



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS

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PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Cooperative contributes to economic development

By Doctrine Netshikweta: GCIS, Limpopo



The display of a coffee table produced by the Limpuma Furniture Cooperative.

On 7 April 2021, Vhulaudzi Tshitavha Traditional Leadership together with the Makhado Local Municipality and the Government Communication and Information System, visited Limpuma Furniture Cooperative, which is situated at Tshitavha in Vhembe District to check progress made at the cooperative.

Limpuma Furniture Cooperative is a community initiative focusing on woodwork production distributed within Limpopo and Mpumalanga. Chief Zwokundavhalala Radzilani from Tshitavha Traditional Authority says it is upon them as traditional leaders to monitor the cooperative as it is in line with the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan as articulated by President Cyril Ramaphosa.



Chief Zwokundavhalala Radzilani said:

“As the Traditional Council, we support community initiatives on economic development. That is why we ensured that Limpuma Furniture Cooperative receives our support. We provided the young people with a place for the workshop to ensure that their dreams go through, hence we always keep an eye on the institution to check if it is in line with government’s Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan.”

Chief Radzilani said Limpuma was established in 2015 by a group of five learners from villages in Limpopo and Mpumalanga, who formed part of the furniture-making learnership offered by the South African Forestry Company Limited.

Through its partnership with the National Youth Development Agency, the cooperative received industrial furniture manufacturing machines to kickstart its business operation.

The Department of Social Development also awarded Limpuma Furniture Cooperative a grant of R500 000 for building operational workshop. The Vhembe District Municipality recognised the cooperative for being the best youth business in the district in June 2019 and gave donated an amount of R60 000 as part of the reward.



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**Neluheni Mpho said:**

“As young people we have learnt that South Africa is more supportive to organised structures, hence we ensured that our learnership skills do not end in vain by establishing a cooperative, which government and private sector are keen to support. To date, we are known for producing wood products such as coffee table, desk beds, coffins and many more. In addition, the community also benefits as we sometimes repair school desk for colleges and give learnership training to learners from colleges.”



**Helen Silwane said:**

“As the South African Forestry Company Limited, we are not only focusing on generating profit but also ensuring that lives of people adjacent to our plantation get economical support. This is one of our mandate of ploughing back to our community. We have branches across the country. At Limpuma, we have supported them with pines they used for woodwork. We are pleased that Limpuma has extended its feet in such way that benefited the community. This stimulates us to extend our support knowing that in the end, the entire community will benefit.”

**PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.**

**Digital skills for uMfolozi youth**

*By Sipho Mthethwa: uMfolozi Thusong Service Centre, KwaZulu-Natal*

The uMfolozi Thusong Service Centre together with the uMfolozi Local Municipality hosted a digital skills training of young people in KwaMbonambi and surroundings areas.

The centre, in partnership with the Think Digital MI Skills, committed to doing their part to support digital learning and digital skills for youth by initiating a 30-day digital skills training programme.

The uMfolozi Thusong Service Centre has made a training support available to the youth of KwaMbonambi and surroundings areas, free of charge. The training, which commenced from 29 March to 28 April 2021, has equipped the youth with computer technology skills.



A training session on computer technology skills.

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Oversight visit and vaccination awareness

By Monique Warden: GCIS, Western Cape



Western Cape Health MEC Nomafrech Mbombo engaging with construction workers at the Kwa-Mandlenkosi Clinic.



The Kwa-Mandlenkosi Clinic will have more consultation rooms, a counselling room and its own medical dispensary.

The Western Cape Health MEC Nomafrech Mbombo, accompanied by the Beaufort West Hospital officials, conducted an oversight visit to Nelspoort and Kwa-Mandlenkosi in the Beaufort West Municipality on 16 April 2021.

The MEC's visit was in line with the Western Cape vaccination awareness drive and to do site inspection of renovations to the Nelspoort and Kwa-Mandlenkosi clinics. The two facilities have been extended to ensure that essential health services are available to communities.

MEC Mbombo also discussed the COVID-19 vaccine roll-out and emphasised that the Central Karoo District is ready to tackle Phase 2 of the national roll-out. She appealed to the people to assist the elderly in their communities to register on the vaccination database through the link <https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/#/>.

The MEC also urged the community to remain vigilant, highlighting that funerals remain hotspots for the spread of COVID-19.

**PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.**

**Crime Prevention Ministerial Imbizo**

*By Rapelang Motlagomang: GCIS, North West*



**Deputy Minister Cassel Mathale addressing the community of Jouberton at the Crime Prevention Imbizo.**



**Community members of Jouberton and members of the South African Police Service who were at the event.**

The area of Jouberton, under the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District, has recently been affected by the gang wars. In an effort to restore calm in the area, the Police Ministry held the Crime Prevention Ministerial Imbizo on 17 April 2021, under strict COVID-19 regulations.

The event was led by the Deputy Minister of Police Cassel Mathale, North West Premier Job Mokgoro, Members of the Executive Council and Mayors. It was aimed at finding solutions to the scourge crime that has hit the community.

Some of the concerns that the community raised included their safety in the streets of the township, construction projects being halted due to unrest and demarcation disputes where community members are redirected to other police stations when reporting crime. The community highlighted the importance of an increase in funding for the community policing forums to assist in getting more resources. Community members also pleaded for an increase in the number of police stations and the revamping of the old smaller ones.

Deputy Minister Mathale thanked community members for their participation in the session, and urged them to cooperate with the police to deal with crime in communities. He further strongly condemned the acts of other police officers who are tainting the image of the police, and said they shall be duly prosecuted.

Vincent Peter, a community member, expressed his happiness about the event. He said that their concerns have fallen on the relevant ears and hoped that solutions to the crime challenges would be introduced.

The Deputy Minister promised that the event is a solution-focused engagement. He urged the community to give relevant authorities enough time to investigate all the complaints, and he promised that the South African Police Service leadership will provide feedback.



**Lucky Ndlovu said:**

"I think the programme of today was very fruitful and it was a good initiative from government. I think that the community must just support it, considering the recent criminal activities. The South African Police Service responded swiftly to the community safety concerns and restored calm. I am very happy about that. I hope there will be follow-up events on the concerns raised today."



**Sipho Peter said:**

"This Crime Prevention Imbizo has worked in our favour as the community. We did not know who to turn to during the recent criminal activities. We thank all the leaders who were here today to listen to our concerns. We are going to support our police from now on in fighting all the criminality elements in our community."