



# MY DISTRICT TODAY

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

### President calls for restraint during protests



President Jacob Zuma is seriously concerned about the violent nature of public protests in the country, which have also included a tragic loss of life of citizens reportedly at the hands of the police.

The President extended his deepest condolences to the families of all who have died during the protests. "The loss of any life through unnatural causes is painful to us as government and we need to do everything in our power, as society to prevent such loss of life," he said.

President Zuma reminded the public that the Constitution grants them the right of protest but that this should be done within the ambit of the law, and in a peaceful manner.

"The Constitution states that everyone has the right, peacefully and unarmed, to assemble, to demonstrate, to picket and to present petitions. We need to abide by this Constitutional directive. There is no need to carry weapons, to burn public facilities and endanger the lives of others just to express a view or protest about services. Such conduct is unacceptable in a democracy, where there is a government that defends and promotes the rights of people to express themselves," said President Zuma.

President Zuma also called upon the police to exercise restraint and ensure that they are well prepared for

public gatherings. "They should plan for any eventuality and should be sensitive and ensure that everything they do is within the law. The police now have tools at their disposal such as water cannons, rubber bullets and shields that are non-lethal. There is a lot that they can do without killing people. People should feel safe and protected when they see the police. At the same time members of society need to respect the police.

"Police are our only buffer between order and anarchy.

"We all have a responsibility to support them in their work so that they can protect us all. Many of our police officials have been killed on duty, something we should also ponder and find solutions too, as communities, working with government," the President added.

He also pointed out that the violent nature of South African society needed to be attended to.

"We need to address the citizens of this country on the culture of violence that was inherited from our apartheid past, that we have not been able to shake off up until now. We cannot solve our problems through violence and anger. This is something that we must address at all levels of society as part of nation-building and promoting social cohesion and progress," said President Zuma.

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

**R2 billion to be made available to address water challenges in North West.**

*By Godfrey Blom, GCIS, North West*



*Ngaka Modiri-Molema District Municipality in North West piloting a R21-million bulk water-supply project to Majemantsho.*

The North West Provincial Government will make R2 billion available to address water challenges in the province following last week's violent protests, which led to the death of four people at Mothutlung in the Madibeng Local Municipality.

The province is experiencing a water shortage with boreholes almost dry due to the lack of rain.

Provincial spokesperson, Lesiba Kgwele said that all communities facing water challenges were identified and solutions to the water problem are being addressed.

"The Premier and Minister for Water and Environmental Affairs agreed that about R2 billion would be made available to address water challenges in all areas, including communities around the Zeerust area," he said.

In response to the water shortage in the Mahikeng area, the Ngaka Modiri-Molema

District Municipality is piloting a R21-million bulk water-supply project to Majemantsho communities for 10 months. In an effort to empower local communities 24 people within the communities were chosen to participate in the actual groundwork.

Other parts of the Ngaka Modiri-Molema District Municipality including Zeerust and Braklagte are also affected and the municipality committed to support residents as far as possible.

North West Premier Thandi Modise and Water and Environmental Affairs Minister Edna Molewa, have committed to a Memorandum of Understanding and Project Implementation Plan to ease water shortages in all provincial municipalities.

"About R34 million has also been budgeted to alleviate water challenges in Brits, Sonop, Majakaneng, Letlhabile, the greater Lonmin

community, Centreville, Jericho, Maboloka, Letlhakaneng, Klipgat C and Vaalboschloot," Kgwele said.

The province-wide intervention will also cover Koster, Reagile, Swartruggens, Borolelo, Derby, Redirile and Mazista in the Kgetleng Rivier Local Municipality; Moretele and Maquassi Local Municipality; and regional bulk infrastructure development in Ngaka Modiri-Molema District Municipality.

The interventions include piping water to Ratlou, Zeerust/Dinokana and analysing the water quality in Kagisano Molopo.

Water to informal settlements such as Mothutlung had been cut off for months. Low lying areas (about 80% of Mothutlong), started receiving water through their taps on 23 January 2014.

**EVERY DROP COUNTS**



*Change begins with you*



## PHUMLA WILLIAMS – VOICE OF GOVERNMENT

### GCIS CEO DESK



**Ms Phumla Williams**  
*Acting CEO, GCIS*

South Africans today enjoy reasonably good access to health care services. Over the past 20 years government has prioritised universal access to basic health care and has strived to improve its quality.

Prior to 1994, the country's health system was highly fragmented and bureaucratic. There were 14 separate departments tasked with the delivery of health services and it was structured to serve a small portion of the population and not all South Africans. Public health services for the majority of our people were inadequate while those living in rural areas were even worse off in terms of access to services.

Since the democratic government was voted into power in 1994, things have changed for the better for the majority of our people. Our Constitution mandates that every South African irrespective of race, gender and background has the right to have access to health-care services. In line with the Constitutional prescripts, government has over the past 20 years made a concerted effort to improve access to health care for all South Africans, including for those living in rural areas that were not previously privy to quality health care.

While progress has been made in improving the quality of services particularly in the public sector, the system still faces a number of challenges ranging from cleanliness, the availability of medicine, safety and security, staff attitude and long queues.

The majority of South Africans rely on the public health-care sector, largely because the private health sector remains expensive. This has in turn led to overburdened public health-care services.

The recently established Office of Health Standards Compliance (OHSC) will go a long way to improving the quality of health-care services everywhere. The OHSC has been established in terms of National Health

Amendment Act of 2013 to regulate compliance with norms and standards by health establishments.

According to Department of Health, it is "empowered to monitor and enforce health standards in all health establishments throughout country including both private and public hospitals and clinics."

Speaking at its launch in Pretoria last week, The Minister of Health, Dr Aaron Motsoaledi said, "Today marks the end of a phase and a beginning of an era for health care in South Africa. In order to achieve universal cover in the country, two things need to be addressed – the quality of health care is the main issue."

The Minister also introduced the new OHSC board which consists of health-care professionals, academics and activists. It will be chaired by Lizo Mazwai, emeritus professor of surgery and former chairman of the South African Medical Research Council while Laetitia Rispel will be his deputy.

OHSC inspectors will pay unannounced visits to health facilities around the country to assess identified challenges such as the attitudes of staff, cleanliness and availability of medicine. Non-performance of individuals or institutions that do not meet the expectations and standards set by the office will be dealt with. "In cases of failure to comply, the office will have power to recommend disciplinary action. In very serious cases, an institution might be temporarily disabled," Minister Motsoaledi said.

According to the Department of Health, 27 inspectors have already been employed while an additional 14 would be added in due course to monitor 4 000 health facilities around the country. The OHSC will ultimately also protect and promote the interests of patients by providing them with a platform to complain about challenges they face as well as ensure that these

complaints are investigated and appropriate action taken.

The Minister of Health also used the occasion to stress the need to reform the private health-care system to bring down costs so that the services can be affordable. "There is a problem of quality of health care in our public institutions and there are exorbitant fees in private health-care that are beyond the reach of citizens. This year we're taking the bull by the horns – we're solving both of them in one," he stated.

The Competition Commission has also begun an inquiry into the high cost of private health-care in South Africa. According to the Commission, the inquiry will "probe the private health-care sector holistically to determine the factors that restrict, prevent or distort competition and underlie increases in private health-care prices and expenditure in South Africa". This process will hopefully in future enable all South Africans to access essential health care, regardless of how much they earn.

As we head towards celebrating 20 Years of Freedom this year, we look back with pride at the building blocks we have put in place to ensure decent health care for all. These building blocks have led to increased life expectancy, the reduction in child mortality, notable victories in the fight against HIV and TB, and an overall improvement in the effectiveness of the health system.

Going forward government will continue to create a comprehensive, equitable and integrated national health system. The success of the OHSC is dependent on the users of the hospitals and clinics coming forward with success or bad stories they experience when visiting these health facilities.



MYDISTRICTTODAY

**OUTCOME 10: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS AND NATURAL RESOURCES THAT ARE WELL PROTECTED AND CONTINUALLY ENHANCED**

**MINISTER MOLEWA HANDS OVER MULTIMILLION RAND PROJECT**



*Premier Sylvia Lucas unveiling the Waste Water Project*



*Minister Edna Molewa responding to media enquiries during the proceedings in Colesberg*

A high level delegation, comprising the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Edna Molewa, Premier of the Northern Cape, Sylvia Lucas, MEC for Environmental Affairs, Patrick Mabilo and MEC for Health, Mxolisi Sokatsha officially handed over the R23,3-million Waste Water Project to the Umsobomvu Municipality.

During her address to the communities of Colesberg, Norvalspond and Noupoot, Minister Molewa said the service-level profile of the Umsobomvu Municipality indicates that approximately 27 318 people, representing 96% of the population on formal and informal stands, have been provided with at least a basic water supply.

During the Public Participation Programme, some of the issues raised by the community include:

**Water quality**

Residents from Noupoot claimed that they have to boil water before use.

**Water outages**

Water cuts in Colesberg during the day leaving the community without water during certain hours of the day.

In her response to the community, Minister Molewa said Umsobomvu does not have

a blue drop status and needs to do more to improve the water quality, and that there is a project underway to address the water outages permanently.

**Source:** Department Of Water Affairs.

## OUTCOME 10: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS AND NATURAL RESOURCES THAT ARE WELL PROTECTED AND CONTINUALLY ENHANCED

### Precautionary measures during floods



- Avoid crossing rivers or streams when it is raining.
- Check whether the water level is rising before crossing a flooded river.
- Do not cross bridges with a high water level.
- Parents are urged to look after their children and always know where they are.
- If trapped in a floating or sinking vehicle, rather abandon it.
- Do not use dilapidated boats or water crafts when fishing.
- Avoid using of alcohol when venturing into areas where there are dams, streams and rivers.
- Switch off electrical appliances if the house is flooded.

### Saving water in and around the house / business



- Turn the tap off when washing your face, brushing your teeth or shaving.
- Don't over-fill containers such as cooking pots, as this may result in using more energy to heat the water.
- Fix a leaking toilet otherwise it can waste up to 100 000 litres of water in one year.
- Use a bucket rather than a hose to wash your car. If you have to use a hose, use a sprayer that can be turned off in-between spraying the car. Using a garden hose could use as much as 30 litres of water per minute.

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