



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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PRIORITY 5: SPATIAL INTERGRATION AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Outreach programme in uBuhlebezwe Local Municipality

By Lindokuhle Chiliza, GCIS: KwaZulu-Natal

As part of Operation Sukuma Sakhe, uBuhlebezwe Local Task Team led by South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) hosted a service delivery outreach programme in Ward 10 at Themba Mnguni Hall on 25 January 2024 wherein the community came out in numbers, especially the elderly who are pensioners, and other age groups to take advantage of the services brought to the area. Various departments were rendering services on the spot.

SASSA beneficiaries were able to switch to getting their payments via banks. Eligible voters were also able to update their voting details, register and receive information regarding the upcoming General Elections.

The Department of Home Affairs had availed a mobile truck for ID applications. The programme ended with a dialogue session where various departments presented information on their mandate to the public and engaged the audience on future plans and activities.



Members of the public accessing information from the exhibitors of various departments.



Department of Home Affairs truck rendering services at the event.



Various departments presenting and rendering services to the public.



Members of the public came out in numbers to participate in the programme.



government
communications

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PRIORITY 1: CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Speech awareness campaign

By Mpho More, GCIS: Northern Cape

The Government Communication and Information System in partnership with other government departments, including the Frances Baard Municipality held a community radio interview and a taxi rank activation at the Craven Street taxi rank in Kimberley and XK-FM, in Platfontein, as part of the pre-State of the Nation Address (SoNA) build up activities on 7 and 8 February 2024.

The purpose of the event was to educate and inform the community about SoNA which was to be delivered by President Cyril Ramaphosa on 8 February 2024.

The events kick-started with different departments distributing SoNA information leaflets, including the anti-corruption leaflets. During the engagement with the stakeholders, the public had a chance to express their views and their expectations from the President's speech.

Mpho Moleme, a graduate at the University of Sol Plaatje, said "I am graduate, I am not working, my parents have invested their last money on my education, and I hope the President will appoint the Minister of Unemployment who will focus only on youth employment, or come up with a strategy to eradicate unemployment".

Most of the community members expressed their dissatisfaction and frustrations over electricity crisis and water shortages, which they feel is caused by corruption.

On 8 February, the event continued with a community radio interview at the XK-FM, in Platfontein wherein the Acting Mayor of the Frances Baard District, Councillor Motshabi Mokgatlhanyane, encouraged the community to watch or listen to the SoNA and said, "There are economic opportunities and skills development that are advertised on our municipal website, I advise people to visit our website to check where they can fit or come straight to our district office for further enquires."

The Acting Mayor spoke about the R1 billion housing project, which was launched by President Ramaphosa a month ago, which will benefit all the districts in the Northern Cape. He urged the community to exercise their democratic right by going to cast their vote on elections day.



Stakeholders engaging with communities on the importance of the SoNA.



Acting Mayor Mokgatlhanyane, informing the public about the SoNA.



Ouma Nkosi said:

“The event has opened our eyes in terms of compliance and I am happy that I attended. The information gained will assist us in our future plans.”



Nelson Mailula said:

“The event was informative and well-coordinated and I gained a lot of experience.”

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND JOB CREATION.

Consumer protection awareness campaign

By Doctor Marebane, GCIS: Limpopo

The Government Communication and Information System in consultation with the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (the dtic) held an awareness campaign on acts concerning consumers and companies at Mapodile and Kgautswane Thusong Service Centres on 22 and 23 February 2024 respectively.

A total of 30 registered local business representatives were invited and received training on various consumer acts and rights. According to Millicent Zwimbane from the dtic, who coordinated the event, the primary objective of the Act was to establish consumer rights and provide free, effective and efficient enforcement of those rights through the establishment of the National Consumer Commission, the National Consumer Tribunal accredited industry ombud schemes such as the motor industry with the aim of creating

consumer rights and provide means of enforcement of consumer rights; to protect vulnerable consumers; to promote fair business practice; to establish the national norms and standards to ensure consumer protection; to establish the National Consumer Commission; to make provision for improved standards of consumer information, to prohibit certain unfair marketing and business practices and to promote a fair, accessible and sustainable marketplace for consumer behaviour.

The attendees were educated about their rights to free and unlimited access to goods and services. They were also educated about their rights to demand quality services as they are entitled to timely performance and completion of services.



Attendees of the consumer protection campaign at Mapodile and Kgautswane Thusong Service Centres.



Zakhele Ngobese said:

"I reside in Lawley, one of the townships in Region G of the City of Johannesburg. My main concerns about the township is lack of funding for small businesses, high rate of unemployment, poor connectivity/network issues and road infrastructure. Looking at all these challenges, I feel government still has a long way in improving the country's economic status."



Believe Mastock said:

"My stay in the city has made me realise that the rise of GBV is triggered by several social issues such as poverty, unemployment, drugs abuse and lack of empowerment, especially for women and youth. All these leads to abuse and unruly behaviour."

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Information sharing session

By Moloko Segale: GCIS, Gauteng

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) has a mandate to ensure that South Africans are provided with information that is timely, accurate and accessible as per section 195 (g) of the Constitution. To achieve this, on 26 February 2024, GCIS Gauteng Provincial Office employees conducted a road intersection activation outside the provincial office at the corner of Commissioner and Von Brandis, Johannesburg with the purpose of sharing relevant information on government services and to engage communities on social issues affecting them daily with the focus being on the impact of drugs/substances abuse on physical and mental health and how gender-based violence (GBV) is triggered by excessive usage thereof.

To understand more on the environmental issues affecting the area, community members raised other social factors and there were a number of concerns such as the status of the economy, the level of unemployment, infrastructure and criminal activities such as sexual assaults, rape, murder and robberies.

One of the small business owners in the city, Simo Maholoana said, "I reside in Johannesburg and I am living in fear daily. My observation through the years is that there is poor law enforcement and this leads to us witnessing day light robberies, murders, business break-ins and drug dealing."

It was through this platform that the GCIS also shared information on Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Programme, and anti-corruption to promote them as part of government's main priorities.



GCIS officials interacting with the community members during the activation.