




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Government and community members launch the initiation season

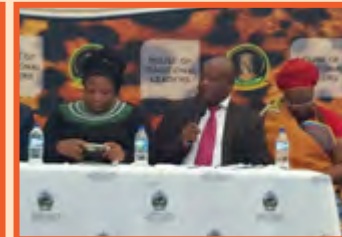
By Lwando Helesi: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Government and traditional leaders at the event.



House of Traditional Leaders Chairperson, Chief Ngangomhlaba Matanzima addressing attendees.



MEC Fikile Xasa, giving inputs during the panel discussion on the issue of initiation.



Community members at the event.

The 2016 Eastern Cape Provincial initiation season was launched on 18 November 2016 in the Enock Mgijima Local Municipality area under the Chris Hani District Municipality area. It was aimed at raising awareness and educating the community about initiation, to curb initiates deaths.

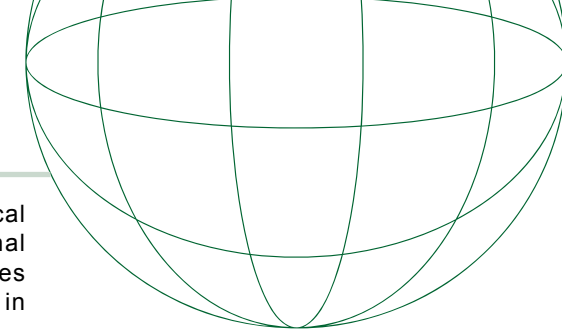
This follows 18 deaths that were recorded under the same season of December 2015 in the district, which is the highest in the province against the total of 46 and this is largely attributed to dehydration of initiates. Thus, the district was identified as a point of focus to launch this year's summer initiation to tackle the issue in the area. The initiation season was launched through a dialogue under the theme: "Mabaye bephila, Mababuye Bephila" to promote a zero initiation death season.



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Delegates from all local municipalities in the Chris Hani area including chiefs, Local Initiation Forum members, ward councillors, government departments, House of Traditional Leadership, mainstream and local media were all present to engage and discuss strategies and systems put in place to mitigate the challenge and how the media can play a role in informing and educating the public.

Speaking at the event, MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), Fikile Xasa, called on all stakeholders to play their part in dealing with this challenge. “The initiation season is part of the Operation Masiphathisane model, which calls for stakeholders to align their efforts to accelerating service delivery issues,” said MEC Xasa.

Various stakeholders will play a role in the monitoring of the season.

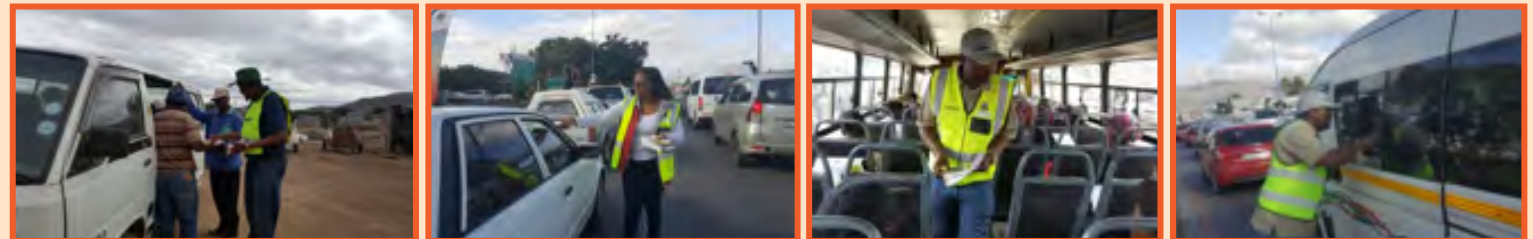
Traditional leaders will ensure that boys who want to go to the initiation school meet the legal age of 18 and to inform and educate communities about things that should be done by initiates, such as drinking water.

Local initiation forums must be operating in all municipalities to strategise and monitor the initiation season in their areas. Chiefs, traditional surgeons, government departments and municipalities form part of the forums.

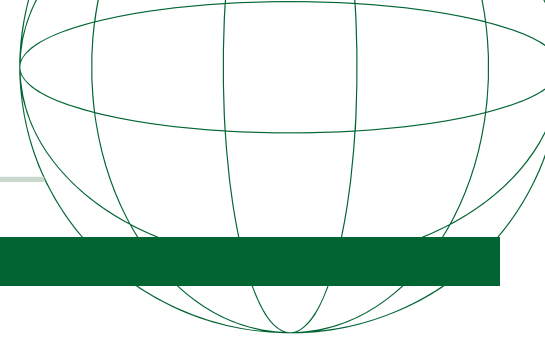
The Department of Health will provide nearly 40 vehicles around the province to visit and monitor initiation schools to assess the state of initiates. The South African Police Service (SAPS) will patrol the initiation schools to search for any activities that may be deemed illegal such as drugs and illegal schools.

The Eastern Cape House of Traditional Leaders working with CoGTA, Government Communication and Information System, SAPS, Department of Health, Chris Hani District Municipality and Enock Mgijima Local Municipality distributed information to the public during a road intersection blitz and taxi-rank activations on 17 November 2016.

The activities were aimed at raising awareness about the initiation schools and to encourage the public to share the information with others so that the entire community can put an end to deaths of initiates.



Government officials disseminating information to the public during a road intersection blitz and taxi-rank activations in Komani as part of the build up to the launch of the initiation season.



Lindiwe Soul said:

“I was not aware of such opportunity. I am definitely going to study further at a TVET college in Welkom next year.”



Relerato Kgotsane said:

“I am grateful for such information, which will make a huge difference in my future. Thank you Deputy Minister.”



Zukile Thanda said:

“This information came at the right time when I have just decided to leave gangsterism.”

OUTCOME I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION.

Deputy Minister conducts door-to-door campaign

By Ntombi Mhlambi: GCIS, Free State



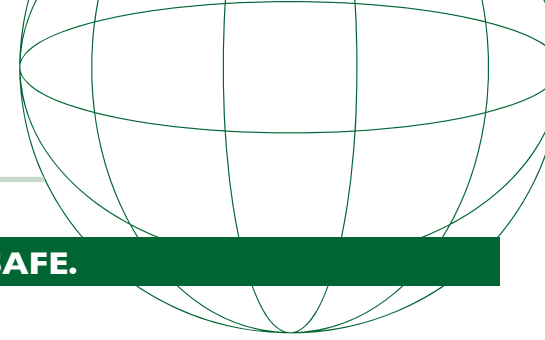
Deputy Minister of Higher Education Mduduzi Manana engaging with community members of Stilte Park in Meloding.



An official from the Department of Higher Education and Training providing information to young people on how they can apply for NSFAS.

The Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mduduzi Manana, embarked on a door-to-door campaign in Meloding, Virginia on 17 November 2016. The campaign was aimed at encouraging unemployed young people who have completed Grade 12 and are interested in furthering their studies in 2017, to apply for financial assistance through the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS). The youths have until 30 November to apply for financial assistance. The Deputy Minister also engaged with some of the beneficiaries of NSFAS during the door-to-door campaign. Lebohlang Sekobong a third year Internal Audit student at Central University of Technology, has been able to study through the financial assistance of NSFAS. “With my parents unemployed, I do not think furthering my studies would have been possible if it was not for NSFAS,” she said.

Deputy Minister Manana said, “As the Department of Higher Education and Training, we chose to do this door-to-door in Meloding due to high rate of gangsterism and unemployment caused by the closure of mines in the area. We are here to encourage the youth to apply for financial assistance from government to further their studies so that they can be skilled.”



Lulama Holandi said:

“Today I saw an element of readiness by SAPS. During the drama they demonstrated how they could rescue and save people.”



Thembela Mapete said:

“I enjoyed the event. This shows how safe people are going to be during festive season.”



Andiswa Tekane said:

“If the police can implement the operational plan as they promise, crime will be minimised. We need this here in De Aar where we experienced the brutal killing of a family by young men. Rape is high, criminals need to be sent to jail.”

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

Fight against crime during the festive season intensified

By Thenjiwe Konono: GCIS, Northern Cape



Government officials and members of the public at the event.



Government leaders were greeted by members of the South African National Defence Force and SAPS.



Bicycle presentation session.



Premier Sylvia Lucas delivering her keynote address.

The Emthanjeni Local Municipality and the town of De Aar hosted the provincial launch of Operation Back to Basic aimed at fighting crime during the festive season. The event took place on 15 November 2016. Provincial Commissioner Lieutenant-General Peter Shivuri handed over the plan to Premier Sylvia Lucas and MEC for Transport, Safety and Liaison, Pauline Williams.

Members of the South African Police Service (SAPS) took the opportunity to showcase some of the techniques that they would employ in defence of community members. On the doorstep of the launch of the 16 Days of Activities of No Violence Against Women and Children, Lieutenant-General Shivuri urged the communities to fight abuse of women and children and other crimes, which occur frequently.

Premier Lucas gave the SAPS her vote of confidence by stating that the festive season represents goodwill and reconciliation. She went further by adding that the key focus areas of Operation Back to Basic was to enhance visible policing, efficient use of resources and embarking on informed deployment of operational resources. “Stakeholders cannot win the fight on crime without the active support of communities and individuals,” she said.

The Premier reminded the communities about the 16 Days of Activities of No Violence Against Women and Children, which is observed from 25 November to 10 December. She said victims of abuse do not report cases of abuse because of the status they find themselves in, “They are depending on their employed husbands and somehow are afraid that they may lose an income,” Premier Lucas told the community.



OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION.

Deputy President urges young people to make good career choices

By Odas Ngobeni: GCIS, Limpopo



Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa at Exxaro exhibition stall.



Jubi Mkhabele said:

“I am doing commercial subjects at school. Today I have learned about careers available in the field of commerce. It was also emphasised that we must choose careers that will accommodate our talents.”



Deputy Minister Mduzuzi Manana, Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa, MEC Ishmael Kgetjepe and Deputy Minister Madala Masuku.



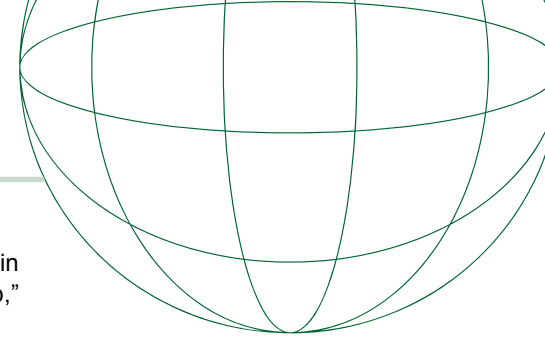
Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa at one of the exhibition stalls.

Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa says young people must choose careers and acquire skills that respond to the needs of the economy.

He was speaking at the Limpopo Youth Development and Career Expo at the Nkawkankowa Stadium on 19 November 2016. The Deputy Minister said, “Start thinking about the skills that our economy needs. Today, at this expo we are saying, raise your gaze and start looking for a number of other skills. Ask the question – where is our economy going?”

“Limpopo has chosen a trajectory for economic development that has to do with mineral processing. We have a lot of minerals in Limpopo. Careers related to that are going to be very important,” he continued.

The Deputy President also urged young people to explore careers in agriculture and tourism, saying, “In Limpopo we are also going to focus on agricultural processing. We are also going to be specialising in tourism and manufacturing through the economic zones. These are the careers that we would want young people to start opening their eyes to.”



Xikombiso Mashele said:

“Today we have learned a lot about other career opportunities outside of university. Many people are undermining the career courses offered at TVET colleges.”



Cate Mkhombo said:

“I have discovered that there are many opportunities even for learners from rural schools. All we need to do is work hard and we will realise our dreams of furthering our studies.”

“We have defeated apartheid. Apartheid had provided that black people can only get into certain skills. You can embark on any skills. Choose the one that you believe will enable you to get a job,” continued Deputy President Ramaphosa.

He was supported by Deputy Minister in the Presidency responsible for Youth, Buti Manamela, Deputy Minister Mduzuzi Manana of Higher Education and Training, Deputy Minister of Economic Development, Madala Masuku, and Limpopo MEC for Education, Ishmael Kgetjepe.

The expo saw over 100 exhibitors from government, institutions of higher learning, Sector Education and Training Authority, and the private sector providing career guidance and information on further education and training to learners who are in grades 10 to 12 and the unemployed youth.

The Deputy President announced that coal-mining company, Exxaro, has made available 200 bursaries for learners from Tzaneen. “Our presence here is not a one-day affair, we are going to leave a legacy and later we will come back to put up even a structure or an asset that young people can interact with and be able to get ahead with their own lives,” said Deputy President Ramaphosa.



Learners interacting with different stakeholders at the event.