



MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 25 / June 2014

CONTACT DETAILS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COMMUNICATIONS 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

FREE STATE

Trevor Mokeyane
051 448 4504 or 083 255 0042
tshenolo@gcis.gov.za

GAUTENG

Peter Gumede
011 834 3560 or 083 570 8080
peterg@gcis.gov.za

KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420
ndala@gcis.gov.za

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

Youth march against drugs

By: Kgalalelo Motsage, Department of Communications, Northern Cape

The community of Wrenchville has encountered a high use of drugs among youth and learners and the problem seems to be growing. The negative impact that drugs has on the lives of young people is that they end up dropping out of school and resorting to criminal activities in order to feed their addiction.

The Wrenchville youth organised a march on 19 June to raise awareness against the use of drugs, highlighting that drug dealers be reported to the police and face the might of the law. The young people handed their memorandum to the station commander for the police to respond to their grievances and concerns.

Baitshepi Dintwe, a learner from Wrenchville High School said, "I would like to urge all people who are already using drugs to seek help and to never give up on quitting drugs because it is possible."



Wrenchville community members assembling to commence with the march.



Wrenchville community marching against the use of drugs.



Wrenchville community members in Kuruman marching to the police station to hand over the memorandum.



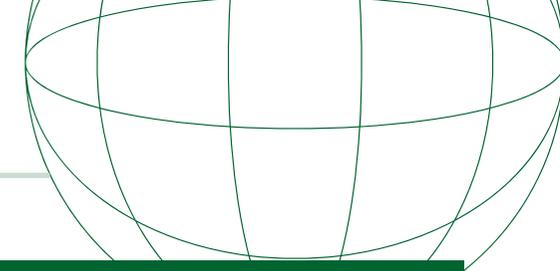
Wrenchville High School learner reading the memorandum before handing it over to the station commander.



communications

Department:
Communications
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





LIMPOPO

Thanyani Rhavhura
015 291 4689 or 082 421 3461
thanyani@gcis.gov.za

MPUMALANGA

Tiisetso Ramotse
013 753 2397 or 072 219 5136
tiisetso@gcis.gov.za

NORTH WEST

Mareka Mofokeng
018 381 7071 or 083 382 5909
mareka@gcis.gov.za

Kagisho Meremetsi
018 381 7071 or 084 318 9179
kagisho@gcis.gov.za

NORTHERN CAPE

Marius Nagel
053 832 1378/9 or 083 778 9179
mariusn@gcis.gov.za

WESTERN CAPE

Ayanda Hollow
021 697 0145 or 083 255 7665
ayanda@gcis.gov.za



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

Celebrating Youth Day in style

By: Sikelela Zokufa, Department of Communications, Western Cape

Hundreds of young people from Gugulethu and learners from different schools braved the cold weather to attend the Youth Day celebration event. The event, under the theme: “Youth moving South Africa forward”, took place at Gugulethu Sports Complex in the Western Cape on 16 June.

The chairperson of the United We Stand Community Building Project, Mr Vokwana said, “This day means a lot to us as young people as we celebrate 20 years of democracy. We also pay tribute to the youth of 1976 who took a stand to fight against the Bantu Education system. It is great that we gathered here for good reasons and to fight against crime and other social evils.”

The young people, dressed in their school uniforms were performing dramas and also doing a traditional dance, competing among each other and showcasing their talents. The memories of 16 June 1976 were brought back through performances demonstrating what actually happened on that day.

Young people called on the Government to support youth structures through exposing them to leadership skills.

One youth, only identified as Nomawethu who was interviewed by the Department of Communications said she did not attend the Youth Day celebration event. She said she only put on her school uniform and joined her friends to celebrate with them. She further said that although they were not part of the event, they saw it befitting to wear their school uniforms to celebrate and pay tribute to the youth of 1976.

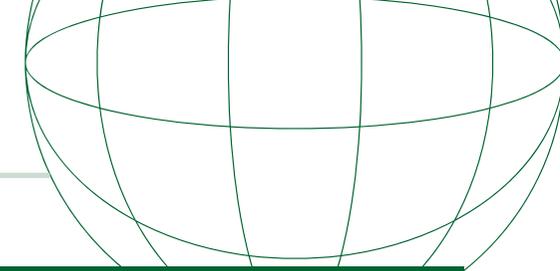
Youth from the Old Apostolic Church of South Africa also gathered in their church to commemorate Youth Day and educate each other about the importance of the day and its relevance. Others celebrated through sports and other recreational activities.



Lamla Sofutha, an unemployed youth said, “This day reminds us of the 1976 struggle when Soweto learners boycotted Bantu Education. Today our responsibility is to unite young people and act against social evils, fight gangsterism, drugs and other criminal activities.”



The chairperson of the United We Stand Community Building Project, **Mr Vokwana** said, “We are free from apartheid but not socially free. Young people are faced with challenges such as drugs, HIV and AIDS, gangsterism, unemployment and many other challenges. We would like to call upon the Government to support youth organisations and expose them to business opportunities and skills-development programmes.”



Ramela Simon said, "Life has really improved for young people in these 20 years of freedom. There is access to bursaries from government and unemployed young people are involved in agricultural activities with the assistance of the Department of Agriculture. Young people are capacitated with skills that allow them to be self-employed rather than waiting to be employed."



Esther Kapaletswe said, "We are free as young people to express our views. The Government has provided us with opportunities to participate in learnership programmes to gain experience. I still feel that government should do more to create job opportunities for young people."



Grade 12 learners from Mabogopedi High School gave a combined response saying, "Life is very easy these days. Our parents do not worry about buying books and paying school fees. We also get free food from the school. We are very fortunate in Thabazimbi as Kumba Iron Ore also plays its part in our education through the provision of free school bags. The educators are committed and even sacrifice their own time to conduct winter classes to ensure that we pass. Life is now better for the bornfrees."

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

Youth moving South Africa forward

By: MM Ramoshaba, Department of Communications, Limpopo

Youth from all corners of Modimolle gathered at Ephraim Mogale Stadium on 16 June to commemorate Youth Month, which was themed: "Youth moving South Africa forward."

The event was graced by the Premier of Limpopo, Stan Mathabatha, MECs, Executive Mayor of Waterberg and other local mayors.

Premier Mathabatha urged the youth to be a generation that makes education fashionable and that youth must seize the opportunities that came with our freedom and democracy to equip themselves with skills, which will be utilised to advance the development of our country.

He further said that without education, youth will not be able to seize the opportunities that both the Government and the private sector have made available. The Premier continued by saying the country requires skilled and educated youth to fit into radical economic transformation and that if young people are not educated, even precious minerals such as platinum and gold will be worthless to the country.

Young people were advised to lead a healthy lifestyle through practising safe sex to protect themselves from sexually transmitted diseases such as HIV and AIDS.

Premier Mathabatha said young people must never let the beautiful flame of their potential be extinguished by a reckless lifestyle.

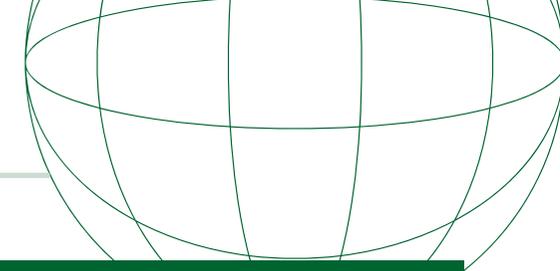
Government has set aside R20 million to roll out a massive skills-development programme targeting the youth. This programme relates to the provision of both financial and non-financial support to young entrepreneurs.



The Department of Communications distributed Youth Guides to the youth.



Singer Dr Malinga entertaining the youth.



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

Government, listen to our future leaders

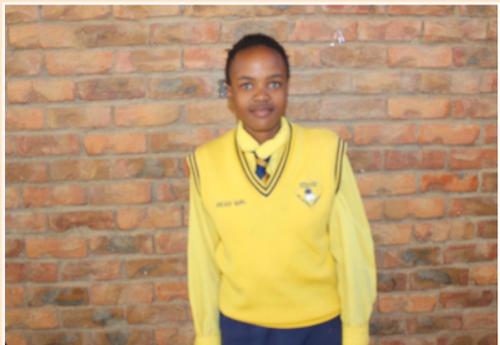
By: *Nomhle Sibanyoni, Department of Communications, Mpumalanga*

The Nkangala District Municipality coordinated the Children's Parliament at Ga-More Community Hall in Mpumalanga on 6 June. The Children's Parliament was conducted to encourage participation among children through voicing critical issues that affect them in their respective communities. The Children's Parliament gives children an opportunity to voice their ideas, thoughts and feelings so that their concerns and opinions can be given the necessary attention.

Children from six local municipalities participated in different commissions, discussing issues such as poverty, crime, health issues and how government can improve the education system.



When asked what her thoughts were concerning the whole programme, this learner said she found the session to be very informative and that she has learned more about children's rights and responsibilities. She also said the leaflet that was provided was very helpful.



This learner said she appreciated that her district has taken the initiative to conduct the Children's Parliament to listen to their views. She further said the session made it possible for the learners to learn a lot from each other, sharing ideas and possible solutions such as how to deal with bullying at school. She concluded by saying that she was hoping the session would be conducted again.



Commission discussing health issues affecting children.



Commission discussing poverty affecting children.



Commission discussing education.

Among other critical issues raised by the learners was that the Government needs to prioritise skills-development programmes that will assist in job creation and also push the agenda of poverty alleviation. The learners also called for an improvement in school infrastructure, that will eventually create a conducive environment for effective teaching and learning. The feeding scheme in schools also got a thumbs-up from the learners and they also suggested that it should be intensified since the scheme was of great assistance to learners coming from disadvantaged backgrounds. The learners were also advocating free education and that government should pay more attention to issues such as water purification and pollution. They believe that if the Government can swiftly deal with these issues, it would pave the way for them to better their lives.



Political principals who attended.



Children's Ambassador, Josiahs Masango.



Learners made a collage of hand prints in solidarity of the Nigerian girls who were abducted by Boko Haram.



Josiahs Masango, a Children's Ambassador from Thufane High School, highlighted that one of his duties was to be the voice of the children. Masango participated in the Annual Nelson Mandela Children's Parliament, to promote accountability for children's well-being and to keep their issues on top of government and civil society's agendas. He was also provided with an opportunity to raise issues affecting children in his own province.