




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Freedom of the City Parade

By: Ntombi Mhlambi: DoC, Free State



The Executive Mayor of Dihlabeng Municipality Tjhetane Mofokeng attended the parade.



Members of the SANDF during the parade.



The South African National Defence Force (SANDF) 2 Field Engineer Regiment gave the Freedom of City Parade at the Bethlehem Town Hall on 10 October 2014. The parade was meant to send a message that the municipality has a dedicated force to ensure safety for everyone. It also created a sense of stability and awareness that the municipality has a strong team to keep its people safe. The Executive Mayor of the Dihlabeng Local Municipality said the regiments had been awarded the rights to march through the streets of Bethlehem since October 1970.

The 2 Field Engineer Regiment presents this every second year. This year they celebrated 44 years of the freedom of the city under the command of Lt.Col Luxolo Velile Shalom Peace Ngwadla.



Disebo Ndakana and Nobelungu Sethole said:

"It is so unfair that not all citizens can see this beauty that we are seeing today. We feel very honoured to be able to witness this parade. We feel very important."



Mr Ramotse said:

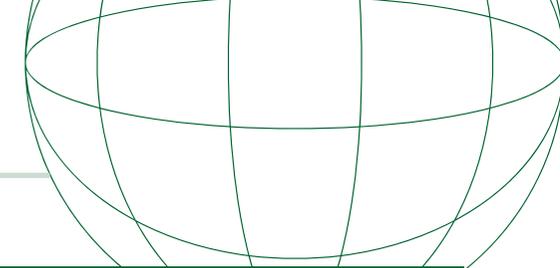
"I am very humbled and I feel protected. It is beautiful and I love it."



communications

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OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

DRIVER SKILLS PROGRAMME EXTENDED TO MATATIELE YOUTH

By: Ndyabo Kopo: DoC, Eastern Cape

Young people in Matatiele stand to benefit and gain driving skills through the Coega Development Corporation (CDC) Flagship Skills Driver Programme. The programme was launched in Matatiele Local Municipality on 23 October 2014.

This programme is part of the Corporate Social Investment Programme of the CDC, which gives unemployed youth the opportunity to obtain a Code 8 driver's licence. Since 2012, the programme has been launched in 18 sites in the Eastern Cape.

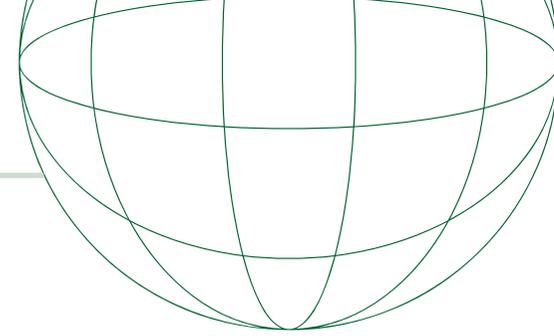
"Our aim is to educate young people to obtain driving skills to better their chances of getting jobs. And we would also like to educate them to consider road safety when driving," said Zuko Mapoma, CDC Executive Manager Corporate Services.

Some of the stakeholders that attended the event include Matatiele Local Municipality, Department of Transport and other government departments. A Memorandum of Understanding was signed between the CDC and the Matatiele Local Municipality. Young people who attended the event were listening with eagerness as speakers explained how the programme will be carried out.

"The contribution that this programme will make is quite significant, because it addresses the issue of national importance, which is skills shortage among young people and this case, driving skills. According to Census 2011, young people dominate the population of Matatiele as they stand at 71% with the majority in the 18 to 35 age bracket and are unemployed. This programme will be able to position young people for future employment as they will obtain driver's licences through this programme," said the Acting Mayor Matatiele Local Municipality, Cllr Nomasomi Mshuqwana.



Speaker of Council Matatiele Local Municipality, Cllr Bosman-Magangana testing the driver simulator during the handover event.



Noncedo Madiko:

“ I am very happy about this programme as it will help young people of Matatiele because many of them are unemployed and they lose hope and end up getting involved in drugs and criminal activities. This will open a lot of opportunities for us, as we will be able to drive buses and minibus taxis, things that we are currently unable to do.”



Zuko Mapoma handing over the learner-driver vehicle to Acting Mayor of Matatiele Local Municipality, Councillor Nomasomi Mshuqwana.



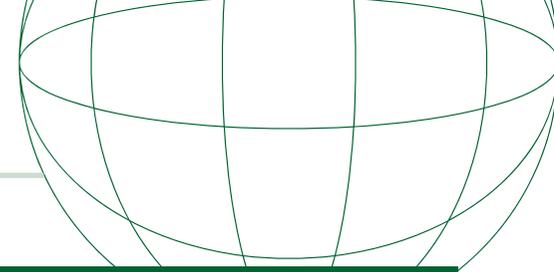
Khalipha Mahlasela:

“I feel happy about this programme and I think it will create jobs because many vacancies require a driver’s licence and that on its own will reduce dependence on our parents. I think I will benefit because I do not have a driver’s licence and would like to encourage other young people to grab this once in a life time opportunity with both arms.”



Sanesiwe Zondi:

“I am very happy about this opportunity to get a driver’s licence as there are many of us who do not have driver’s licences. I think it will help us get jobs.”



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

***Batho Pele* event assists rural communities**

By: Doctrine Netshikweta: Doc, Limpopo



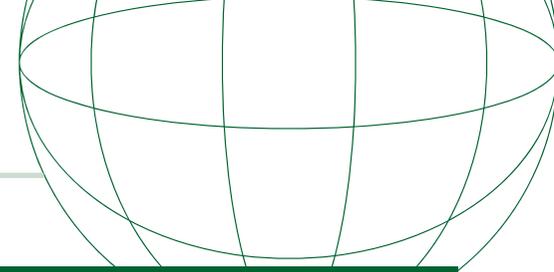
Mutale Mayor visited the DoC Gazebo during *Batho Pele* build up event at Makuya Thusong Service centre.



Mutale Mayor and Chief Makuya handed over blankets to Annah Manyatshe during the *Batho Pele* build-up event at Makuya Thusong Service Centre.

Mutale Municipality held a *Batho Pele* build-up event at Makuya Thusong Service Centre on 13 October. The event provided community members with much needed information. The campaign was part of government's declared war against poverty.

The area of Makuya was identified by government as one place that needs developmental projects. During her keynote address, ward councillor Sara Rambuda urged communities to take steps to develop their areas. She quoted what former President Nelson Mandela said during one of his State of The Nation Address in 1994: "Poverty is not natural, it is man-made and we can defeat it."



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

Home Affairs Minister visits Thulamahashe

By: Joy Themba: DoC, Mpumalanga

According to Rambuda, different stakeholders must come together and fight poverty. "Let's start working towards our development. Government cannot single-handedly fight and win the scourge of poverty. Each one of us should start a backyard garden to support ourselves and make sure each household has a citrus tree. Procrastination is the thief of time. Never say tomorrow, act now," said Rambuda.

Chief Lavhelesani Makuya, who was very excited to receive trees on behalf of his community, said: "We welcome and appreciate government's intervention to eradicate poverty. We thought we were forgotten by government because we are in a very remote area but with these trees and blankets we can see that government also cares for the poor."

Annah Manyatshe, a community member who was one of the people who received blankets, acknowledged what the government is doing for the communities. she said.

"Today we are able to access government services from different departments on our doorsteps. The *Batho Pele* programme is helpful because it is cost effective and saves time. I have accessed services from the South African Police Service and the Department of Home Affairs at the same time without having to travel," continued Manyatshe.

Some of the service providers who rendered services at the event included: the South African Social Security Agency, departments of transport, public works, health, communications and home affairs and agriculture, Provincial Treasury, Nedbank. Old Mutual, ABSA and the South African Police Service.



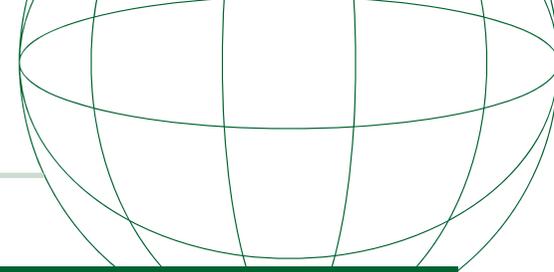
Annah Manyatshe said:

"Since I was born I have never heard about any government that takes care of its people like the South African government is doing. Our government provides grants to the needy and also assists community members like me with blankets."



William Makhado said:

"Government takes care of poor people. I will support this government."



OUTCOME 5: A SKILLED AND CAPABLE WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT AN INCLUSIVE GROWTH PATH

Towards sustainable solutions in the farming sector in the Western Cape

By: Peter Titus and Deirdre Goodman: DoC, Western Cape

A high level delegation led by Deputy President, Cyril Ramaphosa, visited the Paarl community to facilitate a communication session with key stakeholders in the agricultural sector and to engage with farm workers. The focus of the session was to look at sustainable solutions in the farming sector.

Issues that featured high on the agenda was the illegal eviction of farm workers, support for small holder farmers, access to markets for farmers and farm workers' wages.

Government has put a number of programmes in place to assist small holder farmers, but these programmes are not enough to boost small holder farmers. The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform said that evictions are a manifestation of a much deeper problem. Farm workers are mechanising their operations, shedding labour, struggling to become competitive or be sidelined in a global economy that is dominated by big retailers and supermarkets.

According to South African National Non-governmental Organisations Coalition there is a lack of broad civil-society participation in the process of finding solutions to problems that exist in the agricultural sector. After the farm workers' strike last year, they are now forced to pay rent, water, electricity, transport and even crèche fees. According to the Black Association of the Wine and Spirit Industry (BAWSI), government is requested to intervene in this process. BAWSI says there is a lack of visibility of inspectors from the Department of Labour to enforce compliance in the agricultural sector.

Mary Ann, of the Tsitsikama Farming Community, informed the panel that children are being abused on the farms, especially when caught picking fruits from the trees. In some cases there is even death and sexual assault.

One of the key resolutions at this event was that a moratorium will be placed on evictions, whether legal or illegal. The Deputy President highlighted that the agricultural sector should form a social compact to deal with the imbalances of the past.



Mr N Koopman said:

"I have been living on the Simondium farm for 17 years with my daughter and her two sons. I am thankful for the event and sincerely hope that government will be able to intervene and put an end to farm evictions."



Key stakeholders in the agricultural sector, including MEC Allan Winde from the Western Cape as well as Cosatu's Tony Ehrenreich.



Deputy President Ramaphosa, Minister Mildred Oliphant, Deputy Minister Zoe Kota Hendricks and Minister Zakwana at the stakeholder Engagement with stakeholders in the agricultural sectors.