




MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 7 / March 2017

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

North West hosts SoPA

By Fatima Modise: GCIS, North West



Members of the North West Legislature during State of the Province Address.



Premier Supra Mahumapelo speaking at the event.



Community members at the event.

On 24 February 2017, the Premier of North West, Supra Mahumapelo, delivered the State of the Province (SoPA) address at Taung Sports Ground in Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District.

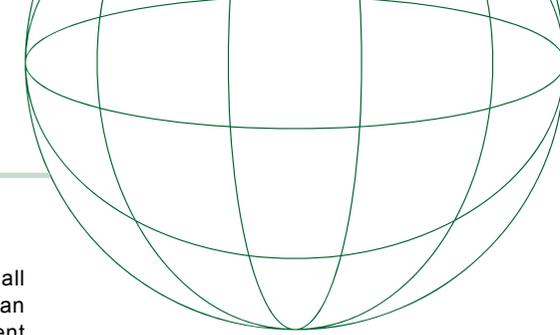
The speaker of the North West legislature, Susan Dantjie, explained that they have taken a resolution to rotate venues around the province and as a result, the opening of the legislature was held in Taung.



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Premier Mahumapelo said, “For the first time in 2017, our province will announce all pass rates in all public schools from Grade 1 to 12. The province is also in discussion with VBS Bank on the role they can play in strengthening the Village, Townships and Small Dorpies economy. The North West Development Cooperation has been mandated to venture into retail business by opening retail outlets in each district throughout the Bokone Bophirima province. We are happy to announce that government has appointed Dr Otsile Ntswane as the CEO of Mmabana Arts and Sports Foundation, Youth Entrepreneurship Services in the Office of the Premier. The NWDC as well as NYDA and SEFA are putting up an enterprise support package through the roll-out of a customised and fit for purpose laundry on wheels platform with a smart portal creating sustainable jobs and working enterprises managed and operated by the youth of our province”.

The Premier further explained that government is working with Eskom and municipalities to clear all their debts. Out of the eight affected municipalities, debt management unit within Finance Economy and Enterprise Development has managed to ensure that payments agreements by municipalities are complied with and in excess of R120 million, has been paid to Eskom.

Premier Mahumapelo highlighted that the Reconciliation, Healing and Renewal (RHR) programme has been implemented with increased vigour in 2016. “We wish to express our gratitude to President Jacob Zuma for elevating our RHR event on 16 December 2016 into a national event and gracing us with his presence,” he said.



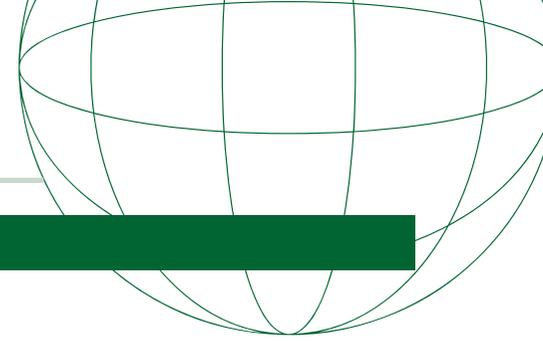
Letlhogonolo Lekaowa said:

“It was a privilege for me to be part of an event of this nature. I love what government is doing for the youth of this province, I hope people embrace the opportunities that government is creating for them.”



Vela Ntuli said:

“I think for the legislature to bring the event to the people is a good idea and as for the Premier’s speech, it was marvellous. I like what government is doing for the province.”



OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Minister reaches out to learners

By Ziningi Maphanga: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



A learner raising issues during the Imbizo.



James Nyembe said:

"I come from 1583 iNanda. What I learned today is that we as a youth have to be more active in solving the problems of the community, which is why I wish to share my knowledge that I have discovered. I don't support the #FeesMustFall movement. I really appreciate the education I received growing up."



Minister Jeff Radebe giving a keynote address.



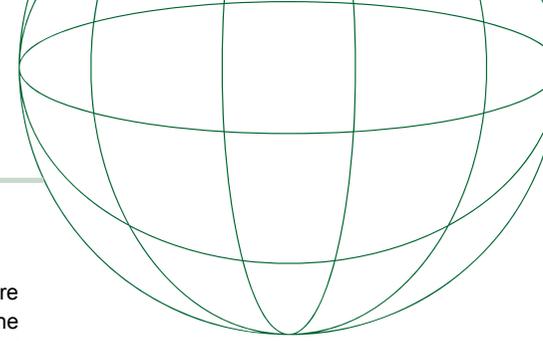
Minister Jeff Radebe singing with the JG Zuma High School choir.

"The government of South Africa considers education as an apex priority in its programmes. Access to basic and higher education and training are at the heart of our commitment for the future of this country."

These are the words of Minister in The Presidency responsible for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Jeff Radebe, as he gave his keynote address at the National Development Plan Post-SoNA back-to-school Imbizo, which was held on 25 February 2017.

Learners from different schools in and around Ntuzuma gathered at Ntuzuma F Hall for an opportunity to interact with the Minister, who was accompanied by KwaZulu-Natal Director for Strategic, Planning and Monitoring, Jabu Khoza.

Minister Radebe emphasised the importance of partnership between educators, learners and parents in ensuring sustainable education system in the country. "As a citizen of this country, I feel duty-bound to take the responsibility of ensuring that education is accessible to all South African citizens. The past few years have not been the easiest in the education sector, particularly in higher education and training. We must all put shoulders to the wheel to ensure that our children have access to quality education," he said.



A student asking a question at the event.



Mbali Qwabe said:

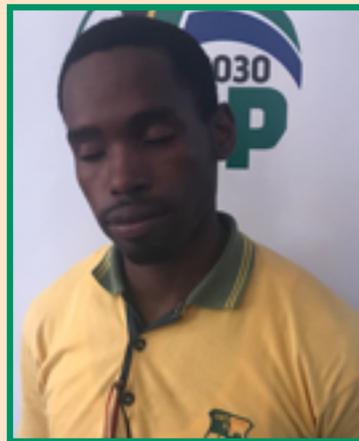
“I am from Senzokwethu and I am in grade 11. Today I learned that we must focus more on education and not on drugs because education is the key to success. I would like government to build us more facilities to study, such as libraries and add more desks in our classrooms. The other issues is that we are too many in our classrooms, which makes it difficult for teachers to give us the necessary attention that we need.”

The Imbizo was characterised by a series of events, there was walkabout at the local library where the Minister interacted with the youth and chess clubs, exhibition of information and services and the engagement session. Community members received information and services from the Department of Health, Government Communication and Information System, KwaZulu-Natal Financial Literacy Association, National Youth Development Agency, South African Social Security Agency, Department of Social Development and the Office of the Premier. More than 1 000 publications were distributed.

The learners had the opportunity to raise their concerns, mostly on infrastructure, insufficient learning material and safety in school. Among the delegates was Colonel Madonsela who assured the community that the South African Police Service in the province has partnered with the community policing forum to ensure that schools are kept safe and that learning is not disrupted in any way.

Khoza urged the parents to be more involved in the education of their children and use the available platforms to raise issues.

The Imbizo was a response to a call by President Jacob Zuma during the SoNA to find sustainable solutions to the education challenges that the country experiences particularly in the past two years.



Ayanda Mbambo said:

“I appreciate the event and also acknowledge that the answering of burning societal questions. Most of young people are destroyed by substance abuse and that people should know more about education than drugs. To improve the system I would like to see government building us more libraries.”



Zuzumuzi Themba said:

“I am delighted to be visited by the Deputy Minister to be informed about opportunities and to be guided on how we should prepare ourselves as students to grab and benefit from such opportunities.”



Tshhegofatso Phethla said:

“I am happy to be informed about the skills that are demanded by the outside world, the workplace in particular. This engagement with the Deputy Minister helps us to sharpen our skills to take advantage of the opportunities that are created by government and private companies out there.”

OUTCOME 5: A SKILLED AND CAPABLE WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT AN INCLUSIVE GROWTH PATH

Deputy Minister visits Gert Sibande District

By Bongani Mazibuko: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Deputy Minister Obed Bapela with other dignitaries and students.



The Gert Sibande TVET college and Evander Campus staff taking a photo with the political principals.



Deputy Minister Obed Bapela delivered the keynote address.



An official from the Manaka the Evander Campus of the Gert Sibande TVET college addressing the audience.



Two brand new Ford bakkies donated by Ford for engineering students' practicals.

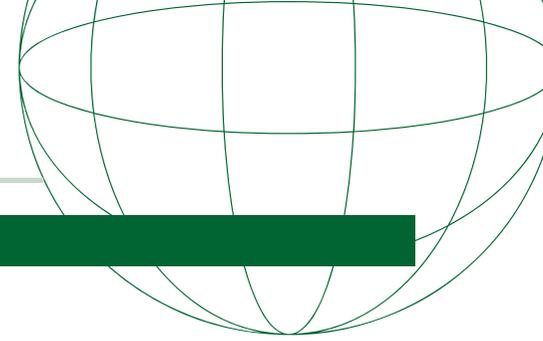
Government had set 25 February 2017 as the date to host Post-SoNA Back-to-School Izimbizo throughout the country. Deputy Minister for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), Obed Bapela, addressed students, lecturers and community members at the Gert Sibande Technical Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College in the Gert Sibande District in Mpumalanga.

The Deputy Minister's address focused mainly on encouraging the college students to take college education seriously because it offers both theory and practice at the same time. He further indicated that the skills they acquire at college must enable them to be entrepreneurs, to create job opportunities for themselves and other young people. He urged students to handle jobs that are generally perceived as 3Ds: dirty, dangerous and difficult.

Lecturers and students also got an opportunity to ask questions and the Deputy Minister gave responses.

“Government is opening nursing colleges, teacher colleges, TVET colleges and we are also bringing another range of college system of education, which is called community college education. We are busy with the paperwork,” said the Deputy Minister.

He further indicated that government is engaging Transnet, Telkom and Prasa to have training centres for in-service training to sharpen the skills of young people at TVET colleges.



Thango Bongumusa said:

“In my area there is Majuba Eskom Power Station. They came to our school and recruited us to apply for Eskom bursaries. I further used the Internet to get more information on Eskom career opportunities. I am currently doing my first year in Bachelor of Science in Electrical Engineering at Wits University.”



Varecia Sigauque said:

“I am from around the village called Calcutta, I applied for the Mpumalanga bursaries but they then transferred my application to SAFCOL, selected me for the full bursary that enabled me to study at Cape Peninsula where I am doing my electrical engineering qualification. I am looking forward to working in the male-dominated forestry industry so that I can motivate other young females.”



Mnyambo said:

“As SGB representative I would like to thank the Minister and the SoEs for coming back and fulfil what they promised the community of Mkhuhlu especially to beef up our education programme by assisting our children to be able to study hard for better results.”

OUTCOME I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Minister fulfils promises

By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Minister Brown interacting with community members.

Minister Lynne Brown addressing the community members.

Learners from Mthayiza Primary School assembly the stage to open with the National Anthem before the official programmes starts.

The promises made in the past years to residents of Mkhuhlu and surrounding communities yielded positive results. Last year, the Minister of Public Enterprises, Lynne Brown, visited the area for the electrification celebration Imbizo and made a commitment to return with state-owned enterprises (SoEs) to benefit young people through educational programmes.

Welcoming different dignitaries at the event, the Executive Mayor of Bushbuckridge Local Municipality, Sylvia Nxumalo, applauded the role played by the companies in taking education to another level. She said the Department of Public Enterprises had become a helping hand on numerous occasions when it comes to education because the SoEs assist with learnership, job creation for our communities.

The Minister also challenged learners to give more effort on maths and science as the main focus of their support is critically based on bridging the gap for scarce skills such as zoologists, botanists, geologist, vets, civil, mechanical and electrical engineers that she emphasised that some of them should come from Mkhuhlu.

Minister Brown and the SoEs officially handed over full school uniform to 20 learners from different schools, 10 full tertiary bursaries by Eskom, Transnet provided five mobile libraries and will take 21 learners for railway line internship and three full bursary were received from SAFCOL, specifically targeting girls because the forestry area is mostly dominated by males. This move was a quick response to the State of the Province Address, which was presented on 24 February 2017, where Premier David Mabuza emphasised that “No child, black or white must feel excluded from the future that we are building for this province.”

Some of the young people who were awarded the bursaries are studying electrical, mechanical and civil engineering, while others are in medical schools. Grade 12 learners from local schools had an opportunity to interact with the different service providers at the exhibition stalls such as Denel, SA Express, Transnet, Eskom, SAFCOL, MRTT, Ehlanzeni Technical Vocational Education and Training, Nkangala Higher Education, Provincial Department of Education, and the Department of