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IMBIZO SEEKS TO PROVIDE INFORMATION TO WOMEN, YOUTH AND PERSONS WITH DISABILITIES

By Siphokazi Nonyukela

The Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities (DWYPD) together with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), recently hosted an Eastern Seaboard Development (ESD) Imbizo in Mthatha, Eastern Cape.

Outlining the objectives of the Imbizo Eastern Cape Premier Oscar Mabuyane said it was meant

to explore the inclusion of women, youth and persons with disabilities in the development of the Seaboard which straddles the Provinces of KwaZulu-Natal and the Eastern Cape. The participation was on various sectors such as Oceans Economy, Agriculture, Infrastructure, Information Technology and Tourism.

“The Imbizo will also facilitate access to information to enable all targeted beneficiaries to take advantage of opportunities availed by these major developments, said Premier Mabuyane.

He added that the ESD is a broad and multifaceted vision, to develop a new Smart City and bring in new developments across the two Provinces.



Minister Nkoana-Mashabane and a Sign Language Interpreter



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The ESD was launched by President Cyril Ramaphosa on 12 November 2021 as a District Development Model (DDM) flagship project to connect developmental opportunities across the four District municipalities in the two Provinces. This means effectively transcending multiple District spaces in favour of multiple polycentric nodes of development, added Premier Mabuyane.

The Imbizo was led by the Minister in the Presidency, Ms Maite Nkoana-Mashabane who urged communities to protect women and persons with disabilities.

“We currently have two pandemics in the country being Covid 19 and Gender Based Violence (GBV). I urge all of us today and beyond to protect women. WE should also open up spaces for economic participation of women, youth and persons with disabilities. Let us not leave women behind as we transform this country,” she said.

The Deputy Executive Mayor of OR Tambo District Municipality Councillor Thokozile Sokhanyile had this to say: “We support the ECS Initiative and it will be part of our Integrated Development Planning,” said Councillor Sokhanyile.

Other dignitaries who attended the event were Cogta Minister Dr Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, Deputy Minister of Agriculture Rural Development and Land Reform Zoleka Capa, Cogta MEC Xolile Nqatha, Transport and Community Safety MEC Weziwe Tikana-Gxotiwe, KZN Cogta MEC Siphohle Mhlonzi, Mayors and Traditional Leaders.