




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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Special Edition: SoNA live viewing

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

SoNA 2017 live viewing in Elandsbaai West Coast

By Gerzell Mathey: GCIS, Western Cape



Francina Sokuyeka, Cederberg Deputy Mayor Benjamin Zass and Janine Kotze from the municipal office.



Two community members ahead of the screening of the SoNA.

The tranquil seaside town of Elandsbaai welcomed Government Communication Information and System into their community for a live viewing of the State of the Nation Address (SoNA) on 9 February 2017. This year was the first time that Elandsbaai hosted a live viewing and Elgelbrecht Primary School was the perfect venue for the screening to take place.

Cederberg Municipality Deputy Mayor, Benjamin Zass, supported the event and addressed the community ahead of the President's speech. He opened the floor by encouraging the youth of Elandsbaai to make education their first priority as this would break the cycle of poverty. He says that the municipality is actively raising funds to create employment and encourage tourism to the seaside town.

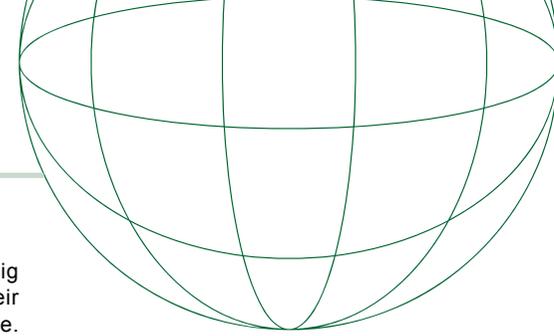
The community of Elandsbaai's challenges are not unique to the rest of the country in that the residents also struggle with issues such as lack of adequate housing, unemployment and substance abuse. What is unique about this small town of over 1 500 residents is that they are hungry for opportunities, and the SoNA is something they looked forward to watching so that they could start conversations that will lead to change in their community.



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According to former ward councillor, Sylvia Newman, the community of Elandsbaai does not need big infrastructure but small business enterprise development in which people are able to work using their hands and sell their goods. Job creation can only come from the community itself and not from outside. Every community living on the west coast has something unique to their region such as potatoes from Graafwater or oranges from Citrusdal. "It is encouraging that the President addressed the question of job creation as we desperately need it," she said.

One of the teachers at the school said she was excited to hear that the oceans economy was top priority for The Presidency as Elandsbaai depended on the sea, and hopefully the children of this community can prosper from this initiative.

Councillor Francina Sokuyeka said, "I am from this seaside town; my family was a family of a fisherman. My hope is that what the President said he follows through on as this community desperately needs intervention. We are a seaside town and all our family members are fishermen so the oceans economy makes sense to me."

The school also held an essay-writing competition with the title: "What being South African means to me". Mandilakhe Masoyisi's essay won the prize.



Some of the schoolchildren in attendance.



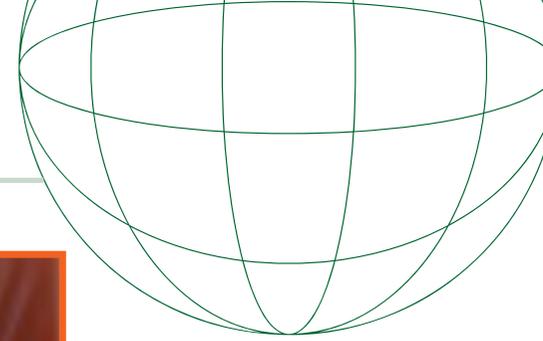
Community members listening attentively to SoNA.



John Cloete, Deputy Mayor Benjamin Zass and Councillor Francina Sokukeya at the event.



Zaarn Miggals and Abby Davids share their views with Weskus Radio presenter John Cloete.



Former ward councillor Sylvia Newman.



Willie Poggenpoel said:

“Education is a challenge in our community and parents play a key role. The area needs to produce more educated people and also inspire the young ones.”



Carmen Pfeiffer said:

“It was encouraging to hear that job creation was one of the topics covered.”



Essay winner Mandilakhe Masoyisi posing with her proud mom and Deputy Mayor Benjamin Zass.



Two young children look on at the excitement of SONA.



Lynette Claasen said:

I wish the President had said something about encouraging recreation for young people. Elandsbaai needs more than just a community hall.”



Joani Arendse said:

“I have spent 20 years as a teacher and hearing that education is big on the President’s agenda is encouraging.”



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Zonicka van Zyl said:

“I was planning to watch the SoNA and I am glad I did.”



Yongama Kula said:

“Of course I was planning to listen to the President’s speech. I am an economist. I wanted to know where we are going as a country.”



Zintle Mketso

“I found the energy supply issue from the speech very interesting and would like more information on it.”

Army recruits watch SoNA at the 3 Sai Army Base in Kimberley

By Masego Motshidisi: GCIS, Northern Cape



The SANDF recruits making their way into the venue.



Executive Mayor Buyiswa Ximba addressing the audience.



The audience listening attentively during the event.

The live broadcast of President Jacob Zuma’s State of the Nation Address (SoNA) on 9 February 2017 progressed without any challenges at the 3 Sai Army Base in Kimberley.

The live viewing of the speech was organised for the South African National Defence Force’s (SANDF) new recruits coming from various provinces. The intention was to ensure that they too could listen to the President’s speech.

Present at the event was Frances Baard District Municipality Executive Mayor, Buyiswa Ximba, who deliberated on the background and importance of the event.

She welcomed the new recruits to the job market. “Well done for choosing a profession that will help your country. Military is more than just a job, it is a calling, just like nursing,” she said.

She also advised that they should further their studies and develop their skills.

An estimated 350 people were present at this event.



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Mpumalanga SoNA live viewing

Mpumalanga hosted the live viewing session of the State of the Nation Address on 9 February 2017. Government leaders, community members and other stakeholders attended the event.



Councillor Duduzile Ngobeza giving the vote thanks at the event.



Mkhondo Executive Mayor, Vusumuzi Motha, summarising the speech and highlighting key priorities.



Mkhondo Executive Mayor, Vusumuzi Motha, summarising the speech and highlighting key priorities.



Government Communication and Information System official directing the programme of the day.



The leadership of Mkhondo Local Municipality at the event.



Community members at the event.



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SoNA focus group live viewing

By Lehlohonolo Manoto: GCIS, Free State



Ramakatsa Mohlabane said:

“I liked the issuing of title deed in terms of owning land. Economic ownership. Land ownership for black farmers.”



Community members at the live viewing of the SoNA.

During the 2017 State of the Nation (SoNA), Government Communication and Information System conducted a SoNA Focused Group Live Viewing to watch the speech. This platform gave the stakeholders an opportunity to watch and listen attentively to what the President said. The contents of the SoNA was shared to stakeholders who will eventually communicate the information during their different engagements on how they feel about the speech. The purpose of the SoNA was explained to all the stakeholders and what is expected of them after the speech. The attendees included the ward councillor, media houses, school governing body, clinic committees and community policing forum. Different political parties were invited but only the African National Congress and the Democratic Alliance honoured the invitation. About 23 people attended the live viewing at Botshabelo Thusong Service Centre.