




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Minister Muthambi engages community media in the Eastern Cape

By: Lwando Helesi: DoC, Eastern Cape



The Imbizo at East London Golf Club, led by Communications Minister Faith Muthambi.



Minister Muthambi (middle) with Eastern Cape Director Ndlelantle Pinyana (left) and Deputy Director-General Nebo Legoabe.

Prominent members in the field of communications, particularly in community media, converged at the East London Golf Club for a Community Media Sectoral Imbizo (symposium), organised by the Department of Communications (DoC), on 26 September 2014. The Minister of Communications, Faith Muthambi, led the Imbizo.

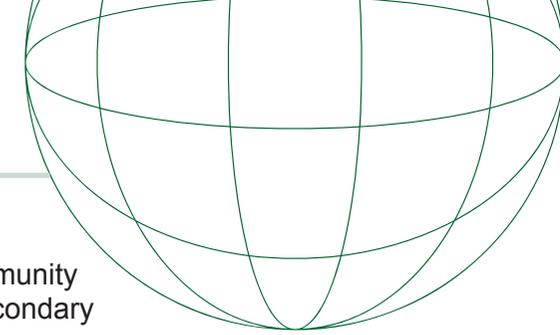
With the theme, "Together we move South Africa forward", the Imbizo provided a meaningful opportunity to engage on pertinent issues impacting on the growth, sustainability and development of community media. The Imbizo was the first of its kind to have a Minister engage community media leaders. This reflects on government's intention of developing local media.



communications

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Minister Muthambi said, “Government needs to focus on ensuring that the community media sector is given the necessary support to flourish and is not seen as a secondary means of communicating with our people.” She further added that government recognised the pivotal role community media played in society, which is to serve and build communities with relevant content, and foster discussion and debate.

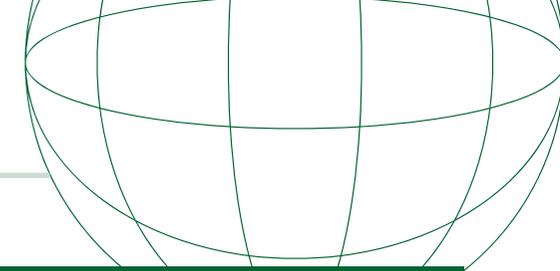
Various community media leaders raised concerns related to the following:

- media ownership and management, which impede media independence and functioning
- the non-existence of printing facilities in the province, as some of the newspapers have to print in other provinces at a cheaper rate, which affects the turnaround time for distribution
- challenges with the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa and the South African Revenue Service hindering the growth and/or financial stability of community media
- lack of and/or limited professional and mutual relations with government departments and municipalities
- dismissal of agencies that profit more from advertising revenues.

Minister Muthambi noted the concerns with the highest priority, stating they would be looked into. The community media sector will be reviewed to assess whether it is acting in accordance with its mandate of being accountable to and serving communities. Strategic partnerships between community media and local government will be explored to ensure that local media is viable. The Minister further stated that the Media Development and Diversity Agency would give support and funding for programme production, so that local media remained relevant to communities.

She noted that the DoC had already embarked on media bulk buying to ensure that community media benefited more from advertising.

The community-media leaders appreciated the session, and were hopeful that their concerns would be dealt with. The Minister said there would be continuous engagement sessions to reflect on progress made.



OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Mefolo Primary School gets 30 computers

By: Mokgoma Nkopodi: DoC, Limpopo



DOJCD Director, Othelia Langa, chatting to Mahloko, the principal of Mefolo Primary School, during the presentation of 30 computers.

It was on 19 September, a clear Friday morning with a fresh breeze promising some rainfall later in the day, when the community of Manganeng and the learners of Mefolo Primary School received 30 computers worth R180 573,98 from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DOJCD).

Mefolo Primary School is one of the underprivileged schools in the deep rural area of Manganeng village in Sekhukhune District Municipality under Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality. The school has 1 009 learners and, like any other rural school, de-

pends on government grants for its day-to-day activities. The school is fortunate to be headed by an energetic principal, LM Mahloko, who does not rest until he gets what his school needs, whenever he has the opportunity. "I pick up any paper I come across. If there is an address of an institution, I cut out the section to apply for donations," he said. His team of dedicated educators are also always applying for donations for their school.

"The first donation I received was R4 000 from Sun International Hotels, which we used to erect

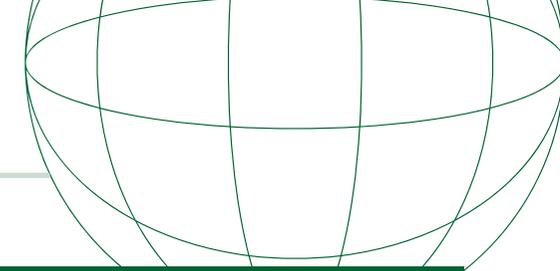
the school fence," he indicated. The donation encouraged him. On the occasion, Othelia Langa, a director in the DOJCD, indicated that they were very happy to continue giving donations to schools like Mefolo, especially during Public Service Week.

"These children must be allowed to use these computers to learn more. We will need good stories about these computers in the near future," she said to loud applause from the audience.



Kgobalale Nkadimeng said:

"As the community of Manganeng, we are very proud of the efforts by the principal of Mefolo Primary School to secure the donation of these beautiful computers from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development".



OUTCOME 3: ALL PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE AND FEEL SAFE

Keeping rural scholars safe

By: Mojalefa Senokoatsane: DoC, Free State

On 25 September 2014, the Department of Police, Roads and Transport hosted the Rural Scholar Imbizo at the Grootrietvlei Farm School, on the outskirts of Kroonstad. This programme, which is close to the heart of MEC Butana Komphela, who himself was born and raised in the neighbouring farms on the outskirts of Kroonstad, was launched to educate learners on the farms about road safety. This was due to the fact that studies have shown that most of the fatalities on our roads are pedestrians.

In attendance at this important event were Major General Motswenyane, deputy provincial commissioner of the SAPS in the Free State; Mthombeni, chief director in the Department of Education; Cllr J Mochela, Mayor of Ngwathe Local Municipality; M Thipane, acting mayor of Moqhaka Local Municipality, and councillors.

Opening the event, Head of Department of Police, Roads and Transport, Sandile Msibi, outlined the importance of ensuring that our young people were well versed in road safety, which would keep them safe for many years to come. He indicated that his department, in conjunction with the Department of Education, had joined hands in ensuring that this programme was a success. In his address, MEC Komphela spoke about how he had grown up on the farms and the struggles he

had endured. He reminded all the learners in attendance that coming from the farms did not mean the end of the world. The MEC also took the opportunity to celebrate the milestone that the province had just achieved by being the province with the lowest crime statistics out of all nine provinces.

Learners were presented with school uniforms and shoes; and soccer and netball kits, which were meant to motivate them to work even harder in the future.

Sarah Mkwane said:

“This event really showed that our government cares about us people on the farms. I really appreciate it that the MEC has bought our learners uniforms and shoes, which will go a long way in ensuring that our kids start enjoying going to school. This road safety initiative will ensure that our kids are safe as they travel to and from school.”



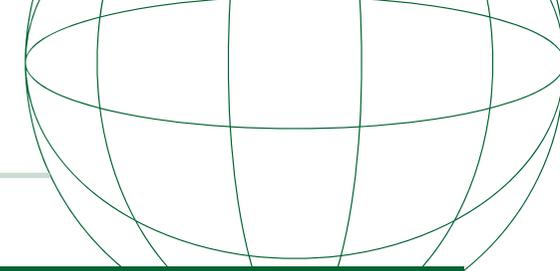
From left: Department of Police, Roads and Transport Head of Department, S Msibi; Mayor of Ngwathe Local Municipality, Cllr J Mochela; MEC Butana Komphela; and Acting Mayor of Moqhaka Local Municipality, M Thipane, at the Rural Scholar Programme hosted in Moqhaka.



Tsietsi Sothoane said:

“Through this road safety education, we will be able to keep safe on our roads, as they taught us the right and wrong ways of doing things. One day, I hope to be able to implement what I was taught, as I would really like to be a member of the Provincial Traffic Police.”





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

Heritage Day Imbizo

By: Sikelela Zokufa: DoC, Western Cape

The Department of Public Enterprises, in partnership with the Gugulethu Development Forum (GDF), hosted a successful Heritage Day at the packed sport complex in Gugulethu on 24 September 2014.

The Minister of Public Enterprises, Lynne Brown, was joined by the Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Buti Manamela, and the Deputy Minister of Land and Rural Development, Mcebisi Skwatsha, in attending the event. Lynne Brown said that we were celebrating Heritage Day acknowledging our different cultures.

Brown said she was opposed to the day being used as a braai day because, according to her, Heritage Day marked an important day in the history of South Africa. "We have to build this country beyond our comfort zone. We can't reduce such an important day to a braai day. We braai almost every day, so I don't see the point of this day being used as a braai day," the Minister said. She said that "heritage" meant that

people were building social cohesion and strengthening themselves as individuals. "Go and learn other people's cultures. In that way, you are building yourself. Don't stand and braai — you are not exploring and empowering yourself, in terms of social cohesion," the Minister said.

Chief of Western Cape Diverse Traditional Leaders, Ndoda Ngqunje, also echoed the Minister's words, saying that he also felt that the day couldn't be reduced to a braai day. He said that, if it continued, it would mean the death of our heritage and cultural values.

"On Heritage Day, educate our young people about the significance of our culture and historical achievements. Already in our communities, we are experiencing cultural and moral decay, so we must preserve this day as a heritage day," he said. Speaking on behalf of the Gauteng Department of Finance, Mlungisi Mazana said that the GDF welcomed the partnership because his partnership this

partnership would assist them in empowering and resolving their challenges as a forum. He said that challenges such as crime, HIV and AIDS and other health-related issues could only be overcome if all stakeholders in the area worked together and put their differences aside.

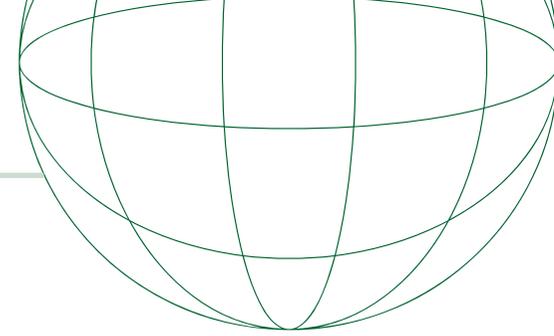
The DoC regional communication coordinator, Sikelela Zokufa, said: "This year marks the 20th anniversary of our democracy and freedom. This atmosphere provides us with an opportunity to reflect on the changes that South Africa has experienced since the dawn of the new era. We are so fragmented. We need to put our differences aside and work towards a common goal — that of bettering our community. Otherwise, areas such as Khayelitsha will always be ahead of us, in terms of development".



Minister of Public Enterprises, Lynne Brown said:

"We are celebrating Heritage Day acknowledging our different cultures. I am opposing the day being used as a braai day because, according to me, Heritage Day marked an important day in the history of South Africa. Heritage means people are building social cohesion and strengthening themselves as individuals. This day is for me and you to go and learn about other people's cultures. In that way, we are building ourselves."





Ntoyngé said:

“The programme was wonderful. I am so happy that I was part of this Heritage Day celebration and not making a braai with friends, as was my plan. I learnt a lot from today’s Heritage Day, especially from the speech of Minister Lynne Brown, when she was encouraging the community of Gugulethu to stand up and do things. Now I know that nothing is impossible, as long we have an accessible government, which is willing to support change in our lives and in the lives of the coming generation, and is able to teach us all about our cultural diversity.”



The Minister then handed a promise of bursaries in engineering to five Grade 12 learners from different schools in the Western Cape. She also gave awards to five choral *musos* in the arts and culture field.

The lucky learners were: Sivuyile Mazitshe, Fezeka High School; Aphiwe Kwakwishi, Sithembele Matiso; Cherlene Thomasso, Manenberg High School; Kyla Christians, Cape Academy for Maths, Science and Technology; and Nonkululeko Sotiya, a former learner at

Maitland High School. The choral *musos* who received awards were Sibusiso Njeza, Charles Banjatwa, Pumelele Tsewu and Bongani Magatyana.

“In the area of arts, culture and heritage, the new political dispensation has produced policies and legislation that provide enabling frameworks for the preservation, protection, dissemination and promotion of our cultural heritage. In a manner unprecedented in the history of this country, we have seen archives, community arts centres

and music schools such as Khanya Music School, which was given music equipment today. “This is an attempt by government to take services to the people of South Africa, regardless of their location. It is also an attempt to ensure the appreciation of our cultural heritage in all localities,” she said.

The event was very well attended by the communities of Gugulethu, Nyanga, Philippi and surrounding areas, which all hailed the visit by the Minister.



Community members who attended the event.