



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

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PRIORITY 5: SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Alfred Nzo District advances service delivery

By Ndyebo Kopo: GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 8 March 2022, the Alfred Nzo District communicators core team hosted mayors of all four local municipalities in the Alfred Nzo District and the Executive Mayor of the District Municipality in a service delivery panel discussion in eMaXesibeni.

At the heart of the discussions during the panel discussions was what the mayors have been able to achieve and identify as major challenges including solutions thereof in the three months they have been in office.

Importantly, the mayors reflected on their planned service delivery programmes for the current term of office.

The planned programmes varied from one municipality to another but priority issues were about construction or maintenance of roads, involving and assisting communities in agricultural development, attending to water schemes that have challenges in the district, the building of houses for poor people, assisting Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) through a municipal SMME development programmes and assisting learners with access to bursaries.

The panel discussion was live on three local community radio stations and was stream lived on all social media platforms of the municipalities.

The panel discussion was another way to strengthen participatory democracy as it was open to the public and the media to engage with the Mayor.

Community members asked about specific service delivery projects in their communities directly to their mayors and they were responded to.



Service delivery panel discussion hosting different mayors.



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COVID-19 vaccine registration details for 12-year-olds and above:

Online at:
<https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/#/>
Send the word **REGISTER** to 0600 123 456 on WhatsApp.
Via SMS by dialling *134*832#.
Call the COVID-19 hotline 0800 029 999.

PRIORITY 5: SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Oversight visit to housing development project

By Sikelela Zokufa: GCIS, Western Cape

Deputy President David Mabuza in his capacity as Chairperson of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on Land Reform and Agriculture conducted an oversight visit to the District Six Development Project in Cape Town, on 22 March 2022.

Deputy President Mabuza said while District Six can never be returned to its original and perhaps historical set-up, the dignity of the people of the community will be restored.

“The ageing population of District Six is a symbol that this development project needs to move faster and there needs to be a further allocation of funds toward these houses.

“We are pleased that today, under the auspices of our Western Cape Presidential Land Reform Programme, 139 dwellings have been allocated to beneficiaries of this Land Restitution Programme, and the remaining 108 dwellings will be handed over once all processes have been completed,” said the Deputy President.

The construction of the remaining units will be carried out in two major builds to be completed in 2025.

Agriculture, Land Reform, and Rural Development Minister Thoko Didiza said, “When it comes to this phase 3 and phase 4 that we are now busy with, the claimant requested government assistance in terms of financial resources to be able to conclude. We heard the complaints of stairs and inclined environments. It is not an ideal situation but we made a split type of arrangement which allows for wheelchairs.”

Human Settlements Minister Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane said that there are some funding shortfalls that they will have to look into, and indicated that they have made some commitments including bulk infrastructure as part of the department’s responsibility.

One of the claimants of this programme is an 85-year-old Gertie Bottoman from Gugulethu, who said that choosing a house instead of money as a form of restitution means leaving a tangible legacy for her family.

“I believe a house is a better investment, not only will my children benefit but my great-grandchildren. Being removed was painful. No one wanted to leave. We were happy here with our families, it was a peaceful community. I am happy to be back here,” said Bottoman.



Deputy President David Mabuza addressing the audience.



Deputy President David Mabuza engaging with one of the claimants.



Donald Mothokwa said:

“I wish people could realise that living with a disability does not mean we are unable to think or do things for ourselves. People should treat us as human beings with full human rights.”



Freddie Legoka said:

“The Struggle for freedom and democracy included the rights of people living with disabilities and like everyone, they are entitled to the Bill of Rights today as enshrined in our Constitution. People with disabilities have the right to vote and/or to stand for election just like everyone else.”

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Campaign to advance human rights

By Robbie Senoelo: GCIS, Gauteng

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in conjunction with the Mamelodi Association of People with Disabilities hosted a human rights awareness campaign at Mamelodi Disability Centre on 18 March 2022.

The focus of the campaign was on the rights of persons with disabilities as well as the responsibilities of their caregivers.

The campaign included presentations, face-to-face interactions and distribution of publications to inform and educate persons with disabilities, and other community members about their human rights, even in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic.

There were presentations by the South African Police Service, Department of Social Development, GCIS, Notinmyname, Mountains and Valleys Organisation and the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA).

Sphiwe Masondo from SASSA explained the rationale behind Care Dependency Grant and encouraged those who qualify to apply for it.

“While I encourage you to apply, please note that all social grants except Foster Care Grant are subject to a means test to check if a person qualifies for a grant considering his or her income,” said Masondo.

Participants were also educated about Chapter 2 of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa, 1996 (Act 108 of 1996), which guarantees, protects and promotes the culture of human rights.

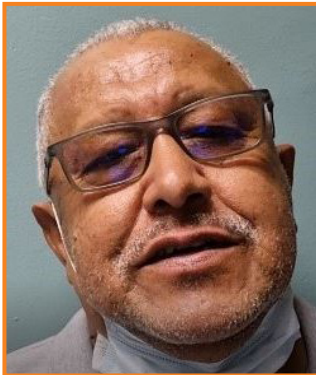
The Bill of Rights is a cornerstone of democracy in South Africa and it enshrines the rights of all people in the country, including persons with disabilities and also affirms the democratic values of human dignity, equality and freedom.



Community members who attended the human rights awareness campaign at Mamelodi Disability Centre.



Sphiwe Masondo engaging with the audience.



Eddie Julius said:

“It was a great opportunity to speak directly to the Minister and other role players regarding matters that hamper our ability to do business the way we would like to. I am sure the Minister picked up a number of points to address in this area.”



Joe Daniels said:

“I have an electrical and mechanical engineering company. I am excited about the visit by the Minister to our area and the thorough explanation she gave on matters that were discussed. It is great to be part of the solution to assist small businesses to become successful.”



Wilmarie Koopman said:

“It was great to be a part of the event today. It was good to hear of all the matters that the department has put in place to assist small businesses to become and stay viable.”

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Minister engages with business owners

By Willem van Dalen: GCIS, Northern Cape

The Minister of Small Business Development, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, led the Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) provincial roadshow, aimed at consulting with stakeholders in the sector.

The roadshow kick-started in Concordia, in the Namakwa District, on 15 March 2022, as part of unlocking opportunities for SMMEs and boosting the District Development Model.

Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams then visited the Pixley Ka Seme and Frances Baard Districts on 17 and 18 March 2022, respectively, where she also engaged small business owners.

During her consultation in Concordia, the Minister said the engagements should be seen as business meetings aimed at promoting emerging businesses and cooperatives for economic growth and job creation.

“These engagements should also identify key areas of focus and have government and development funding institutions working towards economic positioning of businesses across the province,” she said.

The roadshow saw the handing over of equipment to identified and qualifying SMMEs, aimed at supporting and sustaining their businesses.

Northern Cape Finance, Economic Development and Tourism MEC Abraham Vosloo, who was also in attendance said, “These engagements could not have come at a better time after the advent of COVID-19, which has negatively affected operations of many SMMEs across the board and we wish to extend our sincere gratitude to the Minister and her team to have identified the Northern Cape for this roadshow.”

MEC Vosloo urged small enterprises to take advantage of services provided by the department and reposition themselves to access funding and other incentives offered by government and finance development agencies.



Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams addressing small business owners.



Small business owners were afforded the opportunity to ask questions.