



# MYDISTRICTTODAY



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

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## PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

### It is your human right to report bad service

By Yanga Ngcukana: GCIS, Free State

On 13 March 2024, the community of Mofulatshepe near Smithfield converged at the George Rantee Community Hall to commemorate Human Rights Month with government departments, and local non-governmental and non-profit organisations.

The South African Police Service (SAPS) Station Commander, Captain Dumisani Taleni, encouraged the community to know the police officers that are rendering the services to them for ease of reference.

He said, "It is important you keep the name of the police officer helping you so that we are able to correct that particular member as it is your right to get a proper service from the SAPS."

In his address, Yanga Ngcukana of the GCIS, started by giving a brief history of Human Rights Day and encouraged the community to understand their responsibilities as citizens of this country.

The Department of Employment and Labour touched on issues of minimum wage as set out by government. They also requested that those employees who think they cannot afford to pay their helpers at home or businesses the minimum wage, it is their right to ask for exemption stating his or her reasons thereof to the Minister.

Nelly Nyalleng, from the Office of the Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Community Safety, Roads and Transport, emphasised the importance of a good service by all our government offices and she reminded the community that they are also responsible for their actions.



Ngcukana, a GCIS official, giving a brief history of Human Rights Day and encouraging communities to vote in the upcoming General Elections as it is their right to do so.



Captain Taleni talking to the community about the importance of being part of the community policing forum.



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Maggie Shasha from the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development emphasising the land issue and requesting communities to apply for advertised farms in the area.



Neli Nyalleng from the Office of the MEC for Community Safety, Roads and Transport talking about the importance of a good service by all our government offices.

## PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESSION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

### Information-sharing session with the elderly

By Lececia Prins: GCIS, Northern Cape

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) together with the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC) held an information-sharing session with the elderly in Rosedale, Upington in ZF Mgcawu District on 25 March 2024.

The session focused specifically on human rights, application for special votes and three ballot papers and gender-based violence and abuse in general.

During the session, the GCIS informed the elders about their rights and responsibilities, the importance of respecting them and reporting any human rights violations. Human Rights Month is commemorated annually in March and this year's event coincides with 30 years of freedom and democracy.

The IEC took the opportunity to educate the elderly about the benefits of registering for the special votes and avoid standing in long queues on 29 May and also about the different ballot papers to be

expected during the elections. Martin De Wee from the IEC said they encounter a number of young people who are resistant to voting every time they engage them.

Constable Ogone Mabilo from the Rosedale SAPS spoke about the different forms of abuse against the elderly and how residents can report such. Mabilo urged the parents to use the services being provided by the police and courts. He also urged them to report criminal activities in communities to create safer communities for all.

The session gave the elderly an opportunity to engage the stakeholders on challenges that they face, and where and how to report abuse.



A GCIS official engaging the elders on their rights and responsibilities, and the importance of commemorating Human Rights Month.



Constable Mabilo from Rosedale SAPS addressing the audience.



An IEC official explaining the different ballot papers for the upcoming elections to the elders.



Gaynore Solomons from Age in Action welcoming and thanking all stakeholders.

## PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

### Agriculture paves way for young people

By Zukiswa Mqumbisa: GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in Nelson Mandela Bay, in partnership with the provincial Department of Agriculture, highlighted government's strides during the 30 Years of Freedom, paying special attention to agriculture. On 1 February 2024, the GCIS took a young farmer, Sikelelo Maweyi, from the Eyokholo project, which is based in Seaview, to KQFM radio station for an interview.

The interview aimed to encourage young people about farming and also inspire those who want to venture into farming. Before his breakthrough, Maweyi had knocked on different doors for help. He finally succeeded when he received funding from the Eastern Cape Development Corporation, Small Enterprise Development Agency and the Department of Agriculture. Maweyi and his team started farming by leasing one of the properties in Seaview to plant potatoes and butternuts.

Talking about reaping good fruits, Eyokholo project is currently leasing two sites from different landlords. They are now waiting for spinach and green pepper seedlings to grow so that they can plant them.

"Government played a huge role in ensuring that our project becomes a success. If we did not receive help from different government departments and entities, our dream of becoming farmers was not going to come true. We want to encourage young people to venture into farming because there is money in farming. However, they need to be dedicated and love what they do," said Maweyi.



Maweyi from Eyokholo project during an interview with Yonela Gidi at KQFM radio station.



Eyokholo Farm at Greenbushes in the Nelson Mandela Bay.

## PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

### Deputy Minister donates books

By Bakang Ditibane: GCIS, North West

On 22 March 2024, the Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Kenneth Morolong, accompanied by the Executive Mayor of Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality Khumalo Molefe, Mafikeng Local Municipality Mayor Tshepiso Mphehlo, in partnership with North West Department of Education Deputy Director-General, Kgosi Morikare of Barolong Boo Rapulana in Mantsha donated literature books to Mosikare Secondary School. The books, courtesy of the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), were donated as part of National Library Week, which took place from 18 to 24 March 2024 under the theme: “Libraries foster social cohesion”.

Deputy Minister Morolong called on communities to guard schools against vandalism. “As government, we are calling on our communities to take care of their schools.”

The Deputy Minister further said government has seen the need to foster a culture of learning and promote South African Library Week. He encouraged the GCIS to continue donating more books to schools and encouraged learners to take their studies seriously.

In his welcoming address, the Principal of Mosikare Secondary School, Tebogo Selomane, said he was excited to have the books donated to the school and that he believes they will assist and encourage learners to study. Selomane used the occasion to call on government officials and departments to support the school.

The Principal’s appeal for assistance encouraged local political leaders such as the Executive Mayor of Ngaka Modiri District Municipality, who offered to donate 50 school shoes to the school.



Deputy Minister Morolong and stakeholders during the library books handover event.



Learners who attended the book handover event.



**Principal Tebogo Selomane said:**

"We received a good gesture of goodwill from the GCIS and we are truly grateful."



**Deputy Principal said:**

"I teach Grade 10 to 12 mathematics; we are very happy about the books, especially for the children. It is important for learners to read as it shapes their future. I am truly happy."



**Bonolo said:**

"As a learner at the school, the books will really assist us in learning, and I am going to read them to improve my reading and understanding."



**Mothoe said:**

"I am really happy and looking forward to reading, considering it is new books."