




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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IMBIZO FOCUS WEEK special edition.

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

Government joins hands with stakeholders to fight crime

By Ziningi Mapanga and Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Minister Nhleko seated with Mayor Mthembu, MEC Mchunu and an SABC official, Dumisani Ndimande during the live broadcast on Ukhozi FM.



Some of the people who attended the Business/Stakeholder Breakfast session.

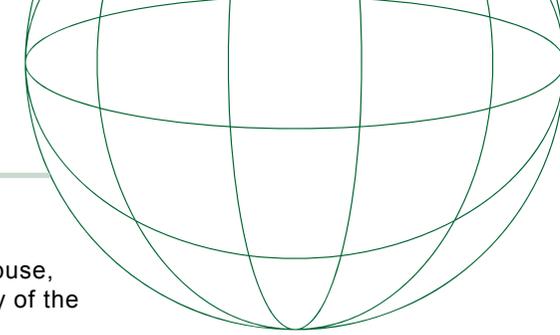
Police Minister Nathi Nhleko, various stakeholders from government, civil society, the taxi industry and the business sector, participated in the Business/Stakeholder Breakfast discussion on 13 November 2015. The event was broadcast live on Ukhozi FM. It was followed by a community engagement session at eThembeni grounds. Minister Nhleko was accompanied by the MEC for Community Safety and Liaison, Willis Mchunu, Mayor of KwaDukuza Local Municipality, Ricardo Mthembu, Deputy Mayor of KwaDukuza, Dolly Govender, KwaZulu-Natal Police Commissioner, Lieutenant-General Mmamonye Ngobeni and other high-ranking officials from the South African Police Service (SAPS).

The Ilembe District Municipality has been plagued by taxi violence and endless fights. This has affected school operations, the safety of learners and the general public. Efforts by the provincial government, which consisted of several community and stakeholder engagement sessions, establishment and capacity development of police, community and ward safety forums, have yielded relief but there has been no positive outcome so far.



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The engagement was an effort to find sustainable solutions to issues such as substance abuse, illegal shebeens, robberies, alternative means of transport due to the violence and volatility of the taxi industry, as well as the discussion on the effectiveness of the KwaDukuza SAPS.

The community appreciated government's efforts and also requested for more sustainable and stricter solutions and interventions. MEC Mchunu appealed to community members to put their heads together with government and come up with other solutions and interventions if they were not entirely happy with the interventions that have already been made.



Government officials recording notes on matters raised by the public.



Community engagement at eThembeni grounds.



Sinenhlanhla Mbonambi and Nkosinathi Gxabhashe said:

"We are here to find out what this event is all about. When we see SAPS officials we feel protected, they are the best in the country. We would like to request government to increase protection in our area because there is a lot of crime where we live. Even at schools, if we could have at least one police officer to help maintain peace and search students for any dangerous weapon."



Thandeka Biyela said:

"I am 27 years old and work as a volunteer for community safety and liaison. As volunteers, we make it easy for the community to communicate with the authorities. However, we also work with other government departments and not just the SAPS. We work throughout the year. We patrol in our communities and also host crime awareness campaigns in schools. Today, we are here to maintain peace. We hope that one day we will be absorbed into the SAPS and continue to fight crime."



Ndabezitha Kasi said:

"I am a gardener. I am here to see the Minister and the community. Last night our community was burning tyres and also blocked the roads. They were demanding RDP houses and I also want one. The councillor hardly visits us in this area. Some wards are better because they are getting houses, especially for orphans. I request government to build houses and proper toilets for us because the bucket system that we are currently using is not working. They throw everything inside including diapers, and they sometimes throw that dirt in the forest."



Moses Qadi said:

"I am 28 years old. I am a volunteer for community safety and liaison. As a volunteer, I work with the police to ensure safety in my community. We volunteer throughout the year and not only when there are events. Today the Minister is here to address the people about the violence that is growing in this area. The work that we do as volunteers assists in the fight against crime. I can say that the crime rate in our area has decreased since we started working with the police. I request government to create job opportunities for young people so that crime can decrease."



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



Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams engaging with a family in Marhambeni. The family was one of the Imbizo beneficiaries.



Community members at the Imbizo.

Imbizo Focus Week changes lives

By Ndyabo Kopo: GCIS, Eastern Cape



The Deputy Minister being interviewed at UCR FM.

Communications Deputy Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams visited the Marhambeni area to interact with community members.

The Deputy Minister engaged with the community of OR Tambo District through Unitra Community Radio (UCR). She also had a public engagement session with the community of Marhambeni and the surrounding areas and conducted a service delivery door-to-door campaign, with specific focus on poor households.

During the door-to-door campaign, the Deputy Minister met Aviwe Situnda, a Public Relations student at Walter Sisulu University. Aviwe comes from a very poor family with no source of income. The Deputy Minister was touched by the student’s situation and offered to help.

Students from SOS School in Mthatha who are at universities and are coming from disadvantaged households were given tablets and laptops by the Deputy Minister. “We encourage young people to be educated and start their own initiatives that will change their lives rather than waiting for government,” said Deputy Minister Ndabeni Abrahams.

About 100 food parcels were presented to poor families. The visit by the Deputy Minister marked the closure of government’s National Imbizo Focus Week, which was observed from 30 November to 6 December 2015. The week coincided with the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign. The Imbizo Focus Week is guided by the Cabinet-approved National Communication Strategic Framework’s five-year theme: “Together we move South Africa forward”. This is a rallying theme promoting partnership and calling for active citizenry.



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Christmas comes early for senior citizens

By Itumeleng Bogatsu: GCIS, Gauteng

Christmas came early for Diepsloot senior citizens, when Deputy Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams celebrated with them. The Deputy Minister started by visiting the Bona Lesedi Centre, which caters for people with disabilities. She then visited the Skills Centre, where she was met by women singing songs of praise. One of the attendants was 106-year-old Florinah Mofokeng from Lanseria.



Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams interacting with community members at the event.



Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams addressing community members at the event.



Government Communications Deputy Director-General, Nebo Legoabe, attended the event.



The 106-year-old Florinah Mofokeng.



The Deputy Minister presenting gifts to senior citizens.



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Deputy Minister reaches out to the public

By Abigail Batala: GCIS, North West



Deputy Minister Thembisile Majola addressing the community of Madiba a ga Tau.



Community members engaging with the Deputy Minister at the event.

The Deputy Minister of Energy, Thembisile Majola, conducted an Imbizo at Madiba a ga Tau on 30 November 2015. The Deputy Minister was accompanied by the Executive Mayor of Mahikeng Local Municipality, Gosiamo Seatlholo, and ward councillors. Deputy Minister Majola started by conducting a door-to-door campaign in the morning and later moved to a venue where she engaged with community members.

The purpose of the Imbizo was to engage the community of Madiba a ga Tau and surrounding areas on issues of energy access, with a specific focus on progress around the electrification programme in the municipal area. The engagement formed part of the National Imbizo Focus Week where government leaders interacted with citizens to inform them about progress made in implementing the Nine-Point Plan, which was announced by President Jacob Zuma earlier this year.