




MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 15 / April 2017

CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

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

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OUTCOME: 14 A DIVERSE, SOCIALLY COHESIVE SOCIETY WITH A COMMON NATIONAL IDENTITY

Deputy Minister engages with community members

By Livhuwani Todani: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Deputy Minister Tandhi Mahambehlala, MEC for Human Settlements Speedy Mashilo at the event.



Members of the Nkangala Legislature and Governance Committee.

On 24 April 2017, the Nkangala District Municipality held a Legislature and Governance Committee meeting to discuss the 2017/18 Budget, Five years Draft IDP, progress report on service delivery and the digital migration campaign. The event was graced by the Deputy Minister of Communications, Tandhi Mahambehlala, MEC for Human Settlements, Speedy Mashilo, Nkangala District Executive Mayor, Linah Malajie, and all six local municipality Executive Mayors, Speakers and the Chief Whips.

The Deputy Minister presented the mandate of the Ministry of Communications and that of Government Communication and Information System, and the digital migration campaign. She encouraged all Mayors and the councillors to use the services of the GCIS to communicate with people on the ground.

"Municipalities should use the GCIS Radio Unit (as charity begins at home) to link up with all community radio stations to communicate with the people. The year 2017 is the year of OR Tambo, we must shine through service delivery and shine to our people out there," she said.

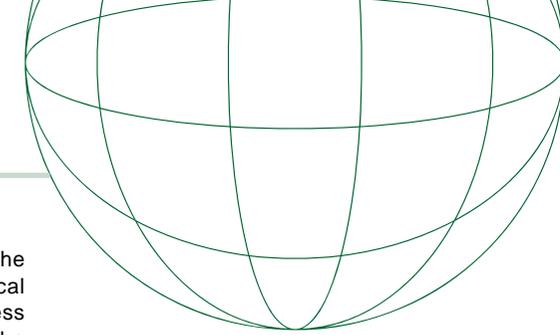
The Deputy Minister also shared the digital migration campaign and promised that more Izimbizo campaigns were coming to Mpumalanga and the roll-out of title deeds in order to launch the "1 RDP 1 Set-Top Box (STB)" and "Donate a TV campaign". The committee was very pleased about the presentation.



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Deputy Minister Mahambehala proceeded to eMalahleni Community Radio for interviews where she outlined the digital migration campaign and encouraged community members to register at their local South African Post Office. She also mentioned that it is free for all who earn a monthly income of less than R3200 and the STBs will be installed to RDP houses for free by the 2 800 youth trained by the Department of Public Works. The Deputy Minister encouraged all citizens to register because by 2018, the country will be migrating from analogue to digital.



Deputy Minister Tandi Mahambehala during the interview at eMalahleni FM.



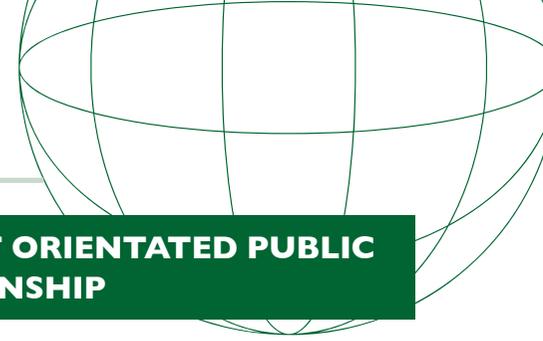
Mayor Linah Malatjie said:
“As Mpumalanga we are ready for the DTT and we have already started with the ‘Donate a TV campaign”.



Executive Mayor Mtsweni said:
“People must go to the South African Post Office to register for free STBs without having to pay money.”



Chief Whip Sipho Ntailane said:
“The MDDA should fund the community radio so that it can buy equipment.”



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

Thusong Service Centre changes lives

By Doctor Marebane: GCIS, Limpopo



Makhosi Khoza engaging with elderly people queuing for services at Moletši Thusong Service Centre.



Makhosi Khoza and Moletši Thusong Service Centre acting manager, Albert Mokgokong.



Members of the Parliamentary Portfolio Committee on oversight visits at Moletši Thusong Service Centre.

The Portfolio Committee on Public Service and Administration, and the Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation embarked on an unannounced oversight visit to the Moletši Thusong Service Centre on 30 March 2017. The entourage committee was led by Member of Parliament, Makhosi Khoza.

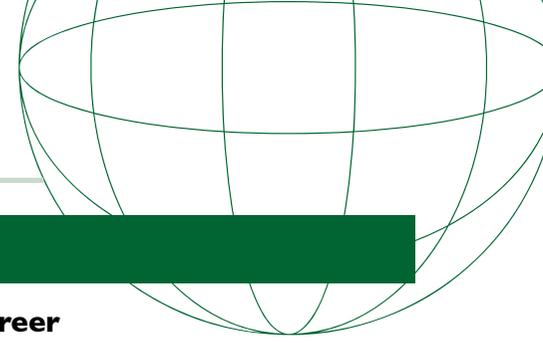
The visit started at the Moletši Tribal Authority where they greeted the Bahlaloga Tribal Authority and met with Kgosi Kgabo Moloto as part of courtesy stopover. They then proceeded to monitor and evaluate services offered by the Moletši Thusong Service Centre.

The centre was launched in April 2016 and officiated by Premier Stanley Mathabatha. It is part of enhancing government's mission of bringing services closer to the communities.

Albert Mokgokong, the centre's acting manager, was engaged and questioned about the running of the centre. His clarification and evidence of work performed in the centre, which includes minutes of steering committee meetings, outreache activities, statistics of people reached and serviced by the centre and other developmental related projects held and initiated, impressed the team.

Khoza said that the information gathered at the centre was invaluable and will be used to formulate a legislative framework to regulate Thusong Service Centres in the country. "I am delighted to see brilliant and dedicated centre managers such as Mokgokong performing their duties with passion. I would also like to congratulate his staff member, Phuti Mpati, for her brilliant and tidy office work."

The team also interacted with members of the community standing on queues who told the committee that they were happy and appreciated the services offered by the centre.



OUTCOME I: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

Deputy Minister Mduzuzi Manana rolled out the Apply Now/Khetha Career Guidance Campaign – Nquthu school

By Thandinkosi Zulu, KwaZulu-Natal



Scelimfundo Secondary and Msimbi High schools learners receiving information about careers.



Scelimfundo Secondary School learners listening attentively to the Deputy Minister's address.



Deputy Minister Mduzuzi Manana addressing learners during the Apply Now/Khetha Career Guidance campaign.



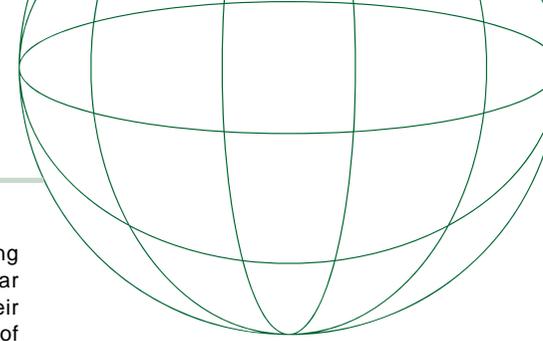
The Deputy Minister of Higher Education and Training, Mduzuzi Manana, descended to the deepest rural Nquthu high schools in KwaZulu-Natal for the first time to interact with Grade 9 to 12 learners from Kiwana High School, Scelimfundo Secondary School and Msimbi High School on the 2017 Apply Now/Khetha Career Guidance campaign. The event took place on 24 April 2017.

The Apply Now/Khetha Career Guidance campaign is aimed at encouraging Grade 12 learners to apply on time for admission to tertiary institutions to avert possible stampedes and long queues that take place at the beginning of each academic year. The career guidance component of the campaign seeks to inform learners from about career choices available within the Post-School Education and Training (PSET) sector.

"The roll-out of the campaign is targeted at far-flung and often neglected rural areas, villages and townships to ensure that learners in those areas make informed career choices. The career guidance component of the campaign seeks to inform learners from Grade 9 about career choices available within the PSET sector," said Deputy Minister Manana.

He further promoted the "100 occupations in high demand" list released in 2014. "This will assist learners to make informed career choices to avoid a situation where they too join a cohort of unemployed and unemployable graduates which is a phenomenon as a result of a mismatch between skills supply and demand," said the Deputy Minister.

The Deputy Minister encouraged learners to consider applying to about five institutions nationally, to broaden their opportunities within universities, Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges, community colleges and Sector Education and Training Authorities, which were present at the event.



Balungile Gazu said:

“Our school was grateful to hear from the Deputy Minister about how we can shape our careers. I want to excel academically so that I can be an accountant, which has been my dream for many years.”



Manelisi Ndebele said:

“I never thought that the Deputy Minister could visit our school for career guidance but my dream of becoming a doctor will be fulfilled since he told us to consider options to apply for NSFAS.”

He further informed learners that he was leading a campaign called the Decade of the Artisan, running from 2014 until 2024. The campaign’s significance is at developing about 30 000 artisans by the year 2030, which is expressed in the National Development Plan. He called on learners to explore their future possibilities through necessary skills needed by South Africa with a massive production of artisans within the TVET college system.

“The government is repositioning the public TVET college system through investments in infrastructure development, lecturer development and quality curriculum that is on par with industry. As the slogan goes: “It’s cool to be a 21st century artisan”. Pure Mathematics is a key requirement for consideration in engineering related fields,” said Deputy Minister Manana.

He further informed learners about the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, which is aimed at assisting poor and academically deserving students to further their studies within the post-school sector.

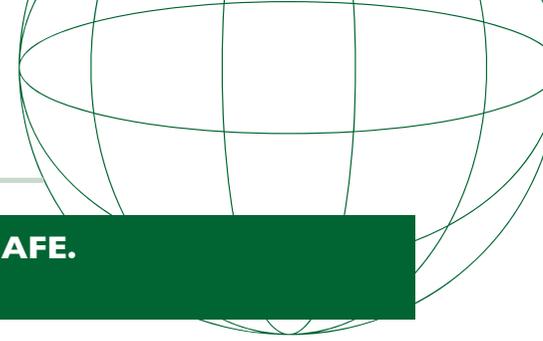


Deputy Minister Mduzuzi Manana with Msimbi High School learners at the event.



Neliswa Sibiyi said:

“The Deputy Minister told us to apply immediately after the June results because 31 September is the closing date for all applications. He told us to apply for NSFAS since our parents cannot afford to fund our tertiary education. I am very happy that government has reached out to us as deep rural schools with career information.”



Piet Ntuli said:

“I appreciate the information shared today. Honestly, it is not new information but we sometimes take our safety for granted and end up being the victims.”



Ntebo Molepo said:

“My main concern is the behaviour of some taxi drivers who drive recklessly. As commuters, we have no voice as we are easily intimidated. With the bus drivers' strike, we are at their mercy but we hope we will arrive safely at home.”



Boitumelo Moreroa said:

“Urbanisation is a reality in our country. It is during the holiday period that most people go to their original homes. I wish that government could provide a reliable and affordable public transport system because that would ease road congestion and eradicate accidents.”

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

Government takes road-safety tips to the people

By Robbie Senoelo: GCIS, Gauteng



Some of the community volunteers and patrollers engaging with shoppers during the Holiday and Road Safety campaign.

In an effort to ensure that the City of Tshwane is a safer place for residents and as a response to road fatalities during the holiday seasons, Government Communication and Information System Tshwane Region in conjunction with Mamelodi South African Police Service (SAPS) and community policing forum embarked on the mall/taxi rank activation to create awareness and educate the target audience about road-safety tips. The event took place on 13 April 2017. Community volunteers and members of the SAPS went on walkabout where they engaged shoppers, motorists and pedestrians and distributed relevant information products.

The aims of the holiday and road-safety campaign were to urge all citizens to be safe and vigilant at all times particularly when shopping, going on holiday or being on the roads. The latter is very important as it aims at reducing road fatalities and ensuring that people arrive safely at their destinations.

Target groups were educated about what to do and what not to do when going away on holiday in order to ensure that there are no clues that would alert the would-be robbers during their absence in their homes. Some of the tips shared with those who were going on holiday were that they should never leave their outside lights on the whole day and night as that would alert the criminals that there was nobody at home, arrange with someone who will clear the post boxes on a regular basis, stopping the newspaper delivery for the duration of the holiday, ensure that all windows, doors and gates are locked and secured and not to leave gardening tools outside.

Shoppers were urged to keep their handbags safe and closed, and also never allow strangers to help them at the ATMs, and not to openly display cash at pay points. They were also discouraged from leaving their children unattended or in locked vehicles alone.

Road users were encouraged to drive responsibly and to respect other road users. They were urged to buckle up, not to exceed the speed limit, not drink and drive or text and phone while driving. They were urged to maintain a safe following distance and avoid fatigue while on long distances by making frequent rest stops. They were also tipped to keep their vehicles locked when unattended, with no valuables inside where they can be seen by people. Vehicles were to be examined for roadworthiness before the commencement of journeys.

According to community volunteers, messages and information products were well received.

Through this intervention, ordinary citizens were encouraged to take charge of their lives and be safe. Knowledge generated will contribute towards ensuring that all the people are and feel safe, and travellers arrive alive at their various destinations.