

## DID YOU KNOW?

The National Development Plan of government is intended to eliminate poverty and reduce inequality.



# MY DISTRICT TODAY

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## Outcome 2: A long and healthy life for All South Africans

### Working together towards zero new HIV infections

*Robbie Senoelo, GCIS Gauteng*

South Africa's drive named *Zero new HIV infections and zero AIDS-related deaths* took a step towards realisation when free health services were brought closer to the people. This was thanks to a health partnership comprising the Department of Health in Region E of the City of Johannesburg, Stop Suffering, Alexandra Development Co-Operative, Alex Outreach, Jozini Ihlomile, Health 4 Men, the South African National Tuberculosis Association, the South African National Cancer Association and community development workers; and coordinated by Government Communications (GCIS).

The health partnership conducted health screenings for HIV, AIDS, tuberculosis, glucose levels, blood pressure, ovarian cancer, pap smears, prostate cancer and other illnesses at Alex Plaza Shopping Centre to encourage people to know their health status and look after their health.

Sister Isaac Kekae, a senior health promoter from the Johannesburg's health department, explained the timing of the testing initiative. "We offered these services on a weekend so that people who are busy during the week could have easy access to a basket of health services offered by the government and other health partners.

"Many people do not find time to go to the clinics or hospitals to have their health checked. Those are the people we are trying to reach."



The ABC message was clear for all to see.



GCIS officials distributing condoms at Alex Plaza Shopping Centre.

Members of the community responded positively to the initiative and waited patiently for their turn, undeterred by the high temperatures and glaring sun. "It is painful to find out that you are sick at a later stage, when it is too late," said Norman Maja, who was determined to make use of the services available. He added that private doctors are too expensive, and thanked the government for providing these services free of charge.

Health 4 Men was educating men about their reproductive health, sexual health and male medical circumcision; and distributed condoms and lubricants. Keith Khoza explained that they also provide mental and social support for men. "Most men have a phobia of going to public health facilities for help. Delivering these services at a shopping centre is ideal, as there are no stigmas attached."

The highlight of the campaign was when DJ Murendeni Ndanduleni (commonly known as Mreiks), presenter of *The Breakfast Show* on Alex FM community radio station, took his HIV and AIDS test in public, and challenged all his listeners to do likewise.



People waiting to undergo health screening.

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## Outcome 12: An efficient, effective and development-oriented Public Service and an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship

### Limpopo is ready for a community television channel

*Thanyani Rhavhura, GCIS Limpopo*

Saturday morning, 2 March 2013 provided an illuminating moment as more than 300 delegates and well-wishers from all walks of life in Limpopo gathered at Hlatlolang Community Health Centre under the banner of the Limpopo Common Vision Workshop.

The workshop's keynote address was delivered by the Deputy Minister of Communications, Ms Stella Ndabeni. She said that, along with the move towards digital television in South Africa, Limpopo deserved a community television channel that would unite and equally empower residents from its five districts.

Deputy Minister Ndabeni was accompanied by Lumko Mtimde, the chief executive officer of the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA); Thanyani Rhavhura, the Limpopo Provincial Chief Director of the Government Communications and Information System (GCIS); Naledzani Rasila, Branding and Communications Director in the Limpopo Office of the Premier; and Ms Dieketseng Diale, Chief Information Officer of the Limpopo Department of Cooperative Governance Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs

Other participants in the workshop included Professor Sheila Mmusi, head of the Department of Media Studies in the University of Limpopo, and a complement of 32 BA Honours (Media Studies) students. In her message of support of the workshop, Professor Mmusi undertook that her department would prepare the young graduates to become filmmakers and ultimately prime content providers for the Limpopo Television Initiative. "We believe that through training of young black professional filmmakers and television producers from the communities of Limpopo, we are in a good stead to support the anticipated community television channel," Professor Mmusi hinted.

Professor Mmusi's pledge for training and development of youth for feeding quality content into the Limpopo Community Television Channel was

echoed by Deputy Minister Ndabeni, who said that community television was also about creating employment and economic empowerment opportunities.

Mtimde and Dr Mashilo Boloka of the Department of Communications affirmed that Sekhukhune Community Television Initiative (Sk Com TV) should be supported to steer the process of implementing the resolutions of the workshop.

In summarising the workshop's resolutions, Rhavhura said there was a general consensus by the workshop's delegates that the current board of Sekhukhune Community should be allowed space to work with all communities of Limpopo to establish the provincial community television. "The principles of continuity and sustenance resounded with guest speakers, observers and participants alike, because we commonly believe the Sekhukhune Community TV's team has what it takes to deliver the Limpopo Community TV channel."

Among the well-wishers of the Limpopo Common Vision Workshop on Community Television was Sekhukhune District's executive mayor, Mogobo Magabe, who is also the chairperson of the South African Local Government Association. Magabe thanked Deputy Minister Ndabeni on behalf of the Limpopo community for blessing and sharing the common vision for a community television channel in Limpopo.

"The presence of Deputy Minister Ndabeni is highly received as an endorsement of our anticipated provincial community television channel. We hope that this common vision workshop and its resolutions will go a long way in unlocking Limpopo's cultural discourse and economic growth potential as the hub for community-driven digital media, and further enable connectivity in a range of information and communication technologies like telecommunication networks, signals for radio, Internet and the like."



## Outcome 12: An efficient, effective and development-oriented Public Service and an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship



The main passage inside the building.



The strong room where the documents will be kept. The builders are currently waiting for the fire department to approve the extinguishers before they can sign off the building.

### Government prioritizes access to information

*Willem van Dalen, GCIS Northern Cape*

Government is proud to announce that the Northern Cape public will, in future, have access to the almost complete Provincial Archives Repository in Kimberley.

According to the Provincial Public Works Communication Manager, Crystal Robertson, Northern Cape residents did not have the luxury of accessing documents or having intense public participation, as there was no suitable building to house all the relevant documents since 1994.

"The Head of Department and Provincial Archivist of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture and the Head of Department of the Department of Public Works initiated the process of building Archives in the Northern Cape."

Construction began in October 2010, after thorough planning by engineers and building contractors. Safety precautions such as fire, flood and lightning protection, and climate and pollution control was incorporated to ensure that all records are kept safe.

Other factors to be taken into consideration included that the building should be detached from other buildings, built in a non-marshy low-lying area, away from petrol tanks, railway lines and direct air routes.



The newly built Archives Repository in Kimberley, Northern Cape.

The building was built on land that was previously a sports field, on the corner of Silson Road and Green Street, Kimberley.

- Archives are vital public resource centres. They allow citizens to monitor the activities of government and thus hold government accountable for its actions.
- Archives play a crucial role in nation-building and social cohesion by enabling the stories and history of all people to be told and preserved permanently.
- Archives ensure that government acts consistently, as the citizens have access to its previous decisions, and therefore play a fundamental role in underpinning democracy.
- Scholars and academics in the province, the country and even abroad will be able to conduct research in the Archives Repository, covering a variety of fields and subjects.

The public will be able to make use of the facilities inside the Archives Repository, including a reading room, a library and a conference centre.

Government has invested an estimated R21 million in the first phase of the building's construction. People from the local area were employed in the process.



The entrance to the building with the reading room on the left side. The windows allow natural light without direct sun entering the building.



The executive mayor of King Sabata Dalindyebo Municipality, Nonkoliso Ngqongwa, addressing the session.

## Outcome I2: An efficient, effective and development-oriented Public Service and an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship

### KSD POST-SONA DIALOGUE

*Sabelo Kakaza, GCIS Eastern Cape*

GCIS, in partnership with the King Sabata Dalindyebo (KSD) Local Municipality, conducted a post-State of the Nation Address (SoNA) media and stakeholder engagement breakfast where the executive mayor, Nonkoliso Ngqongwa, analysed this year's SoNA.

The event was attended by stakeholders from various sectors, top management of the municipality, Programme Management Unit members, KSD Presidential Intervention workstream convenors, traditional leaders, the Council of Churches, business sector, youth, the women and people with disabilities sector, government department representatives, taxi associations, organised labour and the Association of Advocates.

Ngqongwa told the participants and the people of KSD who were listening at the session's live broadcast on Unitra Community Radio that KSD was declared as a presidential node, and it that agreement was reached that certain projects were to be prioritised, namely the airport, water and sanitation, roads, electrification and home system.

**AIRPORT:** The mayor told the community that the airport is being built at a budget of around R366 million, including the new building. Some 302 job opportunities would be created by this project. She further reported that parking and upgrading of aprons have been completed, and that the extension of runway is almost complete.



Communicators and community development workers during an information dissemination road show blitz and taxi rank activation.



**ELECTRIFICATION:** People were informed that to improve electricity in KSD, two transformers were bought for R13,5 million. The installation of Thornhill started in December 2012 and is expected to be completed in October 2013.

**ROADS:** The N2 Bridge has been built at a cost of R101 million. Some 225 jobs were created and the bridge is 71% complete. Some 41% of the planned road projects have been completed, namely Ultra City to Viedgesville, the airport to Madeira, Jubilee Square Ultra City to Mthatha River and Ugie to Langeni.

**WATER AND SANITATION:** There is a site for sanitation near St. John's College where this project will be revamped at a cost of **R27,05 million**. There will also be an improvement upgrade of intake structure to receive up to 40 ML flow per day.

Communicators distributed information about the KSD Presidential Intervention and other sectors to ensure that the community is aware of the programmes taking place in their area, especially regarding KSD Presidential Intervention projects. Information dissemination is done monthly by communicators through door-to-door campaigns, taxi rank and mall activations, blitzes and stakeholder engagement sessions of different living standard measures groups.



Sinethemba Mashalaba from The Office of the Premier sharing his opinion.