



MY DISTRICT TODAY



STAY SAFE

PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

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PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Violence and COVID-19 awareness campaign

By Itumeleng Bogatsu: GCIS, Gauteng



Thabo Manana assisting with distribution of information leaflets while Onica Kgajane engages a community member.

The City of Ekurhuleni launched ward-based service delivery approach to COVID-19 response and assist in managing infections by closing in on hotspots in the regions and wards. Ward-based war rooms are local structures that will facilitate the new service delivery approach, serve as a tactical response was required to address immediate challenges faced by communities and to ensure oversight for service delivery through a stakeholder-based approach.

In response to the Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF), the Government Communication and Information System partnered with the

relevant departments and different stakeholders in concerted efforts to fight GBVF and curb the spread of COVID-19 in Tsakane on 10 September 2020. The objective of the awareness campaign was to create awareness among the community about how to curb violence and the pandemic. Community members engaged with stakeholders on these issues and even suggested some solutions.



government communications

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**Morena Mofokeng said:**

"I do not even know what to call these people going around killing their own flesh and blood. What is disheartening is that all these stupid and barbaric acts are purported by people who call themselves men. I mean real men does not indulge in such acts. We care for our loved ones. What is happening in our different communities is shocking. These idiots must stop raping and killing women and girls. We urge our law enforcers to arrest these people and throw away the keys of jails such that they can rot in hell."



**Christina Sibiya said:**

"Women are raped and slaughtered on daily basis. Our government is doing its best to deal with this. I only wish death sentences could come back. Again, when the coronavirus came into being, our government introduced lockdown, masks, banning of tobacco and closure of alcohol outlets. Surely, if all these measures were not introduced, more deaths and contractions would have been reported by now."

## PRIORITY 4: SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENT AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

### Thusong Service Centre Week activities

By Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Mbuso Cuben from Clermont Youth Centre talking about the centre's programmes and skills development courses.



Stakeholders rendering services to the community at the Archie Gumede Thusong Service Centre.



Stakeholders rendering services to the community at the Archie Gumede Thusong Service Centre.



An official from the City Integrity Unit addressing the audience.

The Annual Thusong Service Centre Week, commemorated against the backdrop of Public Service Month, kicked off with a 50-minute radio interview on Inanda FM on 14 September 2020. Interviewees were Nompucuko Skweiya, Deputy Head of Regional Centres at eThekweni Municipality, Dimakatso Moloji, Coordinator for Batho Pele, Chris Hlatshwayo, Archie Gumede Thusong Centre Manager and Ayanda Vezi, uMnini Thusong Centre Manager. The interview served to create awareness of the Thusong Programme, Annual Thusong Centre Week and the linkage to Public Service Month, and services rendered at the two Thusong Service Centres within eThekweni Municipality.

Archie Gumede Thusong Service Centre had a week-long programme of activities planned, which included a motorcade and loud-hailing through Clermont and KwaDabeka on 15 September 2020. On 16 September 2020, officials from Clermont Tourism based at Archie Gumede Thusong Service Centre, eThekweni Sizakala Centre and City Integrity Unit, engaged with youth and community members about services rendered, mandates, provided information, responded to queries and distributed informational flyers and promotional items.

A youth empowerment workshop was held on 17 September 2020 at the Clermont Hall to empower youth with information on business development and skills, business support from and partnership with government as well as the mandate of the City Integrity Unit in combatting corruption and maintaining an ethical Public Service. One of the speakers was Andiswa Vundisa, who was a runner-up for the South African Heroes Award, in the category for Youth Empowerment. Vundiswa, who is also the director of a youth organisation called Siyahlomula Mngwe Foundation, addressed the youth on business skills and development.

Mbuso Cuben from Clermont Youth Centre, informed the youth of their partnership with the office of the Mayor in eThekweni Municipality and their programme to empower street children and other services and skills development programmes offered. Informational products and promotional items marketing the Archie Gumede Thusong Service Centre were distributed.

The Annual Thusong Service Centre Week closed with an Open Day on 18 September 2020 at the Archie Gumede Thusong Service Centre where information material was distributed, and officials responded to community queries as services from departments at the Thusong Service Centre were rendered.

**PRIORITY I: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.**

**COVID-19 relief scheme for small businesses**

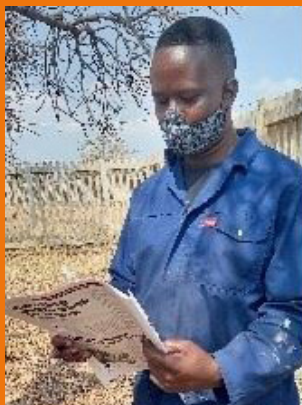
By Maria Ramoshaba: GCIS, Limpopo



A government official interacting with community members.



A government official at the Waterberg Waves Community Radio Station.



**John Shika said:**  
 "I thank SEDA for the opportunity granted to assist me with funds to resuscitate my motor mechanic business. It is currently difficult as I have lost clients due to COVID-19."

The COVID-19 pandemic has affected a lot of businesses negatively as they could not operate due to restrictions of the lockdown regulations. The situation has led to others closing down, thus contributing to an increase in unemployment.

As a measure to revive and support businesses, government, through Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA), offers loans and grants through relief schemes to small businesses for sustainability. On 18 August 2020, SEDA held an information drive at Mabatlane Thusong Service Centre in Limpopo to help small businesses to register for the COVID-19 relief scheme grant.

Through the grant, SEDA will offer Small Medium and Micro-Entrepreneurs (SMMEs) access to funding, mentorship and

coaching provided that they comply in terms of governing legislations. Businesses will be empowered with skills such as sustaining compliance, management account and record keeping after they have accessed the funding from SEDA.

Virtual training in basic bookkeeping, costing and pricing, hazard analysis and critical control point will also be provided to these businesses. The relief scheme will focus on businesses in the clothing and textile, bakeries and confectioneries, automotive aftermarkets (Auto spare shops and fitment centres), automotive aftermarkets (Motor body repairs and mechanics), spaza shops and general trading shops sectors.

## PRIORITY 4: SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

### Oudtshoorn Thusong Service Centre outreach

By Jetrho Grootboom: GCIS, Western Cape

The Oudtshoorn Thusong Service Centre, together with the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), Oudtshoorn Municipal Fire and Rescue and Department of Health, conducted a door-to-door information drive on coronavirus and Annual Thusong Service Centre Week on 17 September 2020.

Oudtshoorn Municipality has been hit severely by the COVID-19, with more than 80 people who succumbed to the virus. Part of the campaign included coronavirus screening and speaking to community members in the nearby Bongulethu and Bridgton townships about the dangers of not adhering to the COVID-19 regulations.

Officials pleaded with community members to continue to wear masks whenever they are in public and ensure that it covers both the nose and mouth. "It is critical that we maintain physical distance from other people at all times and ensure that we are in spaces that are well ventilated. The virus is still with us and we must continue to wash our hands or use hand sanitiser regularly to prevent infection," said SANDF member, Officer Koopman.

"In Oudtshoorn, the Thusong Service Centre has proven its effectiveness in responding to the needs of our residents, amidst

the coronavirus pandemic," said Oudtshoorn Thusong Service Centre Administrator, Mark Geweld.

The Regional Communication Coordinator of the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) reminded guests that Thusong is a Sesotho word for 'A place of help'. "We invite our community to use the centre and effectively engage with the various service providers," said the GCIS official.

Western Cape Deputy Director of Local Government, Ntombi Mbadlanyana, said government is impressed with the interaction between service providers and the community at the Thusong Service Centre. "The Western Cape received the award for the province with the best-run Thusong Service Centres and we are pleased that Oudtshoorn was able to contribute to the province's success in bringing services to the people."

SANDF members handed out masks to people who were not wearing any. Fever and cough medicines were given to mothers with children under the age of 12 years old.



Stakeholders who participated in the Annual Thusong Service Centre Week activities in Oudtshoorn.



An SANDF member distributing information material and masks in Oudtshoorn.



Health officials distributing medicines in Oudtshoorn.