

# IMBIZO

Government meets the People, 7 - 14 April 2008

National Imbizo Focus Week takes place from 7 to 14 April 2008. In the Western Cape, 15 izimbizo are taking place of which three are sectoral and 12 are community engagements. The Western Cape theme is Building Communities, Changing Lives. As part of a comprehensive overall package to improve the effectiveness of the imbizo process, this electronic newsletter will be distributed daily. It will provide reports on the programme and information on the days ahead. For more information, feel free to contact co-ordinators or Imbizo Managers, whose numbers are listed in the newsletter.

Mitchell's Plain Imbizo, 08 April 2008

## Mitchell's Plain community acknowledges progress in fight against crime

By An Wentzel: Government Communications

**It was not the intention of the police to deliberately manhandle innocent citizens but the community of Mitchell's Plain must accept that raids unfortunately had to be carried out when there was any suspicion of illegal activity.**

So said Premier Ebrahim Rasool on Tuesday, 8 April, at the Westridge Imbizo in reply to concerns from the community over raids carried out in the town center, where they said, honest traders had been manhandled.

Premier Rasool apologized to any innocent person who had been roughly handled but he and Police Commissioner Mzwandile Petros both emphasised that it was not the intention of the police but raids were necessary in dealing with crime.

The Imbizo at Westridge Civic Centre in Mitchell's Plain was well attended by members of that community, with keen participation. The Imbizo was chaired by Finance and Tourism MEC Lynne Brown.

She, together with Premier Rasool, Local Government and Housing MEC Richard Dyanti and Education MEC Cameron Dugmore spent a good three-and-a-half hours fielding questions, complaints and receiving some compliments.

The most pressing concerns were around issues of safety, drugs and policing, with the community accepting that there had been huge improvements made over the past year or so, including more than doubling the number of police personnel in the area, as well as the provision of more police vehicles.

Premier Rasool also announced that already R2-million had been set aside for a drug rehabilitation center in Mitchell's Plain.

There were also questions around Delft and from people still

*continued on page 2*

## Imbizo kick-off focuses on TB

**Premier Ebrahim Rasool has kicked off the provincial government's Imbizo campaign at the Brooklyn Chest-Hospital where the spotlight was on Managing TB in the Western Cape.**

"The government is committed to invest in staff working to defeat the scourge of Tuberculosis and in upgrading facilities such as the Brooklyn Chest Hospital to meet the challenges presented by MDR and XDR-TB," said Health MEC Pierre Uys.

MEC Uys says the government recognizes the vital role played by Home Based Carers in supervising and supporting TB treatment in the community. "Without these important resources in the battle against TB, we will not be able to deliver the high quality care demanded by those suffering from this disease," MEC Uys said.



**Building communities. Changing lives.**



from page 1  
waiting for houses especially in areas like Freedom Park, with many people saying that people who got onto the housing lists after them, received houses before them.

MEC Brown made sure that officials from the relevant departments spoke with all the worst affected complainants to find ways to resolve their problems.

Some people felt Black people were getting houses before Coloured people, to which Premier Rasool responded that all the people in the province belonged to the Western Cape and therefore should get houses and that R90-million had been budgeted for hous-

ing and all who needed houses would get them.

The community was somewhat rowdy on this point but the Premier cautioned them about turning the housing issue into a racial one. Calming the audience, MEC Brown reminded people that the theme of the Imbizo was building communities, changing lives. And this could not be achieved by shouting people down and disrespecting others.

In response to housing issues raised, MEC Dyanti said the more than 300 people in Delft still without houses would soon have them as some houses were nearly completed and therefore would soon become available. He said all backyard dwellers and 'squatters' would soon have their own houses.

Questions around education, bursaries and skills training were responded to by MEC Dugmore, who reminded everyone that education and skills had no colour and Mitchell's Plain and the country need Coloured, Black and White skills.

He urged parents to fight to keep their children in school up to Grade 12. He also alerted them to bursaries opportunities and will be engaging the community with arts programmes for scholars.



MECs Tasneem Essop and Cameron Dugmore take notes of complaints raised during the Worcester Imbizo.

Community Imbizo, Zwelethemba 7 April 2008

## Worcester community welcomes announcement of new school

By JR Botha: Breede Valley Municipality Public Relations Officer

**Tenders for the construction of a school in the Avian Park residential area will be called for during the course of the year, announced Education MEC Cameron Dugmore at the Worcester Imbizo on Monday, 7 April, to enthusiastic cheers from the community.**

MEC Dugmore said construction will be completed during 2009. The school in the specific area will address a long-standing need and the announcement of the minister lifted the spirit of the audience of about 400 people.

The Breede Valley Municipality was well represented - with the presence of Executive Mayor Charles Ntsomi, Deputy Mayor Tom Pedro, Mayoral Committee members, Councillors and officials.

Questions from the floor were attended to by MEC's Dugmore and Tasneem Essop, the Executive Mayor on behalf of the municipality and officials of the various provincial departments.

MECs Dugmore and Essop, who were well received, assured the audience that their requests will be attended to.

Culture Imbizo, Worcester 8 April 2008

## Focus Schools under scrutiny at arts and culture imbizo

By Mandla Yeki: Provincial Government Communications

**The Western Cape Education Department (WCED) should get the necessary expertise from relevant departments in order for arts focus schools programme to be successful.**

This is the view expressed by Breede Valley artists and cultural organizations during an imbizo organized by the Minister of Arts and Culture, Dr Pallo Jordan in Worcester yesterday afternoon.

The question of the development of arts and culture at school level was viewed as a critical intervention for the development of all cultures. The imbizo told Minister Jordan and MEC Jacobs that the current arts focus schools were not functioning effectively because there were no qualified teachers to ensure appropriate arts and culture curriculum.

They asked the Ministries to intervene by deploying the expertise in their respective departments to ensure the successful implementation of arts and culture at schools.

The two departments must take seriously the question of education and training of community based cultural groups in order for them to access the government funding.

The general feeling was that processes and questionnaires that are filled before accessing government funding were too technical and cumbersome for ordinary people to comprehend. The recently established cultural forums have urged the MEC to resource and capacitate them in order to run their organizations effectively.

The Department of Cultural Affairs had embarked on a programme of formalizing cultural organizations so that it could be easier for the department to communicate with them and also possible for government to fund community based organizations through such a forum.

Due to the geographical location of members of the forum and the lack of funds, Breede Valley forum is one of those still to be adequately resourced to be able to function properly in developing arts and culture.

Minister Jordan and MEC Jacobs have taken note of the all the concerns and will approach the Department of Education to discuss synergies in arts focus schools.

# Khayelitsha housing summit to be convened



Residents (left) listen intently as MECs Leonard Ramatlakane and Pierre Uys (top) report on Government's Service Delivery Programme

**By Makhaya Mani: Provincial Government Communications**

**Provincial government will speedily convene another public meeting in Khayelitsha in two weeks time to address a long-standing housing dispute. That's the commitment made at last night's Imbizo meeting held at the OR Tambo hall in Khayelitsha on Monday night.**

Western Cape MECs for Community Safety Leonard Ramatlakane and Pierre Uys led the Imbizo that was attended by about 900 people. Last night's Imbizo was mainly attended by women and once again those in attendance clearly made their voices heard that they were representing a wide spectrum of society. The disabled were there, the local business forums and the youth.

Community Safety MEC Leonard Ramatlakane in his opening address gave a report card on last year's Imbizo at the same venue where residents tabled a list of services they required. "Last year we came to you to listen, to hear you out and you told us what you want us to do in this area. It is important therefore that as the ANC government we come and listen to your problems so that we address them because we are a government of the people" said MEC Ramatlakane. MEC Ramatlakane reported that as per last year's Imbizo, provincial government as since rolled out in Khayelitsha:

- The extension of the rail line.
- The Metrorail Khayelitsha Express train service.
- Red Door-offices for the purpose of accessing economic support and finances.
- A fully fledged hospital with 230 beds to be constructed in October.
- A deployment of additional police officers in Khayelitsha now numbering 1,300 including 500 more Bambanani volunteers.
- The Site C housing development to address the double occupation trend.

MEC for Health Pierre Uys told the meeting that health services were being improved in Khayelitsha. "The report about nurses shouting at patients is being addressed. We are bringing our complaints management desk from Woodstock and we will deploy it at the Site B hospital.

"To speed up and improve services on the anti-retroviral treatment section, a new building is underway at Site B, which will accommodate more patients for this service. MEC Uys has also announced that Khayelitsha will soon have its own trauma centre, which will be built in June/July. "Let me also give you the good news that finally the Khayelitsha hospital with 230 beds, an emergency and ambulance section will be built. Government is going out on tender in June and construction will commence in October. It will be important

that you the community of Khayelitsha be part of the ceremony to lay the first foundation of that hospital" MEC Uys announced.

A common occurrence at this meeting was that all those who spoke, first confirmed and acknowledged that provincial government was delivering services and that there have been positive responses to what they had tabled the last time.

But the thumbs up to provincial government also came with concerns and requests for improvement. One of them, Mlandeli Bonile, a disabled business entrepreneur in Khayelitsha said: "We are happy with what government has delivered but I am more concerned about the disregard to the disabled people for business opportunities.

"Others like Nolufefe Katikati wants government to speedily address the need for houses. "I want government to address the issue of double occupation. I know of people and councillors involved in scams to sell off land and housing plots that were meant for other people. This is rife and prevalent in Silvertown (Khayelitsha).

MEC Ramatlakane noted her grievance and said "the issues of housing and within this housing there are several types, which range from the concern about rightsizing of houses, the allegations about the fraudulently selling of houses, plots by councillors and in some cases also the involvement of police. Lastly the eviction from houses by people who have entered into agreements with banks."

"It is for this reason that I suggest that in two weeks time, the Department of Local government and Housing will take the lead in convening a meeting to address this matter and find a solution to this. I am also requesting my Department, and the police to participate in this meeting," said MEC Ramatlakane.

Kati-kati also commended government for the many police in the area. "Yes we do see now many police in Khayelitsha, but our concern is that police take a long time to respond to a call to save people. People are dying as a result of this slow response by the police.

Government officials from all government departments responded to all complaints and have made a commitment to attend to them by way of convening meetings with the several sectors.

On a light-hearted note, one passionate plea was made towards a local boxing hero, Mzonke Fana - the current International featherweight champion. "I want to bring to the attention of government that Mzonke Fana is a World boxing champion and he will soon be making another defence of his title. On all of these occasions, Mzonke has been hosted and sponsored by the Gauteng and North West provincial governments and yet we call him the 'Rose of Khayelitsha'. Our concern is the place, which Mzonke uses for training. It is not in a good condition."



The Western Cape Provincial Government's Imbizo focus week has kicked off with huge interest from diverse communities across the province, from Muizenberg to Van Rhynsdorp, focusing on such issues as energy, health, crime and housing. Estimated attendance figures from some of the areas held so far are: Health stakeholders Imbizo 200; Worcester 400; Khayelitsha 800; Van Rhynsdorp 600 and Mitchell's Plain 800. Government Communications is setting up a mass SMS and email-system as part of plans to report back to people who attended izimbizo, to keep citizens continuously informed of service delivery progress. There is also much more structured involvement of government officials and civil society, and the first few days have drawn huge media coverage in the first few days. Through this electronic newsletter, regular internal updates will be sent to the 68,000 civil servants and thousands of other stakeholders and partners.

Imbizo	Venue	Date	Time	Imbizo Manager	Contact Number	Deployment
Ravensmead	Community Hall	09 April 2008	19h00	Oscar Petersen	078 386 9946	MEC Ramatlakane MEC Jacobs MEC Fransman
Hawston / Hermanus	Hawston Thusong Centre	09 April 2008	19h00	Clinton Bronn	082 303 0437	MEC Brown MEC Uys MEC Dugmore
Central Karoo	Odendaal Sportsground: Prins Albert	10 April 2008	17h00	Craig Mitchell	083 245 9612	Premier Rasool MEC Ramatlakane
Greater Athlone	Athlone Civic	10 April 2008	19h00	Martin Makasi	072 405 2620	MEC Dyantyi MEC Jacobs
Atlantis	Thusong Centre	10 April 2008	19h00	Candice Cerfontyne	083 243 3353	MEC Uys MEC Fransman
Mossel Bay	KwaNonqaba` Sports Complex	14 April 2008	19h00	Linda Booie	083 327 1773	Premier Rasool MEC Uys MEC Ramatlakane MEC Fransman
Heidelberg	Duivenshok Community Hall	14 April 2008	11h00	Raymond Heunis	073 160 1702	MEC Dowry MEC Essop MEC Jacobs
Vredenburg	Louville Community Hall	14 April 2008	19h00	Nolan Adams	082 303 0398/ 078 847 6358	MEC Essop MEC Dyantyi MEC Fransman
Safety	Bellville Town Hall	14 April 2008	11h00	Bernard Joseph	083 710 1766	MEC Ramatlakane MEC Dyantyi MEC Dugmore