



# MYDISTRICTTODAY



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## CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

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## PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION SKILLS AND HEALTH.

### Observing Armed Forces Day

*By Bongeka Nkwanyana and Vuyolwethu Gwala: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal*

Armed Forces Day is held annually on 21 February in commemoration of the World War I naval tragedy in which 616 black South African troops died when the SS Mendi steamship sank on its way to France. President Cyril Ramaphosa, as Commander-in-Chief of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), officiated the 2023 Armed Forces Day programme at Richard's Bay on 21 February 2023.

Armed Forces Day is also an opportunity to honour women and men in uniform who serve the nation and to pay tribute to those who have fallen in the line of duty. The day also seeks to expand public understanding of the role of the SANDF in the life of the nation and to demonstrate through live simulations of military action, the capability of the Army, Navy, Air Force and South African Medical Health Service. This year's programme took place from 6 to 22 February 2023 in King Cetshwayo District where various activities such as showcasing military career, recruitment drive, military health service outreach programmes, public open days to view ships and capability demonstration and many more activities.

During this period, the SANDF also launched Project Owethu, a socio-economic project aimed at empowering citizens through skills development and providing various forms of assistance to disadvantaged communities. Young children were given psycho-social support, while temporary shelter were constructed for some child-headed households. The SANDF worked with various government stakeholders such as the Department of Social Development, the local municipality and Department of Health to provide much-needed services to people living in rural areas.

During his speech, President Cyril Ramaphosa paid tribute to members of the armed forces who, at great risk to their own lives, work tirelessly to help maintain law and order in times of crisis. He also commended the high level of discipline in which they discharged their duties under difficult conditions.

The programme included the laying of the wreath by President Ramaphosa at the Empangeni World War II monument, and awards of recognition to family members of those armed forces members who died in the line of duty to protect and serve the nation.



Wreath-laying ceremony by President Cyril Ramaphosa.



President Cyril Ramaphosa addressing the audience.



**government  
communications**

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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 3: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

### Community dialogue tackles violence

By Moloko Segale: GCIS, Gauteng

The Government Communication and Information System together with Masiphephe Network, Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention and Training (ADAPT), South African Council of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency (SANCA), KHULISA, City of Johannesburg (CoJ) Department of Health, South African Police Service, Lifeline, Gender Based Violence Brigades and CoJ Department of Social Development among others hosted a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) community dialogue. The dialogue was held on the 22 February 2023, at Christian Apostolic Church, 27 John Brand 12th Avenue Alexandra.

The community dialogue targeted residents of Ward 108 and surrounding areas. The objective of the event was to identify opportunities to improve GBV activities, to provide an update on the project activities to the community, to develop sustainability plan for community GBV activities and provide feedback on the activities responding to GBV through forum interventions.

The dialogue involved stakeholders introducing their organisations, services they offer and their role in the community. Behavioural change of the abusers in the last 12 months, main areas that people feel vulnerable or at risk of GBV, the environmental risks, improvement on safety for the community, optional help services for GBV victims, available GBV interventions in the community were discussed among others. The communities were told how helpful the interventions are and discussions included improvement of existing GBV services, ensuring that people continue to get services, suggesting interventions and community support. Though challenging, the interventions by both local stakeholders and community members has proven to improve the state of GBV in the community.



Community members from Alexandra Ward 108 in attendance.



Nomasonto Ngwenya and Thapelo Rahlogo from ADAPT facilitating the community dialogue.



**Thabang Rampshe said:**

“When I came in this morning I only knew services offered by SANCA but now at least I met other stakeholders offering different services. I will definitely spread the word in my community about the information I received from the dialogue.”



**Mokgaetji Shiko said:**

“I have learnt a lot about GBVF from the Masiphephe Network group of stakeholders. I will definitely help others in my community by sharing the information I received today. I am planning to volunteer and work with some stakeholders to assist in decreasing the scourge of GBVF.”





**Priscelia Jara said:**

"I worked as an educator assistant at Maraiskop Primary School in Swartberg during phase 1, 2 and 3 of the programme. Today, I am here at Nonkqubela Primary School and I was assisted within 20 minutes. I will receive my money within 10 working days."



**Thumeka Zoleka said:**

"I applied with my smart phone; the process was easy and quick. I had been an assistant teacher for 14 months. They told me I will have my money within 10 days from today."



**Gugu Khoma said:**

"Today, we are in Kokstad to process former assistant teachers UIF, yesterday we were in Underberg, on 22 and 23 we will be in uMzimkhulu Local Municipality. We urge those who could not make it to join us in the remaining areas we are still to visit areas within the district. Alternatively, they can visit their local Department of Employment and Labour offices."

## PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION SKILLS AND HEALTH.

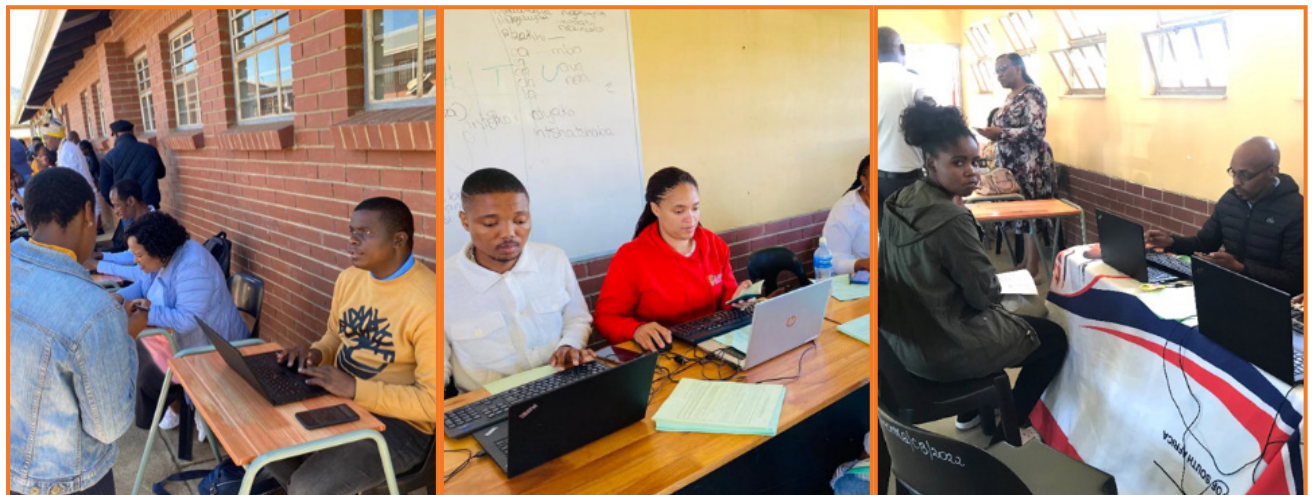
### Former school assistants receive payments

*By Lindokuhle Chiliza: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal*

The Unemployment Insurance Fund's (UIF) campaign of paying former educator and general assistants in KwaZulu-Natal proceeded to Harry Gwala District in the month of February 2023. The campaign started in November 2022 under Amajuba District Municipality and proceeded to eThekweni and Pinetown in December. It is subsequently moved to Zululand, uMgungundlovu, uThukela and Ugu districts.

Former educator assistants were invited to claim their UIF benefits; the process was quick and easy. While at the venue, the beneficiaries received a chance to register their CVs on the Employment Services of South Africa system for possible job opportunities.

To date, a cumulative R76.2 million has been paid out to 17095 beneficiaries who were employed in the aforementioned districts. The UIF is an entity of the Department of Employment and Labour that provides short-term financial relief to qualifying and contributing workers and their beneficiaries. The entity is mandated in terms of the Unemployment Insurance Amendment Act, 2016 (Act 10 of 2016) and Unemployment Insurance Contributions Act, 2002 (Act 4 of 2002) to provide for the payment of unemployment benefits to qualifying and contributing workers for the payment of reduced work time, illness, maternity, adoption, dependants and parental benefits.



Officials assisting the beneficiaries during the campaign.



**Councillor Grace Moipolai said:**

"As the speaker's office we work with community participation and we are grateful for campaigns like this one and we support the initiative as it benefits our community."

## PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION SKILLS AND HEALTH.

### Measles vaccination campaign

By Fatima Modise: GCIS, North West

On 16 February 2023, the Government Communication and Information System in partnership with the Department of Health, held a measles vaccination campaign for primary school children at the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District Municipality. Post State of the Nation Address highlights were shared on the day with various stakeholders such as the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District Municipality, Greater Taung Local Municipality, Department of Basic Education and home based care centres.

MEC for Health, Madoda Sambatha, Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District Executive Mayor, Councillor Sense Maje and Greater Taung Local Municipality Speaker Councillor Grace Moipolai were part of the outreach.

MEC Sambatha urged Department of Health officials to work closely with the Department of Education to ensure that all learners are vaccinated for measles other diseases. He further explained the campaign is not just for statistics, however, to protect themselves against diseases. He also urged parents to cooperate with both health and education officials in order for the campaign to be a success.



A health official vaccinating a learner during the outreach.

A total of 460 learners from different primary schools around the area attended the outreach. Toddlers were also vaccinated on the day. It was noted that the vaccination campaign would be ongoing until the target is reached.



MEC Madoda Sambatha with other stakeholders and the community in attendance.