

DID YOU KNOW?

The commemoration of Youth Month this year marks the 37th anniversary of the 16 June Soweto uprising and will be celebrated under the theme *Working together for youth development and a drug free South Africa*.



MY DISTRICT TODAY

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CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

For more information about similar programmes that are run across the country, contact one of the following provincial offices:

EASTERN CAPE

Ndlelantle Pinyana
043 722 2602 or 076 142 8606
ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za

FREE STATE

Trevor Mokeyane
051 448 4504 or 083 255 0042
tshenolo@gcis.gov.za

GAUTENG

Peter Gumede
011 834 3560 or 083 570 8080
peterg@gcis.gov.za

KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420
ndala@gcis.gov.za

Career exhibition for Taung learners

By Fatima Modise



Learners from the Greater Taung Local Municipality were given information on career and financial opportunities.

As part of the Youth Month activities in the Greater Taung Local Municipality, learners from secondary schools in the area were given a chance to interact with different tertiary institutions and government departments to get more information on career and financial opportunities. The career exhibition was held at Ba Ga Phuduhucwana Tribal Hall in Taung Central on 14 June 2013. The exhibition promoted a key issue highlighted in the Youth Accord, namely skills development. It stated that "children must go to school and arm themselves with education, because there is no substitute for education".

The event was spearheaded by the youth desk from North West's Department of Social Development, Women, Children and People with Disabilities as well as other stakeholders, including the University of the North West, the Department of Labour (Skills Development), the Taung Enrichment Centre, Mmabana Taung, the National Youth Development Agency and the Government Communication and Information System.



government
communications

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

LIMPOPO

Thanyani Rhavhura
015 291 4689 or 082 421 3461
thanyani@gcis.gov.za

MPUMALANGA

Tiisetso Ramotse
013 753 2397 or 072 219 5136
tiisetso@gcis.gov.za

NORTH WEST

Mareka Mofokeng
018 381 7071 or 083 382 5909
mareka@gcis.gov.za

Kagisho Meremetsi
018 381 7071 or 084 318 0613
kagisho@gcis.gov.za

NORTHERN CAPE

Marius Nagel
053 832 1378/9 or 083 778 9179
mariusn@gcis.gov.za

WESTERN CAPE

Ayanda Hollow
021 697 0145 or 083 255 7665
ayanda@gcis.gov.za



Anti-substance abuse youth festival in Khayelitsha

By S Zokufa

Various cultural, traditional and gospel groups performed at a festival to raise awareness about drugs and substance abuse on 15 June 2013 at OR Tambo Hall in Khayelitsha, Western Cape. Government Communications (GCIS), in partnership with the Khayelitsha Community Police Forum (KCPF), conveyed a strong message against drugs and substance abuse, especially among young people.

KCPF Secretary Nomawethu Mosana vowed to conduct door-to-door campaigns identifying parents struggling with teenagers addicted to drugs and in need of assistance

and referrals. She stressed that communities should provide support to affected parents or neighbours, to make the work of organisations such as the South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence easier. The festival mobilised young people to call upon their fellow students and friends to seek professional help, while the artists performing on the day added their voices to government messages.

Journalists from Cape Town TV and the SABC interviewed teenage drug addicts, who said that they were willing to stop taking drugs and enrol in rehabilitation programmes.

These young people need support from their community and the KCPF promised to send sub-forum members who will provide volunteer services.

A mother who attended the festival told GCIS officials that she also needed support, as her son is heavily addicted to drugs and does not want professional help.



Young people attending the event was mobilised to help fellow students and friends seek help for drug and substance abuse.



Idols sensation Gift Gwe kept the crowd on their feet.



One of the younger festivalgoers was fascinated by all the gadgets in an aeroplane cockpit, displayed by the South African National Airforce.



Youth Day celebrations at Cape Agulhas

By D Goodman

Cape Agulhas Youth Day festivities took place on Monday 17 June 2013, with a jam-packed programme that catered for everyone. The event was held by the Cape Agulhas Municipality, Child Welfare and various other departments and supported by Government Communications. Celebrations not only focused on lessons of the past, but on the hope of a new South Africa and opportunities available to young people to realise their potential.

The festivities started at 09:00 at the sport fields in Recreation Street, Bredasdorp with a cardio-kickboxing exercise to get the blood pumping. Mayor Richard Mitchell officially opened Youth Day celebrations and encouraged young people to become active participants in the upliftment of their communities, while 2005 *Idols* sensation Gift Gwe swept the youth off their feet with his performance. In addition, local

song and dance groups also showcased their talent. A mini musical focusing on HIV and AIDS issues and the stigma attached to it was performed by the drama group from the Stellenbosch University. The Overberg Air Force Base staged an accident scene and dog show. The youth council coordinator encouraged the youth to realise their potential through self-empowerment, capacity-building and making the most of learnerships and other opportunities available to them.

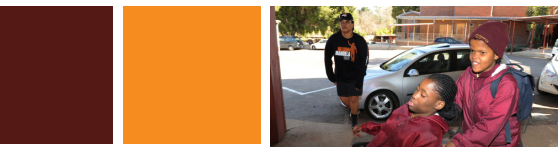
The entertainers engaged the crowd throughout the action-packed day, addressing themes varying from substance abuse and HIV and AIDS to youth unemployment and skills development. The day was rounded off by a range of indigenous games facilitated by the Department of Sport and Recreation.



Bredasdorp mayor Richard Mitchell addressed young people at the youth day event.



As Mayor Mitchell opened the day's festivities with prayer, young people bowed their heads.



Men hold anti-rape protest in Plettenberg Bay

By JJ Grootboom

A group of 500 men led by Mayor Memory Booysen of the Bitou Municipality marched through the streets of Plettenberg Bay yesterday to protest against the high levels of abuse against women and children in the holiday town.

The march, organised by the municipality and the Treatment Action Campaign, and supported by the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), also saw a petition signed by 1 000 local men being handed over to the chief of the local South African Police Service (SAPS), Colonel Gideon Lugelo.

The requests in this memorandum included:

- speeding up the roll-out of sexual offences courts
- harsher jail terms for rapists
- suspected sex offenders to be denied bail
- better training for police to handle these cases effectively.

Plettenberg Bay was recently rocked by the rape of a 22-year-old student near the Shell Ultra City on the outskirts of town. The woman had been abducted from Plettenberg Bay's popular Main Street.

An influx of visitors to the town is expected at the end of this week, when Eastern and Western Cape schools officially close for the mid-year holidays.

Gathering at the garage from 10:00, the men held posters (provided by GCIS) with slogans such as "Real men do not rape", "Don't look away, report and stand up against rape" and "Root out rapists in our communities".

Boys as young as six protested alongside their outraged fathers, who said the incidence of drug abuse and sexual violence was out of control, especially in Kwanokuthula outside Plettenberg Bay.

"This day will be written in the history books of Plettenberg Bay," Booysen said in his address to the crowd. "Rape is escalating at an alarming rate in our communities. I call upon all men of this town to join hands with the municipality and establish male structures in all wards. These structures will be established to educate us about the wrongs we intentionally and unintentionally do."

The memorandum was later handed over to Colonel Lugelo by S Dladla from the mayor's office.

One of the protestors, Melford Mazantsana, believed the march help to raise awareness about sexual offences. "We are all men here today, and what our presence shows is that real men are against rape and do not rape. This will send a strong message to these criminals that we will stand up against them." Xola Xasa added: "We are sick of this in our communities."



Members of the community took to the streets to protest against high levels of sexual abuse in the area.