




# MY DISTRICT TODAY



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## CONTACT DETAILS OF THE DOC PROVINCIAL OFFICES

For more information about similar programmes that are run across the country, contact one of the following provincial offices:

### EASTERN CAPE

Ndlelantle Pinyana  
043 722 2602 or 076 142 8606  
[ndlelantle@doc.gov.za](mailto:ndlelantle@doc.gov.za)

### FREE STATE

Trevor Mokeyane  
051 448 4504 or 083 255 0042  
[tshenolo@doc.gov.za](mailto:tshenolo@doc.gov.za)

### GAUTENG

Peter Gumede  
011 834 3560 or 083 570 8080  
[peterg@doc.gov.za](mailto:peterg@doc.gov.za)

### KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi  
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420  
[ndala@doc.gov.za](mailto:ndala@doc.gov.za)

## OUTCOME I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

### Awards for Early Childhood Development (ECD) practitioners

By Ntombi Mhlambi: DoC, Free State

The South African ECD Awards partnered with government departments to recognise excellence, innovation, best practice and participation in the ECD sector throughout the country. The event, in its 11th year, took place in Lavender Hill, Bethlehem on 3 February. The National Development Agency (NDA) is currently hosting a series of provincial events to select winners that will also compete at national level on 26 March.

Zanele Makgethe, the ECD Coordinator from the Department of Social Development, said government is subsidising about 909 registered ECD centres and working together with the NDA to build brick crèches and alleviate shacks. The MEC for Social Development in the Free State, Sisi Ntombela, emphasised the importance of parents sending their children to ECD centres. She said ECD centres do not only keep children safe but also help them get education.



Children doing rhymes at the ABC centre.



Winners of the Free State ECD Awards.



MEC Ntombela addressing practitioners of ECD centres.



**Vuyelwa Bongoza said:**

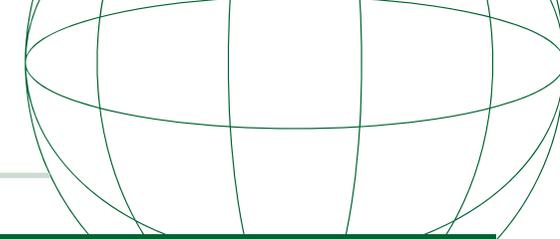
"I am very excited that government recognises the work we do as ECD practitioners and winning the Free State best practitioner award was a great feeling."



**Tryphina Malakoane said:**

"Looking after over 80 children is not an easy task. These awards ceremonies really motivate us to do more. Thanks to our government. I cannot wait to represent the Free State at the national awards."





**LIMPOPO**

Thanyani Rhavhura  
015 291 4689 or 082 421 3461  
[thanyani@doc.gov.za](mailto:thanyani@doc.gov.za)

**MPUMALANGA**

Tiisetso Ramotse  
013 753 2397 or 072 219 5136  
[tiisetso@doc.gov.za](mailto:tiisetso@doc.gov.za)

**NORTH WEST**

Mareka Mofokeng  
018 381 7071 or 083 382 5909  
[mareka@doc.gov.za](mailto:mareka@doc.gov.za)

Kagisho Meremetsi  
018 381 7071 or 084 318 9179  
[kagisho@doc.gov.za](mailto:kagisho@doc.gov.za)

**NORTHERN CAPE**

Marius Nagel  
053 832 1378/9 or 083 778 9179  
[mariusn@doc.gov.za](mailto:mariusn@doc.gov.za)

**WESTERN CAPE**

Louis Botha  
021 697 0923 or 073 427 1917  
[LouisB@doc.gov.za](mailto:LouisB@doc.gov.za)



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

**Radio station receives new studio equipment**

*By Joy Themba: DoC, Mpumalanga*



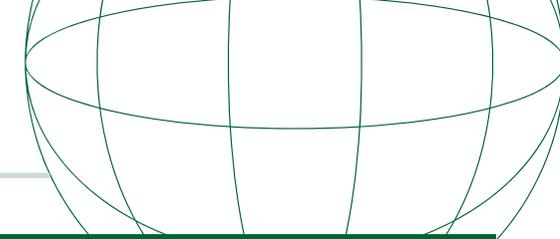
The old studio before new equipment was donated.



The new-look studio with new studio equipment.

The Barberton community radio station has been operational for the past 17 years. It is currently under the management of Mduduzi Manana who is also the chairperson of the National Community Radio Forum in Mpumalanga. Manana said he is doing his best to sustain the radio station and he has the support of the community. The station has more plans such as rebranding to a more youthful image that will also be complemented with new jingles to be launched this month.

On 19 February, the Department of Communications (DoC) donated studio equipment to the radio station. The DoC believes that good broadcasting can only be possible if the station has all the right tools to execute its tasks. Sentech assisted with new equipment such as satellite dish, decoder and Return Channel Satellite Terminal to help the station to also cover parliamentary proceedings.



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



**Bakang Macucwa said:**

“Today we have learned how court processes work and where we can go to resolve our disputes. I am happy to have received this information.”



**Christinah Noala said:**

“The programme has benefited me a lot and enabled me as mediation clerk to be able to assist poor people who cannot afford lawyers.”



**Naledi Vilakazi said:**

“This mediation programme is going to help us resolve our problems within our communities.”

### Court Annexed Mediation launched in Mahikeng

*By Tlhoriso Virginia Tlhome and Abigail Sejesho: DoC, North West*

The Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Michael Masutha, launched the Court Annexed Mediation project at Barolong Boora Tshidi Hall in Mahikeng on 16 February 2015. The mediation programme serves as an alternative dispute resolution mechanism in which a mediator assists parties to reach a negotiated settlement at a faster and cheaper litigation cost. The programme also benefits unemployed law graduates to gain practical skills in dispute resolution and further assists courts to deal with clouded court rolls.

The North West MEC for Community Safety and Transport Management, Gaoage Molapisi, encouraged public servants to implement what President Jacob Zuma said during the State of the Nation Address: giving services to the people. The MEC explained that the community will not have difficulties in adapting and understanding how mediation works. He said the process has long been existing informally through pastors and community leaders, the only difference is that this time it will be done by qualified mediators. A staged drama in which a mother asked for mediation for a maintenance dispute was demonstrated to explain the process.

Minister Masutha delivered a keynote address where he said, “A good government is judged by how it serves its people regardless of their gender, race and education.” The Minister highlighted difficulties that poor people encounter when approaching the courts. Disputes can take over two years to resolve and court cases are expensive compared to mediation, which focuses on civil and family disputes and is underpinned by Ubuntu. The Minister also spoke against corruption and violence.

Certificates were handed over to mediation clerks. At least 55 graduates were targeted in the initiation phase and are based at identified sites across all nine provinces. Moretele, Molopo and Potchefstroom have been identified within North West. An Imbizo followed during the second phase of the programme and community members were able to raise their questions, comments and concerns. Community members also received educative information from exhibitors such as the departments of communications, justice and constitutional development, social development, National Prosecuting Authority, South African Social Security Agency, South African Police Service and many others.



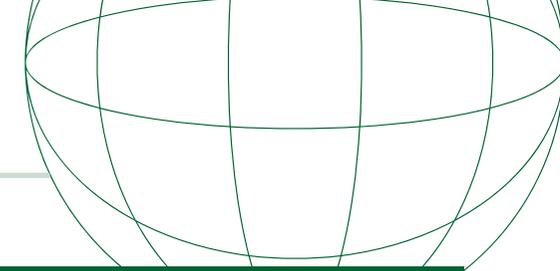
**Left: Community members accessing information at the DoC exhibition stall. Right: Community members attended the launch.**



**The handing over of certificates.**



**Minister Masutha delivering a keynote address.**



**Vuyo Makhathshu said:**  
 “The NYDA should increase its effort in addressing our problems. Currently, things are not going exactly the way they should be.”



**Nosipho Xashimbe said:**  
 “Our education system should prioritise career guidance from the very early stages of the learner’s education.”



**Teboho Papiso said:**  
 “The NYP 2020 should prioritise jobs and bursaries for the youth.”

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

### Deputy Minister reaches out to young people

By Ndyabo Kopo: DoC, Eastern Cape



Deputy Minister Buti Manamela leading the panel discussion.



Young people during the post-SoNA panel discussion.

Young people from all four local municipalities in the Alfred Nzo District Municipality gathered at a conference centre for a post-SoNA panel discussion on the draft National Youth Policy (NYP) 2020.

The panel discussion took place on 24 February and was led by the Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Buti Manamela. The youth engaged the Deputy Minister and expressed their views about how they envisage youth development in South Africa.

Issues raised by the youth ranged from the education system and how it should be improved, skills development, the country’s procurement policy and how it should be improved to ensure beneficiation and participation of young people in the mainstream economy, and the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA).

This post-SoNA panel discussion served as a platform for the Deputy Minister to consult with the youth of Alfred Nzo District Municipality as his office is currently engaging different youth formations for the draft NYP 2020. The policy has four broad areas of priorities: economic transformation and participation, education and skills development, behavioural change as well as social cohesion and active citizenry.

After the panel discussion, the youth received information on youth development from government departments and agencies such as Small Enterprise Development Agency, departments of labour, roads and public works, Skills Education Training Authorities supporting mechanical and electrical engineering as well as other related services.