



MY DISTRICT TODAY

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CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

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

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Outcome 1: Improved quality of basic education

Bonteheuwel education and career expo , Your future starts with you.

Candice van Reenen, GCIS Western Cape

The "Apply Now" Campaign is an initiative organised by the Department of Higher Education and Training in collaboration with the South African Qualifications Authority. The campaign encourages learners to apply early for admission to post-schooling institutions of their choice so that they can avoid disappointments, which usually accompany late applications. The department aims to eliminate or at least reduce the long queues and some of the chaos that generally take place at most of the universities at the beginning of each year.

As part of the campaign, the community of Bonteheuwel in the Western Cape was empowered through an education and career expo at the Bonteheuwel Thusong Service Centre. The aim of the expo was to create an environment where learners and the general public could access information on tertiary institutions, further education and training (FET) colleges and career opportunities in government.

The expo was organised by the GCIS, community development workers and the Bonteheuwel Ministers' Fraternity, and it lasted two days.

During preparations for the event a needs analysis was done and the information formed a knowledge base to provide guidance regarding which institutions and departments should participate.

The first day focused on learners from the three high schools in the community, and the second day was open to all. Learners and community

members were able to access information on tertiary institutions, FET colleges, career opportunities in government, and also information on volunteer programmes with local non-governmental organisations.

Through motivational talks, learners were advised to take responsibility for their lives and to encourage their peers to finish school. Shannon Hayward, a learner at Modderdam High School, participated in the expo and shared in the enthusiasm of her peers after listening to the speakers. "The talks were very good. They were excellent," she added.



Nyameko Mlonzi of the College of Cape Town advises some learners on opportunities available at the FET College.

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Outcome 1: Improved quality of basic education

Brand new computer for Dumehlezi science learner

Lihle Nxumalo, GCIS KwaZulu-Natal

As part of the “Apply Now” Campaign, eThekwini Metropolitan Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal, the Department of Education and the Inanda Parliamentary Constituency Office hosted a maths, science and technology (MST) symposium and career expo, focusing on learners at primary and secondary schools who take maths and science subjects.

The objective of the event was to advance public awareness, appreciation and engagement of science, engineering and technology in Inanada, Ntuzuma and KwaMashu. There were various exhibitions, including experiments showcased by MST learners from 15 schools in the area. There was also a competition where the learner with the best project won a prize donated by Elangeni FET College.

Noxolo Mchunu, a Grade 10 Physical Science learner from Dumehlezi High School in Ntuzuma, won a computer and printer as she had the best project. Her project focused on solar systems and how these can be used to save electricity. “I am very excited to have won this competition and I thank all the organisers, especially Elangeni FET for this computer. I will now be able to do research and type my assignments,” said Noxolo.

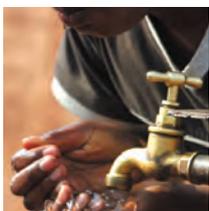
Dumehlezi High School’s principal, Mr Majola, was very pleased. “This is evident of the hard work that the dedicated educators and learners have displayed. The educators go the extra mile in ensuring our learners are well

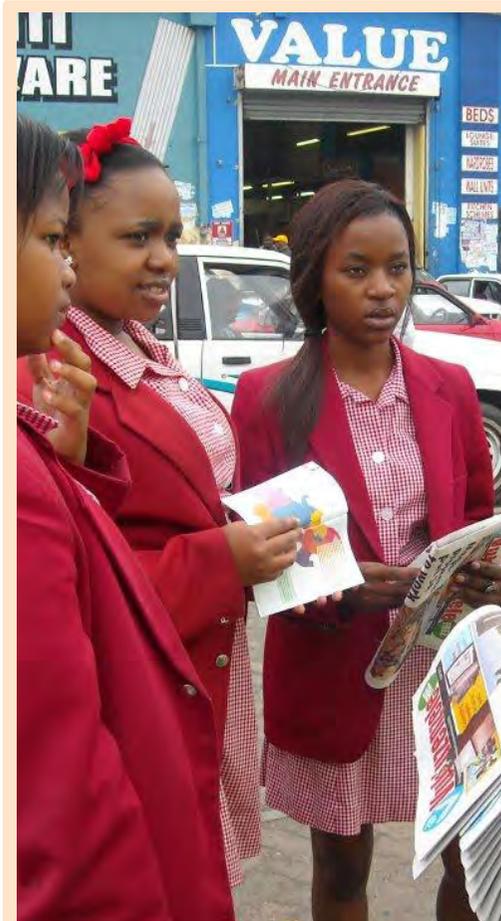
equipped with information. We would like to thank the municipality and Elangeni FET for encouraging our learners to engage in maths and science so they can reap such rewards,” said Majola.

Mr Gasa, Noxolo’s science teacher, thanked all the stakeholders that made this possible and requested that more competitions and symposiums of such nature take place regularly so that learners can be encouraged to take up subjects such as maths and science.



Dumehlezi School Principal, Mr Majola, and Head of Department for Maths and Science Mrs Mseleku, along with eThekwini Municipality Skills Development Unit Mr Cele, Noxolo Mchunu, the learner who won the computer, Ms Gumede - Elangeni FET College, Mr Gasa-Noxolo’s Science teacher and Mr Hlongwane from the Inanda Parliamentary Constituency Office.





Outcome 2: A long and healthy life for all South Africans

iLembe District Municipality bids farewell to its future doctors.

South Africa and Cuba have a longstanding relationship, dating back to the struggle against apartheid and colonialism in the sub-region. Following the democratic transition of South Africa, intense interest and bilateral interactions have developed between different sectors of the two countries.

Cuba and South Africa first entered into one such agreement in 1995, with the aim of bolstering South Africa's human resource requirements, especially in rural communities. This was done through the recruitment of Cuban doctors.

Following the signature of the Agreement on Cooperation in Health, 463 Cuban doctors were assigned to work in South Africa – mainly in rural and previously under-served areas. Other initiatives allowed for South African medical students to train in Cuba, which to

date have seen more than 150 students from KwaZulu-Natal graduating. Currently, there are 70 students at Cuban universities.

iLembe District Municipality hosted a farewell event for 25 students from the iLembe district that have been selected by the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health to study medicine in Cuba. These students form part of the 400 students that have been selected throughout KwaZulu-Natal to pursue their studies in medicine.

The Mayor, Cllr SW Mdabe, encouraged the students to do their best and adhere to the all the rules and terms of the scholarship, adding that their behaviour will reflect on the district – be it good or bad – as they were now ambassadors.

On behalf of the students, Thembaletu Gumbi, who is one of the selected students from the district, pledged that they would do their best and deliver as per the requirements of the scholarship. She thanked everyone who made the event possible and also the department for affording them the chance to study their dream career, medicine.

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health's representative, Mr K Mshengu, said the initiative has been in place for quite some time, but has grown over the years, adding that the department wanted to see the selected students excelling.

He also highlighted that this initiative was started to see the number of doctors increasing. As a requirement, the students would work for their municipalities after graduating.



iLembe students who were selected to study in Cuba

Outcome 2: A long and healthy life for all South Africans

Breast Cancer Fun Walk, A day filled with fun, testing, education and testimonials from breast cancer survivors.

Thembi Matjokana, GCIS Gauteng

As part of the Government's contribution to Breast Cancer Awareness Month, the GCIS partnered with the Cancer Association of South Africa (Cansa) Vaal Triangle and Emerald Resort to organise the annual Breast Cancer Fun Walk. People who participated in the event were made aware and educated regarding the signs of breast cancer, and support offered to people affected by the disease. Educating people is very important – so that they can detect it early, get treatment and increase their chances for successful treatment.

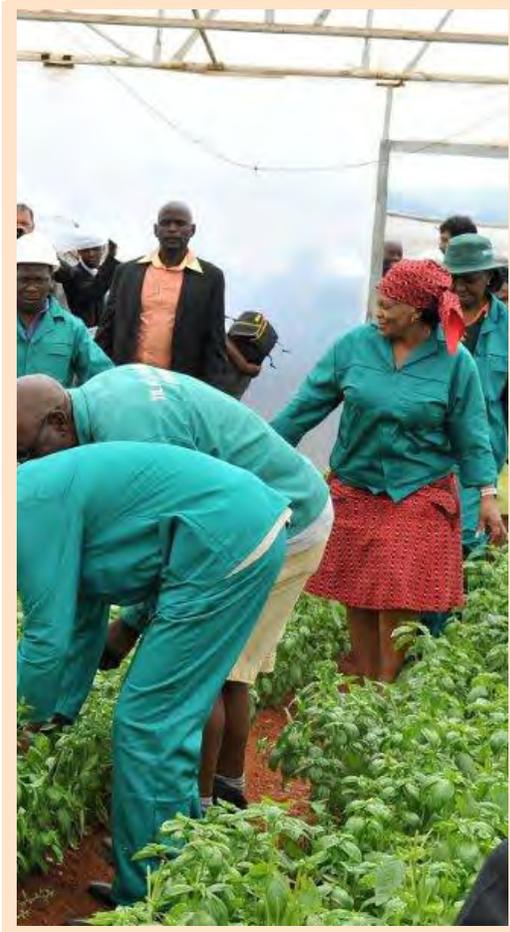
According to Cansa, one in 29 women in South Africa will be diagnosed with breast cancer in their lifetime. The awareness month aims to urge all women to invest in their health by learning to detect breast cancer early. Cansa advises women to examine their breasts once a month during ovulation (preferably at the same time of the day) for signs of breast cancer.

Further education and awareness was done by the community radio station, VCRFM. The partners jointly exhibited various leaflets and booklets and shared information with survivors and those affected by breast cancer.

“Take charge, be aware, be educated and live a healthy breast-cancer-free life.”

The walk of about 5 km started at the grassy area near the adventure golf course. Many prizes were issued to winners and participants. The GCIS distributed information on breast cancer and other

For more information, contact Kim Rautenbach (community mobiliser) on 016 423 3506 or 082 087 1827.



The GCIS and Cansa Vaal Triangle personnel at the stall during the exhibition.



Women, children and men participated in the walk, which started at 9:00 as the ribbon was cut.



Some participants at the beginning of the walk of survival and hope.

