



MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 13 / April 2016

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Special edition: Imbizo.

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

Government inspires hope and changes lives

By Lerato Setilo and Lehlohonolo Manoto: GCIS, Free State

The closing event of the National Imbizo Focus Week that started on 4 April 2016 was held at Moroka High School in Thaba Nchu on 10 April 2016. The Imbizo was conducted by the Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Enver Surty. The event was used to give feedback on issues emanating from an Imbizo initiated by the Deputy Minister of Communications, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, at Thaba Nchu in June 2015 and to evaluate the progress made since then.

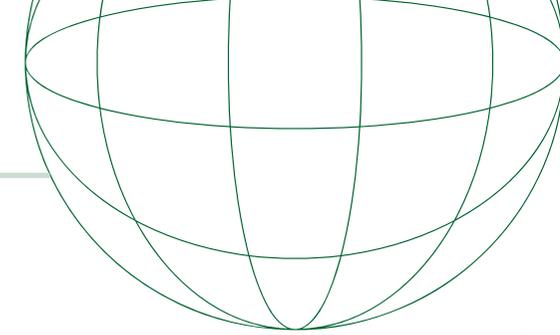
Deputy Minister Surty started the programme by visiting a media centre at Phetogane High School. Phetogane is one of the nine schools in the area that has received 26 tablets installed with educational programmes and connectivity from Vodacom. The Media Information and Communications Technologies Sector Education and Training Authority (MICT SETA) awarded 50 bursaries to learners in Thaba Nchu. Thirty-nine of the learners were present at the Imbizo to receive their bursary letters. These interventions were initiated by Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams.

“We have listened and we have responded,” said Deputy Minister Surty. He also emphasised the importance of technology and encouraged learners to look after the equipment. The Deputy Minister further reminded the audience that this year the country will be celebrating 40 years of the Soweto student uprising. He also encouraged Grade 12 learners to start applying for admission at institutions of higher learning.



government
communications

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Deputy Minister Surty addressing the audience at the closing of the National Imbizo Focus Week



Michael Currin, Chief Director: Provincial and Local Liaison at the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) and Deputy Minister Surty with learners at Phetogane High School.



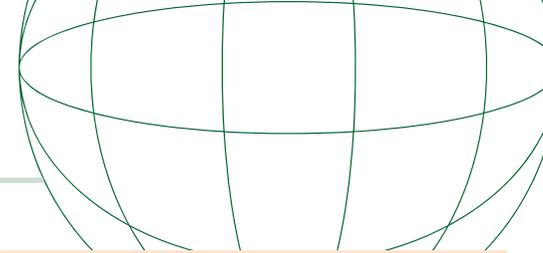
Deputy Minister Surty and GCIS Acting Director-General Donald Liphoko at the Imbizo.



Grade 12 learners who received bursaries from MICT SETA during the Imbizo.



Government officials, parents and learners at Moroka High School at the event.



Mpho Dikgole said:

“The Imbizo was very helpful. I will share the information I received with my peers. I have learned that hard work pays and that together we can make our country a better place to live in.”



Mojabeng Seekoei said:

“I have learned that even if you do not have money to go to school there are government departments that can assist me by giving me a bursary provided I pass very well at the end of the year.”



Nzimeni Eezul said:

“I learned that it is very important for me to work hard and not to blame my poor background because there are a lot of bursaries available from government.”



Sello Phetlu said:

“I am speaking on behalf of all school principals in Thaba Nchu when I say we are very thankful to government for giving our learners these bursaries and our schools tablets. I would like to encourage matriculants to work hard and take their studies very serious.”



Mpho Tsotetsi said:

“I have learned that so much money is invested in education, it really shows that matriculants have hope for the future. As a bursary recipient I feel very privileged to have been given a chance to further my studies.”



Amohelang Nchaka said:

“I found that this Imbizo was very informative especially when matriculants were encouraged to study hard and apply for universities and bursaries. One day we will thank government for this.”



Thuto Bomvana said:

“This event is very helpful because I learned a lot. This means that I should start working hard so that I can also be one of the bursary recipients.”



Mamiki Mphagane said:

“I really do not know what to say, when my son passed his matric I was very worried of how I am going to be able to pay for his education, then God answered my prayers and he got a bursary. I thank government for its hard work in ensuring that our children are able to further their studies.”



OUTCOME 9: RESPONSIVE, ACCOUNTABLE, EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM

Ekurhuleni bridges the digital divide

By Jacob Molete: GCIS, Gauteng

As part of the National Imbizo Focus Week, Telecommunication and Postal Services Deputy Minister Hlengiwe Mkhize hosted the Smart City Connectivity Imbizo on 7 April 2016 at Tsakane Library in Tsakane to monitor and engage the community on the City of Ekurhuleni Digital City Project.

Finance and City Planning MMC, Moses Makwakwa, said the department has contributed R1,25 million through this project to make the Smart City concept a success; while the City of Ekurhuleni will spend R89 billion to become a “smart city”.

The Digital City concept is centred around taking government and specifically local government into the digital age, to create a smart community that can tap into information platforms, thus creating a smart city.

“The Smart City concept goes beyond the use of information and communication technology for better resource use and less emissions. It means smarter urban transport networks, upgraded water supply and waste-disposal facilities, and smarter access to education at smart libraries and public facilities. It also encompasses a more interactive and responsive city administration, safer public spaces and meeting the needs of smart communities,” said Deputy Minister Mkhize.

Moreover, the City of Ekurhuleni is making strides towards bridging the digital divide through Digital City project, which has connected 326 WiFi hotspots that will provide free Internet and email access with a minimum of 250MB free data given to citizens of Ekurhuleni every day.

“We have installed the WiFi infrastructure in all municipal facilities such as customer-care centres, public libraries and health clinics as the city’s WiFi sites hotspots. Furthermore, in pursuit of the Digital City initiative, Ekurhuleni has launched the first basket of e-government services through the e-Siyakhokha programme. The Ekurhuleni Finance Department is breaking new grounds in paying municipal rates and taxes and services on the e-government platform. The e-Siyakhokha project was developed to ensure a seamless, quick and easy method of paying your municipal account. Debt collection and credit control is two of our major challenges in Ekurhuleni,” said MMC Makwakwa.

Through the Digital City project, Ekurhuleni wants to become a connected smart community that uses the broadband communications infrastructure of the City of Ekurhuleni to establish new and innovative services to meet the needs of the community and all stakeholders.

Community members were thankful to government for this developmental initiative.



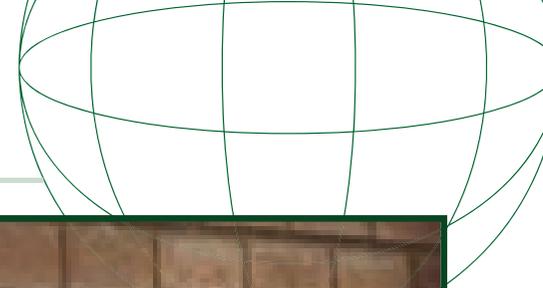
Finance MMC Makwakwa welcoming community members during the Smart City Imbizo.



Tsakane community members attending the Smart City Imbizo at Tsakane Library.



Technician Touch Mugabe installing WiFi connectivity infrastructure at Tsakane Library.



Luyanda Mpoki said:

“With high prices of data connectivity, I am grateful to the city’s roll-out of free 250MB WiFi to us, because as students we simply come to the library to read and access the Internet to do our research in order to complete our assignments.”

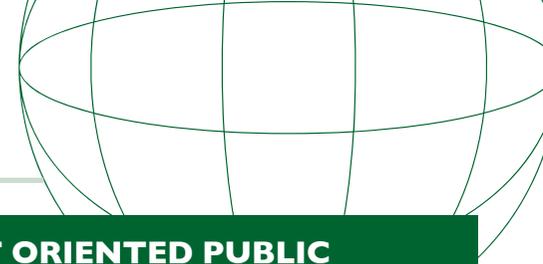


Nomza Mavuso said:

“We were grateful for the 250MB free WiFi data, in order for our children to access the Internet and emails at the library, however, we wish to appeal to the city to roll out more WiFi hotspots sites to include public places such as taxi ranks, malls and even homes.”



Zondile Nkosi said: “Tsakane is a growing township therefore it needs more libraries, one library is not enough, making it a Wi-Fi hot spot site means high influx of people to access the Internet, therefore more libraries need to be built to accommodate people residing far from this library, who want to access the 250MB free WiFi.”



MEC Mabusakhulu and Inkosi Shinga at the event.



Ugu Deputy Mayor speaking at the event.

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

Minister conducts Mining and Economic Development Imbizo

By Nomzamo Zondi: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The community of KwaNdumakude in Umzumbe Local Municipality appreciated the visit by the Department of Mineral Resources Minister Mosebenzi Zwane, who was accompanied by the Economic Development Tourism and Environment Affairs MEC Mike Mabusakhulu and Ugu Local Municipality leadership who hosted a Mining Development Imbizo on 7 April 2016. The National Imbizo Focus Week is a programme where Cabinet Ministers engage with the public on an unmediated platform. The Imbizo focused on economic development in mining, which was aimed at empowering community members and advance awareness and understanding of the Nine-Point Plan. The plan supports the implementation of the National Development Plan and is intended to ignite economic growth and create jobs.

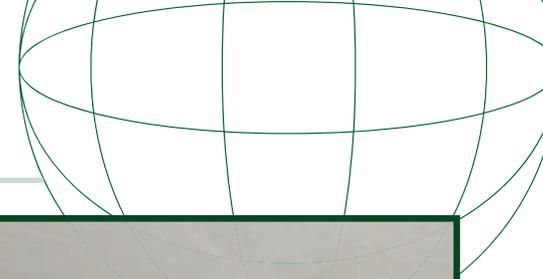
In Umzumbe Local Municipality, it was identified that there are many activities around mineral mining, especially of sand and lime stone. The community raised pertinent issues on hazards caused by sand mining in the area and the community not benefiting from the mineral resources because people from other areas are mining in Umzumbe.

“We appreciate government interacting face to face with our people with the hope of intervening. We have outcries from community members about the mining at the community river, which leaves it damaged and unsafe for their use, we hope the department will assist the community as a matter of urgency,” said Inkosi Shinga.

Following robust interaction between the community and the leadership, the Minister committed to host a follow up three-day workshop for the community to assist community members who have an interest in starting a business in the mining sector. “President Zuma has sent us to go out and communicate with the communities, hear what they have to say and deliver. We are here to do just that,” said Minister Zwane.

“*Siyabonga* Minister for coming to Umzumbe to share information with us on mining, but we would like to request you to assist small-business owners who mine sand and make building block to fast track the approval of mining permits because we create jobs for our community and if one is shut down for a day or two because they cannot produce a permit, families will suffer,” pleaded one community member.

MEC Mabusakhulu requested the department to assist the province in doing research on all the minerals that the province has such as coal, titanium and lime, and how much of it is available and how long it can last the community when it is mined, because that would determine the sustainable economic development and transformation that mining can provide for the community.



Nosihle Radebe said:

“I was very interested in the sand mining, I did not even know what lime stone is and what it is used for. I learned that illegal mining is prohibited. I like what the Minister mentioned that there are many opportunities for the youth to create jobs in the mining sector.”



Different service providers at the event.



Minister Zwane and the Speaker of Umzumbe Local Municipality.



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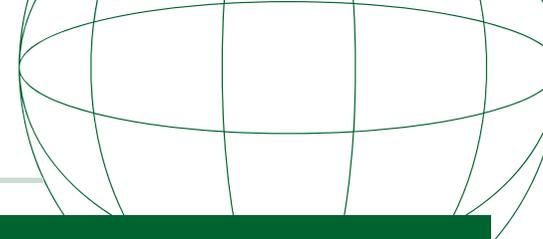
Vukile Tenza said:

“I was very interested in the fact that we must get up and do things for ourselves and not depend on government. There are opportunities in mining and we can start our own businesses. It really helps when government comes to communities because we can ask them questions directly and they are answered immediately.”



Zandile Mthembu said:

“We have been very upset with the way the mining has been going on in this community. Consultants were exploiting and bribing us. I love it when government comes to the people especially from national level. We would love government to assist more women to get into mining and make a good living.”



Pricilla Mmampuru said: “I was assisted by the Department of Labour to get employment. I am now working at the South African Police Service.”



Stephen Machela said: “The Department of Labour helped me to find employment at Bosch company in Brits.”



Community members accessing services from different service providers at their respective stalls.

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

Imbizo brings hope to jobseekers

By Ephraim Malema: GCIS, North West

The Deputy Minister of Labour, Phathekile Holomisa, conducted an Imbizo at Mathibestad in Moretele Local Municipality on 8 April 2016.

The Imbizo was also attended by employers from private and public sectors. The Department of Labour’s Public Employment Services and municipality hosted a day-long jobs summit.

The Deputy Minister said his department would continue to facilitate employment opportunities for the unemployed, especially the youth. “This Imbizo is aimed at bringing industrial investment to the local area and to bring together, work seekers and employers to exploit potential employment opportunities,” said Deputy Minister Holomisa.

Jobseekers were afforded the opportunity to apply for jobs from private companies that attended the Imbizo.



Deputy Minister Holomisa addressing members of the community during the Imbizo.



Some of the community members at the event.



Different stakeholders at the event.

