




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Official handover of Chatsworth Police Station by Deputy Minister of Public Works to the Minister of Police on 16 April 2014

By Vasadi Naido: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



The Deputy Minister Public Works, Jeremy Cronin handed over the "Key" of the Chatsworth Police Station to the Minister of Police, Nathi Mthethwa.



The Minister of Police, Nathi Mthethwa who officially opened the station.

Community members welcomed the official opening of the new and improved, state-of-the-art Chatsworth Police Station, which was handed over by the Deputy Minister of Public Works, Jeremy Cronin, to the Minister of Police, Nathi Mthethwa on 17 April 2014. Sam Pillay, Chairperson of the Local Drug Action Committee said in an interview on Lotus FM that the improved facilities at the renovated police station greatly assisted with the recent successes in the fight against the drug trade in the community.

The new and improved, state-of-the-art police station will help the officials to better serve their communities. Minister Mthethwa said, "Chatsworth is not an easy area to police. The 310 officers who work from the new station have more than 60 km² to look after and a great mix of people to serve. There are other police stations with more territory but very few with the same large urban areas under their protection. The police officers have a difficult job. Our democratic South Africa requires police officers to serve the community in a sensitive way when they are affected by crime. To this end the new Chatsworth Police Station

has facilities for trauma counselling, a Victim Friendly Facility Centre and officers trained to handle the issue of domestic violence and drug abuse."

Deputy Minister Jeremy Cronin, in his handover speech, said that the renovated precinct is one of the many good South African stories to tell. He said, "During the construction of the police station, 60 learners from the local community were recruited for the Expanded Public Works Programme. Of the 60 learners, 19 graduated as artisans in various technical fields and they will form a core cadre of public servants who will strengthen government's efforts to capacitate the State and root out corruption."

In addition 27 trainees from the Department of Public Works also received training during the project in bricklaying, painting, plumbing, carpentry and electricity.

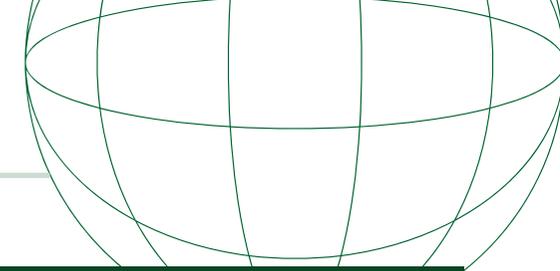
Minister Mthethwa urged the community to take care of the station and cooperate with the police in the fight against crime.



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

Limpopo: a better place to be

By Madire Mocketla: GCIS, Limpopo



Learners participated in a silent protest to highlight the issues of rape and child abuse facing today's youth.



The Premier with General Ike Maphoto (in green attire) the senior citizen and struggle veteran who was the first to receive the copy of the 20 Year Review Report.

All eyes were on Limpopo's Premier, Chubu Stan Mathabatha recently when he presented the much-awaited *20 Year Review Report* at Meropa Casino.

This event was intended for traditional leadership, the business sector, academics, communicators, NGOs, government entities, government employees and political leadership under the theme "Celebrating 20 years of freedom. Limpopo government has a good story to tell."

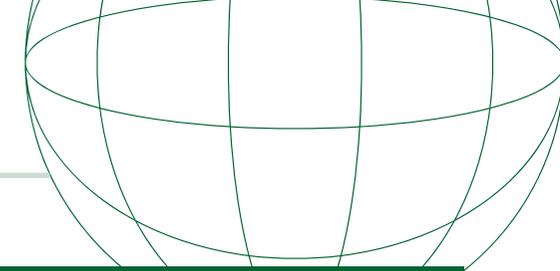
The Premier stressed that indeed there is a difference between the South Africa inherited in 1994 and the 2014 country in improving living conditions. This sentiment was echoed by Councillor Lovis Hardy representing Polokwane Executive Mayor Freddy Greaver in her word of welcome, she said that during recent IDP consultations with communities around Polokwane municipality it is evident that all previous challenges raised by communities were addressed except roads and unemployment. The municipality has systems in place to address the remaining challenges.

"Working with our people, we move South Africa forward." These were the words echoed by the Premier when he presented the work done by the fourth administration

since 1994. He jokingly said that, "Indeed God was staying in Limpopo when He was creating the world." Referring to the many natural resources the province possesses.

This province, with its population of 5,4 million mostly living in rural areas, built 32 657 classrooms; 54 state-of-the-art schools; 94% learners benefit from no-fee schools; 94,7% benefit from the School Nutrition Programme, and the matric pass rate improved from 33,5% in 1998 to 71,8% in 2013. Regarding health issues the Premier stated that Limpopo is the third lowest province affected by HIV and AIDS and to date they managed to test 1,3 million people. The report further states that 87% households were electrified, 86% of houses have access to potable water and a million houses were built. The unemployment rate has dropped to 16,9% in Limpopo according to the recent results of the Labour Force Survey conducted by Statistics South Africa and poverty level dropped to 14% confirming that a lot has been achieved in the past 20 years.

The first copy of the report was presented to General Ike Maphoto, the oldest citizen and struggle veteran. The Premier said that government would always be indebted to the people. "Mintirho ya Vulavula," he concluded.



North West Premier, Thandi Modise, MPL Charlie Mothupi, MEC Rosho and Cllr Montwedi share a hymn book during the Easter service at the Kanana Methodist Church.



North West Premier, Thandi Modise, MEC Rosho, and HOD of Social Development Adv Mogale, receive prayers and blessings from the Methodist Church Women's Union.



The Premier distributed 13 wheel chairs and a number of food parcels to disabled and disadvantaged community members during her Easter visit to Kanana.



North West Premier visits Kanana churches

By Xolani Mndaweni: GCIS, North West

The North West Premier was accompanied by MEC Motlalepule Rosho, MPL Rev Charlie Mothupi who is also the North West's Chairperson for Disabled people, Social Development HOD Advocate Mogale, and Cllrs for Kanana and Jouberton during her Easter visit to Kanana Township.

The Premier said, "We as government are happy to be among you today. Jesus' life was about bringing peace and development; hence as leaders we must emulate this, have integrity and be trustworthy on Earth. As the people of South Africa we must exercise tolerance, respect one another, and remember that we are all made in the image of God, regardless of our culture, ethnicity, race, or even gender! The purpose of our visit is to show you that we are a loving government. We love you in times of pain, in times of disability, in times of poverty, in times of prosperity; we love you all the time!

"For as much as God gave Adam and Eve the ability to make their choices, we as South Africans must exercise our rights to choose by voting. Please do not listen to those who say you must not exercise your hard-fought right to vote!"

The reverend from Methodist Church said, "Our church continues to assist the less fortunate and we appreciate the Premier's visit. We encourage all our members to go out on 7 May and vote!" He further said, "We have recently met the Minister of Public Enterprises who has given us the task to identify a place where we can establish a youth resource centre in Kanana. We believe this will help reduce the lack of skills and unemployment experienced by the youth of Kanana. We will also be holding a career and bursary exhibition for the youth. The Minister has also arranged that we become part of a Telematics broadcast from the University of Stellenbosch that targets Grade 12 pupils. This will enable our youth to be part of educational programmes from the university, which run Monday to Friday between 14h00 and 16h00."

Monnapule Mothubu, one of the wheelchair recipients said, "I'm extremely happy to be receiving this wheelchair. I used to sit on my bed from sunrise to sunset, with very little movement. I'm glad that now I will be able to move around with ease!"

The Apostolic Faith Mission (AFM) Service was conducted by MPL Reverend Charlie

Mothupi, who made it clear that he believes that there can never be a government without God, as he read from second Timothy.

During her address at the AFM Church the Premier said, "I speak with my God everyday! I was raised with the saying that, do not fight your own battles, let God fight for you!" The premier further told the worshippers, "We are here to spread the love of God. We urge all of you to pray for all the wrongs happening in the world and South Africa, pray for peaceful and orderly elections."

Pastor Abaiel Khubeka of the AFM said, "This is not the Premier's first visit to our area, which shows that she loves us and doesn't come only during Easter or election time! She has managed to leave her high glory office and come down to the people; this is the service delivery we want!"

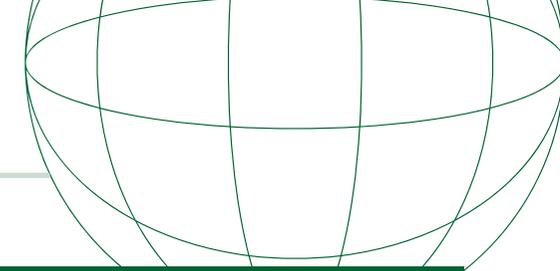
Tisetso Mabalane, an 18-year-old youth said, "We are deeply touched and honoured by the Premier's gesture of good deeds; we can see that her government is delivering and caring."

Mrs Dipuo Moremi, a community member of Kanana said, "The Premier's message was very interesting and powerful. I feel positive and confident about the future!"

Dumisani Pabaka, a youth member who was involved in the recent service-delivery riots in the area said, "We are happy that the Premier is here today, even though she did not give us an opportunity to ask questions. We appreciate her motherly love and hope she will address our concerns!"

Mr Solomon Damene, a community member from Jouberton said, "I have always asked myself about how politicians and government leaders perceive the Lord Almighty; however today I have been answered. These are respectful and God-fearing leaders whom I am proud to follow!"

Both churches that were visited had full attendance with some of the worshippers having to stand outside due to the limited space. The premier's visit ended at around 15h00, without any disruptions.



OUTCOME 6: AN EFFICIENT, COMPETITIVE AND RESPONSIVE ECONOMIC INFRASTRUCTURE NETWORK

Integrated Energy Centre brings hope to the people of Nkomazi

*By Joy Themba
GCIS, Mpumalanga*

The Minister of Energy, Dikobe Ben Martins, joined hands with Sasol South Africa to bring hope to the people of the Nkomazi Local Municipality in Mangweni Village. The Minister turned the first sod for the development of the new Integrated Energy Centre that will assist the communities with information and job creation through building a library, computer centre, boardroom, bakery, petrol filling station and a shop. The Integrated Energy Centre would also assist in training people to run businesses and educate people about energy efficiency and safety.

The project seeks to improve the lives of the people in rural areas and eradicate poverty. Once the project is up and running, 20 permanent people will be employed. Sasol promised that a total of R14 million will be spent to complete the infrastructure.

Mr Madukane of KwaLugedlane Tribal Authorities said, "The people of Mangweni are pleased to have a government that is caring for them." He further said that when the tribal office was approached they welcomed the idea with both hands as it will put their area on the map. He thanked the Government for the great work done over the past 20 years.



The Minister of Energy, Ben Martins, delivers a keynote address to the community of Mangweni during the sod-turning ceremony of the Integrated Energy Centre.



MEC Phosa of the Mpumalanga Department of Economic Development and Planning, introducing stakeholders.



Community members at the sod-turning ceremony.



From left to right: Mayor Khoza, Sasol Chairman Mr Maurice Radebe, Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on Energy Mr Siza Njikelana, Minister Martins, MEC Phosa and MEC Gamede participating in the sod turning.