



# MY DISTRICT TODAY



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## CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

For more information about similar programmes that are run across the country, contact one of the following provincial offices:

### EASTERN CAPE

Ndlelantle Pinyana  
043 722 2602 or 076 142 8606  
[ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za](mailto:ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za)

### FREE STATE

Lineo Sehlabaka  
051 448 4504 or 082 772 9445  
[Lineo@gcis.gov.za](mailto:Lineo@gcis.gov.za)

### GAUTENG

Peter Gumede  
011 834 3560 or 083 570 8080  
[peterg@gcis.gov.za](mailto:peterg@gcis.gov.za)

### KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi  
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420  
[ndala@gcis.gov.za](mailto:ndala@gcis.gov.za)

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

### Premier delivers speech to the people

By Poppy Maluka: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Community members at Miriam Mokgakane Hall in Acornhoek watching the address by Premier Mabuza.

Mpumalanga Premier David Mabuza delivered his State of the Province Address (SoPA) on 26 February 2016. The main event was held at Government Complex and all districts were afforded the opportunity to view the Premier's address together to create more awareness on government programmes for the 2016/2017 financial year. Three live viewing events were organised for Acornhoek, Vaalbank and Mayflower community members. More than 1 000 people attended the events. Government publications such as *Vuk'uzenzele* and *Pocket Guide to South Africa* were disseminated.



government  
communications

Department:  
Government Communication and Information System  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**LIMPOPO**

Thanyani Ravhura  
015 291 4689 or 082 421 3461  
[thanyani@gcis.gov.za](mailto:thanyani@gcis.gov.za)

**MPUMALANGA**

Jerry Nkosi  
013 753 2397 or 082 316 5295  
[jerry@gcis.gov.za](mailto:jerry@gcis.gov.za)

**NORTH WEST**

Mareka Mofokeng  
018 381 7071 or 083 382 5909  
[mareka@gcis.gov.za](mailto:mareka@gcis.gov.za)

Kagisho Meremetsi  
018 381 7071 or 084 818 0613  
[kagisho@gcis.gov.za](mailto:kagisho@gcis.gov.za)

**NORTHERN CAPE**

Marius Nagel  
053 832 1378/9 or 083 778 9179  
[mariusn@gcis.gov.za](mailto:mariusn@gcis.gov.za)

**WESTERN CAPE**

Ayanda Holo  
021 697 0145 or 061 488 0634  
[holo@gcis.gov.za](mailto:holo@gcis.gov.za)



**Community members watching the SoPA 2016 from the live viewing screen at Mayflower Community Hall.**



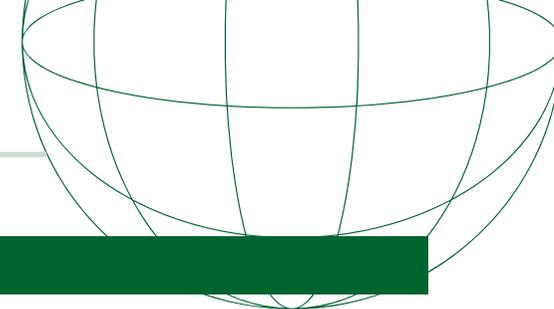
**Jabulani Masana said:**

“The Premier touched on issues of service delivery, which are the reasons behind a number of protests around the province. He did indicate that service delivery would be sped up.”



**Jetro Sibuyi said:**

“We want be employed in our own communities whenever there are job opportunities.”



## OUTCOME I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

### Westrand War Room Career Day

By Tshidi Mokoka: GCIS, Gauteng



Community Development Worker Pinki Sesing and Government Communication and Information System's Tshidi Mokoka distributing information products to learners.



Learners from Wedela interacting with Aisha Muyanga from Sci-Bono.



Ntsoaki Sebeho from the GCRA interacting with learners.

Science and Technology Minister Naledi Pandor paid a visit to Eden Life Mission Church in Wedela on 7 February 2016 to engage with Grade 8 to 11 learners on the importance of science and technology. The area is plagued by social challenges such as crime, teenage pregnancy, drug and alcohol abuse, etc. The Minister's message was to inspire young people to change their lives by studying subjects such as mathematics and science. Community members and organs of civil society were encouraged to provide support to learners and teachers. Research shows that learners in Wedela are not doing well in mathematics and science. In order to improve these results; relevant stakeholders need to provide additional support to these learners.

The event was driven by the Westrand War Room Forum as a feedback session from the activation previously conducted in the area when young people raised issues about lack of information to improve their lives. Stakeholders from Sci-Bono and Gauteng City Region Academy (GCRA) were at the event to distribute information and provide career guidance to learners.



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

### Healthy lifestyle for the elderly

By Mlungisi Dlamini and Thandinkosi Zulu: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



#### Nokuthula Latuka said:

"I have learned that it is important to exercise for better health. I have also learned that I have to perform house chores instead of delegating in order to keep my muscles active at all times and avoid chronic diseases. It is important to unite as senior citizens and discuss our challenges together. I wish the district can sustain this programme and organise social clubs for senior citizens where we can exchange ideas on how to improve our social lives and discuss challenges affecting one another."

The uMgungundlovu District Municipality partnered with Asizenzeleni non-profit organisation, Age in Action, Department of Sport and Recreation and the KwaZulu-Natal Office of the Premier to host an information sharing physical training session to capacitate senior citizens with health and social issues. The event was held at the Cathedral Church in Pietermaritzburg on 24 February 2016.

The event got very exciting when officials from the abovementioned stakeholders took the senior citizens through aerobics for 30 minutes.

"It is essential for elderly people to exercise regularly and eat a balanced diet in order to ensure that they live a healthy lifestyle," said Princess Jali, explaining the purpose of the day.

Lindiwe Zondo from the Office of the Premier said people often exercise in various ways such as house chores and walking long distances. However, healthy diet remains a challenge. "People should take extra care towards eating a balanced diet because it has a critical role in building strong and healthy bodies," she said.

Arthur Maseko from the Department of Sport and Recreation said correct nutrition is supplementary to chronic medication. He encouraged elders to do regular practice at home as this will ensure that uMgungundlovu District positions itself in the first place in the provincial Golden Games. "This year we are planning to increase the number of participants to represent us in the provincial games," said Maseko. He added that necessary support will be provided to ensure that all teams have sufficient resources.

Mduduzi Mncwabe from Age in Action, advised senior citizens to be vigilant when receiving their social grants since there are criminals who are targeting them. "There is a number of fraudulent incidents that affect the elderly at pay points hence it is important to count your money before leaving the pay point," he said. He further warned that throwing away payslips may have a negative impact now that thugs use the numbers on the pension slips to buy electricity or airtime. "Several reports have indicated that these thugs fraudulently use your pension payslips for insurance funeral covers," concluded Mncwabe.



#### Anthony Muyanga said:

"My observation was that our government is caring for us as senior citizens by organising events of this kind. I have learned that through body exercises we can have fresh bodies and minds so that we can forget the negative past that has affected our livelihood. I have learned that it is important to unite as senior citizens in our areas and discuss the current challenges and report them to the authorities so that they can be resolved with immediate effect. I would like our government to employ people to look after the needs of senior citizens."



#### Nomakhosi Zondi said:

"My experience of the programme is that we must protect our pension payslips by destroying them after we have received our pension pay out because criminals are using them to buy airtime or fraudulently register us to insurance companies for their personal gain. We were also told to report officials who steal our money at the pay points. I now understand the importance of counting my money during the pension pay out before I go back home. I wish that government can help us with RDP houses as senior citizens."



**Remona Basson said:**

“I found out about the trust in 2007. I was struggling to get my business up and running but the trust assisted me with a grant in 2015. The trust managed to assist me to establish a base for my business at my house and also to get a bakkie for transport. I urge women to stand up and make a better life for themselves and provide for their families.”

## OUTCOME 5: A SKILLED AND CAPABLE WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT AN INCLUSIVE GROWTH PATH

### Government supports women entrepreneurs

*By Boitumelo Boshupeng: GCIS, Northern Cape*



**Some of the stakeholders attending the breakfast session.**



**MEC Shushu addressing women entrepreneurs and stakeholders at the event.**

Since the establishment of Mme Re Ka Thusa Trust Fund by then Premier of the Northern Cape, Dipuo Peters, and through the support of the current Premier, Sylvia Lucas, the trust has made huge strides in the lives of Northern Cape women by bringing financial and expert solutions to many challenges facing women entrepreneurs.

The trust fund educates and capacitates women around the province through training sessions to ensure sustainable businesses. The trust has partnered with institutions such as the South African Revenue Services to ensure that businesses are tax compliant. Speaking at the stakeholder engagement breakfast, which was held on 25 February 2016 at the Kimberley Country Club, the manager of the trust, Gladys Motshela, thanked partners such as the Government Communication and Information System, banking institutions and the Small Enterprise Development Agency for their meaningful contribution towards the success of the trust.

The trust has assisted many women beneficiaries by providing them with interest-free loans to an amount of R50 000.

Northern Cape Agriculture MEC Norman Shushu, who represented the Premier, reiterated the role of women in the society by saying that women are the most selfless people. He continued by mentioning that mothers are able to be very effective by surviving on the little that they get and managing to support their families and communities. “It is not the number of women Mme Re Ka Thusa assists but the impact that the trust can bring to the few women it assists,” he said. The trust gives women entrepreneurs the confidence to take calculated risks and achieve success.