

## DID YOU KNOW?

South Africa will use its chairpersonship of BRICS in 2013 to vigorously pursue the potential for growing trade and investment, as well as intra-African trade and investment.



# 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](mailto:ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za)

### FREE STATE

Trevor Mokeyane  
051 448 4504 or 083 255 0042  
[tshenolo@gcis.gov.za](mailto:tshenolo@gcis.gov.za)

### GAUTENG

Peter Gumede  
011 834 3560 or 083 570 8080  
[peterg@gcis.gov.za](mailto:peterg@gcis.gov.za)

### KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi  
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420  
[ndala@gcis.gov.za](mailto:ndala@gcis.gov.za)

## Outcome 10: Environmental assets and natural resources that are well protected and continually enhanced

### Minister Molewa praises Tshikundamalema water initiative

*Doctrine Netshikweta: GCIS Limpopo*



Minister Edna Molewa joined by Acting Vhembe Executive Mayor during International Water Week at Tshikundamalema, Limpopo.

In celebration of International Water Week, the Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs Edna Molewa praised the community of Tshikundamalema in Mutale for taking the initiative to provide water for themselves.

Project leader Chief Nemvala Mundalamo Tshikundamalema told the Minister they couldn't wait for government to provide water. "As a community, we agreed to conserve and respect our water fountain before enjoying it. That is why we connected pipelines to each household in the village," Chief Tshikundamalema said. Minister Molewa encouraged

other communities to do the same. "South Africa is a water-scarce country, therefore, I urge communities to restore and preserve water. Without water there is no life," she said. Molewa went further saying government would help communities with infrastructure. "As government, we are supporting all projects aimed at preserving water".

Mr Lenka Thamae, SADC representative from Zambia, supported Molewa during the event. He said South Africa was among the 30 driest countries in the world and needed collective support to conserve water. He criticised

communities who did not take care of their rivers and encouraged them to use water sparingly. "Water is life. Respect it and conserve it before enjoying it!" he said.

International Water Week coincided with the United Nations (UN) General Assembly declaring 2013 as the United Nations International Year of Water Cooperation. The Acting Executive Mayor from Vhembe District Municipality, Mr Lucas Manyuwa also attended the event. He said this project would be supplemented by water from the neighbouring Nandoni Dam.

**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**

kagisho Merenentsi  
018 318 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

## **Outcome I2: An efficient, effective and development-oriented public service and an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenry**

### **Donate blood and save lives**

*Mojalefa Senokoatsane: GCIS Free State*



Officials from SANB perform health screenings on community members before donating blood.

GCIS in collaboration with the South African National Blood Service (SANBS), hosted a blood donation outreach at the Phiritona Community Hall in Heilbron Free State Province as part of Human Rights Month celebrations on Monday 25 March 2013

GCIS decided to host the event as part of efforts to educate rural communities about the benefits of donating blood, which some people still regard as being in conflict with their customs and traditions.

Heilbron attracts huge volumes of traffic because of its location between Lesotho and Gauteng. As a result, many road accidents occur in the area, especially during holiday periods, placing strain on the blood supply of already stressed health facilities.

Those who attended were invited to undergo health checks and to determine their blood groups. A prize-giving motivated people to participate in the event. The message was simple: **Donate blood and save lives!**





## Outcome 12: An efficient, effective and development-oriented public service and an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenry

### The quest for zero violence against women and children

*GCIS: Western Cape*



People praying for an end to violence against women and children in the George Banquet Hall.

"Let us reach for zero violence. We cannot grow weary – we will not loose hope." These were the words of Mayor Charles Stander on Monday 18 March, when he called on everyone in George to take hands and stop the violence against women and children. The Mayor spoke at the civic centre on the day of prayer, the first of many in the province. The event was attended by more than 100 people.

"We need to take hands, stop the violence in its tracks and ensure that the City of George be-

comes the safe city we envisage it to be."

"Our women and children must once again be free to walk in the streets, to carry on with their normal activities in our beloved city without the threat of assault – not by strangers and most definitely not by friends or family members. No one has the right to steal the dignity of any women or child," Stander said.

He said children and women were not lesser beings, emotional dustbins or mere objects upon

which men could vent their anger, frustrations, helplessness or selfish desires. "While we emphasise the principles of freedom and equality, we somehow neglected to educate our people about the responsibilities and personal liability that come with this freedom for which we fought so hard," he added.

"Today, we humble ourselves before God. We are gathered here in complete dependence of Him to guide us and intervene in a way only He can."

In a short message, Pastor Jannie Horne of Eagles Nest Ministries said the local government, community, churches and businesses must work together to stop violence. "None of these sections of the community should think they can live apart from one another."

After the messages, several other pastors concluded the event in prayer.



## Outcome 12: An efficient, effective and development-oriented public service and an empowered, fair and inclusive citizenry

### Zero tolerance on our roads

Eunice Nkuna: GCIS Limpopo



Ba-Phalaborwa Mayor Anna Sono (in green), Chief Traffic and Licensing Officer Hylton Beuizenhout, Colonel Dimakatso Kekana of Lulekani police and Kilion Mdluli of the taxi association and other councillors at a road block, giving drivers tips on road safety and wishing them a happy and safe journey for Easter.

The Limpopo Department of Roads and Transport in partnership with the Ba-Phalaborwa Local Municipality launched the Easter Arrive Alive campaign at Lulekani on Tuesday 19 March. The campaign was aimed at promoting road traffic safety throughout the province and reducing road accidents, fatalities and injuries, as well as combatting road traffic offences.

During the campaign, the chief of traffic and licensing Hylton Bezuidenhout warned motorists and pedestrians about driving and walking under the influence of alcohol, as this is the cause of many deaths during the Easter holidays each year. "Pedestrians should wear light and brightly coloured clothes when walking at night and children should not be in the road. People who do not comply with the rules of the road will be prosecuted," Bezuidenhout said.

In her keynote address, Ba-Phalaborwa Mayor Anna Sono said the aim was not to punish people, but to educate them. "If people are against education and voluntary compliance, we will help them to arrive alive by arresting or fining them".

Sono said the safety of our people could never be left to irresponsible drivers. The mayor, the councillors and the SAPS joined traffic officers in a road block where they conveyed Easter and road safety messages to the public. "Drivers who travel long distances should take a break of at least 10 minutes every two hours to ensure that they maintain full control over their vehicles," Sono added.

