




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

President Jacob Zuma reaches out to Eersterust community

By Robbie Senoelo: GCIS, Gauteng

The fight against drug and substance abuse received a huge boost when President Zuma visited the community of Eersterust in Pretoria on 21 August 2015 as part of the Presidential Imbizo.

President Zuma visited Eersterust following an appeal through a petition by the Eersterust Concerned Parents Association and the Eersterust Local Drug Action Committee for an intervention to help rid the community of drug syndicates, drug and substance abuse, and the need for youth development, housing, service delivery, social services and for unemployment to be addressed.

Accompanied by Gauteng Premier David Makhura, Tshwane Executive Mayor Kgosientso Ramokgopa, Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers, and other government leaders, President Zuma demonstrated government's commitment to listen to concerns of the community and showed government's determination to address them.

President Zuma committed all spheres of government and agencies to effectively and accordingly address all forms of social ills, particularly drug and substance abuse, crime, unemployment, housing and many others that are confronting Eersterust, Mamelodi and surrounding areas.

The community raised many issues such as lack of social work services in their areas. Community members said that there were long queues at the clinics and there was no enough medication.

They also said that they did not know about government services that are available to them. The community said those who abuse drugs also abuse women and children.

The youth abuse drugs and are unemployed; there are no facilities such as colleges or skills-development centres nearby.

The community said there was also a need for Early Childhood Development centres.



Communications Minister Faith Muthambi introducing President Zuma to staff members at the event.



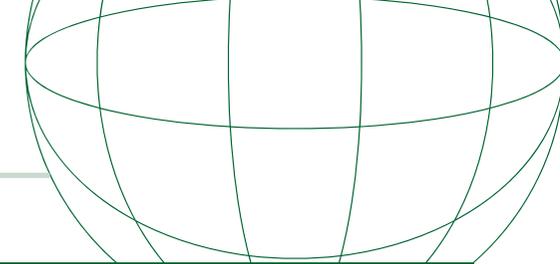
Community members at the Presidential Imbizo.



Community members accessing information at the GCIS stall.



The Khoi and San people calling for recognition as the first indigenous people in South Africa.



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

Minister takes digital migration to the people

By Doctrine Netshikweta: GCIS, Limpopo



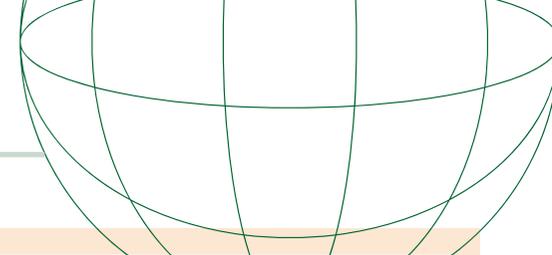
Minister Muthambi demonstrating the state of television display after digital migration roll-out.

Nzhelele border-lying communities were over the moon when the Minister of Communications, Faith Muthambi, officially launched the government programme on broadcast digital migration on 21 August 2015. The launch incorporated the digital migration awareness campaign at Ha-Rabali, Vhembe District in Limpopo. The Minister was accompanied by officials from the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA), South African Post Office, SENTECH, Universal Service and Access Agency of South Africa, Media Development and Diversity Agency, Brand SA and Film and Publication Board. The entities showcased and explained their roles in the roll-out of the broadcasting digital migration policy.

Professor Mbulaheni Maguvhe said:

“Young people should take careers in media because digital migration will create a need for different space for content to be broadcasted every time. Do something for your development before the roll-out of digital migration. Take this opportunity to learn more about media in order to provide more content for the SABC. More television channels will be established during digital migration.”





Nemauluma Nelson said:

“I want to enjoy the benefits of digital migration as early as possible. Do not forget that these technological activities were not available back then. I want to use this opportunity so I can share the experience with my ancestors in Heaven when God calls me there.”



Thovhele Vho-Mashamba said:

“We urge ICASA to assist us by addressing the signal challenges for Makhado and Univen radio stations.”



Minister Muthambi pronounced the state of readiness for the programme, demonstrated how it will work and how it will benefit communities. “We are trying to raise awareness to the communities, so that they can understand and be ready as the project is ready to be rolled out. Government took the decision to prioritise South Africa’s border-lying areas to make digital switch-on first. This was done to ensure that we protect radio signal interference from the neighbouring countries,” she said.

The Minister said Nzhelele communities will benefit from the first five million free set-top boxes that government will be distributing to poor TV-owning households across the country. Minister Muthambi said this was because they fall under the border-lying communities in Limpopo.

SABC board Chairperson Professor Mbulaheni Maguvhe urged young people to use digital migration for their own benefit.

Chief Mashamba pleaded with ICASA to assist in ensuring that Makhado and Univen community radio signals are enhanced for good coverage and reception for communities around Nzhelele and Ha-Mashamba.

Nemauluma Nelson, a senior citizen, requested the Minister to speed up the process of rolling out broadcasting digital migration policy especially to pensioners because he wants to enjoy the benefits.



Ward 22 Councillor David Davhana and GCIS Acting Director-General Donald Liphoko at the event.



OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Sindi Mabaso said:

“People look up to me as a woman who is not afraid of new challenges. I am doing business in granite stone refining, tombstones and furniture. The business has created jobs for men who are now able to provide for their families.”



Patience Masilela said:

“I wish funding could be made more accessible and this should also include proper training aimed at benefiting community members.”



Rural women urged to explore business opportunities

By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga



A Transnet official speaking at the event.

Gone are the days when women’s involvement in business meant getting catering and cleaning service projects. Women, particularly those in semi-urban and rural areas, have the expertise and knowledge to become key role players and industrialists in the mainstream economy.

The Nkomazi Local Municipality partnered with the Department of Public Enterprises in bringing Transnet, Eskom and South African Forestry Companies Limited (SAFCOL) to present on business opportunities within the State-owned Companies (SOCs) that women should not be shy to explore. Women who are already in business with these SOCs shared their experiences and encouraged other women to follow their example. One woman from Matjolo in Badplaas shared her story that she benefitted from SAFCOL and her business has since grown as it now supplies SAPPI with forestry.

Public Enterprises Deputy Minister Bulelani Magwanishe encouraged women to take information and start businesses that can create jobs and change lives of other South Africans. “We have to do away with importing skills from countries such as Bangladesh and diesel mechanics from Zimbabwe because we will end up having a third party in every business transaction. Together with these SOCs, we have left Gauteng and came down to Nkomazi because we know that women in this community have great potential, wherein the country can invest to do viable yet sustainable businesses,” he said.



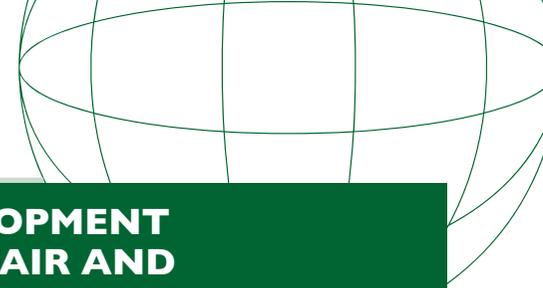
Daniel Monyela from SAFCOL presenting on opportunities available for women.



Women in business and those who plan to venture into business attended the information-sharing session.



Nkomazi Acting Executive Mayor Phindile Magagula with Deputy Minister Bulelani Magwanishe at the event.



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

Duncan Losper said:

“Digital migration is a great initiative. It is a step forward in enjoying television without having to worry about the signal and picture quality.”



Kennedy Nkolwana said:

“This is a great development. Currently, we struggle to watch television due to bad weather. Digital television will solve this problem.”



Government engages community on digital migration

By Willem van Dalen: GCIS, Northern Cape



Women at the Women’s Month event were also educated about digital migration and its benefits.

The Government Communication and Information System embarked on a campaign to educate and inform community members in the rural areas about digital migration and what it seeks to achieve. The event took place in the Namakwa District Municipality on 12 August 2015. The morning session comprised a town-hall meeting. Later in the day, residents were visited at their homes and received leaflets containing digital migration information.

Members of the community were informed about the benefits of digital migration. A promise for continuous update on the subject was also made.

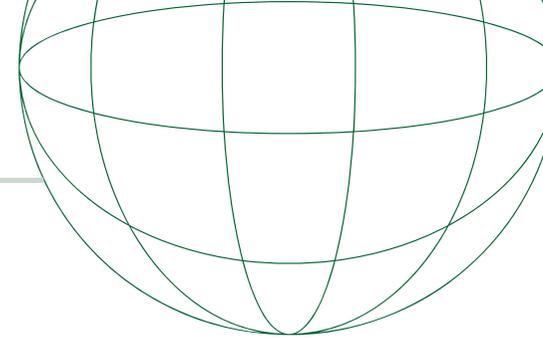
Namakwa District is situated in the west coast of South Africa with Namibia on its northern border. Rain, wind and other bad weather conditions mostly affect the signals for radio and television. It was therefore not surprising that the people of Namakwa were looking forward to digital migration, an earth-based signal that will keep them informed about everything happening in the country and the world.



The area’s ward councillor, Gillian Pieters (third from left) and some of the volunteers getting ready to deliver leaflets to community members.



A volunteer handing out a pamphlet to a community member.



Bursdon Cloete said:

“I believe digital television will make life easier.”



Betta Hollenbach said:

“It is good for us to keep up with the technology of the rest of the world.”



A volunteer interacting with a community member.



A senior citizen receiving information about digital migration from a volunteer.