



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Activation awareness on SoNA and voter registration

By Ndyebo Kopo and Dibandlela Nkume: GCIS, Eastern Cape



An IEC official, Portial Momoti, engaging with a resident at KwaBhaca Shoprite Mall.



A GCIS official, Diba Nkume, interacting with commuters on a train to Uitenhage.

In January 2019, Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) partnered with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and the Department of Home Affairs to conduct awareness campaigns on the State of the Nation Address (SoNA), voter registration and encourage residents to collect their identity documents at Home Affairs offices.

The campaigns which were held at Alfred Nzo District Municipality, in KwaBhaca Shoprite Mall and at Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality from 24 to 25 January 2019, also aimed at getting people's views on voting. Nkosikhona Jwende from Silvercity encouraged young people to register to vote. "I think voting is important because anyone who has voted has the right to hold the public representatives to account," he said.

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The campaign in Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality utilised different communication platforms to reach the community. Four community radio stations, targeting different demographics of listeners were used for interviews to raise awareness on the 2019 SoNA and voter registration. Representatives from GCIS and Home Affairs were interviewed on Madibaz Radio, Bay FM, PE FM and Nkqubela FM. They encouraged citizens in the metro to urgently apply for and collect their identity documents from Home Affairs offices for them to register to vote.

On 25 January, the government officials took a train from Port Elizabeth to Uitenhage and back, distributing information leaflets on the 2019 SoNA and voter registration. Commuters were afforded an opportunity to ask questions around voting and voter registration.



GCIS and Home Affairs officials during a talk show on Madibaz Radio.



Maria Van Staden said:
"I will register to vote because I want to see change."



Zolani Sikhala said:
"I can't wait because voting to me means that I am unlocking opportunities to my bright future as I will vote for a government I know will fulfil my needs."

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

Umngeni town hall dialogue: The Independent Electoral Commission reaches out to the community

By Mlungisi Dlamini: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



People who were in attendance.

In a bid to encourage communities to provide their addresses and eventually vote in the upcoming general elections, the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) visited the Mpophoni community in Howick, KwaZulu-Natal (KZN) to engage with residents and various political parties in a voter registration dialogue, which was held on 24 January 2019. This is one of the areas where people have vowed not to vote due to challenges associated with delivery of basic services.

The MEC for KZN Cooperative Government and Traditional Affairs, Ms Nomusa Dube-Ncube said it was encouraging to see people voicing their views about government operations because it means that they understand democratic processes. She was sharing the platform on a sit-down panel interview with KZN Head of Elections, Mr Mawethu Mosery, uMgungundlovu Mayor Thobekile Maphumulo and uMngeni Local Municipality Mayor Sizwe Sokhela.

Community members expressed concerns about overflowing septic tanks, allocation of Reconstruction and Development Programme houses, employment opportunities and the shutting down of a local dairy farm.

"What you are raising today is stimulating us to go back to the drawing board and develop strategies that will help us deal with your challenges. We are going to ask the mayors to investigate your issues and eventually address them," said the MEC.

On the closing of the dairy farm, the MEC committed to engage with her Economic Development counterpart in the province to see if his department can assist in forming local cooperatives that can resuscitate the farm.

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

Government holds a social sector dialogue at the Victor Khanye Local Municipality

By Reki Skosana: GCIS, Mpumalanga



David Mtshali said:
“The session was beneficial to us all as NPOs, and I wish we could have them more often”.



Christina Bhuda said:
“I thank our leaders for today’s session”.



Putros Motshwane said:
“I believe our government somehow made mistakes regarding the interaction with NPOs and they have learnt their lesson. This time around, I am hopeful that the government is going to assist us and today’s event was a fruitful one”.



Group discussions.



The feedback session.

On 24 January 2019, Government Communication and Information system (GCIS), the Department of Social Development and other stakeholders conducted a social sector dialogue at Simon Gondwe Sports Center in the Victor Khanye Local Municipality. The dialogue sought to consolidate various challenges encountered by civil society organisations. This was in line with a call made by President Cyril Ramaphosa, during the 2018 State of the Nation Address, that stakeholders should convene a Social Sector Summit to address challenges faced by civil society organizations.

The issues raised in the session will be escalated to a provincial summit and ultimately be taken to a national summit for consideration. This is expected to improve the interface between the State and civil society organizations.

Delegates said they were pleased to be afforded an opportunity to raise their concerns and were happy with the recognition they are getting. Representatives from National Development Agency (NDA), Independent Electoral Commission, the local municipality, departments of Arts and Culture, and Sport and Recreation, local based non-profit organisations (NPOs) and cooperatives were also part of the dialogue.



Clarence Kaars said:
“Registration was smooth, quick and easy. There were no queues.”



Tshegofatso Pududu said:
“I registered without any challenges. The officials are very patient and helpful. A lot of my friends did not experience any challenges as well, so I guess, the department is ready for this. The system is working.”



Karabo Kganela said:
“I registered online. It was quick and easy. No queues, nothing.”

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

Monitoring of registration processes at tertiary institutions

By Masego Mollo: GCIS, Northern Cape



Deputy Minister Manamela during a visit to Sol Plaatje University.



Deputy Minister Manamela engaging with students.

ON 23 January 2019, Higher Education and Training Deputy Minister, Buti Manamela, visited the Sol Plaatje University and the Northern Cape Urban TVET College's City Campus to monitor admission and registration processes.

Acting Vice-Chancellor for the Sol Plaatje University, Professor Jean Baxen, did a presentation highlighting how her university will contribute to the social and academic project in South Africa. Brian Madalane, the Principal of Northern Cape Urban TVET College, indicated that there is need for change in programmes that his college is offering and that some courses such as Information Technology and Jewellery Design have already been discontinued.

Deputy Minister Manamela also engaged with the Student Representative Council, management and members of the National Education, Health and Allied Workers' Union regarding challenges that needed to be addressed. A walkabout around the premises was undertaken to monitor how the department was doing in terms of ensuring quality tertiary education.