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TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

Issue no.5: February 2023

CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

For more information about similar programmes that are run across the country, contact one of the following provincial offices:

EASTERN CAPE

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GAUTENG

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KWAZULU-NATAL

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PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Learners apply for smart ID cards

By Jacob Mkhize: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Deputy Minister Njabulo Nzuza addressing stakeholders.

The Department of Basic Education in conjunction with the uMkhanyakude District Director Mjozi Motha and his management team, the Department of Social Development, uMhlabuyalingana Municipal Councillors and officials from the Department of Home Affairs, held a back-to-school programme in Vulakwenile Secondary School on 24 January 2023.

The programme sought to encourage learners and monitor the school infrastructure, as there are various challenges that can affect the start of the academic year and the learners. Some of them include learners, especially those in matric, not having identity documents (IDs), which affects them in writing their final examinations.

As a response to some of the challenges faced by the learners, the Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Njabulo Nzuza, brought the Home Affairs Mobile Truck to the school to ensure that learners apply for smart ID cards. As a result, more than 100 learners were able to apply for their IDs.



Parents and learners accessing Department of Home Affairs services.

Parents expressed their gratitude to the department for bringing services closer to them as that saved learners from missing their classes to travel to Mbazwana for ID applications.

Deputy Minister Nzuza assured parents and stakeholders that the department would ensure that no learners would have to miss classes in order to travel to Home Affairs offices to apply for ID cards.

Mobile trucks have assisted and strengthened the relationship with the Department of Basic Education.

The Deputy Minister noted that learners must not be deprived of their right to education. "If there are cases pertaining Home Affairs services – such information should be shared accordingly," he said.

The Deputy Minister further cautioned that because uMkhanyakude District is on the border of Mozambique and Eswatini, officials should be vigilant in ensuring that learners have the necessary documentation before enrolling them in schools.



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 5: SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

State of disaster declared to respond to floods

By the South African Government

Government has, in terms of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act 57 of 2002), declared the national state of disaster to enable an intensive, coordinated response to the impact of floods that are affecting Mpumalanga, the Eastern Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, the Northern Cape and North West.

The National Disaster Management Centre has, in terms of Section 23 of the Disaster Management Act, classified the impact of current, above-normal rainfall in various parts of the country – with Mpumalanga and the Eastern Cape as the most affected – as a national disaster.

The centre has received reports ranging from flooded homes, vehicles swept away by floodwaters and overflowing dams and sewerage facilities, to the loss of basic infrastructure and damage to roads, bridges and a Limpopo hospital.

In agriculture, farmers have suffered crop and livestock losses, and anticipate further losses as the South African Weather Service (SAWS) predicts that current heavy rains will persist.

These conditions have been brought on by the La Niña global weather phenomenon, which occurs in the Pacific Ocean but impacts a country such as South Africa with above-normal rainfall.

Forecasts indicate that the weather pattern will remain in this state during the early part of 2023. The presence of a La Niña event usually has its strongest impact on rainfall during the mid-summer months.

With the continued strengthening of the La Niña event, the country can expect above-normal rainfall and below-normal temperatures over the summer rainfall areas.

Taken together, these conditions demand the provision of temporary shelters, food and blankets to homeless families and individuals and the large-scale, costly rehabilitation of infrastructure.

National entities, including the South African Police Service and the South African National Defence Force, may be required to play a role in responding to the disaster.

The National Disaster Management Centre continues to monitor, coordinate response and recovery measures by the relevant organs of state and stakeholders. This further includes the dissemination of early warnings and advisories on weather forecasts by the SAWS.

As the wet weather continues, South Africans can follow the safety tips on www.cogta.gov.za and www.weathersa.co.za. Government has, in terms of the Disaster Management Act, 2002 (Act 57 of 2002), declared the national state of disaster to enable an intensive, coordinated response to the impact of floods that are affecting Mpumalanga, the Eastern Cape, Gauteng, KwaZulu-Natal, Limpopo, the Northern Cape and North West.

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

Thusong Service Centre outreach in Blanco

By Jethro Grootboom: GCIS, Western Cape

The George Municipality in partnership with the Thusong Service Centre Programme, Department of Home Affairs, Department of Employment and Labour, Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA), Department of Social Development, South African Revenue Services and Cell C held a Thusong Service Centre outreach at Blanco Community Hall on 10 February 2023.

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) mobilised the rural community members of Blanco who received important government information and services from various stakeholders.

According to Adam Lewie from Waboomskraal Thusong Service Centre, community members who attended the outreach were excited about the opportunities they are exposed to as they can lead to jobs, economic opportunities and boost and education and training opportunities.

The Department of Employment and Labour officials registered unemployed people on their database for job opportunities.

Cell C presented self-employment opportunities to the community involving the Related Information Act and the selling of airtime and data. SEDA presented their non-financial business skills training and IEC registered community members on the voters' roll.

The Department of Home Affairs assisted with identity documents and birth certificate applications.

The GCIS engaged the community and distributed information materials on anti-corruption, Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, COVID-19 vaccination boosters and cervical cancer, among other materials.

The Youth Development Office of the municipality spoke to the youth on how the National Youth Development Agency can assist them with non-financial and financial support to start their own small businesses.

The South African Youth Mobi also communicated about their services where young people can register their Curriculum Vitae without using network data for possible work opportunities. The youth were informed on how to use the system to apply for bursaries and to further their education.

The next Thusong Service Centre outreach in the municipality will be held at New Dawn Park Hall in March, Thembaletu Hall in April, at Outeniqua Primary School in May, Thembaletu Zone 9 Hall in June and at Rosemoor Community Hall in July 2023.



Community members accessing services and information from different stakeholders.

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

School dialogue on the speech

By Ntebo Mohale: GCIS, Free State

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) held a post-State of the Nation Address (SoNA) dialogue at Rainbow Secondary School in Bultfontein, on 16 February 2023.

The purpose of the dialogue was to get the reviews of the SoNA 2023 from the learners, and what they had expected President Cyril Ramaphosa to have mentioned in his SoNA.

The learners, through the assistance of their educator, Merriam Matekane, prepared for the dialogue and raised their concerns about the challenges that face South Africa today.

Some of the concerns raised by the learners included Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF), poor infrastructure, load shedding, water outages and lack of economic opportunities.

GCIS official Ntombi Mhlambi addressed the learners on the importance of learning and listening to the current affairs of the country and mentioned that the SoNA is a platform on which the President reports on the current state of the country and informs the citizens of government plans and programmes to move the country forward.

The GCIS also distributed information material to the learners.



Sibongile Ncana addressing the audience during the dialogue.



Sibusiso Kula raising a question to the panelist during the dialogue.



Dineo Khoabane (14) said:

"If I were the President, I would improve the infrastructure of the country as it contributes to the economic development and I would also build more schools as the ones available are demolished. The population has increased, so we need more schools. I would put stricter measures on the laws of GBVF and built more safe centres for the victims of GBVF."



Kgomolelo Lebabo (16) said:

"If I were the President of the country, I would discontinue the social relief fund grants in order to use the funds to improve our infrastructure, change our education curriculum and have a contingency plan on water and load shedding."