



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Mpumalanga youth declare war against crime

By Livhuwani Todani: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Provincial Police Commissioner Mark Magadla, MEC Vusi Shongwe and Deputy National Police Commissioner Khehla Sithole with other dignitaries at the event.

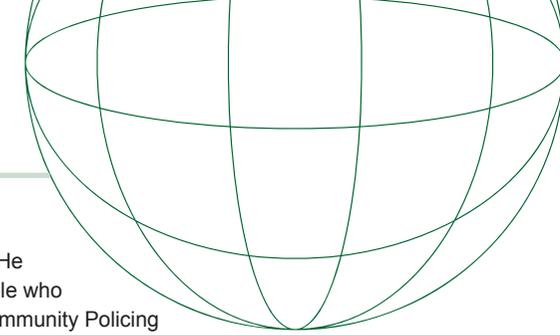
The South African Police Service (SAPS), security cluster departments and the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) held a two-day youth crime summit. The summit was attended by 486 young people from different schools around the province. Out of 68 police stations in Mpumalanga, SAPS selected six learners from different schools to join their respective local police station youth desk. The group was divided into seven commissions and discussed various topics and produced the framework on how to fight crime as young people. This framework will be consolidated with inputs from other provinces. The event was attended by the MEC for Safety and Security, Vusi Shongwe, Deputy National Police Commissioner, Lieutenant-General Khehla Sithole and Provincial Police Commissioner Lieutenant-General Mark Magadla.

The Deputy National Commissioner presented the strategy on how national and provincial security clusters were going to manage crime. He also said that young people were very vulnerable when it comes to cybercrime and encouraged them to report suspicious criminal acts at school or in the community. He also mentioned social media as a tool used for organised crime and that young people are mostly involved.



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MEC Shongwe praised all departments and stakeholders that participated in the organisation of the summit. He encouraged young people to stay away from alcohol, drugs and gangsterism. He also praised all young people who volunteered to be junior station commanders at their respective local police stations as they work with the Community Policing Forum to report those who sell drugs at school. The MEC also presented bursary application forms to learners and encouraged them to apply as government was there to assist them with education.

The Provincial Police Commissioner thanked all young people who attended and the volunteers. He emphasised that all clusters at police stations must have youth representatives. Youths were also encouraged not to allow criminals to use them because they would be arrested and have criminal records, which will make it difficult for them to be employed. "With 68 police stations and 10 000 police officers at a population of 4,6 million, we really need the youth as the nerve of the nation to declare war in crime," he said.



Deputy National Police Commissioner Sithole presenting on youth crime prevention perspective.



Young people and SAPS officials at the summit.



MEC Shongwe with junior station commanders from different police stations in Mpumalanga.



An official from the Department of Correctional Services speaking about the young gangs in prisons.



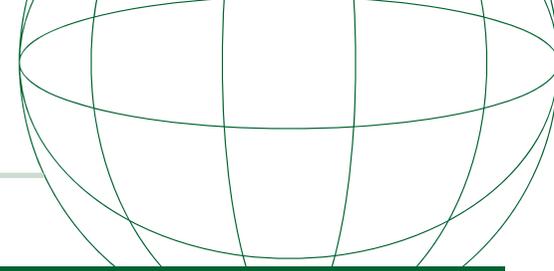
Mandisa Paka said:
"I have learned about the gangs in prisons and the police plan to fight crime through young people and how drugs and alcohol can damage our future. Education is the answer."



Wandile Buthelezi said:
"I have learned how to prevent crime and report it, and that we must help government by creating employment opportunities. I have learned to say "no" to peer pressure and drugs, thus saving myself and protecting my country. I am going to motivate other young people in my area."



Denashania Naidoo said:
"I want to thank the SAPS, today I learned about how to prevent crime and corruption. This is going to make our province a better place to live in."



OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Minister launches National Science Focus Week

By Abigail Sejesho: GCIS, North West



Adolphinah Mooketsi said:

“My knowledge has increased and I am grateful for the opportunity to attend the launch of the National Science Focus Week.”



Oratile Mabe said:

“This programme has enhanced my interest in the science and maths field. I would like to pursue a career in these fields.”



Learners accessing information about science and technology.



Learners experimenting a science and technology project.

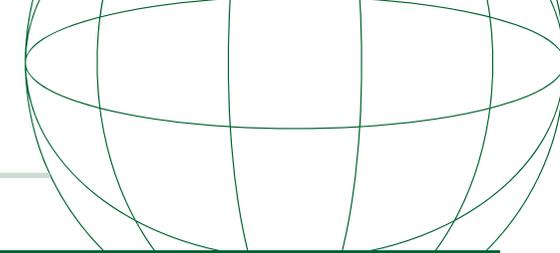
The Minister of Science and Technology, Naledi Pandor, launched the National Science Focus Week 2015 at the North West University’s (NWU) Mafikeng Campus on 1 August 2015. The Minister was accompanied by the MEC for Education, Maphefo Matsemela, the NWU Vice-Chancellor, Professor Dan Kgwadi, and the Mayor of Mahikeng Local Municipality, Councillor Gosiame Seatlholo.

In her keynote address, the Minister encouraged learners to complete the task that was started by former President Nelson Mandela and to access opportunities by venturing into science and technology-related careers.

Learners from different high schools in Mahikeng were given an opportunity to visit exhibitions stalls to obtain information and access opportunities offered by various entities. Stakeholders that were present at the event included MINTEK; Agricultural Research Council; SANMI; departments of basic education, and science and technology; NWU; National Research Foundation and the Council for Scientific and Industrial Research.



Learners listening to Minister Pandor’s presentation.



Njabulo Zwane said:

“I was not aware of the MRM until today. I think it is a great programme as it promotes morals and good behaviour among citizens. I like that it is not limited to the youth only since they are the ones who are mostly affected by moral decay because of drug and alcohol abuse.”



Mrs Phakathwayo said:

“We need the MRM to bring back good values to our children and the community. We are faced with too many social ills that are destroying our community and country because we do not uphold good values. The programme will bring a positive change and it will inspire everyone to do well, even those in government.”

OUTCOME 14: A DIVERSE, SOCIALLY COHESIVE SOCIETY WITH A COMMON NATIONAL IDENTITY

Moral regeneration campaign launched

By Nompilo Mchunu: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

In an effort to resuscitate the moral fibre of the community, the Amajuba District Municipality launched the Moral Regeneration Movement (MRM) at Osizweni Community Hall on 10 July 2015. The event was led by the KwaZulu-Natal Office of the Premier.

July is MRM Month in South Africa and as part of the launch, speakers called for all government entities, community members and different organisations to be the custodians of the programme.

Bishop Madlala said the resuscitation of morals among communities should not only rest in the hands of a few people. “We all have a role to play in fighting the moral decay and the building of our society. We should not place the responsibility on faith organisations, government, religious leaders or the youth only, but on every citizen,” said Madlala.

Several community forums such as interfaith, youth, men, women, people with disabilities, senior citizens, HIV and AIDS organisations, traditional healers and the Department of Correctional Services attended the launch.

The MRM provincial coordinator told the community that the programme must be driven by society. “This is a civil society led movement with the overall intention of fighting against moral decays such as crime and the abuse of women and children,” he said.

He added that MRM forums must ensure that services reach citizens and that they are treated with the dignity they deserve. “Now that the forum is launched, it is going to be much better to coordinate the integration of different departmental programmes aimed at fighting moral decay and many more atrocities within different districts,” he said.

Sanele Ndlovu, from the youth forum, said the youth should play an active role in upholding morals of society. “Young people are the future of our nation. We should be the custodians of the preservation of morals and ethics.”

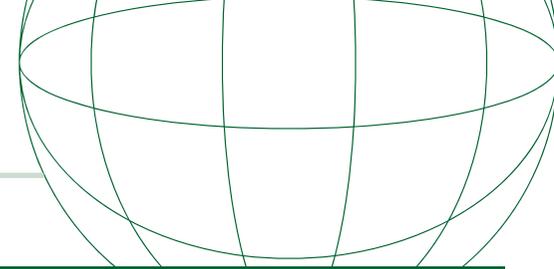
A representative of the disability forum said MRM should also foster social cohesion. “We hope the launch of MRM means that issues of people with disabilities are given the attention they deserve and that it encourages the community to treat them as normal people.”

The concept of MRM was introduced by former President Nelson Mandela and the Charter of Positive Values was adopted in July 2008. During July, good ethics and behaviour are promoted as well as open debates on issues of morality are conducted.



Mr Kubheka said:

“This will bring unity in our community because we are all faced with similar challenges of moral decay in our homes, churches and communities. Through the MRM will promote good values that we can all practise.”



Minister Muthambi with DJ Thwasa from Lesedi FM during the Imbizo at Ratanda.



Heidelberg community members attending the Imbizo.

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

Minister reaches out to the youth

By Thembi Matjokana: GCIS, Gauteng

In an effort to engage with communities, Cabinet has resolved that members of the executive should undertake izimbizo programmes to create a communication platform between government and the public. It is through this commitment that the Minister of Communications, Faith Muthambi, visited the community of Ratanda in Heidelberg on 3 July 2015. The event addressed the critical role of the digital terrestrial television (DTT) migration in unlocking economic opportunities for young people.

Minister Muthambi used the platform to engage with young people on opportunities that they can access in the DTT sector. "Statistics show that young people in the country lead the numbers in unemployment. As government, we are working hard to make sure that communities are informed about our programmes," she said.

The Minister also introduced entities that form part of the Department of Communications. "We have made sure today through this Imbizo that entities such as the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, Media Development and Diversity Agency, Brand SA, Government Communication and Information System and the South African Broadcasting Corporation are here to give you information about their services and introduce some of the young people who have benefited from their programmes."

Leigh-Gail Petersen said: "Brand SA has helped me to put my theory into practice and completing my Masters degree in Research Psychology." She told the community that during her internship programme with the entity, she was exposed to fieldwork, writing reports and presenting data at conferences, thus increasing her chances of finding employment.

"I am happy to inform you today that in 2014, I was offered permanent employment at Brand SA. I would like to take this opportunity to encourage the youth to use every opportunity that comes their way and not sit and wait for things to come to them," she concluded.

During the Imbizo, young people were also afforded an opportunity to interact with Minister Muthambi and their municipal leaders on issues affecting them. Most of the issues that were raised were based on bursary opportunities, skills development and mentorship programmes that are available from government.

Nhlakanipho Sithebe, a young person interested in entrepreneurship, was appreciative of the information received from government entities on supporting small businesses. Minister Muthambi encouraged community members to always read the *Vuk'uzenzele* newspaper, as government departments advertise vacancies there. Other stakeholders who were part of the exhibition included the Film and Publication Board, South African Social Security Agency, departments of home affairs and health, National Youth Development Agency and Sedibeng TVET College.