



MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 4: February 2020

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PRIORITY I: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Community engages on SoNA

By Nosipho Keuti: GCIS, Eastern Cape

As the country waited to hear what President Cyril Ramaphosa had to say during this State of the Nation Address on 13 February 2020; the residents of Duncan village in East London participated in a community dialogue that was hosted by the Government Communication and Information System with its stakeholders, National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), Buffalo City Metro and the Department of Home Affairs on 11 February 2020.

The dialogue sought to engage the community on some of the things that they wanted President Ramaphosa to address in his speech. The residents said they expected the President to speak about job creation.

The President said that in order to find solutions to unemployment, government, together with business, labour and communities must "continue to meet at the beginning of every month to remove blockages and drive interventions that will save and create jobs". He further added that the NYDA and the Department of Small Business Development would provide grant funding and business support to 1 000 young entrepreneurs in the next 100 days.



NYDA official interacting with the audience.



Tabita Ngqunge engaging with residents.



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Zanele Sineka said:

"Today's session was a real eye-opener and I hope we can have more of them. I would like to know how far government is in terms of creating jobs. I would really love to hear President Ramaphosa telling us about jobs because we are really struggling as young people in this country, we are unemployed."



Sibusiso Rasmeni said:

"I would like to hear the President address the issue of unemployment especially when it comes to young graduates. We have brothers and sisters who have graduated from universities, but are still unemployed and that is worrying."



Patricia Nkonyane said:

“During the SoNA, I expect the President to be clear on the issue of National Student Financial Aid Scheme and other bursaries. As young people we are struggling to get bursaries.”



Lungisani Nzimande said:

“I am expecting the President to talk about youth programmes in rural villages.”

PRIORITY 1: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

SoNA community dialogues

By Bongani Mazibuko, GCIS: Mpumalanga

The Government Communication and Information System organised pre-State of the Nation Address (SoNA) information sharing sessions at Modern Primary School and Syde Village on 6 February 2020. Communities were made aware of the importance of the SoNA, which was delivered by President Cyril Ramaphosa.

During the session, government stakeholders such as Humana People to People of South Africa, Sukumani Youth Advisory Centre, and Masibonisane Home Based Caregivers, and Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality, empowered the community with information on their respective services.

“We assist young people between the ages of 14 and 35 for free as we get our funding from the Department of Social Development. The youth can also come to the centre to apply for bursaries and university admission online. We also make copies of their documents for free.”

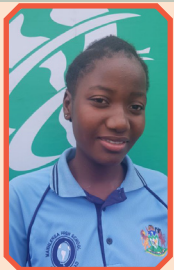
Information materials on gender-based violence were shared with the public, and the *Insession* and *Vuk'uzenzele* newspapers were also distributed to community members.



Some of the community members who attended the session.



Samukelisiwe Khumalo addressing the audience.



Phiweyinkosi Biyela said:

"This is a prestigious day to me. In today's time everything we do that is work-related needs one to be computer literate."



Lethokuhle Tembe said:

"I think this computer lab will help me in pursuing my career. We will also be able to study easy. I will be able to link with the outside world through the usage of these computers. The lab will not help only us as learners but even the community at large."



Nkululeko Thusi said:

"I want to thank the Minister for this donation. Government has ensured a better future for us. This programme creates hope for us that we can now reach greater heights with the use of this computer laboratory."

PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Cyber laboratory benefits rural school

By Jacob Mkhize: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

Community members of Gazini village under Kwangwanase at Umhlabuyalingana were excited to receive a mobile information and communications technology computer laboratory donated by the State Information Technology Agency, which operates as an entity under the Department of Communications and Digital Technology. The donation was in line with the migration to the fourth industrial revolution.

The event took place on 7 February 2020 at Manhlenga Secondary School. The occasion also formed part of the back-to-school campaign. The school is situated in a rural village.

The computer laboratory is fully equipped with workstations with 20 desk top computers with internet, chairs, air-conditioner and data projector. Learners had the opportunity to receive training on basic introduction to computer literacy and computer digital modules such as coding.

The school principal was grateful for the donation. "The school will introduce information technology as part of the curriculum for the first time. Learners will also access skills which were never offered to rural schools, which will help in poverty eradication," he said.

The Director-General of the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies, Robert Nkuna, said, "The launch of this computer lab with help rural learners to access information communication technology. This is the tool that helps our learners to perform their work with ease. It is important that learners access the necessary skill at an early age, to face challenges present as everything we do is based on technology." He also urged community members to protect the laboratory as "it will bring difference in people's lives – not learners but the community at large."



Manhlenga Secondary School learners during their computer literacy training.



Stakeholders, parents and learners who attended the launch programme.

PRIORITY 6: A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Capricorn rolls out District Development Model

By Doctor Marebane, GCIS, Limpopo

The Capricorn District Municipality launched the District Development Model at Ceres on 7 February 2020 following the Waterberg model launch by President Cyril Ramaphosa in Lephalale on 26 November 2019. The theme of the event was based on the Khawuleza philosophy, which calls for an integrated, efficient and faster service delivery.

Addressing the audience at the Capricorn launch, Limpopo Premier Stanley Mathabatha urged community members to embrace and endorse the model. His first stop was at Moletsi Thusong Service Centre where he interacted with various stakeholders. "We want everyone, including non-governmental organisations and religious communities to come on board. This is a model that will revolutionise the way government delivers services to the communities," Premier Mathabatha said.

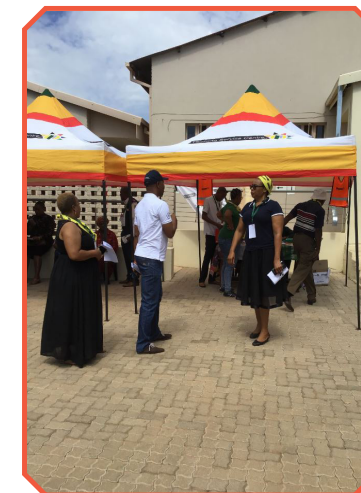
The District Development Model and Thusong Service Centre programme both provide services in an integrated manner. Premier Mathabatha said that the programme could develop South Africa to become a country everyone would like to live in.

"I have told the President about some of our well-functioning projects in the province, which includes Musina Makhado Special Economic Zone and Tubatse Special Economic Zone. The Musina Makhado has attracted over R150 billion and created 28 000 jobs for the people of Limpopo. There are many other projects that will be incorporated into the District Development Model" he said.

The Premier concluded by urging all citizens to support the President's vision for development. "This vision will grow Limpopo and South Africa as a whole. In so doing, we will indeed be growing South Africa, district by district," he concluded.



Some of the people who attended the launch.



Government officials interacting with members of the public.