



MYDISTRICTTODAY



**STAY
SAFE**

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

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PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Mandeni mobile library launch

By Lindokuhle Chiliza: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

Education remains an important factor in South Africa for people to better their lives and libraries remain the primary access points to information sources for the public.

It is on this premise that the Mandeni Local Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal officially launched the roll-out programme of the mobile library on 16 February 2022, which caters for remote areas within the municipality.

The launch was held at Macambini Area, Ward 9. Students from schools around Macambini were the first to test this service.

The Local Mayor, Councillor Thabani Mdlalose officially opened the Library.

He urged community members to look after the library as it will serve as an agent for passing municipal, academic, and government information to the community.

Mdlalose further encouraged the students who attended the event to dedicate their time and energy to studying.

The launch of the mobile library service was the first-of-its-kind within the iLembe District Municipality.



Mayor Thabani Mdlalose cutting the ribbon and officially launching the mobile library.



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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 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Migration of Early Childhood Development to Basic Education

By Willem van Dalen: GCIS, Northern Cape

The Department of Social Development (DSD) together with the Department of Basic Education (DBE), undertook a road trip across the Northern Cape to explain the official migration of part of Early Childhood Development (ECD) centres during a Namakwa District Summit.

The summit was held on 3 March 2022 and was attended by ECD teachers from the Richtersveld, Nama Khoi and Kamiesberg municipal areas.

Expressing their confidence in the migration process after being informed about how it would be implemented, the teachers said the move was long overdue.

Mercia Fani, Director: ECD Services at the DSD, explained that the administrative functions, such as registration, funding, and reporting of ECD centres were being moved to the DBE. The move is expected to improve ECD services and ultimately, the education curriculum.

Fani indicated that the current registrations would remain valid and that only in April this year that the new registrations will be submitted to the DBE.

"This is not a big change. We are honestly looking forward to a smooth transformation of this service," she said.

Palesa Thulo from the DBE, expressed their readiness to be of service to the ECD practitioners, by addressing all the uncertainties.

The departments visited Calvinia and Springbok and met other stakeholders in Upington and Kuruman.



Regional Director of Social Development, Sammy Cloet, addressing the audience



ECD teachers were afforded the opportunity to ask questions.



Gwendoline Saal said:

“I feel privileged to be part of this meeting today. We heard so many stories in the public, but now I know the truth of the whole migration process and I feel safe in the knowledge that my job is safe. I can now go out and tell others that there is no need to panic. I am eager to continue my work under the Department of Basic Education.”



Palesa Maredi-Thulo said:

“We are here to support the teachers of ECD and to appreciate the extremely valuable job they are doing in preparing the younger children to easily adapt to the school environment. The process of migrating is explained to them to calm them that nothing strange will be happening.”



Mercia Fani said:

“The aim of the meeting today is just to inform and explain the rationale behind the migration of ECD centres to the Department of Basic Education. There is nothing for the educators to worry about. The whole process is an administrative one.”



Petros Nkosi said:

"I am happy that I just got vaccinated today as I was struggling to go to clinic as a taxi driver, as I have to carry my commuters as early as 05:00."

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Public-private partnership benefits schools

By Livhuwani Todani: GCIS, Mpumalanga

Deputy President David Mabuza, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the Inter-Ministerial Committee on COVID-19 vaccines, delivered the keynote address at the handover ceremony of community support material towards curbing the spread of the virus, donated by Sappi Mill in the City of Mbombela on 18 February 2022.

Sappi Mill donated personal protective equipment such as masks, sanitisers and 10 000 boxes of A4 papers to 300 schools in Mpumalanga.

Deputy President Mabuza was accompanied by Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga and Health Deputy Minister Sibongiseni Dhlomo.

"We are happy to hand over this package of support to representatives of beneficiary schools and members of the community. We want to have a long-lasting partnership with Sappi as a responsible corporate citizen that is committed to the development and empowerment of communities where it operates," said the Deputy President.

Sappi Mill CEO Alex Thiel also shared information on the type of skill development programmes that they offer in their plant to help improve the lives of surrounding communities.

Sappi Mill provides skills development on knitting, mechanical and electrical training.

Deputy President Mabuza and Deputy Minister Dhlomo also did a walkabout at the Mbombela taxi rank, where they encouraged the taxi association and community members to vaccinate and continue to wear masks to help protect one another.



Deputy President David Mabuza and Minister Angie Motshekga received Sappi Mill's pledge for donations.



Sappi Mills Skill Development Centre, where community members learn knitting, mechanical and electrical engineering skills.



Deputy Minister Sibongiseni Dhlomo monitoring COVID-19 vaccination site at Mbombela Taxi Rank.



Jabulile Mnisi said:

“The workshop was very informative and I want to express my sincere gratitude to all stakeholders for bringing this valuable information to us. We hope that the Bronkhorstspuit Business Centre will be helpful when we go there.”



Nic Mashiane said:

“I thank them for considering us, village dwellers. We did not have access to this type of information. We heard about how they assist small businesses but we will judge them by their ability to assist us when we go to their offices for assistance.”

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Empowering small businesses for economic recovery

By Robbie Senoelo: GCIS, Gauteng

As part of government’s effort to encourage and stimulate economic recovery following the devastating effects of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country, the City of Tshwane’s Economic Development and Spatial Planning Division in partnership with the Government Communication and Information System and other stakeholders held a business information workshop for local and aspiring entrepreneurs in Sokhulum, Bronkhorstspuit AH on 24 February 2022.

Officials from the Small Enterprise Development Agency, Gauteng Department of Economic Development, Gauteng Office of Consumer Affairs, Department of Labour and Unemployment, and Independent Communication Authority of South Africa made presentations.

Business-related information was also disseminated through exhibitions, face-to-face interactions and the distribution of information products.

The information disseminated would assist prospective and existing business people to either start, sustain or grow their businesses in order to grow the economy, create jobs and alleviate poverty.

Addressing the audience, Billy Mahlangu from Amandebele ka Ndzundza Traditional Council reminded participants about the existing COVID-19 pandemic and urged them to get vaccinated and always follow COVID-19 protocols.

He reminded participants that COVID-19 can directly impact their businesses’ bottom line. He said, “Even after vaccinating, it is always important to observe all the non-pharmaceutical interventions because COVID-19 is still there and its spread may impact you and your clientele, while you are struggling to keep your businesses afloat, stay and remain safe.”

On the role of the Traditional Council, Mahlangu assured the small, medium, and micro enterprises that they are always willing and ready to assist small enterprises whenever possible and his office is already doing referrals to relevant entities.

This platform was also used to raise awareness about gender-based violence and femicide, and encouraged community members to participate in Census 2022, which is currently underway.



Local entrepreneurs listening to presentations during the business information workshop in Sokhulum.



Mulidzi Tsiko from SEDA presenting during the workshop.