”



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

Launch of the Gerald Wright Thusong Service Centre

By Peter Titus: GCIS, Western Cape

Community members in the Theewaterskloof Municipality witnessed the launch of the Gerald Wright Thusong Service Centre on 10 June 2015 in Grabouw, Western Cape. "The launch of the Gerald Wright Thusong is a testimony that national, provincial and local government can work together in the realisation to address the socio-economic needs of the poor and to ensure that the Thusong Service Centre is there to serve people from all walks of society," said the Mayor of the Theewaterskloof Municipality, Chris Punt.

MEC for Local Government, Environmental Affairs and Development Planning, Anton Bredell, told the audience that the Gerald Wright Thusong Service Centre is not only a building, but a place where people can access government services that will empower them and ensure that a better society is developed.

Mayor Punt also said that community members must look after the Thusong Service Centre as their own. Community members were assured that there will be more government departments that will render services at the centre. Job opportunities, economic empowerment, social and cultural development, and municipal services will be accessible from this centre. Some of the service providers that will be rendering services at the centre include community development workers, Cape Access, Department of Social Development, South African Social Security Agency and the HAN University.

MEC Bredell also urged people to start developing their own communities, as government cannot do it alone. He said if communities work collectively with government and the private sector, more can be achieved.



Mayor Punt addressing the audience.



MEC Bredell addressing the audience.



Learners from the school situated next to the Thusong Service Centre performing a cultural dance just before the formal opening of the centre.



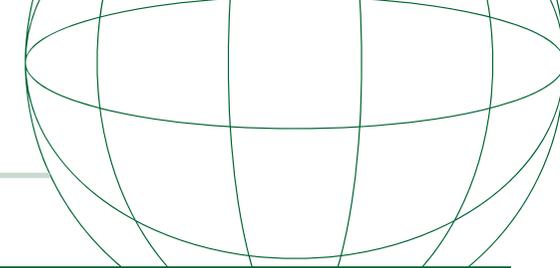
A group of senior citizens were invited to attend the launch.



MEC Bredell conducted a walkabout in the centre to check its readiness.



Different stakeholders and community members attended the event.



Amisa Nyadwe said:

"I am here today to showcase the food from my country. I prepared rice, fish, green bananas, beef curry, green beans and *inyama yenkukhu*. I prepared them exactly the way we do back at home. I like this function and it is now my second time preparing food here. I will keep preparing meals for them every year when they call me. Africa Day is also special to me because it is a celebration of my country too. After the attacks on foreign nationals I was a bit scared of this country but I am lucky because I have South African friends who supported me through it all. I work with them, I laugh with them, I stay with them and I am fine now."



Nkanyiso Biyela, 23 Years old

"Today I am dressed this way to represent my culture, which is Zulu. I came here today to perform a short drama with my group called New Talent Entertainment, but I am also here to celebrate Africa Day. I must say that the attacks on foreign nationals were not right because at the end we are all Africans. We should unite and fight for one another instead of fighting against each other. If only our government would intervene as most of the people attacking foreign nationals dropped out of school and are on drugs. They are not doing anything with their lives so they end up resorting to criminal activities."

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

Africa Month used to celebrate continental unity

By Ziningi Maphanga: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Street parade from Stanger taxi rank to Ilembe Recreational Show Grounds.

"Africa Month is a celebration of continental unity. Ties that bind us are stronger than the barriers that divide us." This was the message conveyed by Ilembe family of municipalities in partnership with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Arts and Culture as they celebrated Africa Day in Stanger, together with the community of KwaDukuza Local Municipality. Africa Day is celebrated annually on 25 May, the date when the then Organisation of African Unity was founded.

Pupils from different schools in and around Stanger and the community of KwaDukuza Local Municipality joined the celebrations that started with a street parade from Stanger taxi rank to Ilembe Recreational Show Grounds, where the main event took place. The parade was led by Ilembe District Mayor, Sibusiso Mdabe, KwaDukuza Deputy Mayor Dolly Govender, guest speaker, Dr Tim Vilakazi, Izinduna za KwaDukuza and government officials.

Upon arriving at the main venue, the principals commenced with food tasting where they tried various African dishes prepared by service providers from different African countries and South Africans of different races. Among the service providers was 31-year-old Amisa Nyadwe from Burundi, who has been participating in this event for the past two years. She said it gives her great pleasure to share her cultural dishes with South Africans as this country has become her second home. Nyadwe lives in Durban and came to South Africa in 2004.

After the food tasting, the main event began with the opening and welcome by Mayor Govender who urged all Africans to live together in harmony.

Following the attacks on foreign nationals earlier in April, this year's celebration was aimed at not only celebrating the African continent, but also uniting all Africans.

Dr Vilakazi said Africans must learn to respect one another as individuals and also respect the laws of every country they travel to. "As a person who travels a lot, I cannot go to London or Nigeria and disrespect their laws. The same goes for people who come to South Africa – they must obey the laws," he said. Dr Vilakazi added that South Africa is a nation for all and that it must be respected not only by its own citizens but foreign nationals too.

This year's theme was, "We Are Africa: Opening the doors of learning and culture from Cape to Cairo". Attendees were entertained by traditional music and dance from different musical groups in and around Stanger.



Thandeka Zikhali said:

"I came here because it is Africa Day and I am here to condemn the attacks on foreign nationals and also to support the event. If you are from Zimbabwe, you are also on the African continent. I think the programme is going well and it will teach us not to fight against one another. We are all Africans. If there is a problem we need to sit down and sort it out, not kill one another. The people from other African countries are not taking away our jobs, some of them are working for themselves in the streets. The only thing I do not like is that some of them agree to be exploited as cheap labourers."