



# MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

### Municipality hosts National Communicators' Forum

By Tabita Ngqunge: GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality hosted the National Communicators' Forum (NCF) at the East London International Convention Centre from 27 to 28 September 2018. The NCF is South African Local Government Association's (SALGA) effort to promoting a platform for learning, knowledge sharing and promoting favourable environment for local government communication to take place. The forum is held annually and is attended by heads of communications from all municipalities in South Africa. The theme for this year's event was: "Bringing Local Government Closer to the People".

The forum sought to strengthen the interface between SALGA and communicators towards local government improvement. It further aimed to enable and support municipal communicators in their important role to inform and educate citizens, and to provide a platform for the sharing of municipal innovations and good practices in relation to communications that will inform improvements in the sector.

**The session also provided a platform for municipal communicators to deliberate on local government performance. Some of the issues that were discussed:**

- Dealing with crisis and negative communication: how to deal with media communication and change the narrative around local government.
- Media management.



Some of the communicators that were in attendance.



government communications

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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- Communication in the Fourth Industrial Revolution; the growth of the digital economy and how to maximise the benefits of science and technology for municipalities.
- Social media.
- Unveiling of the communication policy, which emphasises that effective channels of communication are established, supported and maintained.

Ongama Mtimka from the Nelson Mandela University warned communicators against attaching themselves to politics. The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) Provincial Director and member of the core team, Ndlelantle Pinyana, spoke of the new Cabinet approved communications policy. "The policy looks at the society that we are in and the kind of communications methodology that we should anchor our communications strategies and platforms around development communications," said Pinyana. He also spoke about the responsibility of communicators to deliberately have their political and administrative leadership to talk to communities and ensure that services are delivered.



► Government officials during an interview with Keith Ngesi Radio.



► GCIS Provincial Director Ndlelantle Pinyana presenting on the National Communications Policy.



**Sefoka said:**

"We are very excited about the opening of the MRD TB Ward in our hospital as the affected patients will be able to access the necessary treatment."



**Conny Nkwana said:**

"I am very happy about today's event where the MEC of Health opened the MRD TB Ward in Matlala Hospital. That is why I prepared a poem to thank what happened today."

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

**MEC opens MRD TB Ward**

*By Nkopodi Mokgoma: GCIS, Limpopo*



► MEC Phophi Ramathuba officially opening the MRD TB Ward at Matlala Hospital.



► Some of the community members who attended the event.



► Community members receiving services at the exhibition stalls.

The community members of Tsimanyane and Sekhukhune District Municipality at large were happy on 11 September 2018 when the MEC for Health, Phophi Ramathuba, officially opened the MRD TB Ward at Matlala Hospital.

Matlala Hospital is located in one of the deep rural areas of Sekhukhune District, in Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality where the majority of the residents are unemployed and cannot afford to travel long distances to access health services. In the past, patients with tuberculosis (TB) were forced to travel approximately 100 kilometres to access the relevant treatment in Mokopane.

The MEC for Treasury, Rob Tooley, who accompanied MEC

Ramathuba during the opening of the MRD TB Ward, appealed to the communities to respect nurses as they are doing an important work. MEC Ramathuba indicated that she had visited Matlala Hospital in the past and saw that the environment was not good, she therefore realised the need to do something urgently hence the refurbishing of the MRD TB Ward.

"We need to fix the facilities in public hospitals for the people to get first-hand treatment," she said to a loud applause. "In so doing, we are also honouring Madiba and MaSisulu," she added.

MEC Ramathuba also thanked Standard Bank for upgrading the facility as this was a public-private partnership initiative.



**Charles Thema said:**

“As deaf people we face a lot of suffering as there are no proper opportunities given to us. We hope to get a positive response from Parliament on the memorandum handed to the Department of Education.”



**Welcome Nyalunga said:**

“We are here to fight for deaf education as a lot deaf people do not have an opportunity to equal education. We want more appointment of deaf people to teach our children and also the building of schools for the deaf.”

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

### Silent walk to bridge the gap

By Nontuthuzelo Jas: GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Deaf Federation of South Africa (DeafSA) in Mpumalanga hosted silent walks on 28 and 29 September 2018 in Nelspruit and Middleburg in recognition of Deaf Awareness Month. The aim of the walk was to bridge the communication gap between the deaf and hearing people in the province.

DeafSA members marched to the provincial Department of Education where they handed over a memorandum requesting equal education for deaf learners. Some of their demands were that teachers must be equipped with sign-language skills or have assistants who understand the language. The memorandum was accepted by the acting Deputy Director-General Senzangakhona Mkhwanazi on behalf of the MEC for Education, Sibusiso Malaza, and he promised that the MEC would look into their demands and respond accordingly.

The Chairperson of DeafSA in Mpumalanga, Charles Thema, said, “Learners who are deaf need to be provided with the same opportunities as those who are able to hear. They need to be assisted through sign language so that it is easier for them to perform their work at school. We are therefore looking forward to the response by the Department of Education and hope the march will yield good results even for the future generation.”



► Members of the DeafSA outside the Mpumalanga Department of Education.



► Acting Deputy Director-General Senzangakhona Mkhwanazi receiving the memorandum from the DeafSA.



► DeafSA members at Adelaide Tambo Park in Middelburg.



► A poster at the DeafSA silent walk.



**Merriam Mokwena said:**

“It is good that government distributes information. I will share this information with my family and friends.”



**Palesa Setuyana said:**

“This is a great initiative that government is doing. I never knew that there was an IRC right here in town. I am going to use it more especially because I am looking for a job.”



**Masego Pholo said:**

“I did not know the various forms of corruption. Now I know and will play my part to help the anti-corruption campaign.”

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

**Government reaching out to the public**

*By Thulaganyo Gaserotse: GCIS, North West*



► **A GCIS official distributing government information materials to the public.**



► **Community members with some of the materials they received.**

Government Communication and Information System’s (GCIS) Information Resource Centre (IRC) conducted an outreach on 28 September 2018, in front of the Mafikeng Museum to provide information to the public. The purpose of the event was to raise awareness on corruption in the Public Service and also the private sector. The event also sought to inform community members about government services provided by the IRC.

Community members were taught about corruption and its dangers, and the role they can play in fighting it. The community was also encouraged to take the Anti-Corruption Pledge. Over 200 government information materials were distributed, including anti-corruption leaflets, South African Social Security Agency leaflets, Insession magazine and the *Vuk’uzenzele* newspaper.