




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Freedom Month awareness drive

By Tshidi Mokoka: GCIS, Gauteng



Local community development workers Vincent Motlhabe and Mzwakhe Kaptein engaging with young people in the area.

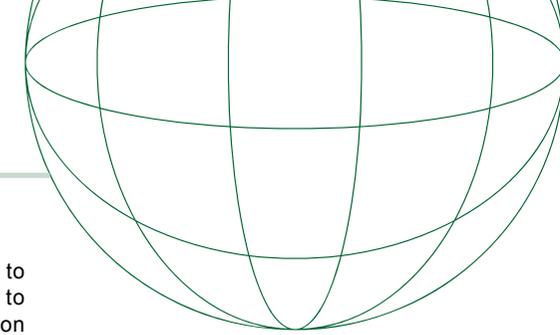
Government Communication and Information System in partnership with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), community development workers (CDWs) and local stakeholders embarked on a Freedom Month awareness campaign on 26 April 2017 in the informal settlement of Middlevlei Station in Randfontein. The event sought to remind the community about the significance of Freedom Day, which is celebrated by South Africans on 27 April to mark the dawn of democracy and freedom.



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During the activation, government information products such as the Constitution were distributed to members of the community. This was done to empower people with knowledge that they can use to improve their lives. Mzwakhe Kaptein, a CDW from Middlevlei Station, said residents used to work on a farm and were left by the farm owner hence the start of the informal settlement in 2014. He further stated that residents live in dire conditions where there is no electricity, water and sanitation, and also no amenities. "A petition was submitted to the Gauteng Legislature and Public Participation and the Presidential Hotline was also called. The Gauteng Department of Housing promised us that there is a mega housing project that will assist the situation," he said. CoGTA is aware of the situation of residents of Middlevlei Station and plans are already in place to assist the community, in partnership with the local municipality.



Lesley Norton noting issues affecting people in the area.



Bonke Patani said:
"I really appreciate the plans that government has in store for us as community members of Middlevlei Station. One thing that I am hopeful for is that employment will be created to enable us to improve our lives."



Boniswa Williams said:
"I understand why Freedom Day is celebrated in South Africa but in this community we would appreciate to see government providing infrastructure in our area. There is no school that is closer to us and that means our children have to travel long distances to access education. We just want the Department of Basic Education to provide transport for our children."



Matlala Sekgato said:

“We are very grateful to be visited by the Mayor as no mayoral Izimbizo were held for a long time in our area. Maybe this time our problems will be solved because I am one of the elderly people who has been waiting for a house for a very long time and have applied for the house at least four times.”



Mosenyegi said:

“Thanks to the Mayor for visiting us. There are many projects in Ventersdorp that are still outstanding at a place called Drie dorpies where a place was meant to be children’s park but nothing is done.”

OUTCOME 9: RESPONSIVE, ACCOUNTABLE, EFFECTIVE AND EFFICIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM

Mayor reaches out to people of Tshing

By Ellen Letlhake: GCIS, North West

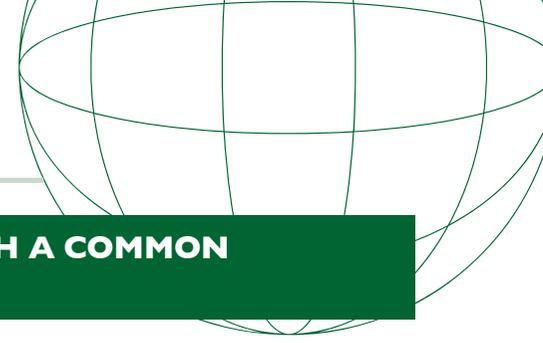


Community members who attended the Mayoral Imbizo.

The Mayor of Tlokwe in Ventersdorp, Kgotso Khumalo, held an Imbizo at Tshing Ext 2 on 7 May 2017. The municipal leadership extended a platform to communities to raise their concerns in order to strengthen public participation in matters pertaining to service delivery. The Imbizo was done to address problems of electricity, water and housing in the area. Community members who are in arrears in their water and electricity accounts were encouraged to visit municipal offices in order to address their problems and to make arrangements on how they were going to settle their accounts.

The Mayor also touched on the issue of housing for the older people who have not yet received their houses and have applied to visit municipal offices so that their problems be addressed.

The Imbizo was success as community members attended in numbers.



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

Mpumalanga observes Freedom Day

By Livhuwani Todani: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Members of the community receiving government information products at the



Different races came together to celebrate Freedom Month.



Gogo Mahlangu said:

“I am here to showcase my talent as an artist and I am happy that this freedom has brought us opportunities as Ndebele people because our culture is now represented all over the world because of our art.”



Shakinah Moodley said:

“I came here to celebrate Freedom Day as young people and proudly South African.”



Government leaders at the event.



Learners posing with their new school uniform.



New house for Matjila.



The shack that used to be Matjila's house.



Ndebele women showcasing their talents.



Members of the community at the event.



People of different cultures showcasing their traditional attires.



Mpumalanga celebrated Freedom Day in style, displaying different cultural groups and their traditions. The event was graced by the MEC for Culture Sport and Recreation, Norah Mahlangu, House of Traditional Leaders and Local Municipality Executive Mayors under the theme: “The Year of OR Tambo: Together deepening democracy and building safer and crime –free communities”.

The Department of Human Settlement brought back the pride and dignity of Piet Matjila from Mmamethlake, who was staying alone in a shack, by providing him with a fully furnished house.

During the event, the South African Social Security Agency donated school uniforms to 10 Tabane Primary School learners in Mmamethlake and also food vouchers to local residents. MEC Mahlangu also promised the community of Mmamethlake that she would be opening the library soon so that community members and learners are able to access more information. The MEC said, “I am pleased by the rainbow nation as the event is well attended by all different racial groups and this is what OR Tambo fought for.”



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

President engages with people of Vuwani

By Doctrine Netshikweta and Eunice Nkuna: GCIS, Limpopo



King Mphephu Ramabulana, President Jacob Zuma, Premier Stanley Mathabatha, Minister Des Van Rooyen and Minister David Mahlobo at the event.



President Jacob Zuma addressing Vuwani stakeholders.



Vuwani stakeholders welcomed President Jacob Zuma to give a wayforward report aimed at resolving the crises.



Arnold Mulaudzi said:

“The shutdown was lifted with immediate effect as long as what the President and the King agreed upon would be implemented to ensure services to the community. We urge the community to rally behind the development and to give support to the learners as they are already behind their curriculum time.”

Vuwani community stakeholders comprising church and traditional leaders, business forums, youth and Pro-Makhado leaders sang the same tune with President Jacob Zuma and Khosi-khulu Vho-Toni Mphephu Ramabulana during the community stakeholder meeting aimed at resolving the crisis in the area. An interim decision to place Vuwani under the Vhembe District Municipality was taken while working towards a final decision. The President’s visit was a follow-up to his meeting with King Ramabulana.

During his address, the deputy chairperson of Makhado Task Team, Arnold Mulaudzi, welcomed the decision taken by the President and the King. Mulaudzi said things would return to normal.

These sentiments were supported by the leader of the church forum in Vhembe, Dr Alunamutwe Rannditsheni when he supported the banishment of the shutdown. “Vuwani situation was a great pain to us as people who works to heal faith. We cannot be happy while seeing other communities denied the right to learn and work. As pastors, we supported the community,” said Rannditsheni.

President Jacob Zuma thanked King Ramabulana for providing leadership and proposed what he thought will bring liberty around Vuwani. “As a state president, I copiously support His Majesty’s proposal of giving Vhembe District Municipality the authority to provide services to the people of Vuwani, while awaiting for the solution on the demarcation issue. The people shall govern and His Majesty’s proposal is part of governance. Community structures, let us all follow suit and work together with government to bring normalcy in Vuwani. Meanwhile, the district municipality provides services to the community of Vuwani. The national and provincial departments should provide support to the district municipality to carry out this new mandate,” said President Zuma.

The President emphasised that the decision that they have made does not mean that the new municipality (LIM 345) is being disestablished. King Ramabulana urged the community to work collectively with government to ensure developmental success within their community. “This breakthrough that we have achieved today is a mark that a democratic government does listen to the people. Let us work jointly and give support to the future leaders who were disturbed for such a long time. Working together we can fight all form of hooliganism around Vuwani,” he said.