



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

An infrastructure development project to benefit all

By: Reki Skosana: DoC, Mpumalanga.

The Minister of Transport, Dipuo Peters, members of the executive council of Mpumalanga, senior public service managers from Mpumalanga and Gauteng visited the community of Nkangala District recently to give feedback on progress made with the Moloto Corridor. Political principals from Nkangala District as well as local municipal mayors were also part of the delegation. There was a good turnout of community members at Kwaggafontein Stadium on 13 July who wanted to hear what the Minister had to say to them. The Minister outlined what committees had been formulated to take care of the project as well as all the stakeholders involved in making the project a success. She mentioned the types of work that would be involved as well the skills that would be needed and also encouraged young people to take part and grab opportunities created by the execution of the project to better their lives.

The Minister mentioned that local municipalities should take care of local routes to create synergy between them and the one that would be built and for the stakeholders involved in issuing liquor licences not to issue them to owners who wanted to build next to important facilities.

The community was assured that the establishment of Moloto Corridor infrastructure did not mean that e-tolls would be introduced.

Community members were excited to receive the good news and with warm hands and open hearts they offered her a gift of a Ndebele blanket as a token of appreciation for the positive feedback that she had given them.



Left: Minister of Transport Dipuo Peters and other dignitaries. **Right:** The Minister of Transport Dipuo Peters addresses members of the Nkangala community.



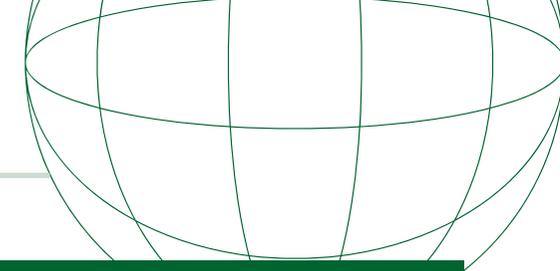
Mr Bhuda said: "I am happy that the Minister of Transport came. Personally, I found her address to be very clear, promising and exciting. It gave me hope that something good will come out of this project and we, as people involved in transport, will benefit adequately. Hopefully whatever she has mentioned will truly be implemented because most of the things are being said but not implemented as outlined."



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

Deputy Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams commits to support local media

By: Ndyebo Kopo: DoC, Eastern Cape.

As part of the Imbizo Focus Week from 14 to 20 July 2014, the Deputy Minister of Communications, Stella Ndabeni Abrahams, met with stakeholders that are in line with the mandate of the reconfigured Department of Communications (DoC).

The Eastern Cape Provincial office of the DoC (formerly GCIS) organised the meet-and-greet session at the Savoy Hotel.

During the focus week members of the executive were expected to outline the plans and focus areas of the new administration and to respond to issues raised during previous izimbizo events. The intricacies of the plans of the new administration are outlined in the Medium Term Strategic Framework and the National Development Plan with the aim of moving South Africa forward.

In line with the new mandate of the DoC, the get together was organised to enable the Deputy Minister to interact briefly with members of the local media, board members of Unitra Community Radio and government communicators from the OR Tambo District in the Eastern Cape.

“The present government took a conscious decision as one of its democratic practices to enable the environment for the establishment of community media. It is incumbent of this government to ensure that we support the local media. We cannot then be apologetic about our support towards the local media. We need to see to it that we assist these institutions to professionalise their day-to-day running of their business”, said the Deputy Minister.

The evening session offered a round-up of the day’s Imbizo programmes where each stakeholder was given an opportunity to present their successes, challenges and proposals to the Deputy Minister.

We took some time to interact with delegates to hear their views about the session. They had this to say:



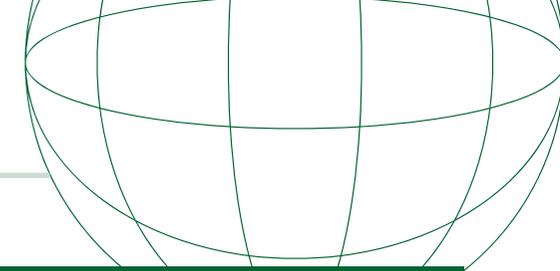
Deputy Minister addressing stakeholders in a meet and greet session in Mthatha.



Fundile Mazantsana, from OR Tambo district’s disabled people organisation, representing the disability sector on the UCR FM board of directors. He said: “I have learnt a lot in terms of communication and the media. The Deputy Minister has opened up my thinking around the work of the communication officers of the municipality in line with the community media, in particular radio. The Deputy Minister has made me realise that indeed municipalities need to change the way they communicate with citizens especially on IDP-related matters.”



Phelokazi Pellem, Port St Johns, Communication Officer: “The session was good, yes it was good. I have learnt that in our communication strategies we should enhance the issue of the community media. The Deputy Minister is lovely. She was on point, talking about the things that we should address when we go back; she was just good.”



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

George Economic Opportunities Seminar

By: J J Grootboom: DoC, Western Cape.

More than 500 unemployed people in the George municipal area will access various economic opportunities that will help them to better their lives after attending a workshop on 16 and 17 July at the Parkdene and Thembaletu Thusong Service Centre.

Growing the economy, improving local government, transforming the energy sector and creating jobs are some of the priorities on which government will focus its attention over the next five years.

Delivering his State of the Nation Address (SoNA) in Parliament, President Jacob Zuma outlined a number of measures to deal with the challenges facing the country. Expanding the economy would take centre stage because the most effective way to fight poverty was to create jobs. This required faster economic growth. Government's target is growth of 5% by 2019. To achieve this, government will adopt various measures and interventions to jump-start the economy. "Today this integrated outreach is focused on helping unemployed members of George's community to secure a better future.

"This initiative takes its lead from the SoNA during which President Zuma promised more economic opportunities for people where they live," said Jethro Grootboom. It has been 20 years since the first democratic elections took place on 27 April 1994. Government's Twenty Year Review makes it clear that South Africa has made significant progress in community development since 1994, but that many challenges remain.

The month of July provides an opportunity to promote economic development programmes, projects and initiatives, as part of post-SoNA activities, especially in these focus areas:

- economic participation (addressing the challenge of unemployment, including increasing opportunities for formal education and training)
- learnerships and internships
- employment services to improve job search and job matching
- second-chance programmes to strengthen the employment prospects for unemployed young people
- career and skills development opportunities
- Small medium and micro enterprise development as the vehicle for job creation as stipulated in the National Development Plan
- health and well-being – (Including the fight against substance abuse and lifestyle diseases, among other things).

This development communication initiative enjoys the support of the George municipality, Small Enterprise Development Agency, Department of Communications (formerly the GCIS), National Youth Development Agency, South African Revenue Service, the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform, South Cape College, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, University of South Africa, South African National Parks, Cape Nature, and the Department of Labour.



Jethro Grootboom of the DoC said, "The core focus of the DoC is to create development-communication platforms like the one we are having today, where community members will get relevant information that will help them to better their lives. We hope that we can assist each one of you present here today. Our newspaper *Vuk'uzenzele* comes out each month in all 11 languages. This newspaper has information such as bursaries you can apply for, funding for start-up businesses, etc. The newspapers are free and are available monthly at schools, libraries, shops, clinics, etc. It is free, but please read and pass on to someone else when you have finished reading it."



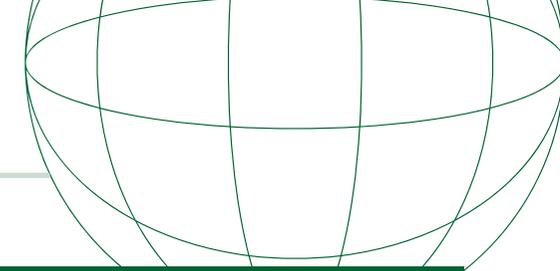
Shunaid Thys (youth in hoody) said, "Thank you for the opportunity that you have brought to Parkdene. I am currently doing Grade 12, and would like to further my studies with Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University (NMMU) and did not have the opportunity to get hold of this information from NMMU. This will help me a lot. Since it is still school holidays, I have a lot of time to go through the information and submit my application in time for admission next year.



Community members listen attentively to the presentations by various stakeholders during the seminar.



Unemployed people accessing a range of information after presentations by the stakeholders, which included Cape Nature, Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University, South Cape College, George municipality, the Small Enterprise Development Agency, the Small Enterprise Finance Agency, National Youth Development Agency, Department of Rural Development and Land Reform.



"I have learnt how careless sexual behaviour can affect other innocent people and I now understand the concept of medical male circumcision and what it means to be a man."



"I have learnt the importance of good moral behaviour and that it is up to each individual male person to decide if he lives with one partner and stays out of trouble or if he chooses to sleep around and get infected with HIV and AIDS."



"Today I have learnt what it means to be a real man and I am now aware of the difference between men and a male person. Today's programme will assist me to be a better person and I will be able to educate my friends and family."

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

Mens sector educates young males

By: Mlungisi Dlamini: DoC, KwaZulu-Natal.

"Referring to an act of cheating with sweet names like "friends with benefits" and "my sugar daddy" may seem nice at an early stage when one gets many gifts of money and fashionable clothes, but a relationship generally sours once a person contracts HIV and AIDS," Thulani Mthlane, Provincial Chairperson of the Men's Forum in KwaZulu-Natal, told about 80 students of Universal College Outcomes (UCO) College during a youth dialogue about men's health and moral regeneration. He said growing bored and deciding to have more than one relationship was a sign of disrespect for one's life.

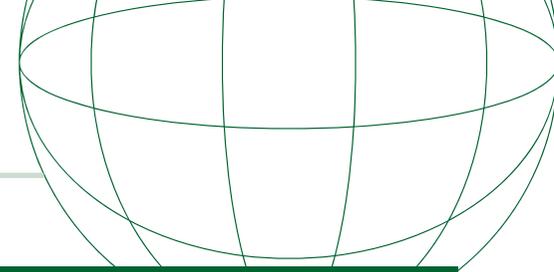
While educating boys about medical male circumcision and moral regeneration, Mr Dumisani Zungu of the District Men's Sector warned students that statistics on HIV and AIDS showed that HIV was prevalent in the uMgungundlovu district, particularly in the area of the uMsunduzi municipality. Hence it was important for people residing in uMsunduzi to be extra careful when engaging in sexual intercourse.

He said medical male circumcision was not just about removing a male's foreskin but an aspect of a culture that promotes moral behaviour among young men so that they grow up to be responsible men and fathers who do not abuse their families. He said real men are those who provide for, protect and participate in decisions affecting their families. During the session, Samkelo Mtshali from UCO, pointed out that there had been a great deal of education on matters of good morals and sexual behaviour. He said that it was up to each individual male to decide whether to live with one partner and stay out of trouble or sleep around and be infected with HIV and AIDS.

Another student, Xolani Dlalisa, (26), blamed women who he said no longer offered true love and that this tempted men to have more than one partner. On the issue of poor financial backgrounds where parents cannot provide enough financial support "Siyayinqoba beat it" representative, Wendy Khumalo told students that although she also came from a poor family where her parents could not provide for all her financial needs, that did not prompt her get involved with sugar daddies. "Instead I focused on my studies and made sure I pass and get a good job for myself," she said.



Thulani Mthlane explains how only males can cause HIV and AIDS to pass through three families.



Ms Phumla Williams: Acting CEO, GCIS

South Africa
indeed has a good story to tell

PHUMLA WILLIAMS – VOICE OF GOVERNMENT

GOVERNMENT PRESENTED A SUCCESSFUL IMBIZO FOCUS WEEK

The first National Imbizo Focus Week of the new administration that took place under the theme “Together we move South Africa forward” has come to an end. The focus week saw Cabinet members engaging in dialogues of empowerment with various communities across the country. The izimbizo programme is a communication platform that enables the citizenry to have a meaningful and direct engagement with members of the national, provincial and local executive.

Minister of Communications Faith Muthambi said, “The Izimbizo approach promotes participatory democracy where people can voice their concerns, opinions and suggestions to their representatives, which they elected into office.” This year’s Imbizo Focus Week coincided with the first International Mandela Day to be celebrated since the passing of the struggle icon, Dr Nelson Mandela.

On 18 July, a number of stakeholders responded to the call made by President Jacob Zuma to participate in a clean-up campaign. Government hosted over 30 clean-up activities at schools, hospitals, community facilities and orphanage centres country-wide in honour of former President Mandela’s legacy.

Notable events included the clean-up campaign in the Eastern Cape at Mandela Science School in Mvezo where some members of the national, provincial and local executives, members of Parliament as well as traditional leaders supported President Zuma. Another was an event at Bophelong Provincial Hospital attended by Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa, the North West provincial executive and other dignitaries in Mahikeng.

The izimbizo focus weeks approach is the post-event feedback mechanism that aims to keep citizens abreast of interventions and plans underway to address socio-economic challenges in a sustainable manner. These mechanisms also ensure that communities and government work hand-in-glove to fast-track delivery and promote a culture of social partnership that affords each an opportunity to play their part as envisioned in the National Development Plan.

While government acknowledges that much has been achieved in the first 20 years of freedom, it realises that there are challenges that need to be addressed such as poverty, inequality and unemployment.

Minister Muthambi said, “Government noted issues raised during the engagements with the public and will undertake interventions. We are determined to ensure that there are improvements in all areas and we will monitor progress.”

During the Imbizo Focus Week government embarked on approximately 48 izimbizo events across the country. “Government thanks all citizens that showed interest by attending the izimbizo and participating in the engagements with political principals,” said Minister Muthambi.