



Delegates attending an Imbizo in Khayelitsha, Cape Town recently.

Month: 11 [November]
Title: **20141112: Sheriff's work under the spot light during Imbizo in Khayelitsha**
Leader: Deputy Minister
Public participation: Yes
Focus area: Sheriff's work under the spot light during Imbizo in Khayelitsha
Body: The Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development Mr John Jeffery, MP, visited the community of Khayelitsha, Western Cape, during the public awareness and education Imbizo hosted by the South African Board for Sheriffs recently.

The Imbizo, which took place on 30 October 2014, was aimed at engaging community, stakeholders and non-governmental organisations to clarify the role of the sheriff of the court in terms of the civil justice system and to improve the relationship between the community and the area's newly-appointed sheriff, Mr Mkhululi Ngxumza.

Addressing the community at the Thusong Centre in Khayelitsha, the Deputy Minister Jeffery highlighted the importance of understanding the role of a sheriff who is also an officer of the court. He appealed to the community not to take the law into their own hands when in dispute with one another. "Sheriffs have to carry out a court order, not decide whether it is right or wrong, they are following the rules," the deputy minister said.

The same sentiment was echoed by the Western Cape Regional Head, Advocate Hishaam Mohamed, who added that "a sheriff is not an enemy". "We can assure you that our new

sheriff, Mr Ngxumza will not do anything which is not sanctioned by the law,” said Advocate Mohamed.

During her address, Ms Charmaine Mabuza, chairperson of the sheriff’s board said the sheriff’s profession was one of the critical components of the justice system and contributed immensely in the quality and accessibility of justice. “Very often, the first person that a defendant or judgment creditor will encounter at the start of a legal dispute is a sheriff,” Mabuza said.

During the Imbizo, the community was also informed that sheriffs must treat everyone with dignity at all times.

Communities were further informed that:

- A Sheriff is appointed by the Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development;
- The Minister may also suspend or remove a sheriff from office for misconduct;
- A Sheriff is an officer of the court, and is therefore impartial and must exercise their duties without fear or favour;
- A sheriff generates his/her own income in terms of the prescribed tariffs approved by the Minister after the recommendation of the Rules Board for Courts of Law;
- A sheriff is prohibited from performing any functions of a sheriff unless he/she is in possession of a fidelity fund certificate.

Location:

WC



Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Mr John Jeffery during the Imbizo in Khayelitsha.



Ms Charmaine Mabuza, Chairperson of the Sheriff Board addresses the crowd during the Imbizo.



About 120 members of the Khayelitsha community attended the Imbizo recently.



Khayelitsha Magistrate's Court choir entertains the crowd during the Imbizo in Khayelitsha.