




MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 14 / April 2015

Special edition: National Imbizo Focus Week

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The second National Imbizo Focus Week of the current administration took place from 7 to 12 April 2015 under government's theme "Together we move South Africa forward".

The focus week saw political principals from all three spheres of government engaging with community members and other stakeholders across the country.

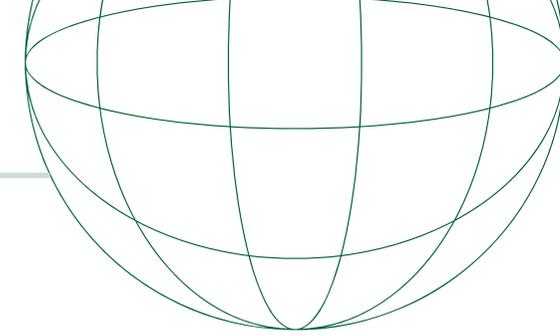
The main purpose of these engagements was to unpack President Jacob Zuma's State of the Nation Address of 12 February 2015 and to promote active citizenry in line with the National Development Plan. Below are some of the Imbizo events that took place:

NO	DEPARTMENT	PRINCIPAL	AREA	ISSUES
1.	Communications	Minister Faith Muthambi, MP	Mahikeng in North West	Launch of the National Imbizo Focus Week. Stakeholder engagements comprising of community media and the SABC; and a networking session with strategic formations and government communicators. This culminated into a community Imbizo at Barolong Boorra-Tshidi Hall.



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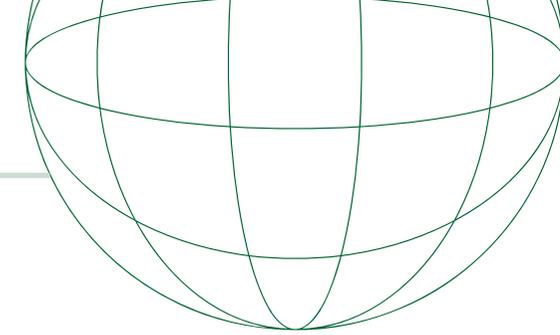
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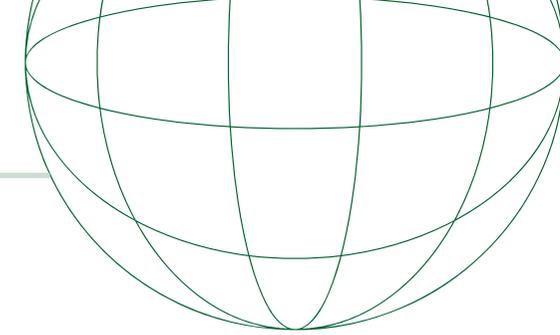


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2.	Social Development	Minister Bathabile Dlamini, MP	uThungulu District Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal	The event was part of the National Imbizo Focus Week and Project Mikondzo, targeting learners from poor households. Government services were rendered.
3	Small Business Development	Minister Lindiwe Zulu, MP	Bela-Bela in Limpopo	Imbizo targeting women in small business and cooperatives. Access to procurement opportunities and information on where and how to access government support.
4	Communications	Deputy Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, MP	Alfred Nzo District Municipality in the Eastern Cape	The launch of Siqhingeni water scheme as part government's National Imbizo Focus Week, at Siqhingeni. The Deputy Minister engaged with community members of Siqhingeni, Mount Frere and Umzimvubu Municipality during the Imbizo and went to the Alfred Nzo community radio station to co-host the breakfast show. The Deputy Minister interacted with taxi commuters at the Bushbuckridge taxi rank. Conducted a project visit to the Samkelisiwe Vegetable Project that exports products to Mexico.
5	Matatiele Municipality	Mayor of Matatiele	Matatiele in the Eastern Cape	The Mayor addressed issues such as electricity connection in Ward 7. The Mayor urged communities to be patient with government as it strives to raise additional funding to electrify more than nine wards in Matatiele Local Municipality. The issue of water was also addressed and the contractor appointed by Alfred Nzo District Municipality is currently on site. Eight villages will benefit from this project. The Mayor also handed over soccer kits to teams from five villages.
6	Higher Education and Training	Minister Blade Nzimande, MP	Richmond in KwaZulu-Natal	The Minister interacted with community members about the department's plans for the Richmond area. He also announced that Richmond Local Municipality will soon have higher-education institutions. He further stated that the department has injected R25 million in a project that will commence in November 2015.
7	Transport	Minister Dipuo Peters, MP	Johannesburg and Ekurhuleni in Gauteng	The Minister said government intends to find a solution to the Harrismith Hub and N3 De Beers Pass developments. She was speaking to community members at the Harrismith town hall on 10 April as part of government's National Imbizo Focus Week. The Free State Provincial Government, through its Provincial Growth and Development Strategy, identified the Harrismith Logistics Hub as a key driver for economic growth in the province. The communities in the area would not want the development to bypass their town, citing economic spin offs. The Minister, Chairperson of the Passenger Rail Agency of South Africa board and its executives engaged with the communicators at the Johannesburg Park Station. The Minister then took a train from Germiston to Johannesburg and then to Tembisa.



The community of Mahikeng during the National Imbizo Focus Week launch.

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8	Transport	Deputy Minister Sindisiwe Chikunga, MP	eThekweni in KwaZulu-Natal Musina in Limpopo Rustenburg in North West	<p>Engagement with the captains of the industries representing the maritime sector. A high-level discussion was held on the Operation Phakisa Policy, marine transport (focusing on ship registry, ports and logistics) marine manufacturing and offshore support, skills development and capacity building.</p> <p>The Deputy Minister visited Beit Bridge border post to inspect freight and passenger vehicles and interacted with cross-border officials to check compliance with transport legislation. Later in the day, she interacted with transport operators and members of the community to discuss their transport challenges. The Deputy Minister was joined by Limpopo MEC for Transport, Safety, Security and Liaison, Mapula Mokaba-Phukwana and local government officials.</p> <p>The Deputy Minister, public transport entities and the leadership of Rustenburg Local Municipality interacted with the villages of Robega, Rasimone, Chaneng and Mafenya at the Rail Safety and Infrastructure Development National Imbizo on 9 April. The Deputy Minister said that the Department of Transport would be going an extra mile to ensure passenger safety in all modes of transport.</p>
9	Agriculture, Forestry and Fisheries	Minister Senzeni Zokwana, MP	eMadlangeni, Newcastle in KwaZulu-Natal	The Minister visited the community of eMadlangeni in Newcastle to respond to issues relating to agriculture. The highlight of the event was food security, economic growth and job creation. The community was urged to use agriculture to alleviate poverty, generate income and as an employment opportunity.
10	Science and Technology	Minister Naledi Pandor, MP	Reitz in the Free State	<p>She appealed to the community to partner with government in embracing science as a tool for change in society. "We want all of you to become full participants in building a new and thriving society in which every person can make a difference," said the Minister.</p> <p>She was speaking to residents, including learners, who had attended an Imbizo organised by the department at the Petsana Stadium to raise awareness about science and technology.</p> <p>The Minister visited the area as part of government's National Imbizo Focus Week. She was accompanied by Telecommunications and Postal Services Minister Siyabonga Cwele and Free State Premier Ace Magashule, among others.</p>

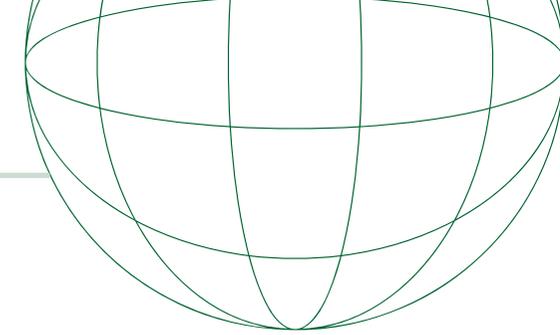


Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams at Sqhingeni Village in Mt Frere.



Deputy Minister of Environmental Affairs delivers a speech during an Imbizo.

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11	Women	Minister Susan Shabangu, MP	Mmakau Tshwane in Gauteng	Minister Shabangu urged the community to break the cycle of abuse and report the perpetrators to the police. Her visit to the community formed part of government's National Imbizo Focus Week. "What brought us here is the worrying levels of abuse against women and children," said Minister Shabangu. A closing event with stakeholders and community members was then conducted.
12	State Security	Minister David Mahlobo, MP		Experts in cyber technology say care must be taken to balance the advancement of technology with safeguarding national security. Stakeholders in this field, including policy commentators and political analysts, met in Pretoria on 10 April for discussions hosted by the Department of State Security. The session formed part of the National Imbizo Focus Week, which has seen several Cabinet Ministers and Deputy Ministers going to communities to communicate government's Programme of Action.
13	Human Settlements	Minister Lindiwe Sisulu, MP	KwaDukuza in KwaZulu-Natal	This is one of the best performing municipalities in KwaZulu-Natal in terms of providing houses to community members.
14	Labour	Deputy Minister Patekile Holomisa, MP	Butterworth and Mthatha in the Eastern Cape Witbank and Carolina in Mpumalanga Ermelo in Mpumalanga	The Deputy Minister visited the Butterworth and Mthatha labour centres in the Eastern Cape to access services provided by the centres. The visit included interacting with the centres' management and staff and also members of the public. The Deputy Minister also visited the Witbank and Carolina labour centres in Mpumalanga. He also interacted with members of the community and officials from the centres. The Imbizo focused on domestic workers. About 600 domestic workers attended. The Imbizo comprised exhibitions by various entities. The Imbizo was addressed by the Deputy Minister and provided information on the achievements made by government in addressing the working conditions of domestic workers. Information was also provided on some of the proposed legislative amendments that will be introduced which will further improve the lives of domestic workers. An interactive session with questions and answers then took place.



Minister of Transport speaking at the Imbizo.



Minister of Higher Education and Training plants trees at the site where higher-education centre will be constructed.



Minister in the Presidency responsible for Women continued her visit and addressed community members at the local sport centre.

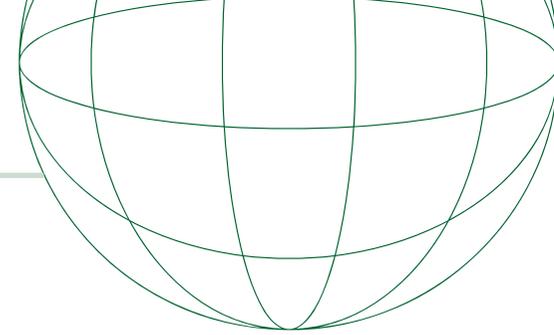
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15	Telecommunications and Postal Services	Deputy Minister Hlengiwe Buhle Mkhize, MP	Claremont in KwaZulu-Natal	Imbizo Lounge with stakeholders and community members in Claremont.
16	Higher Education and Training	Deputy Minister Mduzuzi Manana, MP	Randfontein in Gauteng	Deputy Minister Manana visited Westcol College to engage with members of the Student Representative Council from all campuses. The purpose of the visit was to engage with students on issues relating to education and challenges that they face and also skills-development opportunities.
17	Eastern Cape Office of the Premier	Eastern Cape Acting Premier	Port Elizabeth in the Eastern Cape	The event was addressed by the Acting Premier, MEC Sakhumzi Somyo. It looked at issues such as high rate of crime, gangsterism and drug abuse in the community.
18	Ntabankulu Local Municipality	MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs in the Eastern Cape Province, Fikile Xasa	Ntabankulu in the Eastern Cape	The event was conducted under the theme "Going back to basics by building a cohesive society through enhanced public participation". It addressed issues such as vandalism of government property during service-delivery protests. The panel of discussion was attended by Chief Ndevu of Eastern Cape House of Traditional Leaders, Mayor of Ntabankulu Local Municipality, Vusi Mgoduka, Speaker of the Council in Alfred Nzo District Municipality, Cllr Sandile Sello, Vukile Mhlelembana and Ndabuko Masumpa.



Domestic workers who attended the Department of Labour's Domestic Worker Imbizo in Ermelo. Workers shared their plight with Deputy Minister of Labour and senior officials of the department. Concerns raised include working abnormal working hours; lack of social benefits such as Unemployment Insurance Fund; subjected to ill-treatment and sexual harassment among others.



The community members were afforded an opportunity to raise issues of concern with Minister Shabangu.



Communities get electricity connection

By Nonhlanhla Sithole: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The Deputy Minister of Energy, Thembisile Majola, visited Ulundi on 11 April as part of the National Imbizo Focus Week. The objective of the visit was to conduct the official switch-on of Gqokli village as part of government's service delivery programme. In the last financial year, 1 128 households were electrified in Gqokli.



Mfundo Madela said:

"I am happy because I will be able to use electrical appliances. Life is getting better because we now have electricity."



Senzo Hlengwa said:

"I am glad that I am going to use a heater to warm myself this winter. We are going to use proper cooking appliances such as electric stoves."



Deputy Minister Majola in one of the households that got electricity connection.



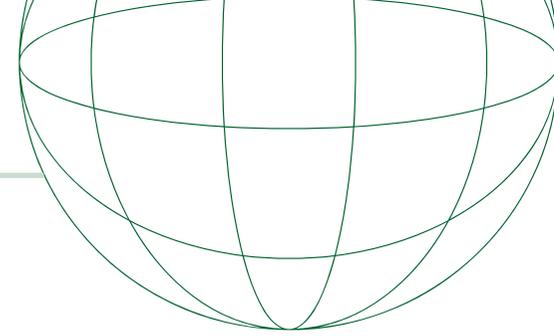
Ayanda and Sanelisiwe Buthelezi said:

"Electricity is an important part of community development as it is going to create job opportunities. We will no longer go to the bushes to collect wood. We will have more time to do other things."



Pretty Nkwanyana said:

"Life was very difficult for us without electricity. Things are better now. We are happy about having access to electricity."



Minister of Social Development visits Eastern Cape

The Minister of Social Development, Bathable Dlamini, accompanied by the MEC for Social Development in the Eastern Cape, Nancy Sihlwayi visited Breakthrough Bakery Cooperative. This cooperative operates a bakery in Mbizana and was funded with an amount of over R700 000 by the National Development Agency.

The Imbizo was held at Mphuthumi Mafumbatha Stadium in Mbizana Municipality.



Minister Dlamini and MEC Sihlwayi on a walk about in the bakery.



Community members at the event.



Leadership handing over gifts to the elderly.



Acting Director-General of the Department of Social Development, Executive Mayor of Alfred Nzo District Municipality Cllr Eunice Diko, MEC Nancy Sihlwayi, Minister Bathabile Dlamini. Nkosi Zanozuko Sigcau, with his headman.