




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Campaign against alcohol and drug abuse

By Reki Skosana: DoC, Mpumalanga



A dti official educating learners about the danger of alcohol and substance abuse at Thufane High School in Nokaneng.



Officials from the dti and the Department of Basic Education addressing learners at Bingweni High School in Leeuwfontein.



The Department of Trade and Industry (dti), in partnership with other stakeholders took an initiative to conduct school visits around the Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality, focusing on creating awareness on the abuse of alcohol and other substances. The campaign took place from 24 to 27 February.

Five schools were identified and visited. All the sessions conducted in different schools were satisfactory and the learners' participation was good. Other stakeholders who supported the campaign were, the Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality, departments of communications, basic education and social development.



Bonolo Sebaka said:

Today I have learned how peer pressure can negatively affect us as learners. These kinds of sessions should be conducted more often because some parents are not educated and it becomes difficult for them to advise or share important information such as what was shared with us here today."



Malebana Mmatshupo said:

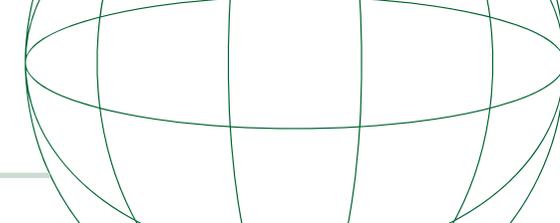
"Our school is situated in a village and it is not easy for us to have access to important information. There is a high rate of teenage pregnancy and abuse of alcohol in this area. We really need people we can talk to about these things. My highlight of the day was the availability of bursaries for learners who do Economics because I love this subject but I did not know that there are government opportunities that can assist me to further my studies."



communications

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





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

Deputy Minister conducts an outreach programme

By Yolisa Bloem: Doc, Eastern Cape

The Deputy Minister of Communications, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, conducted post-State of the Nation Address (SoNA) discussions from 12 to 14 February in East London, Buffalo City.

The activation provided the Deputy Minister with an opportunity to interact with train commuters on the key points of this year's SoNA that form the basis of government's Programme of Action.

The campaign culminated into a post-SoNa community-media symposium held at the East London Golf Club where she was joined by prominent members in the field of communications.

Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams was joined by the Premier of the Eastern Cape, Phumulo Masualle and various entities such as SENTECH, Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, Media Diversity and Development Agency, South African Revenue Service and Telkom.

The interactive session provided a meaningful opportunity to reflect and engage on successes, opportunities and challenges of building a sustainable community media in South Africa. Government will further commit to its unwavering support for community media. The symposium was followed by a community-radio dialogue.



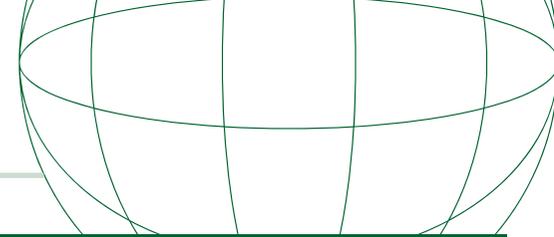
Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams engaging with train commuters.



The Deputy Minister addressing community members during the community-media symposium.



Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams conducting a post-SoNA discussion at Izwi Iethemba community radio station.



Majuwele Magau said:

“I am happy that our Mayor came to explain why they gave us houses. I wish those who cannot afford to pay municipal rates can be assisted.”



Violet Mofokeng said:

“I was happy to hear the Department of Labour talking about how they are going to implement the Public Sector Act, which will help in regulating municipal recruitment policies.”

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

Mayoral Imbizo in Dihlabeng

By Ntombi Mhlambi: DoC, Free State

The Executive Mayor of Dihlabeng Local Municipality, Tjhetane Mofokeng, conducted an Imbizo on 28 February at Bohlokong Stadium. The Imbizo was aimed at monitoring and evaluating the services that the municipality delivers to the communities and it was conducted in partnership with different service providers.

The Department of Basic Education explained steps that government took to ensure that Glen Ash Farm School near Bethlehem continue operating. Other stakeholders who were present included the departments of labour and social development, South African Social Security Agency and the South African National Defence Force. In his address, the Executive Mayor said, “Let us support the work done by our government in fighting poverty as our children are now able to study abroad because of government’s assistance. Those children are going to be important members of our society.”

The community members were then given a platform to ask questions regarding service delivery.



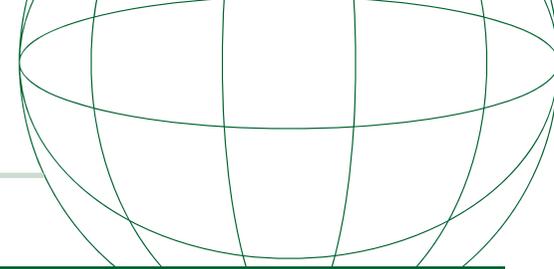
Executive Mayor of Dihlabeng Local Municipality addressing the community of Bohlokong during an Imbizo.



A police officer presenting crime statistics during the Imbizo.



A Department of Basic Education official addressing community members.



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

Struggle hero laid to rest on home soil

By Ephraim Malema: DoC, North West



President Zuma and Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa at the reburial of Kotane.



Dignitaries carrying Kotane's coffin.

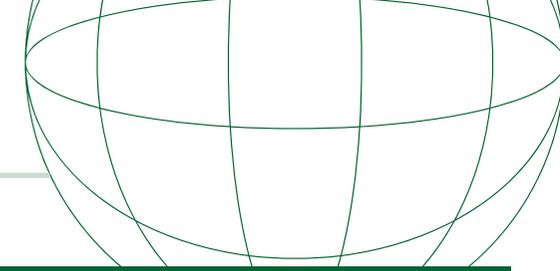


Residents of Pella welcome the mortal remains of Kotane.

President Jacob Zuma said the reburial of former General Secretary of the South African Communist Party, Moses Kotane, at Pella in North West marked a new chapter in South Africa's political Struggle. The anti-apartheid veteran's mortal remains were exhumed and repatriated from Russia to South Africa earlier this month. He was buried there in 1978 while in exile.

Kotane's 103-year-old widow, Rebecca Kotane, had asked President Zuma last year to repatriate her husband's remains. The President said South Africa's education system should educate the youth about Struggle veterans who contributed towards the country's liberation. The reburial of Kotane was attended by dignitaries from all over the world, including those from Russia.

Residents of Pella and the surrounding villages were happy to be part of the reburial ceremony. The local municipality in Bojanala was named after him. Although most of the people who live in Pella do not know him personally, they were happy to be part of the reburial event.



Moses Maluleke of the South African National Civic Organisation said:

“He was one of us, he worked with us and always showed us respect. He contributed a lot in the development of this area and he was a peace maker. We had planned a meeting with him and he had agreed to meet with us, unfortunately that will never happen. He was our pillar of strength.”



Community members during a church service at Minister Chabane’s home.



People leaving the Chabane home after a church service.

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

Xikundu mourns the passing of Minister Chabane

By Eunice Nkuna and T Netshikweta: DoC, Limpopo

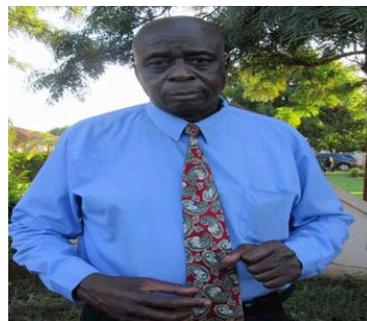
The people of Xikundu village are still in shock following the passing of Minister of Public Service and Administration, Collins Chabane. The community is struggling to come to terms with the news. Church leaders, traditional authorities and other community structures have been going in and out of Minister Chabane’s family to pay their condolences.

The Xikundu Tribal Authority also visited the Chabane family. Chief Xikundu expressed his sadness as he was paying his condolences. He indicated that Minister Chabane was their son and that they have lost a great leader. Immediately after the prayer service, the African National Congress leaders also paid their visit to the family.



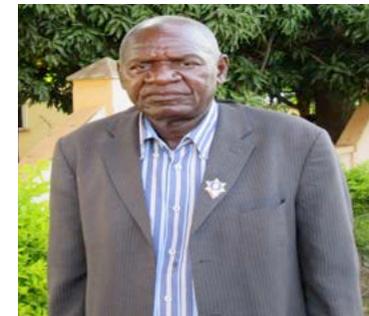
The Mayor of Thulamela Local Municipality Grace Mahosi said

“On behalf of government we would like to send our heartfelt condolences to the Chabane family, friends and relatives. We are saddened by the Minister’s untimely death. Government has lost a great leader, a stalwart and a dedicated public servant. I was with Minister Chabane on Saturday at the funeral of Hosi Magona, but I did not know that I will never see him again. I humbly request the community of Xikundu and the people of Thulamela Local Municipality to be united and work together during this difficult time.”



Principal John Msimeki of Mayeke Primary School said:

“I took over as the principal of the school after Mr Chabane ES, the father of Minister Chabane in 1987. Although Minister Chabane was now part of government at national level, he never lost touch with the school as he would always pass by whenever he was around. We are deeply hurt by his passing. Late last year he requested a list of most disadvantaged pupils at our school and took them to Kruger National Park, just to mention some of the things he has done for the school.”



HN Maluleke said:

“He was still young, death robbed us. I am lost for words, I don’t know what to say, I am in terrible pain as I am also a member of this family.”



Mamayila Mayevu and Maria Tshambatani said:

“Hi lahlekeriwile swinene. Swi twala onge i norho (It is a great loss; it feels unreal). Our area is underdeveloped, we were still expecting a lot from him.”