



# MYDISTRICTTODAY



# STAY SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

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## PRIORITY I: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

### Karoo communities receive news publication

By Noluvuyo Mangweni: GCIS, Eastern Cape

In January 2023, the first copy of *Indaba News* was published and 10 000 copies were distributed to eight small towns within the Dr Beyers Naudé Local Municipality. The founder of the publication, Everton Williams, said that it is truly humbling to see the appreciation of the publication from the community. "My dream has always been for my community to have a platform for news, information and entertainment. A platform that would not only bring the community together; but also connect those who are far away from home and connect us as a community to the rest of the world," Said Williams.

In November 2021, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) conducted a community engagement session in Graff-Reinet to discuss the possible establishment of a community-radio platform that would serve a source of news and information in the Karoo. This was simply to advocate for the community to organise themselves and explore the possibility of a communication medium that would serve all communities within the Dr Beyers Naudé Local Municipality. The GCIS roped in the Media Development and Diversity Agency, and Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, to engage the community on their support offerings to

communities/groups in pursuit of community communication mediums. From that session, a working task team was established to work on the project. Its main responsibilities were to engage and consult with the necessary entities for the establishment of the radio platform, ensure that all the necessary requirements were met for the application process and that the community gains a community radio licence.

The GCIS convened a number of stakeholder consultations in pursuit of the establishment of a community radio platform. Parallel to the initial plan; Williams initiated *Indaba News* with the MDDA. In December 2022, the paper was approved for funding by the MDDA.

Almost a year later, it employs four full time and three casual employees, and continues to distribute 10 000 copies monthly. The publication has also gained momentum through its digital platforms. Williams says that his vision is to make *Indaba News* a daily news digital mobile app with reach the national audience. "I also want to establish good stakeholder relations that will help sustain *Indaba News*," he said.



Printed copies of *Indaba News*.



Williams, the founder of *Indaba News*.



government communications

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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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.**

**Imbizo inspires entrepreneurs**

*By Mpho More: GCIS, Northern Cape*

The Deputy Minister of Small Business Development, Dipuo Peters, held an Imbizo at the Flamingo View Estate, in Kimberley on 27 September 2023.

The purpose of the event was to strengthen and promote the development of entrepreneurship, Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) and cooperatives in the province.

Stakeholders such as the Small Enterprise Development Agency, Small Enterprise Finance Agency, SMME Trust, and Department of Economic Development were given an opportunity to present about economic opportunities they provide for the audience

Deputy Minister Peters thanked all the stakeholders that came to share information that will empower the SMMEs and the entrepreneurs.

“We are cautious about high unemployment, especially among youth and we believe that through the small business development, informal business, micro business and cooperative development we can fight this monster called unemployment. Our aim is to eradicate poverty within our communities, because once you are able to do something that generates income, you are then able to be your catalyst in your family and your community. You will help the government create much-needed jobs as your business grows,” she said.

MEC for Department of Social Development, Nontobeko Vilakazi, encouraged the audience not to give up on their dreams.

“We know that there are serious challenges when you start a business, but we, as government, are here to assist you in establishing your business, by providing you with skills and mentorship. For those who have not received funding, please keep on trying as your time will come,” said MEC Vilakazi.

Some of the SMMEs who attended the event received equipment that will help to grow their businesses.

The entrepreneurs were given an opportunity to engage with the stakeholders about the opportunities they provide. The SMMEs expressed their gratitude to the Deputy Minister and thanked her for organising the event.



Entrepreneurs attending the Imbizo.



Deputy Minister Peters addressing the audience.

**PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.**

**Sekhukhune District Heritage Day celebration**

*By Nkopodi Mokgoma: GCIS, Limpopo*

On 30 September 2023, various cultural groups residing in Sekhukhune District Municipality converged in large numbers at Apel Ga Kgoshi Tau Mankotsane village in Limpopo to celebrate and close Heritage Month celebrations. The event was convened to expose diversity of cultures, including food.

Kgoshi Tau Mankotsane appreciated and thanked Sekhukhune District Municipality leadership for choosing his village to come and celebrate this importance event. He reminded the attendees about the political importance of his village.

“I just want to remind you that Tau Mankotsane village is home to the late and famous political leader who taught most of you politics, Peter Nchabeleng,” he said.

Sekhukhune District Executive Mayor, Councillor Maleke Mokganyetji, who was dressed in a colourful Sepedi traditional dress, stated that the day is not for speeches but rather of celebrating our heritage together. She thanked everybody for honouring the day by putting family commitments aside to attend the event.

The day was full of dance and praises from various cultural groups. The attendees were also delighted to be served with traditional foods.



Phogole Thabiso said:

“I am from Mphanama and I happy to be chosen to come and celebrate Heritage Day. I will be rendering a poem.”



Kagiso Lebotse said:

“I am from Mpheleng in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality. I think it is important to celebrate heritage events so that we do not forget where we come from, especially the youth.”



Executive Mayor Mokganyetji and her entourage.



Some dignitaries in attendance.



Cultural and traditional dancers at the event.



Traditional dancers at the event.



Mofihli Nyelele said:

"I am really happy that I attended this event. There are a lot of issues that I deal with mentally but I never knew where to go for help. The information we received from the psychologist has helped because now I know that our surrounding public clinics have in-house psychologists, I always thought they were only available in private hospitals."



Bongani Khumalo said:

"I am going home and inform both my father and grandfather about everything that I learnt about prostate cancer today. I will also encourage them to go and do their screening as it is something that I do not think that they have ever done. This event was also an eye opener for me to take care of myself and live a healthy life."

## PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

### Men's lives matter

By Keogile Rakgang: GCIS, Gauteng

The Tarlton Stakeholders in partnership with the Government Communication and Information System, various government departments and non-governmental organisations on 29 September 2023 hosted an Imbizo at the Nelson Mandela Community Hall targeting men living in and around the area of Tarlton. The purpose of the programme was to bring men under one roof to discuss issues affecting them such as mental health, prostate cancer, gender-based violence, where to seek help regarding issues that are directly and indirectly affecting them.

The programme was conducted as an information-sharing session with different stakeholders who engaged participants on various issues. These came from sectors such health, agriculture, business and some to engage on social ills that men go through. Dr Boitumelo Seome, a clinical psychologist from Leratong Hospital said the rate of suicide and addiction among men is alarming, and only because men do not know how to seek for help or some are even embarrassed to do so. He encouraged men not to be afraid to seek for help if things get too hard for them.

"Men need to understand that they are also human, they are not immune to mental illness, abuse, addiction or many other issues they think only women go through. You do not have to confide in any family member, our public health systems have people who are qualified, trained and well-equipped to help with any issues that you might be dealing with," said Dr Seome.



Dr Mzobe educating men about prostate cancer and the importance of health screenings.

He encouraged men to talk and to stop making a joke out of other men when they talk, that even if they do laugh, the most important thing is that you had the courage to seek help. Dr Tholithemba Mzobe from West Rand District Health also gave participants a short but important lesson about prostate cancer and the importance of frequent health screenings. He said, "My concern as a doctor is that black men do not go for cancer screening, they do not take care of their health. I am hoping that after today we will see more men visit the local clinic to do screenings."

A representative from Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Ike Mohlala, spoke on the effect that unemployment and lack of income has on some men, especially if they have always been able to provide for themselves and their families.

"The department is available for those who want to learn how to plant. We provide free training and assist in opening a cooperative if only you have the proper documents to use the land," he said.

He also encouraged men to group themselves together and find ways to work as a team in opening cooperatives that the department can support.

Other stakeholders that were part of the event included the Department of Home Affairs, Mogale City Local Economic Development and Westview Clinic.



Department of Home Affairs officials Shadrack Dinake and Kwazi Msibi addressing the audience.