




MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 42 / October 2014

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

The National Big Walk for KwaZulu-Natal citizens

By: Jacob Mkhize: DoC, KwaZulu-Natal

The Minister of Sport and Recreation, Fikile Mbalula, committed Sport and Recreation South Africa (SRSA) to help citizens to live a healthy lifestyle. SRSA made this decision after President Zuma said that a large number of South Africans suffer from obesity. Many people don't exercise enough or at all and as a result they suffer from diseases such as high blood pressure. If citizens allow themselves time to exercise, they would reduce their chance of dying young and regular exercising would increase their lifespan.

SRSA started to have national big walks in which people of all ages can participate. Age groups start from five up to 85 years old in the form of family walks. KwaZulu-Natal held a Big Walk on 5 October at Umkhanyakude in the Umhlabuyalingana District. The walk was divided into two distances for walkers to choose from – the 6 km and 10 km, which started from Mbazwana Sports Field, proceeded to the R22 and finished at the same venue. This was a well-attended event as it had people of all ages participating.

Participants were awarded with medals and trophies. The youngest participants were Amanhle Ndlovu (five years old) who finished second after Yandiswa Hlongwane (six years old) who walked the 6-km distance without any difficulties. Amanhle was thrilled to have participated in the Big Walk. After she finished the distance it looked as if she could have completed the 10 km easily.

Some people enjoyed the Big Walk so much that they undertook to follow a regular daily exercise routine. This would go a long way in improving their health. Phumzile Ntuli, aged 65, said it was fun walking to her allocated small farm as a way of exercise. She said she never uses transport but walks and this has contributed to her healthy life. Earlier in the year, Phumzile also took part in a 21-km half-marathon.



The 6-km walkers lining up at the start, with Cllr BN Ntsele ready to fire the starting gun.



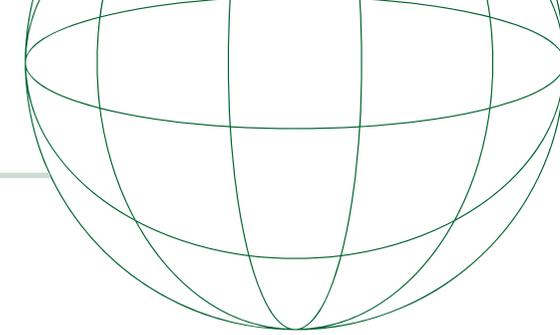
While they were waiting for the prize giving, the participants watched traditional dancers performing.



communications

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Phumzile Ntuli said:

"I am 65 years old. Walking is a norm to me. When going to my small farm, I walk there as this is good exercise. I don't get sick easily and I don't suffer from high blood pressure or diabetes. In the past year, I participated in a 21-km half-marathon from Mbazwana to Mseleni."



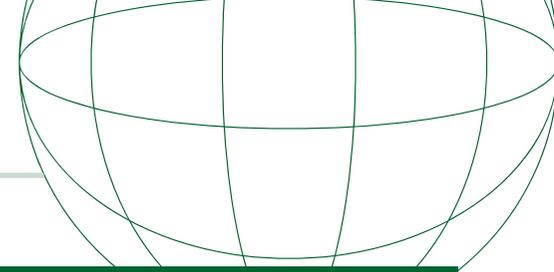
Yandiswa Hlongwane said:

"I have enjoyed participating in the walk. Thanks to my mom and grandma for supporting me. I love sporting activities and will participate in the next walk."



Ntokozo Mathenjwa, Mzuzu Vilane, Sthembiso Nkanini, Syabonga Nxumalo and Siyabonga Mlambo said:

"We all come from the Oqondweni area. Walking is a norm to us because we walk to and from school every day. Exercising keeps us healthy and we will definitely participate in this kind of activity next year."



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

Mines in the Northern Cape create business opportunities

By: Tshiamo Maruping: DoC, Northern Cape



The Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources, Godfrey Oliphant, addressing entrepreneurs and mining houses.



Officials of the Department of Mineral Resources and mining houses representatives.

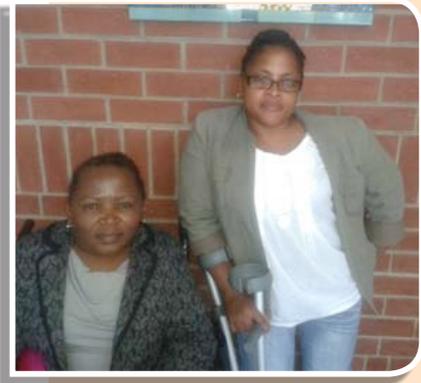


Entrepreneurs listening to presentations from different mining houses around the province.

The Department of Mineral Resources held a two-day workshop in Kimberley from 16 to 17 October, where small, medium and micro enterprise were afforded a platform to engage mining houses on business opportunities. The event is a brain child of the Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources, Godfrey Oliphant.

Mining houses' presentations focused on procurement opportunities and services that mines have rendered to communities in the Northern Cape. The Deputy Minister, who also facilitated the workshop, stated that the department's mandate was to see coherent and collaborative stakeholder participation in the governance of a competitive and sustainable, minerals and petroleum industry. He also urged Northern Cape communities to grab these opportunities with both hands.

Larisha Naidoo from Kumba Iron Ore said: "The mine has been making a difference through a variety of outreach programmes in the past, including building homes, offering school supplies and bursaries to learners, enterprise development, primary health care and family support that will help in creating a strong society. We want to ensure sustainable communities that will thrive even after the mine has closed down."



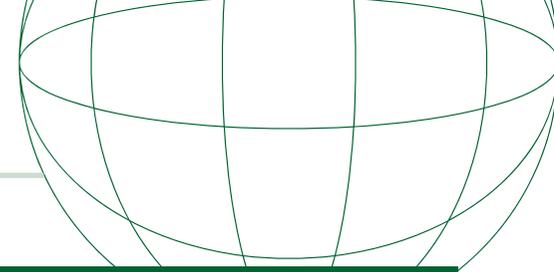
Edith Dibane and Nomsa Ncube said:

"This engagement has really opened doors for us. We had a challenge with marketing our business and this workshop has created an opportunity to engage with mines and last night we received an email from UMK Mines requesting to come and see us so we can discuss procurement business. We are very happy and we encourage people with disabilities to start their own businesses."



Kgositsile Makaudi said:

"As an upcoming young entrepreneur, this workshop has provided me with information that will assist me in growing my business. I hope the Department of Mineral Resources continues creating such platforms for us to engage with the mining houses."



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

North West Premier launches *Bua le Puso* campaign in Taung

By: Fatima Modise: DoC, North West

North West Premier, Supra Mahumapelo, launched the *Bua Le Puso* campaign at Taung Taxi Rank on 8 October. The campaign was launched under the theme: "Together We Move North West Province Forward." The initiative is one of Premier Mahumapelo's strategies to accelerate service delivery in the province. The campaign's objective is to create a platform for government to take services to the people while building close relations with communities by addressing their challenges. It will also provide platform for direct and effective engagement between community members and government leaders. Provincial and national departments, government parastatals, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders were present at the launch.

Many institutions operating within the district rendered their services. Community members also had an opportunity to raise their complaints. MECs from different provincial departments were at their respective stalls to address some of the challenges that were raised by community members.

The event was a success and the people who got the chance to visit the stalls were grateful that the Premier chose Taung to be the host.



Shadrack Moabi said:

"I am happy and satisfied with the services that I have received here today."



Tebogo Motshebe said:

"This *Bua le Puso* initiative is very important because it brings services closer to the people and it also gives us a chance to meet departments that are not available in our communities."



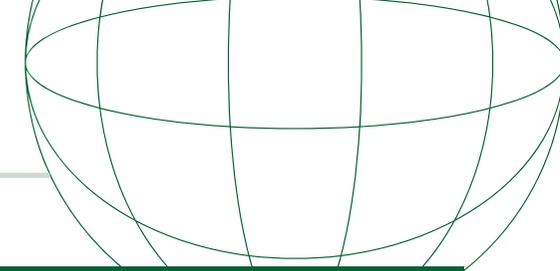
Kgosi Tshupo Mankuroane of Bathaping Baga Phuduhucwana greeting officials at one of the stalls.



Service providers serving community members.



Department of Communications' Taung office and the Office of the Premier giving information to the community.



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

The Minister of Home Affairs, Malusi Gigaba, officially launched the smart Identity Document (ID) cards at Mhala Home Affairs office. The event took place on 2 October in Thulamahashe, in Bushbuckridge. The community members will no longer have to travel to Nelspruit to apply for smart ID cards. Mhala Home Affairs office is one of the piloted offices in the province after a feasibility study was done on the distance that community members have to travel to access services. Minister Gigaba outlined that the department is in a process of modernising its mobile trucks to assist with smart ID cards applications. The department is also negotiating with the South African Post Office for the installation of smart ID card booth.

The new project on smart ID card has changed people's perception of services offered by the department.

The Minister met with different stakeholders from all spheres of government and non-governmental organisations (NGOs). In responding to some of the issues raised, Minister Gigaba also warned that teachers should not find themselves writing testimonials for learners whom they know were not born in the country. Again, NGOs were cautioned about affidavits they usually make as testimonials for foreign nations. "The department is aware of it," said the Minister.

In closing, Minister Gigaba encouraged all stakeholders to take pride in government because this is the only country where communities have free access to housing, social grants, basic water and that all these services are acquired through these birth registrations. "Let us all stop allowing citizens of other countries to illegally obtain birth certificates and IDs," he said.



From left to right: Mayor of Bushbuckridge Renias Khumalo, Minister Malusi Gigaba, MEC for Culture, Sport and Recreation Nomsa Mtsweni and the Gert Sibande District Municipality speaker Emily Dhlamini.



Minister Gigaba at Mhala Home Affairs office checking the processes that communities go through to access services at the meter greeter and doing rounds in the offices with Mhala Regional Manager Mr Khoza.



Minister Gigaba and MEC Mtsweni handing over the smart ID card to Lazarus Khoza and other community members who applied at Mhala Home Affairs office.



Badanile Ngomane said:

"In the past there used to be long queues, now we are attended immediately by officials. They provide a shaded waiting area. Today I am here to change my green bar-coded ID to the smart ID card. I am comfortable with the payable fee because I understand that government is spending billions of rands on the cards in order to end fraud and corruption. But I think those who cannot afford should work closely with local municipalities to get the information on communities under the indigent programme so that they are awarded the smart ID cards free of charge."



Lazarus Khoza said:

"I am very happy and grateful to live in South Africa and be allowed to have a smart ID card for free because of my age. Today I will go out and encourage other community members to apply for smart ID cards and birth certificates for their children. At 76, I started with the apartheid-era "dompass" and here I am today with smart ID card and hope our government will soon combine the driver's licence and this smart ID card to cut costs."