




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Community declares war against crime

By Nonhlanhla Sithole: DoC, KwaZulu-Natal

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Community Safety and Liaison held a mini launch of safety structures within eDumbe Local Municipality on 06 March. The area of eDumbe is famous for serious criminal activities and high levels of drug use. The launch was aimed at responding to escalating criminal activities in the area.

Community members came in their numbers to show solidarity in the fight against crime. Each of the eight wards in eDumbe was represented by 10 people. "Criminals have no place in this community," said T Zungu, the Chairperson of the Community Crime Prevention Association. He further expressed his concern about leaders who fail to address crime and also called on all community leaders to be part of the structures that had been launched to fight crime.

The Chairperson of the Community Policing Forum, WT Zulu, provided an overview of crime in the area and requested the community to stand up and fight against crime. He also sang a song that confirmed their readiness to tackle criminals head-on. Mr Mtshali, Regional Manager of Community Safety and Liaison, urged community members to work with government to fight crime. He also urged parents to teach their children good behaviour at an early age, because schools cannot play that role alone. Two former inmates who were also at the event said, "Crime does not pay. Beware of the hands of the law. They are very long and they will always catch you. Stop doing crime and know that life in jail is very hard. Listen to your parents and behave."



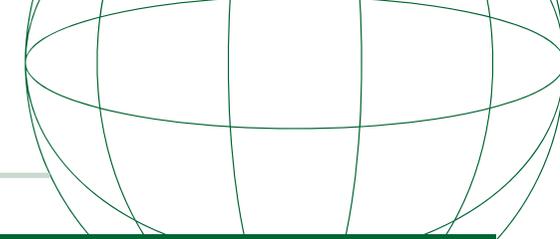
WT Zuma addressing members of the public.



Crime was also discouraged through singing.



Some of the community members who attended the event.



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

South African scientists making rapid strides

By Charles Moeti: DoC, Northern Cape

Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa visited the Square Kilometre Array (SKA) site in Carnarvon in the Northern Cape on 28 February. The Deputy President was accompanied by Science and Technology Minister Naledi Pandor, the Premier of Northern Cape Sylvia Lucas and other Ministers of the Presidential Infrastructure Co-ordinating Commission. The purpose of the visit was to showcase the development of the MeerKAT as the world's biggest and most sensitive radio telescopes. South Africa is currently building the 64-dish MeerKAT. Upon completion in 2017, the MeerKAT will be the largest radio telescope in the world and the most sensitive radio telescope of its kind.

“Throughout human history, technological progress has fuelled economic and social development,” the Deputy President told about 300 hundred delegates who among them were Botswana Infrastructure, Science and Technology Minister Nonfo Molehi, ambassadors representing non and participating countries such as USA, UK, China, Germany and others, and residents of Pixley ka Seme. The project is said to have supported 699 students and postdoctoral fellows with bursaries. This support is additional to bursary opportunities for students from surrounding towns who some of them are studying in Technical and Vocational Education and Training colleges, and the University of Sol Plaatje. Upon completion of their studies, they will work on the project.

Deputy President Ramaphosa expressed his gratitude towards the social responsibility initiatives of the SKA which has resulted in the upgrading of a school residence in Carnarvon, the support provided to emerging entrepreneurs, and the partnership between the SKA SA Project Office, Siyafunda, Cisco and Intel to establish a community knowledge centre for the people living in the area.

The Deputy President said once the project gets completed, humans will use the technology to search for planets and black holes, and examine galaxy evolution, cosmology and dark energy, in search of answers to fundamental questions about human origins and how the universe works, which remained unexplored throughout the ages.

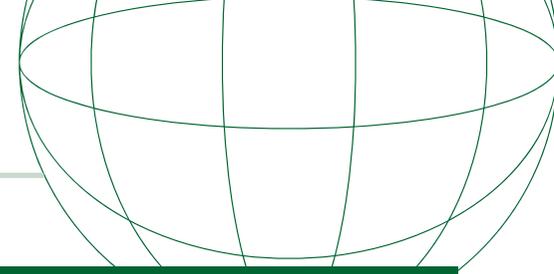
During the project report presentation, the Director of the Project, Dr Bernie Fanaroff boasted of the work that was done which has influenced Germany whose scientists have shown high regard for South African scientists to commit 11 million Euros to the building of the MeerKAT. Deputy President Ramaphosa and Minister Pandor later unveiled the plaque of the second 64 MeerKAT antenna named after Dr Fanaroff.



Deputy President Ramaphosa and Minister Pandor cutting the ribbon.



Deputy President Ramaphosa addressing the audience.



Nelihle said:

“I am in grade nine. I appreciate that our school allowed us to see the places that we are researching about. Now I have a better understanding of what I was reading about and this encourages me to read more about where I live.

It was also a nice exercise.”



Neliswa said:

“Today I have learned about the history of Middelburg and its heroes. I would like to encourage other learners who have not participated in this programme to do so next year. It will assist them a lot with their reading and assignments.”



Teirt said:

“Visiting the sites will really help me think clearly when writing my assignments because I will know what I am writing about. I would like to see the fun walk takes place again next year.”

OUTCOME I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Literacy fun walk a major success

By Nomhle Sibanyoni: DoC, Mpumalanga

Six primary schools within the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality participated in a fun walk on 19 February. The fun walk was convened to assist grade four learners with their assignments. The learners were expected to research about historic sites within their municipalities. Learners visited cemeteries, where they learned about fallen heroes in Middelburg. They visited the White Church where they were taught about the history of the church, the court building and the three monuments at the park within the church. They were also taught about the process of naming the streets within the municipalities. They also visited the Department of Basic Education, where they learned about the day-to-day running of the department. Learners were also taken to the Department of Home Affairs and other government departments to learn more about services rendered by these organisations.

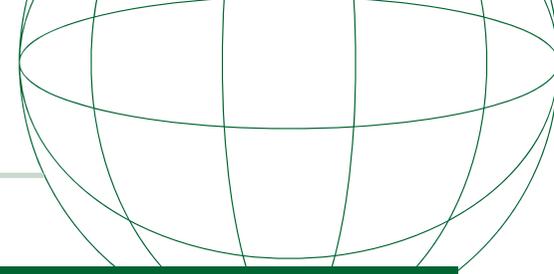
This initiative was championed by passionate educators who want to promote the culture of reading. The Local Communicators' Forum supported the initiative as it speaks to one of government's priorities, which is education. The fun walk was a success and also provided learners with an opportunity to ride the combat vehicle of the military.



Learners preparing to leave after visiting Middelburg with members of the military.



A member of the military standing with two learners from Middelburg Primary School.



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

Prioritising the health and wellness of police officers

By Ntandokazi Kukuma: DoC, Western Cape

The Deputy Minister of Police, Makhotso Soty, kick-started a programme to prioritise the health and wellness of police officers. The Deputy Minister visited the Gugulethu Police barracks on 11 March to inspect the conditions where police officers live. She also held a round-table engagement with relevant stakeholders to discuss all factors that impede the performance of police officers when they respond to complaints and crime scenes.

Deputy Minister Soty was accompanied by the Head of the South African Police Service (SAPS) Employee Health and Wellness Programme, Major-General Mzwandile Mzamane, the Provincial Commissioner of Police, Lieutenant-General Arno Lamoer and his team, and other public representatives in the Western Cape.

The Deputy Minister was not impressed by the living conditions of police officers. She questioned the issue of maintenance and renovation of those residences, and said that the conditions need to be improved. The Deputy Minister then suggested that the organisation responsible for the accommodation of police officers approach non-governmental organisations that will help with cleaning the place.

“It is the goal of the Ministry of Police to ensure that the National Employee Health and Wellness Strategy is properly administered, customised to suit the SAPS, therefore matters of living conditions; family situations; career stagnation and lack of promotion of a police officer have to be comprehensively addressed. A police officer with a healthy morale will perform his/her duties well,” said the Deputy Minister.

Deputy Minister Soty concluded by saying that police should get proper houses and that all police stations must have a gym.



Deputy Minister Soty on a walk-about to junior police officer rooms in the barracks.



Deputy Minister Soty answering questions from the media.



Deputy Minister Soty and Lieutenant-General Lamoer inspecting one of the rooms.