

■ Door-to-door

This was the first opportunity after the municipal elections on 1 March, for the district municipality's newly elected councillors and mayors to meet the President.

Apart from addressing meetings of residents, President Mbeki also went door-to-door to visit households. One of the things people were happy to hear about was government's plans to get rid of the bucket system by next year.

The President explained that

through the izimbizo programme, government became aware of the problems facing ordinary people.

"We must work ever closer to grow the economy and speed up development"

He said government was attending to the problems to meet and fulfil the needs of all South Africans.

■ Business

During the imbizo, local business

people talked to President Mbeki about how they could work with government to ensure economic growth and job creation.

They also discussed government's development programmes.

"After twelve years

of working together, business and government are comfortable with one another," the President said.

"We must work ever closer to grow the economy and to speed up development."

- *Justice Mohale*

You came to build a nation

"You came here to build the nation. Things you talked about are basic needs and some of you even came up with suggestions. This is good and constructive." Deputy President Phumzile Mlambo-Ngcuka addressed the people of the Bophirima District in the North West in May as part of government's imbizo programme.

In very cold weather, people came from towns and villages, some as far as two hours' drive away. Many said they supported the development projects in their areas. In this way they work together with government to solve problems.

The Deputy President said her visit had been very fruitful. She instructed government officials who accompanied her to come back to the community with solutions.

She assured the gathering that the national government, together with the provincial and local government department, would find ways to address their problems in partnership with the community.

- *BuaNews*



What have izimbizo achieved?

- Government's imbizo programme has helped to show communities all over South Africa that government is serious about listening to their problems and finding solutions.
- It has helped communities to use their right of being heard.
- It has helped government to see first-hand what problems communities experience.
- It has helped government to see which communities are most in need.
- It has helped government and communities to join hands and work together.