




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Minister addresses Africa Communications Week conference

By Gerzell Mathey: GCIS, Western Cape



Minister Nomvula Mokonyane delivering her keynote address at the Africa Communications Week event.



Stakeholders that attended the event.



Stakeholders participating in various issues.



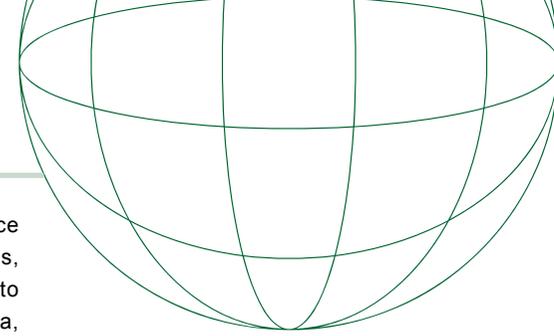
Minister Mokonyane's meet-and-greet with stakeholders.



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In celebration of Africa Month, PR Trends ZA hosted the first Africa Communications Week Conference in South Africa on 25 May 2018 at Southern Sun Hotel in Cape Town. The Minister of Communications, Nomvula Mokonyane, was invited to give a keynote address. The objective of the conference was to encourage communication among professionals on the continent and more specifically in South Africa, to tell authentic but balanced stories.

Nelsia Ngqulana, Managing Director and Founder of PR Trends ZA, said the objective of Africa Communications Week was to look at how communicators and creators of content contribute to building brand Africa, and how communicators take ownership of the stories they tell the world.

Minister Mokoyane said that as Africans, we need to make the rest of the world aware that we are a continent under construction, we are not a continent and we are not a country that exists without its challenges. "It is important that all Africans and South Africans become ambassadors in telling our story, so that the rest of the world no longer have questions around who we are as Africans or South Africans," the Minister said.

Attendees were eager to engage with Minister Mokoyane on the issues of diversity in respect to language, disability, sexual orientation and how government can offer start-up businesses an opportunity to grow.

In the context of Africa, more specifically South Africa, men and women lost their agency because of colonialism and violence. Moreover, it is through this process that identities were lost. Associate Professor Miguel Alexandre Barreiro-Laredo from IE Business School offered his insights under the banner of "telling an authentic and balanced South African Narrative and understanding the impact of telling these stories". A seasoned strategic communicator who specialises in building partnerships with countries, governments, civil society and ordinary citizens alike said that identities will get lost when told through the eyes of the media as they only play to stereotypes.

The conference highlighted the work that still needs to be done by all Africans but it offers a silver lining. Africa is a continent that is rich with its own stories, painted against rich cultural history. Africans should be telling the story of every woman, man and child and make them their heroes when building their brand.



Pearl Welsh said:

"The Minister offers great insights concerning the way forward for South Africa and I commend her for her open-mindedness. We have come a long way as government and we have grown. A platform such as this can build and stimulate our communities."



Nelsia Ngqulana said:

"The campaign is about bringing stakeholders together in order to tell the story of South Africa and not build a narrative around just one person in our country as there are many stories to tell."



Ukhona Mlandu said:

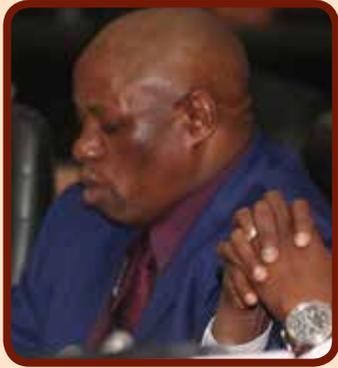
"My interest and concerns are around issues of representations and narratives and making meaning and creating value that is attached to that. I am happy to be in a room of people where we can have a robust conversation around these issues."



OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Mining and big industries summit

By Todani Livhuwani: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Cllr Thomas Ngwenya said:

“The Emakhazeni Municipality has reported a mine that was operating illegally and continued to exploit our minerals on several times and we are still awaiting feedback from the Department of Minerals Resources. We want the department to ensure that mines provide financial statements for the benefit of social and labour plan solution.”



Margret Skosana said:

“We want our community to benefit from our mines and not only through employment but also ownership.”



Various stakeholders and community members during the mining and big industries summit.



Cllr Mondli Kgalema and Cllr Sarah Masilela during the live interview with Ikwekwezi FM at the summit.



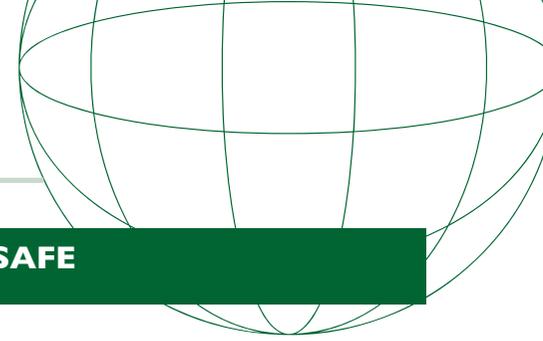
Moutse community radio broadcasting live at the summit.

The Nkangala District Municipality hosted a mining and big industries summit from 17 to 18 May 2018 at the district’s Council Chamber. The summit brought different stakeholders together to share best practices and find a way to ensure that community members benefit from different industries. Some of the issues that the summit focused on include the creation of job opportunities and also skills development.

The Executive Mayor, Cllr Sarah Masilela, said, “We meet at the time when we celebrate our heroes, Mama Albertina Sisulu and Nelson Mandela, who fought against poverty, unemployment and inequalities in this country.”

The Mayor indicated that the Nkangala District Municipality has nine coal mines, which are fully operational but only a few individuals and companies were benefiting from them. Different commissions were identified to discuss various topics such as community development, skills development and economic infrastructure. The speaker of Nkangala District Municipality, Cllr Lucky Ndinisa, who was facilitating the summit, also assured the community and stakeholders that “this summit is not a talk show, as the leaders of our people, we will ensure that the resolutions are adopted”.

The mining and big industry sector welcomed inputs made and promised to work with the Nkangala District Municipality and the community to create job opportunities, provide skills development and support small businesses. The summit was attended by various government departments, traditional leaders, public and private stakeholders, small businesses, various media houses and community members.



OUTCOME 3: ALL PEOPLE IS SOUTH AFRICA ARE AND FEEL SAFE

Launch of safety summit in Mogale City

By Tshidi Mokoka: GCIS, Gauteng



Margaret Maqubu said:

“I have attended this summit today as a young person to hear more about gender-based violence. This is a crime that targets women in our communities and as a woman I want to hear how I can assist the police in fighting this crime.”



Puleng Nyane said:

“As a member of Road Safety, my job is to make sure that people receive information on being safe on the roads. It was important that we were part of this summit as some of these crimes discussed today do happen on the roads.”

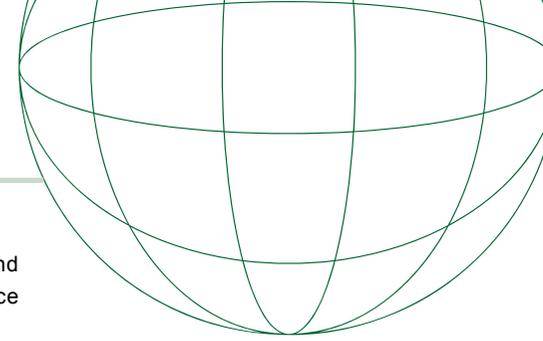


Stakeholders who attended the safety summit in Mogale City.

The Gauteng Department of Community Safety hosted a regional safety summit in Mogale City on 23 May 2018 at the Council Chamber. The summit was held under the theme: “Khuluma nathi on safety issues” to address issues of safety affecting the Mogale City policing precinct. The event was attended by the Mogale City Executive Mayor Naga Lipudi, MEC for Community Safety, Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane, senior members of the South African Police Service (SAPS), members of various community, faith-based organisations and traditional healers.

The Executive Mayor said that the purpose of getting relevant stakeholders in one room discussing safety issues was to tackle crime head on. He informed stakeholders that the summit was organised to ensure that plans were put in place to make Mogale City a safe place. “Theory only does not get the job done. To make sure that we all tackle crime effectively in Mogale City, stakeholders must work together in activations on crime and safety and make sure information is cascaded to communities,” he said.

Brigadier Mashao from the Krugersdorp SAPS presented the status of crime in the Westrand Cluster of Policing. It was reported that the most prevalent types of crimes are: gender-based violence, assault and drugs.



Dipuo Tlholoe said:

“I attended this summit as the founder of Elinye Ithuba Rehab Centre and Skills to get information on how we can fight drug abuse as an organisation. This was also a platform for us to introduce our organisation to other stakeholders who are conducting similar services in other areas so that we can work together in this fight.”

“It is also sad to report that in most of these crimes, the majority of the cases involve women and children. It is up to us as the police, stakeholders and members of the community to put plans in place to protect this vulnerable group of people from the crimes that are reported,” he said.

Police stations in the West Rand have intensified their fight against substance abuse, targeting those who are selling drugs to community members. “In the case of drug abuse, most of the people arrested by police are consumers of drugs but in forming partnerships with the community it could be much easier for the police to root out the manufacturers of drugs as they are usually known in communities they live in,” concluded Brigadier Mashao.

The summit was preceded by a substance abuse door-to-door campaign driven by MEC Nkosi-Malobane and other law-enforcement agencies in Mogale City, which targeted areas with a high prevalence of drug abuse and human trafficking. The campaign targeted areas such as Burgershoop in Krugersdorp. At Sivewright Street, a tavern was closed for non-compliance and the liquor was confiscated by the police. An undocumented person was also arrested. Community members were happy with the high number of police officers conducting the campaign.



MEC Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane and Mogale City Executive Mayor conducting the substance abuse campaign in Mogale City.



Modipadi Seroka said:

“I am very happy as we now have our land according to the law without a fight. We hope there will be much development for our children.”



Peter Seroka said:

“This journey that we started in 1998 was not easy. That is why we are excited as we worked as a force with much focus to the cause.”

OUTCOME 7: VIBRANT, EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES AND FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL

Community receives title deeds

By Nkopodi Mokgoma: GCIS, Limpopo



Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane handing over title deeds to Kgosigadi Tlakale Seroka.



Members of Roka Lebea Communal Property Association.

The 18th of May 2019 was the special day the community of Ga-Seroka have been waiting for when the Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform, Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, officially handed over the title deeds they have claimed since 1998.

Seroka is one of the small rural village in the central part of Sekhukhune District Municipality. The Roka Lebea tribe occupied Dingganskop 543 KS farm since the 1800s. The tribe was never physically removed from the claimed property. The claimants have the informal unregistered rights on the land due to the fact that Section 11 of the Native Land Act forbade any ownership or land purchase by natives.

Their claim of the land was approved by government on 30 November 2015 with the market value of R6 million. The property is currently under Roka Lebea Communal Property Association, which was released by the Department of Rural Development and Land Reform.

In her address, the Minister indicated that she was happy that the community of Ga-Seroka formally received what was due to them. “This is an economic gift to the community of Ga-Seroka,” said Minister Nkoana-Mashabane. There was singing and dancing when the Minister formally handed over the certificate to the traditional leadership.