




# MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 29 / August 2016

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

### South Africa commemorates National Women's Day

By Robbie Senoelo: GCIS, Gauteng



**Government Communication and Information System officials Moferefere Moloi and Sibusiso Mkhize distributing information products at the Union Buildings.**



#### James Mnguni said:

"It feels great to be here to honour the heroines of our liberation struggle. I wish young women of today could follow in those footsteps and contribute towards moving this country forward."

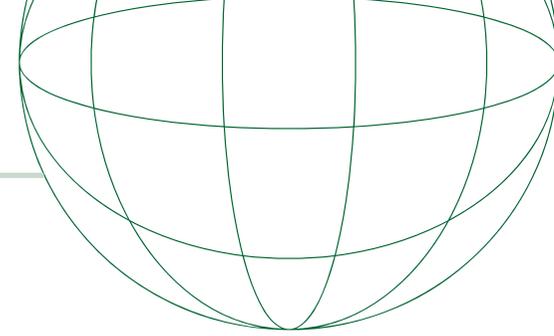
Every year on 9 August South Africa celebrates National Women's Day, a public holiday that pays homage to the women of our nation who fought tirelessly against the tyranny of the apartheid government. National Women's Day 2016 was a very special event as it marked the 60th anniversary of the 1956 Women's March to the Union Buildings. The day was commemorated at the Union Buildings under the theme: "Women United in Moving South Africa forward". The celebrations were preceded by the unveiling of Women's Living Heritage Monument in honour of the 1956 march leaders: Rahima Moosa, Helen Joseph, Lilian Ngoyi and Sophie de Bruyn.

People came from all corners of the country to support the event. African Union Commission Chairperson Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma and Social Development Minister Bathabile Dlamini delivered their speeches. The keynote address was delivered by President Jacob Zuma.



government  
communications

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**Nolwazi Mthembu said:**

"I am glad that many women have come to remember the 1956 march and appreciate the freedom that we are enjoying today. *Igama la makhosikazi malibongwe.*"



**Gladys Moloto said:**

"I am excited about this day but sad that most women are still unemployed and therefore cannot properly look after their children. I wish government could do more to ensure that there are job opportunities for women."



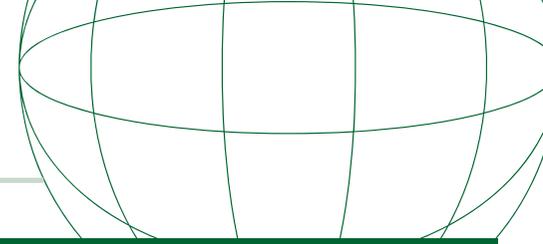
**Lerato Gumbi said:**

"I am proud to be part of this event though my concern is that young women are exposed to serious health and socio-economic challenges due to unemployment and poverty. Society needs to address social ills such as HIV and AIDS, drug and substance abuse as well as the issue of sugar daddies."



**Mmule Mosehla said:**

"I am proud to be a woman in modern-day South Africa. There are so many opportunities available for women today as compared to those in the 1950s. Although there are still other issues that need to be done, much has been achieved already."



**Clayton Kitchen said:**

“I feel that the doors of learning are opened because before 1994 people could not access fields such as medicine or any of those professions with ease but now bursary programmes have made things much easier. I am a Grade 12 learner so I am looking forward to these opportunities because it will be for my own life’s development.”



**Eldrin Mann said:**

“I believe that the bursaries offered will help those who want to follow a career in medicine because of the need for those specialists.”

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

**Young people presented with study opportunities**

*By Boitumelo Boshupeng: GCIS, Northern Cape*



**Precious Maletle addressing the audience.**



**Grade 12 learners from the local schools and the audience attended the event.**



**Minister Blade Nzimande addressing the audience.**

Grade 12 learners, non-governmental organisations and other stakeholders gathered at Mittah Seperepere Convention Centre to listen to Higher Education and Training Minister Blade Nzimande. The Minister delivered his speech on opportunities for skills development through the Health and Welfare Sector Education and Training Authority (HWSETA). The event took place on 22 July 2016.

HWSETA had already begun its work by investing R16 million in partnership with Northern Cape Premier’s Education Trust Fund, Northern Cape Rural and Urban TVET Colleges, and other government departments across the province.

This investment has seen 42 students receive funding to undertake studies in healthcare and social development. Needs in the province such as early childhood development (ECD) and adult education and training are being addressed through the funding of 273 college students in ECD programmes, and 1 800 at community education and training centres across the province focused on adult education and training.

The beneficiaries thanked HWSETA for the assistance they received from the various programmes and also demonstrated willingness to pursue careers in health and welfare fields. One of beneficiaries, Precious Maletle, who is also being funded by the Northern Cape Premier’s Education Trust Fund, is a medical student at the University of the Free State.

Minister Nzimande said that the aim of the programmes was to assist people to develop skills. Those who dropped out of school were urged to rely on community education and training centres to start empowering themselves again.



**Miga Phambukela said:**

“I am very happy about what government is doing in my village. I have used this gravel road for 27 years as a taxi owner and it is not easy because my profit ends up maintaining my taxis because of this bad road. We will wait patiently for this road project to be completed.”

**OUTCOME 6: AN EFFICIENT, COMPETITIVE AND RESPONSIVE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK.**

**Premier launches a community development project**

*By Kaone Moshwela: GCIS, North West*



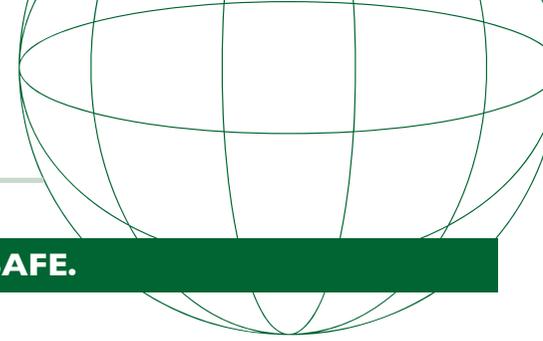
**Premier Mahumapelo with MEC Sambatha and Mayor Mogatusi addressing community about the road project to unfold in Kopela village.**

The community of Kopela in Tswaing Local Municipality will soon be travelling on a tarred road to be constructed in September 2016. This was confirmed by the Premier of North West, Supra Mahumapelo, during a sod-turning ceremony for the 13km road project that will link Atamelang and Kopela villages and also connect to the main road that leads to Mahikeng. The event took place on 19 July 2016 at Kopela Sports Ground.

The Mayor of Tswaing Local Municipality, Caesar Mogatusi, appreciated the project as it will create job opportunities for community members. “In 2014 when the Premier announced that there will be a tarred road in this village, it was like a dream that would never come true but today we are gathered here to witness the initiative,” he said.

Premier Mahumapelo said the road project was part of the Villages, Towns, Small Dorpies plan that aims to develop villages and small towns. He also mentioned that 70% of the province’s budget would be dedicated to this initiative to benefit rural communities who are the most disadvantaged when it comes to developments.

MEC for Roads and Public Works, Madoda Sambatha, urged community members to refrain from destroying community property when protesting. “When the community is not happy, it must engage government to resolve issues,” he said.



**Nqobile Mongwe said:**

“The choices that we make determine our future, hence peer pressure can make one to be in a group of wrong friends and end up behind bars.”



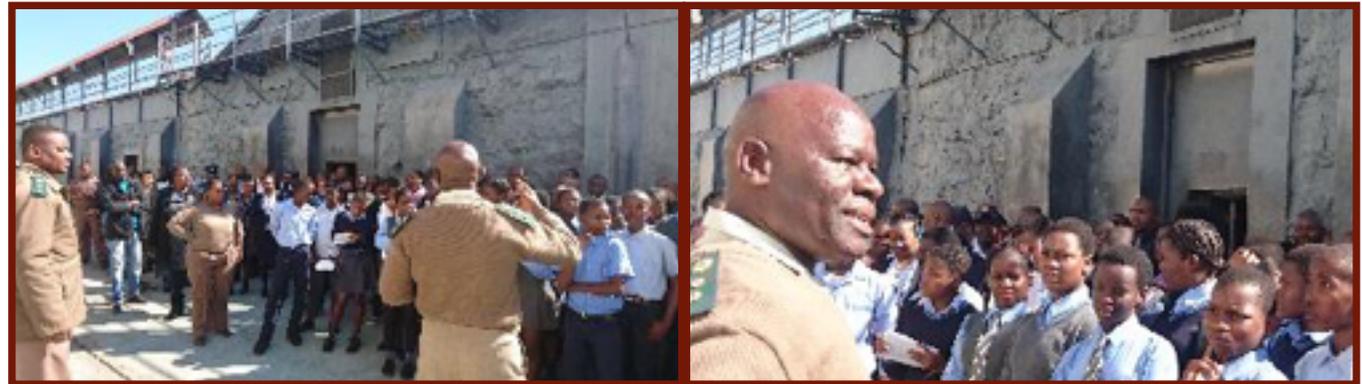
**Sibusiso Thabethe said:**

“I have learned that life in prison is not a child’s play. The food they eat is not nutritious, the bed they sleep on is also not in good condition and they have only one blanket. In this winter season, it is not enough. From today I will distance myself from criminal activities and friends that do not build me and focus on my education.”

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

**MEC launches school safety campaign.**

*By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga*



**Officials from the Department of Correctional Services educating and engaging with learners about the hardships of prison life.**

Mpumalanga Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC, Vusi Shongwe, launched the School Safety Programme in Barberton Town Prison on 28 July 2016. Learners from different schools attended the launch by visiting the prison with the aim of educating and creating awareness to learners about the dangers of crime. The programme is part of the crime-prevention project informed by the approved School Safety Strategy. The focus is mostly paid to problematic schools where learners use drugs and carry weapons, thus disturbing the process of teaching and learning.

“Parents should take responsibility for their children by supporting, educating and coaching them to shape their future, rather than handing them to educators with all responsibilities,” said MEC Shongwe. The MEC also mentioned that Mpumalanga is one of the stable provinces in the country when it comes to riots, because of the integrated service delivery in the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security cluster. He also requested that both departments of education and safety must ensure that school debates on crime activities are arranged for learners.

Officials from the Department of Correctional Services took the learners on a tour around the prison cells. He further educated them about ordinary objects that are used daily such as spoons, which can be turned into deadly weapons inside the prison. Learners were given the opportunity to experience life behind bars, interact with inmates and be motivated to stay away from crime. George, who serving 15 years and Stefani, 10 years, encouraged learners to stay away from drugs and peer pressure and instead focus on their school work to avoid being caught in the wrong side of the law.