



MYDISTRICTTODAY



STAY SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

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CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

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PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Women's Day session

By Thandinkosi Zulu: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

Ncome Museum hosted successfully the women's empowerment session with rural communities of Nquthu at Ohaleni on 28 August 2023. The session aimed at building capacity to women and develop them to be successful in life through various initiatives such as businesses, book writing, marketing, farming and education.

Herbert Mokoena from Land Bank provided a strong motivation to young women about taking charge of their lives by investing in small-businesses development and start owning farms or cooperatives.

"We as the Land Bank are here to make sure the dream of young women is fulfilled. We have funding opportunities available and encouraging women to open their minds and start exploring Land bank opportunities," added Mokoena.

The founder and inverter of Nu Maths App and Nubian Smarts, Lungile Maile, told women to be smart and be creative by inventing new things that will transform the society. "I started as a young entrepreneur in 2019 and today I own the Maths App which is very helpful to learners," said Maile.

The programme included radio personalities from community media, women educators and various authors who encouraged the involvement of women in the affairs of the growing economy.



Women's Day celebration and empowerment session at Ncome Museum.



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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 I : ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Poelong food security campaign

By Phoka Mofokeng: GCIS, Free State

On 18 September 2023, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) visited MSC Agriculture Trading under MS Construction and Projects based in Poelong in Tseki, QwaQwa. The visit formed part of the Minister’s Food Security Campaign in which cooperatives and households are encouraged to establish food gardens in their own backyards. MSC is a woman-led initiative and wholly 100% owned by two black youth.

The company was founded in 2019 by two university students who saw an opportunity to contribute to the rural neighbouring villages’ economy and food security, to create permanent jobs in the rural areas and maximise profits. The directors are Matsae Tsotsetsi who is a financial accounting graduate from North West University and Morwa Molingwane who is an LLB graduate. After graduation, the pair struggled to find jobs and decided to use the skills and knowledge they acquired at the university to start a business and be self-employed.

MSC is a mixed farming business that participates in farm cleaning and disinfection services, construction of agricultural structures, piggery, plant production and agri-processed products. It grows vegetables such as spinach, cabbage, carrots, onion, potatoes, beetroot and carrots are processed into vegetable juice and herbal capsules. Currently, the business uses four hectares of land to plant spinach and their vegetables are being sold to local retailers and residents.

The pair acquired training from various institutions such as PPC Cement where they got an opportunity to get accredited on bricklaying, plastering and supervision of construction site and stores training which today they apply in their construction of agricultural structure business. They also outsource training for their employees and themselves at the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) and Thabo Mofutsanyane agriculture district office. The pair was nominated for the 2023 Female in Agriculture

competition. The pair are incubating the Maluti TVET college rapid incubation centre for entrepreneurs, mentors of the African conservative trust and agriculture non-profit organisation that offers training in permaculture practices.

The business has created 75 contract jobs in the village through the Presidential Social Employment Fund. They have managed to turn four of those jobs into permanent jobs and are hopeful that more jobs will be turned into permanent jobs. The business usually donates its fresh produce to some of the local early childhood development centres, to the elderly and child-headed families. They have started a group with other local subsistence farmers to whom they give basic permaculture practice training and donate seeds to them so that they are able to have reliable backyard vegetables and are able to sell some of their produce for extra income. The business plans to increase livestock and vegetable production so that they are able to increase agri-processes products production, where they will be able to make their own russions, cold meat and canned meat and create more jobs in the village and fight poverty.

Their words of encouragement are that, “A dream will remain a dream until you make an effort to make it happen, so start with what you have no matter how little you have, there are no excuses, start even if you do not have land as there are ways to start like using buckets or old maize meal bags to start farming”. They encouraged communities to start today and that they must remember that farming is equal to dirty hands and clean money. In the end, they mentioned government departments and entities such as SEDA, National Youth Development Agency, Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, and more where cooperatives and individuals can contact for assistance in starting a business.



Spinach being produced at MSC agriculture premises.



A GCIS official being shown the crops by Molingwane and Tsotsetsi.



A female worker at MSC watering the food garden.

PRIORITY 1: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Event focuses on food security

By Tebogo Monyo: GCIS, Northern Cape

As part of strengthening and improving service delivery in various communities, the Northern Cape Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Land Reform and Rural Development in collaboration with other stakeholders, hosted a two-day service fair in Churchill village, in the Joe Morolong Local Municipality. Held from 21 to 22 September 2023, the programme was led by MEC Mase Manopole. It showcased the various products and services of entrepreneurs and businesses.

The purpose of the event was to integrate service delivery focusing on immediate response to the demands of the people. Thus, various role players across the three spheres of government, social partners and the private sector, profiled opportunities beneficial to the community and also promoted food security initiatives and backyard gardens.

MEC Manopole said the gathering was aimed at gauging the extent to which their departmental services were perceived and received by clients. She further said the event would therefore assist them in identifying areas that required attention and immediate intervention.

Manopole encouraged small holding farmers to register their businesses so that they can access the various funding opportunities in the agricultural ecosystem and to contribute towards a food-secure country. She encouraged communities to end the deliberate burning of grazing land and advised farmers to form part of the Fire Protection Associations and work with government to protect the environment. Councillor Naomi Mokweni, the Acting Mayor of the Joe Morolong Local Municipality, expressed her gratitude to the department for bringing the event to the municipality.



Councillor Naomi Mokweni said:

"We are grateful as the Joe Morolong Municipality, that the department came to host the Services Fair in our area and to engage with all role players that are expecting services from government"



Chris and Nomasonto said:

"We are the creators of the Babalaz Sauce and exhibited at the Services Fair. We appreciate the platform created by the department to share our product with a bigger audience and it has served as a good marketing vehicle for our business."



MEC Manopole addressing the Services Fair.



Some of community members who attended the Services Fair.



MEC Manopole visiting the stalls that displayed and sold some of their agricultural produce at the Services Fair.

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Clean-up and greening campaign

By Itumeleng Bogatsu: GCIS, Gauteng

In South Africa, Arbor Month is celebrated in September as a nationwide campaign that encourages tree planting, conservation, education and creating awareness about the importance of planting trees and taking care of them, and promoting overall cleanliness for a healthy and aesthetically pleasing environment.

National Clean-Up and Recycling Week in September is an annual programme that serves to emphasise the importance of a cleaner environment through collaborative efforts from all spheres of government, schools, businesses, Producer Responsibility Organisations and communities. The week further serves to promote and encourage recycling activities through educating communities about the importance of recycling and its economic benefits.

The City of Ekurhuleni started the Clean-Up and Recycling campaign with the focus on various environmental challenges in the city including illegal dumping, litter picking, maintenance of cemeteries, schools and cleaning open spaces such as taxi ranks, parks and streams.

Among others, the cleaning of the Bredell Cemetery, grass cutting and litter picking were the order of the day as municipal workers and other stakeholders rolled up their sleeves to bring dignity back to the facility.

The final event was held at Silindokuhle Primary School in Etwatwa on 15 September 2023 where the Ekurhuleni MMC for Environment and Waste Management Services, Councillor Eunice Matloga was a guest speaker, addressing educators and the learners. Entertainment was also part of the day for the young ones.



MMC Eunice Matloga said:

“Arbor Day is an important thing as we able to plant trees that gives us shades to relax under, some are mainly for flowers and they also bear different fruits for us to eat and remain healthy. Today, we are to plant 20 trees and clean our environment.

It is important not to do illegal dumping; dirty environment causes different illnesses and attracts rats. Trees play a very important role as they also protect our different building not to be blown away by heavy winds and storms.”



MMC Matloga leading the clean-up campaign.



The school principal and MMC Matloga planting a tree and watering it.