



# MYDISTRICTTODAY



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## PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

### Democracy Bus on the move in Breede Valley

By Peter Titus; GCIS, Western Cape

As part of the government's 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy celebrations, the Democracy Bus has been criss-crossing the country since June 2024. Spearheaded by the Government Communication and Information System, the Democracy Bus initiative aims to afford citizens in South Africa's far-flung areas an opportunity to engage with officials from all levels of government through various activities.

In a bid to foster dialogue and increase citizen participation in shaping the government's service delivery programmes, Witzenberg Local Municipality Councillor, Mr Andile Gili, embarked on a site visit on 21 August 2024 to the Perdekraal Wind Farm with members of the Sisonke Old Aged Centre and Grade 11 learners from the Iingcinga Zethu Secondary School in Nduli, Ceres.

The farm is dedicated to fostering sustainable community development through financial and non-financial contributions. It operates under a 20-year Power Purchase Agreement with Eskom and an Implementation Agreement with the Department of Electricity and Energy.

The bus also embarked on a two-day educational excursion facilitated by the GCIS from 22 to 23 August 2024 to Breede Valley, where learners from three schools visited one of the Breede Valley Local Municipality's Wastewater Treatment Works (WWTW) plants. Aside from visiting the plant, Ms Mariet Davids, a senior firefighter from the Breede Valley Municipality's Fire and Rescue department, empowered the learners with basic fire safety tips to create awareness.

The learners concluded their journey with a special visit to meet the Executive Mayor, Cllr Antoinette Steyn. The Council Speaker, Cllr Frank Van Zyl, members of the Mayoral Committee, Cllrs Esme Botha and Palesa Moso, and other dignitaries joined the Mayor for a photo opportunity with the learners.



Learners from the Roodewal Primary School with the Executive Mayor, Cllr Steyn.



Learners from the Nduli Primary School visiting the Perdekraal East Wind Farm.



Some of the stakeholders posing next to the Democracy Bus.



government communications

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**PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.**

**Preserving Tata Madiba's legacy 30 years on**

*By Phiwokuhle Zokufa; GCIS, Eastern Cape*

The Government Communication and Information System held a thought leadership on-air dialogue to reflect on Nelson Mandela's legacy. With four panellists in attendance, the discussion took place at the Unitra Community Radio studios in July 2024, as part of South Africa's 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy campaign.

Nelson Mandela International Day is an annual international day in honour of Nelson Mandela, celebrated each year on 18 July, Mandela's birthday. Generally in South Africa, July is set aside to celebrate the life and legacy of the late struggle icon. The 2024 celebrations coincide with the 30th year since the dawn of the country's democracy, therefore government is holding a series of programmes to profile the challenges and successes made during this period. The radio programme gave a platform to the four panellists namely iNkosi Ntandoyesizwe Ndamase from the O.R. Tambo Local House of Traditional Leaders, Dr Vuyani Booi from the Nelson Mandela Museum, Mr Mbasa Mvenene from the Walter Sisulu University and Mr Sandise Nyembezi

from the Congress of South African Trade Unions (COSATU) to reflect on Mandela's legacy.

Central to the discussion, was Tata Madiba (Mandela's clan name)'s leadership traits. "Tata Madiba was a man of humility, he cared for people and I wish today's leaders can learn from that," said Dr Vuyani Booi, Chief Executive Officer of the Nelson Mandela Museum. Dr Booi further stated that the museum hosted programmes to give back to communities to preserve Madiba's legacy, as he was a selfless leader.

In his closing remarks, Mr Sandise Nyembezi mentioned that the birth of democracy paved a way for the establishment of departments that dealt with the rights of workers such as the Department of Employment and Labour. He further stated that ensuring South Africa headed in the right direction was everyone's responsibility, and not only that of government.



Panellists engage with listeners during the dialogue held at Unitra Community Radio studios.



**iNkosi Ntandoyesizwe Ndamase from the O.R. Tambo Local House of Traditional Leaders said:**  
“Madiba made sure that traditional leaders formed part of the government and decision-making structures. He established a scholarship for traditional leaders, of which I am a beneficiary.”



**Mr Mbasa Mvenene from the Walter Sisulu University said:**  
“I must admit that a lot has been done. Policies like affirmative action, employment equity and government’s transformation agenda post-1994 have brought about change, as young black people are able to get funding opportunities to further their studies.”



**Mr Sandise Nyembezi from COSATU said:**  
“Madiba was a good communicator in relaying what must be done to improve the lives of South Africans, especially the working class.”



## PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

### Inmates vie for top honours in book reading competition

By Morena Motloung; GCIS, Free State

The Department of Correctional Services (DCS) in the Free State and Northern Cape region convened at the Bizzah Makhathe Correctional Centre in Kroonstad from 27 – 29 August 2024 to celebrate the regional Funda Mzantsi Book Reading Championship. Held over three days, the event formed part of Women’s Month celebrations held under the theme “Building Creative Minds” and was officiated by the Regional Commissioner, Ms Subashini Moodley, flanked by her deputy, Acting Deputy Regional Commissioner, Ms Jacky Reid and Area Commissioner, Mr Jacob Mbele.

This regional championship is envisaged to unearth the best talent to represent the region at the 14th National Funda Mzantsi Championship which will be held from 23 – 27 September in George, Western Cape. About 125 male and female inmates from the Bizzah Makhathe, Grootvlei, Groenpunt,

Goedemoed, Colesburg and Upington correctional facilities competed against each other by participating in impromptu reading, book review and analysis, debating and spelling bee.

In her opening remarks, Ms Moodley said, “We should not lose sight of the crucial month within which this championship is taking place, as August is a period set aside to celebrate women, honour them for their endeavours to bring about the South Africa that we all are living in today. It is a month during which we profile the road travelled to ensure their inclusion in all spheres of life, and I expect to see more and more women participating in this championship.” The national championship is a collaboration between the DCS, the Department of Sports, Arts and Culture, the National Library of South Africa and the George Local Municipality.



Ms Melissa Van Dyk, an inmate from the Kimberly Correctional Centre, addresses the audience.



Commissioner Moodley addresses inmates at the Bizzah Makhathe Correctional Centre.



Inmates attend the book reading championship at the Bizzah Makhathe Correctional Centre.



Announcement of the winners.



**Ms Nelisa Mbekwa said:**

"I think this programme is helpful to release stress and keep our minds off things. It enables us to blend as inmates, as we came in here for different reasons from different places. I learnt that we can be like the Mandela's of this world by reading and studying to get educated and mentally capacitated to come out of this place better people. It will help me understand people's backgrounds better and start appreciating teamwork."



**Mr Ndumiso Zondo said:**

"I think it is very thoughtful of the department to consider us for the championship from inside. I learnt that we can easily make peace with living in here, as it rehabilitates us mentally and in spirit other than just punishment. It will help and encourage me to read more and make the most of my life coming out of this place to start making a difference in people's lives while working on mine too."

## PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

### Sekhukhune District Municipality launches Dikgerekgere Wednesday project

By Mokgoma Nkopodi; GCIS, Limpopo

On 22 August 2024, the Premier of Limpopo, Dr Phophi Ramathuba visited Manganeng Village in the Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, Sekhukhune District Municipality, to launch Dikgerekgere Wednesday. The Premier was accompanied by the Member of Executive Council (MEC) for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Mr Ernest Rachoene.

Dikgerekgere Wednesday is a programme adopted by the Limpopo Provincial Government to fix, grade and to re-gravel inaccessible roads throughout the province. MEC Rachoene indicated that there were approximately 13 000 kilometres of gravel road that needed to be maintained. "We are here to witness government equipment that will change things for the better," he said.

In her keynote address, Dr Ramathuba indicated that Dikgerekgere Wednesday was a service delivery programme initiated by the Provincial Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure to fast-track the blading and re-gravelling of roads. "We say we are coming to fix the roads. There should be a budget available and credible contractors must be given an opportunity to do the job," said the Premier to loud applause. "No investor will come here if there is no water, roads and electricity. A road should not be graded only if there is a funeral," she added.

The launch ceremony was attended by among others, the Sekhukhune District Acting Executive Mayor, Cllr Kukie Sefala; Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality Speaker, Cllr Judy Mphelane; Chief Whip, Cllr Mosedi Thamaga; Cllr Mathale Mabatane and several ward councillors.



Premier Ramathuba delivering the keynote address.



MEC Rachoene outlining the purpose of the event.



Some of the dignitaries in attendance.



Graders hard at work.





**Mr Makoko Nkadameng said:**  
“We are so grateful as the residents of Manganeng and surrounding villages for this initiative of road maintenance of D4225 road between Manganeng and Marulaneng. If this road is taken care of, people will be able to access services which are mostly located in Jane Furse.”



**Mr Maepa Makopole John said:**  
“We welcome the visit by the current Premier as we did with the previous ones. We however hope and believe that the new Premier, especially because she is a woman, will keep to her promise. We would be much happier if they don’t just re-gravel the D4225 road but tar it, so that it will be permanently user-friendly.”