



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

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PRIORITY 1: A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Promoting food production in communities

By Moloko Segale; GCIS, Gauteng

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) together with the Poortjie Local Stakeholders Forum coordinated a Food Security event, conducted on 2 November 2023 at Poortjie Multi-Purpose Centre. The following departments/organisations supported the project: Gauteng Department of Agriculture Rural Development and Environment, City of Johannesburg Department of Social Department (DSD)-Food Resilience Unit, Department of Health-#KeReady, City of Johannesburg (CoJ) DSD-Poortjie Treatment Centre, Batho-Pele Community Skills Development and various local organisations.

The purpose of the event was to promote accessibility of government programmes and services, to educate the community of Poortjie on Food Security opportunities already available as part of government interventions that encourages accessible economic recovery measures. This event took place in a form of an awareness outreach for community upliftment to promote poverty alleviation for better quality of life and requirements needed from those who are interested in backyard gardening and community cooperatives. The engagements focused on, among others available homestead, schools, churches and community gardening programmes, while

CoJ DSD Food Resilience Unit distributed seeds. The Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment also invited the GCIS, to visit the two local food projects supported.

During the event, the GCIS had an opportunity of visiting local projects (beneficiaries) currently supported by the Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, to assess production by existing community projects (beneficiaries) and capture the impactful and successful initiatives stories.

The two successful Cooperatives within Region C, City of Johannesburg are Poortjie Youth Projects are located at Rietfontein 133 IQ plot, a couple of kilometres away and Poortjie Agricultural Cooperative with Poortjie Multi-Purpose Centre. The role of the department is to support and provide inputs such as seeds and seedlings. The department also makes provisions boreholes, booster pumps, irrigation lines, water tanks, tools, fertilisers, shade nets and food packaging machines. Other interventions include trainings on pest control, plant production, business management, project management and water harvest depending on the size of the projects.



The two local food production projects that receive inputs such as seeds, seedlings, fertilizers and garden tools.



Community members at the event.



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PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Site visit to Mompoti Mall

By Fatima Modise: GCIS, North West

Naledi Local Municipality recently embarked on an enlightening site tour of Mompoti Mall, a newly built shopping complex which is located in the heart of the district in Vryburg and it is currently the talk of the town as the unemployed are hoping for jobs to change their lives. The mall is named after the late Mama Ruth Mompoti who was the stalwart and the warrior of democracy to South Africans and was much loved and respected by everyone in the district.

The site tour took place on 24 October 2023, and the team comprised of councillors, the municipal manager, senior municipal officials, representatives from various non-profit organisations, public service officials from both local and district levels, and other stakeholders.

Mompoti Mall is welcoming a range of new retail outlets, including McDonald's Drive-Thru, Homechoice, Pick n Pay Clothing, Cape Union Mart, and The Hub. Spar is also making a comeback in Vryburg, with SuperSpar and

store co-anchoring the mall alongside Shoprite. This expansion strengthens the local economy and offers residents a multitude of choices.

According to Mompoti Mall Marketing Team Coordinator, Monique Swanepoel, "The development has already created 750 permanent job positions, providing a lifeline to those in the community seeking employment. However, the impact does not end there, the construction of the mall has also opened doors to ongoing contractual job opportunities."

The prospect of a second phase for the mall further fuels the journey toward progress.



Some of the pictures for the site visit of the opening of the new mall in Vryburg.

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Community receives state-of-the-art health facility

By Ndyabo Kopo: GCIS, Eastern Cape

Primary healthcare in rural communities is mostly characterised by complaints such as traveling long distance to access it, poor health facilities, shortage of staff and critical health services and medicine.

This will be a thing of the past for the community of Mbhongweni Village in Mbizana, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela Local Municipality, thanks to a R233 million Community Health Facility that was officially opened by MEC for Health, Nomakhosazana Meth on 26 September 2023. The official opening was in honour of the birthday of the late Winnie Madikizela-Mandela who was born at Mbhongweni village.

MEC Meth said the construction phase of the facility created 420 jobs with 19 local Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises benefiting to a value of R38.9 million, with more services such as maternity and psychiatric services. The facility will operate 24 hours a day with ambulance, dental and other services on offer.

The Deputy Minister Health, Sibongiseni Dhlomo, who was also present at the event, said the official opening of the facility is the realisation of the National Health Insurance Fund programme of government, which among others, seeks to bring quality healthcare closer to the people, especially in rural communities. MEC Meth was joined by government and traditional leaders.



MEC Meth addressing the community of Mbhongweni.



Community members of Mbhongweni came in their numbers.



Inside the newly built Community Health Centre.

PRIORITY I: CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Media network session

By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) supported Ehlanzeni District Municipality (EDM) during a successful media networking session held at Ehlanzeni District Municipal Disaster Centre on 27 October 2023.

This brought Mpumalanga-based journalists together to network and deliberate on how to effectively communicate with communities and government communicators. Journalists have continuously acted as the intermediaries to disseminate information to communities on behalf of government institutions such as the EDM. The topics included the district communication status quo, communication as a vehicle in the 30 years of democracy and beyond, District Development Model, numbers do not lie using infographics to communicate better and communications towards the seventh administration.

Sipho Tibane, General Manager for Strategic Planning, Research and Innovations from Ehlanzeni District outlined the district communication status quo, saying as the district they continuously engage communities through civic education during the integrated development plan consultative meeting. They also use social media platforms such as face book, X, Instagram and usage of print media that includes both English and Siswati languages.

We took it upon our shoulders that we should always communicate to avoid community protest, because of not receiving accurate information about projects or service delivery meant for them. Moreover, we need to observe if the news are relevant to the target audience. It is indeed true that as South Africans, we have good stories to tell but due to budget constraints, we are unable, but we make strides by publishing booklets that we distribute around our local municipalities post offices, health facilities, information centres and port of entries.

Guest speakers made presentations on issues related to the media industry. Goodenough Mashego a poet, political and cultural activist and all-round artist, who has published three volumes of poetry, *Journey with Me*, *Taste of My Vomit* and *Just Like Space Cookies*, and is a literary adjudicator for both the Sol Plaatje EU Poetry Award and the South African Literary Awards. He shared info on numbers do not lie with the usage of infographics, looking on the 30 years of government

in South Africa. Various issues were discussed during this well-attended occasion; topics such as communication between municipality spokespeople and journalists, the challenges faced by journalists to get feedback, the changes within the media since the 80s and how some communities ended up protesting due to the lack of communication from local municipalities.

We talking District Development Model but what is it that people want from us as government, we promised that we will engage them and made them aware of government programmes, government achievement and opportunities. From 2019 to date, we have said a mouthful who we are as government. Communities needs visibility, to action by government. As communicator we need to lift the mood of our communities by communicating, engaging them together by giving them the services. As government let us bring budget together to maximise the impact we want to see. More development of rural areas is indeed, needed to avoid communities flocking in to towns.

Nomonde Mnukwa Acting Director-General from the GCIS said, “When we are communicating, we are not doing anyone any favor but discharging our responsibility. Secondly, there is no leadership without communication – if there is no communication it means there is leadership vacuum. Communication is such a strategic function and enables whosoever is in authority to make a significant impact.”

She congratulated the Ehlanzeni District’s continuous achievement of clean audit over a period year.

“We also quite elated of how you placed communication as a strategic function of government operation within this district. Bravo to that,” she said.

Mpumalanga Provincial Director General Makhukhu Mampuru said, as the provincial government they are committed to work in partnership with the media. He also said both the media and government have equal responsibilities of sharing developmental information with citizens, and therefore there should not be an expectation to exchange money for these responsibilities.



Mpumalanga Director-General Makhukhu Mampuru, GCIS Acting Director-General Nomonde Mnukwa, Ehlanzeni District MMC for Economic Planning and Development Councilor Selowe and Acting Executive Mayor Phazamis Mathe graced the media network session.



Media houses representatives and communicators attending the network session.



Tiisetso Ramotse from the GCIS presenting the District Development Model.



GCIS Acting Director-General Nomonde Mnu kwa presented on the 30 Years of Democracy and Beyond.