




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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OUTCOME 2: A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS

North West Office of the Premier launches State of the World Population (SWOP)

By: Abigail Sejesho: DoC, North Wes



Different stakeholders attending the event.

North West Office of the Premier's Directorate Research and Population launched a provincial SWOP 2013 report under the theme: "Motherhood in childhood, facing the challenge of adolescent pregnancy." The event took place on 6 November at Mmabatho Palms in Mahikeng.

The purpose of the launch was to sensitise officials and stakeholders on certain elements of the report. They discussed problems facing the province and how to find solutions to these issues. Professor Akim Mturi made a presentation on why young women in North West have children out of wedlock. Dr Karabo Mhele talked on why black girls drop out of schools in the North West. The high rate of teenage pregnancy in the province is a matter of concern. Different stakeholders such as the North West University, Mafikeng Campus, provincial council on HIV and AIDS, Department of Health and loveLife, Office of the Premier, Mafikeng Youth Centre, Disabled People of South Africa, faith based organisations and also non-profit organisations attended the event. They seized the opportunity to discuss teenage pregnancy and to ensure that girls have a healthy and a safe transition to womanhood.



Abdol-khalid Gopane said:
"Government departments must collaborate with youth structures to address the social ills in our societies."



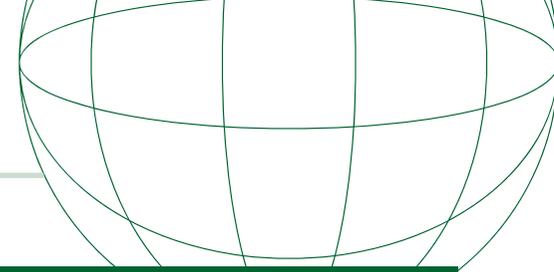
Ntsoaki Motlhaping said:
"We should come up with messages that influence young people to delay having sex. Alternative abstracts based on policies, should influence messages of sexuality."



communications

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

Working towards safer roads

By: Robbie Senwelo: DoC, Gauteng

With October marked as national Transport Month, the Department of Communications (DoC) embarked on a Road Safety Awareness Campaign on 28 October in Tshwane. The Mall and Taxi Rank activations took place at the Denneboom Station, Mamelodi West and Mahube Plaza and Mahube Valley, where motorists and pedestrians were educated on the importance of being alert when using public roads.

Event organisers, Robbie Senoelo and George Moeketsi, said they were humbled by the public's positive response. Over 280 people attended the event. "It is a fact that the past 20 Years of Freedom have seen great strides made towards providing reliable, affordable and safe public transport. Gauteng has introduced the Gautrain and the bus rapid transport system. However, despite all the efforts, a large number of people continue to lose their lives and suffer injuries as a result of road accidents. We wanted to come up with a campaign aimed at educating all road users about the importance of being safe when using public roads."

"Information distributed on the day included flyers and leaflets on road safety tips and pedestrian safety," said Robbie Senoelo.

The Minister of Communications, Faith Muthambi, was quoted in *SANews* saying: "...road and traffic safety is everyone's concern and should occupy our minds and actions when we commute... It however relies heavily on the cooperation of all South Africans."

According to South Africans Against Drunk Driving, a non-profit organisation raising awareness on the dangers of drunk driving, an estimated 8 477 people have died in accidents on South African roads between January and July 2014.

This year's Transport Month was launched under the theme: "Transport Moving the Economy Forward".



DoC officials at Denneboom Station for the Road Safety Mall and Taxi Rank activations.



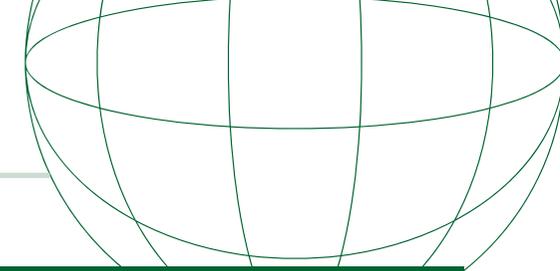
Information products being prepared for the Road Safety Awareness Campaign at Mahube Plaza.



John Ntuli said:
"My major concern is that most motorists are not obeying the rules of the road especially in the townships. School patrollers are often ignored and school children are not safe at all."



Johannah Masemola said:
"I agree that we have dependable, safe and reliable transport but I am concerned about the attitude of some taxi drivers on our roads as they disregard the rules of the road."



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

Minister Muthambi visits KwaZulu-Natal

By: Jabulani Mkhonza and Mlungisi Dlamini: DoC, KwaZulu-Natal



Mbongeni Sibiyi said:

"I have learnt that if we organise ourselves and form cooperative businesses, we can improve our economic status as a community. I would like to urge government to continue with these capacity-building workshops."



Smiso Xaba said:

"I have learnt a lot from this workshop. I learnt about departments that offer funding. However, it is a bit devastating to learn that government's focus is more on funding big businesses. For emerging businesses, it is difficult to get financial assistance. The workshop was very helpful and it will be good if sessions like these are hosted regularly and notifications should come on time."

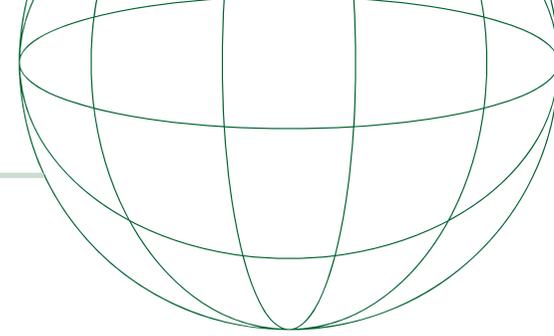


Minister Faith Muthambi interacting with communicators in KwaZulu-Natal.

Following the Presidential Imbizo held a few weeks ago in Pietermaritzburg, a number of developmental issues were identified as matters that required urgent intervention. The Department of Communications (DoC) organised the Economic Empowerment Seminar that was held in Willowfontain on 5 November.

Some of the stakeholders that were present included the departments of social development, economic development, agriculture, tourism and environmental affairs, the Small Enterprise Development Agency and the Industrial Development Corporation. The main objective of the seminar was to inform and empower the community about available economic opportunities, tailor-made to suit their respective needs by employing the Development Communication approach.

Minister Muthambi participated in a service-delivery drive and engaged with communicators from provincial and local governments at the Office of the Premier in KwaZulu-Natal. In her address, the Minister emphasised that communicators needed to take a more aggressive stance on communication, as people should be informed of what government has done and is currently doing. She also urged communicators to support community media to get government's message to different communities. The Minister was accompanied by the DoC Deputy Director-General, Nebo Legoabe, the Mayor of Umgungundlovu District Municipality, Cllr Bhanje, representatives from the Office of the Premier and Brand SA.



Noluthando Mlaba said:

"We were encouraged to work together and ensure that there is healthy communication among ourselves. We have received advice that will help us improve our businesses. I would like to see government assist people who have already started their businesses. This will contribute to the growth of the country's economy."

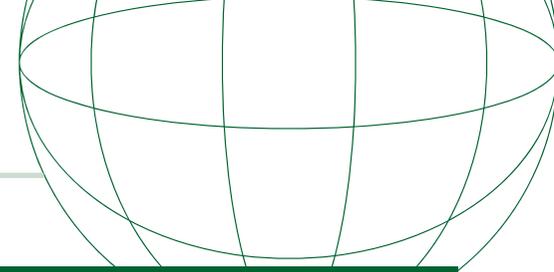


Vinah Mkhize said:

"This workshop has assisted us with the knowledge of how we can improve our businesses. I have learnt that it is important to conduct research before you start your business. For a very long time we have limited ourselves to one business idea but this workshop has equipped us to look for other opportunities. I would like to thank government for the support they have given us since we started our small businesses."



Minister Muthambi interacting with community members and officials during the service-delivery drive.



OUTCOME 13: A COMPREHENSIVE, RESPONSIVE AND SUSTAINABLE SOCIAL PROTECTION SYSTEM

Job opportunities to alleviate poverty in Loxton

By: Thenjiwe Konono: DoC, Northern Cape

The Pixley ka Seme District War Room Forum hosted an outreach programme on 28 October 2014 in the rural town of Loxton in the Northern Cape. The main objective of the programme was to bring services closer to the people. This came as a relief to the Loxton community, 385 km away from offices that offer government services. Community members were given an opportunity to apply for social grants and also receive information on a wide range of issues such as foster care and substance abuse. People were also encouraged to read *Vuk'uzenzele*.

Different projects launched through the War on Poverty Programme were visited. Some of the projects included a Social Development soup kitchen that serves meals to 180 people a day. This project has created job opportunities for two women through the Extended Public Works Programme.

Another project that was visited was the Community Work Programme, which is implemented by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs. So far, the project has created 36 jobs for the people of Loxton.



Catherine Jonkers said:

"I applaud government for its efforts to fight poverty and unemployment in the Loxton community. I am a beneficiary of what government did in this community. I have been receiving a monthly stipend since 2012 and I am also one of the 180 people that receive a meal daily."



Martha said:

"I would like to express my gratitude to government for the job opportunities it created. I am part of a project that started in 2012 and it will run until 2017. This programme responded to the need of the community in Loxton since there is a high rate of unemployment here."



Community members listening to presentations by different departments.



Workers in the community of Loxton.

