



MYDISTRICTTODAY



STAY SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

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PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

Premier's Imbizo on fighting substance abuse

By Lindokuhle Chiliza: GCIS KwaZulu-Natal

The Harry Gwala District Municipality, working with the provincial government through its sector departments and stakeholders within the region, including traditional leaders held a drug and substance abuse Imbizo at Ginyane Sportsfield in Dr Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma Local Municipality on 23 September 2023.

MECs from three different departments visited the district to form part of KwaZulu-Natal Premier's Imbizo where they engaged with communities in a series of meaningful events. The Premier of KwaZulu-Natal, Nomusa Dube-Ncube, was represented by Treasury MEC, Peggy Neliswa Nkonyeni, Sport, Arts and Culture MEC Ntuthuko Mahlaba and MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Super Zuma.

MEC Mahlaba started at Donnybrook where he visited a 105-year-old woman then proceeded to Creighton, where he unveiled the Creighton Public Library, a project worth R6.5 million. He also engaged with the youth before proceeding to a local police station, where he delved into a comprehensive

progress report concerning crime-fighting efforts and personnel matters. His dedication to understanding the challenges of law enforcement underscored his commitment to safer and more harmonious communities.

MEC Zuma together with the Harry Gwala District Mayor, Zamo Nxumalo, started the day by officially handing over more than R50 million worth of water projects to the communities of Gxalingenwa in Nkangala and Centocow. This was part of formally introducing contractors to communities as a sign that the projects have commenced and by the same token to also give the appointed contractors guidelines on how to strengthen ties with the communities during the course of implementing the projects.

Mayor Nxumalo was impressed with the site establishment of both contractors. The political leaders handed over agricultural equipment to the beneficiaries in these communities as part of encouraging and promoting the government concept of food sustainability, the One Home One Garden programme.



MEC Mahlaba with 105-year-old Gogo Ngcobo.



MEC Zuma and Mayor Nxumalo at the event.



MEC Nkonyeni with her team, officials and service providers at Sokhela Clinic, which is being extended.



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COVID-19 vaccine registration details for 12-year-olds and above:

Online at:
<https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/#/>
Send the word **REGISTER** to 0600 123 456 on WhatsApp.
Via SMS by dialling *134*832#.
Call the COVID-19 hotline 0800 029 999.

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Taking information and services to the people

By Robbie Senoelo: GCIS Gauteng

As part of the Annual Thusong Service Centre Week 2023, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) and other stakeholders conducted an information-sharing session to raise awareness on the important services that Thusong Service Centres offer to communities across the country at Mamelodi Square Shopping Centre on 21 September 2023.

This year's Annual Thusong Service Centre Week took place from 18 to 22 September under the theme: "Building a Professional Public Service for Quality Service Delivery". Thusong Service Centres ensure that communities can access information and government services in line with the Batho Pele principles, and is part of government's commitment of taking services to the people. The Thusong Annual Week coincides with Public Service Month, which recognises the work of public servants and their contribution in the development of the country. Public Service Month serves as a reminder of what it means to serve communities and to also look at the impact that government has, especially around issues of service delivery.

The GCIS in conjunction with other members of Mamelodi Local Communicators Forum such as community development workers, National Credit Regulator (NCR), South African Police Service, Gauteng Department of Economic Development, Gauteng Office of Consumer Affairs (GOCA), South African Social Security Agency, Independent Communications

Authority of South Africa and Motor Industry Ombudsman South Africa. They all interacted with shoppers and members of the community through exhibitions, face-to-face engagements and distribution of information and marketing/promotional products.

Ntombizodwa Mahlangu from GOCA shared information on the rights and responsibilities of consumers. She said that it is important that people are empowered to make informed consumer and/or financial decisions.

"It is during this time towards the Festive Season when people receive their 13th cheque and bonuses from their jobs that they think of making big purchases. They are often taken advantage of by swindlers or scammers.

This is where the Office of Consumer Affairs comes in, to assist those who have either been swindled or had their consumer rights trampled on," she said.



Bontle Molefe from the NCR engaging with community members at the event.



Xoliswa Sebe from Gauteng Office of Consumer Affairs engaging with a community member.



Community members receiving information products at the event.



Sjava Shakoane said:

“Today is a happy day for me because I got information relating to credit matters, and the issue of blacklisting. The NCR has made an appointment with me to resolve my credit issues with a certain clothing store and I hope they will help me.”



Moipone Manchidi said:

“It is good that departments are here and I had hoped that the Department of Home Affairs would come. I have applied for an unabridged birth certificate nine months ago and I am still waiting. I was given their call centre number but it is not being answered.”

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Imbizo tackles violence and femicide

By Tebogo Monyo: GCIS, Northern Cape

The Minister of Justice and Correctional Services, Ronald Lamola, led an anti-gender-based violence Imbizo on 7 September 2023 at the Ba Ga Jantjie Traditional Council, in Manyeding Village, in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District, Manyeding.

The Imbizo was aimed at encouraging communities to value and uphold their rights as envisaged in the Constitution, while further promoting active public participation in the implementation of justice services.

The platform afforded communities the opportunity to interact with government by allowing them to ensure accountability. This allowed for the free flow of information, frank and robust discussions for which democracy and efficient service delivery are premised on.

Stakeholders such as the South African Police Service, National Prosecuting Authority, Department of Transport, Safety and Liaison, Department of Social Development and the Traditional Council, presented their services during the event.

Minister Lamola said government cannot win the battle against gender-based violence (GBV) alone and need a societal approach where all stakeholders join hands to fight the pandemic to protect women and children.

Some of the community members who engaged the Minister expressed concern and called for the capacitation of the police to deal with GBV issues.

Kgosi Pelonomi Toto, the Chairperson of the House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders in the province, said the legislative processes regarding the Traditional Bill that seeks to affirm the recognition of the traditional justice system and its values, based on restorative justice and reconciliation; must be expedited.

“The functioning of traditional courts, to enhance customary law and the customs of communities observing a system of customary law, is the step in the right direction, but the legislative process has been slow, leaving many of us frustrated and not fully able to play our role to curb crime in our areas,” she said.

Kgosi Toto further said traditional councils must be empowered to deal with issues directly affecting communities living in rural areas under the jurisdictions of the traditional leaders.



Minister Lamola addressing the Imbizo.



Kgosi Toto encouraging men to protect women and children.



Community members who attended the Imbizo in Manyeding.



Ntswaki Phutiyagae said:

“The commitments made by different government departments to work with communities to fight the scourge of GBV in the district are appreciated and follow ups must be made to address some of the issues that are of concern to the community.”



Councillor Dineo Leutlwetse-Tshabalala said:

“Such dialogues between government, communities and civil society stakeholders must be hosted on a regular basis to fight GBV and to have a collective approach.”



Boitshoko Molaolwa said:

“I am happy that the platform was created for a dialogue between all stakeholders and the community, and that the fight against GBV can be won if there is a collective effort between communities, government and all other role players.”

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Marikana career and business expo

By Bakang Ditibane: GCIS, North West

On 22 September 2023, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) led the 2023 Marikana Career and Business Expo at Marikana Community Hall under Rustenburg Local Municipality. The GCIS was supported by various government departments and private sector entities such as Sibanye-Stillwater, Vodacom, Road Accident Fund, State Information Technology Agency, Independent Communication Authority of South African, Department of Home Affairs, North West Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Confiance Administrative Solutions, ZORA group, DEHRVA, African Bank and South African Revenue Service. The purpose of the career expo was to highlight job placement and career opportunities available to youth, particularly learnership, grant funding for small entrepreneurs and skills development. Furthermore, have engagements including youth expos, public employment services, and dialogue and youth entrepreneur hubs to highlight opportunities available to young people in Marikana.

The event took place during the 2023 Annual Thusong Service Centre Week and the Integrated Public Service Month, under the theme: “Building a Professional Public Service for Quality Service Delivery”, between 18 to 22 September 2023. Councillor Vuyiswa Shomeng made the welcoming remarks to officially open the event and said that such initiatives could be implemented annually to help learners, graduates, especially unemployed youth to highlight available opportunities.

“Youth in Marikana should not only focus on surrounding mines for employment but rather look for other alternative government departments and entities for employment,” she said.

Christina Mudau from DEHRVA made presentation on their services and programmes such as agriculture in assisting community members with small subsistant farming. Furthermore, acknowledged the GCIS for partnering with various departments and entities to bring light to Marikana community with job opportunities besides mining. The session was driven by #LeavenoOneBehind initiative to ensure that citizens have equal access to government information.

The Department of Home Affiars made their services available by providing birth certificate issuing and smart ID cards to Marikana community members. Confiance Administrative Solutions assisted youth of Marikana with career opportunities for LLB graduates and also opportunities in the community scheme industry.

The expected outcome was to empower the youth of Marikana with information that could change their lives and bring service delivery blitz. Through, highlighting job placement and career opportunities available to youth in particular, learnership, grant funding for small entrepreneurs and skills development. The GCIS distributed Thusong Service Centre leaflets together with government employment Z83 application forms, constitution booklets, GBV&F leaflets, government news and *Vuk’uzenzele* newspapers.



Councillor Vuyiswa Shomeng addressing the community of Marikana about the importance of the career and business expo.



The community of Marikana access the various information stalls.