




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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OUTCOME I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Deputy Minister visits King Sabata Dalindyebo College

By Vuyani Sibene: GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mduduzi Manana, visited the King Sabata Dalindyebo TVET College on 5 June 2015 for the First Things First Higher Education AIDS (HEAIDS) Programme.

The HEAIDS programme provides health advisory services that include HIV Counselling and Testing, Tuberculosis (TB) and sexually-transmitted infections (STIs) screening. Now in its fifth year, First Things First encourages South Africans to look after their health and for youth to know their HIV status, screen and treat STIs and TB.

HEAIDS is an initiative of the Department of Higher Education and Training in partnership with the Department of Health.

Deputy Minister Manana was addressing challenges around stigma and discrimination to increase momentum in:

- Reducing HIV/TB/STI infection rates
- Empowering girls and women
- Achieving greater equality and social cohesion
- Transforming TVET colleges.



Deputy Minister Manana addressing the students.

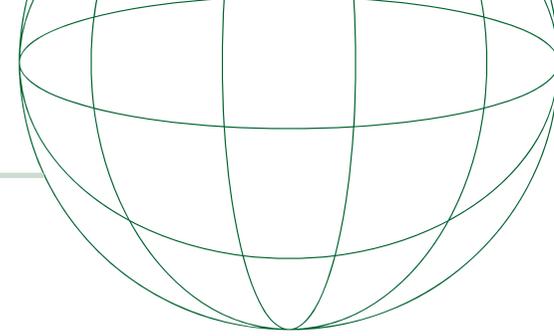


Other dignitaries who attended the event.



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Deputy Minister Manana interacting with the King Sabata Dalinyebo TVET College students.



The Deputy Minister being interviewed by the SABC.

“Everyday, more than 1 000 new HIV infections occur in South Africa. Most are among young people – the very foundation of our country’s future, and most are young women. We have no higher priority today than to close the tap on new infections. We must do all we can to treat and support people living with HIV and AIDS, but we cannot treat our way out of this epidemic,” said the Deputy Minister.

This initiative will not only benefit the close to two-million students and college staff but also their families and the broader community.

“Last year, First Things First helped over 100 000 young people to get tested for HIV and use this as a stepping stone to protect their health since they also received screening and treatment for other STIs and TB,” said Doctor Aluhluwalia.



OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Government moving education forward

By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga

In a bid to align with all government priorities, Ehlanzeni District Municipality does not want to be left behind. During the official opening of the career expo on 18 May 2015, Ehlanzeni District Municipality Acting Mayor Jimmy Mnisi said, "We cannot be as prosperous as required if we leave some of our own behind."

The municipality has been working tirelessly to ensure the mainstreaming of previously marginalised groups in society, particularly those with special needs. This year's career expo has taken another step by ensuring that people with special needs from local schools were the first to be invited.

Dr M A Mdhluli from the Department of Basic Education said exhibitors should know that they are not wasting their time by taking information to the learners because by guiding a child, they are helping a family. He further said that learners should know that success does not happen by chance but through hard work.

The inclusion of people with special needs in the education and economy mainstream is very critical. The purpose of the career expo is to help Grade 12 learners to know about different career opportunities that they can pursue in line with their school subjects. The expo also emphasised the importance of applying for tertiary admission on time in order to avoid disappointments. Information on available funding options was also shared with the learners.

Some of the institutions that were part of the expo included South African Pulp and Paper Industries (Sappi), Mondi Science, Council for Scientific and Industrial Research, National Youth Development Agency, South African Agency for Science and Technology Advancement, Tshwane University of Technology and Mpumalanga University.



Dr Mdhluli addressing the learners.



Acting Mayor Mnisi addressing stakeholders and learners before the official opening of the career expo.



Lerato from Sembcorp Silulumanzi engaging with the learners.



Lerato from Sembcorp Silulumanzi engaging with the learners.



Eskom officials from Kusile Power Station interacting with the learners.



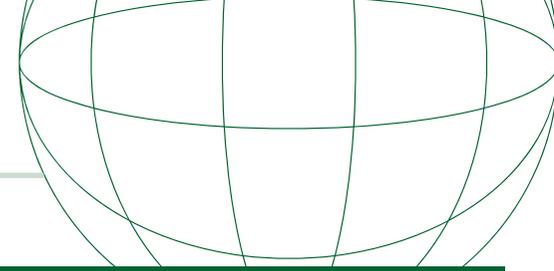
Pretoria Zoo Lake official educating learners about Zoology.



People with special needs also visited the stalls.



Sappi Ngodwana also shared information on scarce skills.



Joseph Manjengwa said:

“I am from Zimbabwe. I came to South Africa in 2006 looking for a job at Zebediela Citrus Estate. I have been living in Zebediela since 2006. The traditional authority knows me because I participate in all community activities such as funerals and weddings.”



Kenneth Mandebele said:

“I am from Zimbabwe and I came to South Africa in 2010 looking for a job as a builder. I live freely here at Zebediela and I also participate in community activities such as stockvel and funerals.”

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

Foreign nationals living safely in Zebediela

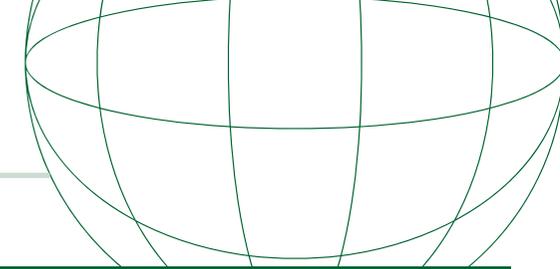
By Reneilwe Moningi: GCIS, Limpopo

South Africa has witnessed attacks and looting of businesses owned by foreign nationals in the past few weeks. Government condemns the attacks and is now implementing a campaign to ensure that the unfortunate situation does not repeat itself. As part of the campaign to stop attacks on foreigners, the Government Communication and Information System in the Capricorn District partnered with Zebediela Citrus Estate and ZB FM to visit foreigners who have good stories to tell about living in South Africa. The call for unity, security and protection of foreign nationals gives hope for a peaceful society.



Phanuel Badza said:

“I came to South Africa in 2008 and I stay in Zebediela, I came here looking for a job so that I can support my family. I have never experienced any form of violence because even the chief knows where I stay and since the outbreak of attacks on foreign nationals, community members have called to check if I am safe. Others even came to my place just to make sure that I am safe.”



Executive Mayor Nxumalo, Minister Mokonyane, Deputy President Ramaphosa and Premier Mchunu singing the National Anthem during the opening of the Alternative Sanitation Indaba.



Minister Mokonyane addressing delegates and stakeholders at the Indaba.



Deputy President Ramaphosa addressing delegates and stakeholders at the Indaba.

OUTCOME 8: SUSTAINABLE HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND AN IMPROVED QUALITY OF HOUSEHOLD LIFE

Minister declares sanitation revolution

By Nompilo Mchunu and Msawakhe Nyadi: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

Water and Sanitation Minister Nomvula Mokonyane declared a sanitation revolution for the country on 15 May at the Alternative Sanitation Indaba in Durban.

The Minister was accompanied by Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa, Water and Sanitation Deputy Minister Pamela Tshwete, KwaZulu-Natal Premier Senzo Mchunu and eThekweni Metro Mayor James Nxumalo. The Indaba was held under the theme: “A dignified toilet is not all about flushing”.

The programme was divided into two phases: sanitation technologies site visits to Besters Pit Emptying Project at Inanda and the Indaba.

Minister Mokonyane said that for the country to achieve radical transformation, sanitation revolution was essential. “Nothing short of a revolution will achieve the universal access target in the country, let alone Sub-Saharan Africa. To us, the sanitation revolution should become a vehicle through which the objectives of the National Development Plan can be achieved in a more organic and integrated manner to realise a people-centric, radical strategic socio-economic transformation,” she said.

The Minister also outlined several dimensions of the revolution. At the centre of the approach is introducing the use of innovative and technological advances, a combination of centralised and localised water treatment and the governance model. “This sanitation revolution needs a strong social compact and partnerships that straddle across various stakeholders, both in the public and the private sectors as well as community structures,” she continued.

Deputy President Ramaphosa echoed the call for a revolution. He said that sanitation is central to the national development effort and that government reaffirms its commitment to dignity, equality and social justice.

“Denying access to sanitation is denying basic human rights. Lack of sanitation obstructs the right to life and health and hampers the right to education. Inadequate school sanitation facilities are a serious barrier to school attendance, especially for girls. It also encourages the transmission of many infectious diseases such as cholera, diarrhoea, typhoid and polio. For this reason, let us join hands and start a sanitation revolution,” said the Deputy President.

According to the *2012 National Report on the Status of Sanitation Services*, approximately 11% of South African households do not have adequate sanitation services. Delegates at the Indaba also encouraged the sector to find new innovative ways to deal with sanitation challenges.