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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 SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Awareness on child abuse and substance abuse

By Bongeka Nkwanyana: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

South Africa has in recent years had increased incidences of Gender-Based Violence (GBV), mainly against women and girls.

Government has been working together with various stakeholders to respond to the scourge of abuse, neglect and exploitation.

As such, on 27 January 2022, the Department of Social Development in collaboration with the South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence, the Government Communication and Information System and the Department of Economic Development conducted a school dialogue with Siphwayinkosi Primary School learners in uMhlathuze Local Municipality.

The purpose of the dialogue was to raise awareness about child abuse and substance abuse, and also on how children can prevent and report such issues.

The dialogue also aimed to encourage learners to actively debunk myths that are erroneously linked to culture and are used to perpetuate incidents of GBV.

The information was highly appreciated by the learners.



Stakeholders sharing content on GBV and substance abuse.



**government
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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 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Central Karoo Rural Safety Summit

By Monique Warden: GCIS, Western Cape

The Western Cape Department of Community Safety held the Central Karoo Rural Safety and Policing Needs and Priority Summit in Prince Albert on 30 January 2023.

The MEC for Policing Oversight and Community Safety, Reagen Allen, highlighted the challenges that the country faces in fighting crime, and noted that while there has been a decrease in crime in the Cape Metro, there has been more than a 20% increase in crime in rural communities.

Stakeholders who were in attendance deliberated on measures that should be taken to deal with crime and collaborative efforts to fight crime in communities.

Social Development MEC Sharna Fernandez indicated that communities across the Western Cape are still “soaked in trauma” and therefore there is

a need for intentional intervention and a focus on boys and men in order to change the conversation and end violence.

The Station Commander for Beaufort West, Colonel Ayanda Zumba in his presentation on behalf of the Central Karoo South African Police Service echoed the sentiment of working with communities to eradicate and report crimes.

The most problematic crime categories remain property crimes and contact crimes of which assault and Gender-Based Violence remain a prevalent concern in rural communities.

Through its various speakers, the summit highlighted the need for a joint actionable safety plan to address issues on the ground as they occur.



Stakeholders engaging the attendees during the Central Karoo Rural Safety Summit.

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Eastern Cape matric pass rates increases

By Phiwe Phillips: GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Eastern Cape celebrated the achievement of 77.3% matric pass rate for the 2022 academic year, rising from 73% in 2021 and 68.1% for the class of 2020, respectively.

In a media briefing that was held at Mandla Makupula Education Leadership Institute on 20 January 2023, MEC for Education, Fundile Gade, heaped praise on the matric class of 2022, who ensured the province is one of the most improved in South Africa.

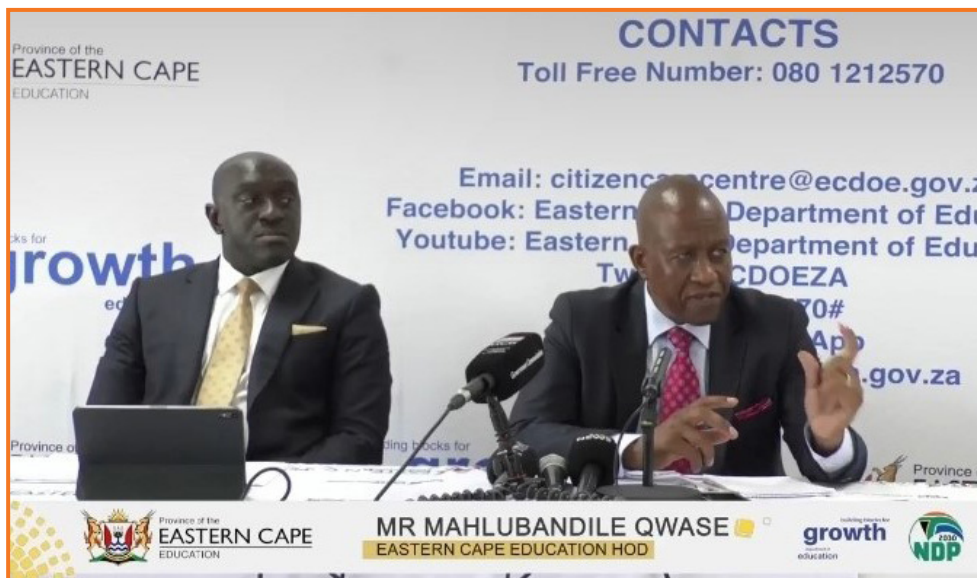
The MEC was also pleased that the province had risen in the national ratings, achieving more distinctions and bachelor passes.

“This achievement is dedicated to our teachers and our principals who have shown strong leadership and commitment,” said MEC Gade.

Eastern Cape Education Head of Department Mahlubandile Qwase said that the province has a plan to take principals from the top performing schools and form a Rapid Response team, which will assist the schools that are under performing.

“We have also started the process where we are targeting 120 schools that will be assisted through the provision of proper infrastructure. All these means are to increase the pass rate even higher,” said Qwase.

The provincial top achievers were celebrated in an award ceremony that was held on the day.



Education MEC Fundile Gade and Head of Department, Mahlubandile Qwase, during a briefing session on matric results.



Eastern Cape top-three achievers and the provincial leadership.

PRIORITY 5: SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Community awaits national and provincial address

By Livhuwani Todani: GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) conducted the pre-State of the Nation Address (SoNA) and State of the Province Address (SoPA) during the community outreach aimed to disseminate government information to the public in the City of Mbombela, on 31 January 2023.

The communities were urged to take part in the addresses so they know about government plans. The Mpumalanga SoPA will be delivered on 24 February 2023, following SoNA, which was to be delivered on 9 February 2023, by President Cyril Ramaphosa.

During the outreach, members of the public were encouraged to share their views about service-delivery issues in their communities that they need government to address.

The community raised several challenges, which they ask government to address as a matter of agency such as the high unemployment rate, crime, electricity/load shedding, and water as a basic need for the community.

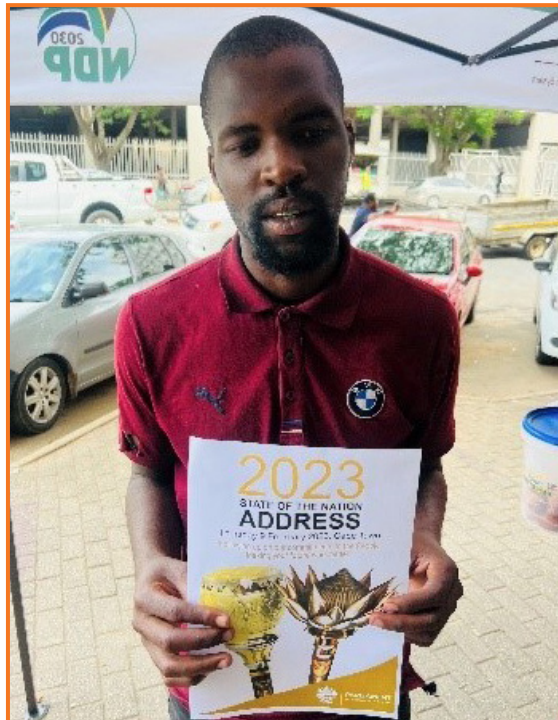
The community outreach also engaged the community about Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF), where the community was encouraged to report GBVF cases to law-enforcement agencies.

Furthermore, community members were urged to be cautious of bogus colleges and encouraged to check the registered private colleagues on the website of the Department of Higher Education before they enrol as some colleges are operating illegally.

Information leaflets that were distributed to the community members included the Vuk'uzenzele newspaper, the South African Constitution booklet, and leaflets on SoNA, SoPA, GBVF and bogus colleges.



GCIS official Andile Mpila sharing information with community members.



Kgaugelo Ledwaba said:

"I think it is high time that government addresses the education system that can assist graduates to get employment or assist them to create their own employment rather than wasting years at a university and roam the street after graduating."



Dapheney Mugwenya said:

"My plea to government is to address the issue of electricity as it affected my son during his exam and online teaching. I am requesting government to intervene in the ending of load shedding."



Samson Nkosi said:

"I am request government to intervene on issues of water. We have a crisis of water in our area, and the water tankers trucks are reaping us off as they made us pay for the dirty water they sell to us."