



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

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PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Gender-based violence community dialogue

By Moloko Segale: GCIS, Gauteng

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) together with Masiphephe Network, a group of various local stakeholders such as Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention and Training, South African Council of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency, City of Johannesburg (CoJ) Health Department, SAPS (Alexandra), Lifeline, Gender Based Violence Brigades and CoJ Department of Social Development conducted a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) community dialogue. The community dialogue took place on 8 March 2023, at Thusong Youth Centre, 11th Avenue, Alexandra.

The purpose of the dialogue was to engage with community members to discuss the scourge of GBV and femicide (GBVF), social crimes experienced daily and stakeholders to provide information on optional services provided and solutions thereof as part of possible interventions.

To collect detailed feedback participants divided into breakaway groups to identify GBVF incidents experiences in the community, measures on how to improve the fight against GBV in households. Other issues such as awareness

and education on how to prevent GBVF activities in the community, how to develop sustainability plan for such activities, safety measures available in Alexandra and how to provide feedback responding to GBV incidents in the area were discussed.

As part of safety measures, the South African Police Service and the Community Policing Forum members interacted with the community and presented steps to consider in reporting social crimes and how to get a protection orders as part of the solution to the problems. In identifying environmental risks, participants requested to name all places in the area considered to be unsafe. To ensure maximum safety, effective and efficient interventions, community members were encouraged to help the police by reporting GBVF incidents, as they will be assisting in reducing crime in the community, providing support, restoring hope and human dignity.



Some of the stakeholders and community members who attended the dialogue.



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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.



Jackie Chauke said:

“In my teen years I was a victim of sexual crimes and later in my marriage I was a victim of GBV. I was assisted by Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention and Training for treatment and referral to Bombani Shelter for rehabilitation. I then decided to be part of the Masiphephe network so that I can be part of the intervention. I do so by telling relatable incidents so other victims can come forward and open up about their experiences as well. This has proven to assist in fighting GBV.”



Ishmael Makhubo said:

“I really appreciate this initiative as it is a form of resolving social ills we are experiencing as a community of Alexandra and GBV is on top of the list of those crimes I am going to share the information I received today with my family and neighbours”.

PRIORITY I: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Session empowers entrepreneurs

By Mpho More: GCIS, Northern Cape

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in partnership with Mme Re Ka Thusa Trust Fund, Magareng Local Municipality, National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) and other stakeholders held a community dialogue at Warrenton Cultural Resort from 15 to 16 March 2023. The aim of the event was to raise entrepreneurial awareness about products and services from various stakeholders and to assist Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) who may be experiencing challenges in specific areas of their business.

Different stakeholders deliberated on their products and services. Nomazulu Sibanda of Department of Public Works and Infrastructure together with Construction Industry Development Board explained how to apply for a construction tender.

“People always complain about tenders being awarded to the people outside the Province. The Department awards tenders according to the grading, the register of construction has 1 – 9 grading levels and grading is based on construction works or record of accomplishment and capital. Unfortunately people are not registering their companies as expected,” she said.

SMMEs engaged with stakeholders one on one. Stakeholders such as South African Revenue Service (SARS), Northern Cape SMME, Department of Small Business Development, Small Enterprise Development Agency and ABSA.

Business-related information was also disseminated through exhibition and distribution of information products. One of the young entrepreneurs, Nqobile Khumalo, who is in the business of poultry farming expressed her gratitude towards the programme as she was about to give up on business. However, through SARS’s assistance, she will be able to submit her tax returns and get back into business.

Stakeholders witnessed three young entrepreneurs of Magareng Local Municipality getting funding from the NYDA



Some of the entrepreneurs who attended the event.



GCIS officials distributing materials.



Nomazulu Sibanda addressing the entrepreneurs.



Tshiamo Motlhaba and Gladys Motshela addressing the audience.



Jerry Mothonyane said:

“For the past two days, I have learnt so much from the programme, I really appreciate what the stakeholders did, particularly in information sharing. We are in business but we do not know where to go about with businesses and where to network with other stakeholders. This programme has taught us to complement and engage with others as business owners.”



Dimpho Mosweunyane said:

“I am in the business of tombstones in Hartswater. My business is growing, but with the information that I received from the event, I am quite certain that my business is going to flourish. Stakeholders encouraged us to work hard and not give up when encountering challenges, but rather to seek help from them.”



Nqobile Khumalo said:

“I am into poultry farming situated my backyard with 300 chickens, I had a problem with my SARS documents, but I have managed to get assistance from them, and received a portion of land from the municipality, I am now going to expand my business. I am very happy that I attended this event, which was very fruitful to me.”



Joseph Zwane said:

“The visit brought us hope and the cost of living is very high in South Africa.”



Mbekezeli Ndaba said:

“I am so happy to see the Minister engaging with us. We will have plans now because there is hope. It is not easy working while knowing that soon you might be jobless.”

PRIORITY 1: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Minister visits power stations

By Sibusiso Chauke and Vuyisile Cindi: GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Minister of Electricity, Kgosientso Ramakgopa, led an eight-day assessment tour to several power stations in Mpumalanga. The Government Communication and Information System provided communication support to visits at Kendal, Tutuka and Camden power stations. The visits took place from 20 to 22 March 2023 and sought to assess the current status of the stations as he engaged with senior managers, technicians and employees to seek amicable solutions towards resolving the load shedding challenges.

During the visit, all the stakeholders present were afforded an opportunity to give their inputs to address the challenge the country is faced with, which is affecting everyone. During the engagements at Kendal Power Station, General Manager Kobus Steyn presented the power station’s overview.

In outlining the challenges they are facing he said, “We are short staffed, we are unable to retain experienced employees especially engineers as they always go for greener pastures. We also have a challenge of unit’s breakdown. We have six units at this power station, only three are functional and we are busy with repairs of the other three and we are confident that they will be operational the earliest in June, then September 2023 with the last one to be fully operational by September 2024.”

Minister Ramokgopa commended Eskom team members from all the power stations for the commitment and sacrifices they make to eradicate load-shedding challenges. He was satisfied with all the plans the stakeholders outlined to eradicate the crisis.



Minister Kgosientso Ramokgopa engaging with organised labour unions at Camden power station.



Minister Kgosientso Ramokgopa engaging with employees at Kendal power station.

PRIORITY I: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Blouberg Community Radio launch

By Doctor Marebane: GCIS, Limpopo

The Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Nomasonto Motaung, launched the state-of-the-art equipment donated by Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) in Blouberg Community Radio station in Capricorn TVET College on 17 March 2023.

One of the roles of a radio is to promote social interrelation in communities and create a dialogue for community members, civil societies, government institutions and businesses. It was for these reasons that Blouberg Community Radio Station was established in the Senwabarwana Campus in 2019. The station covers the area of over 54,49km² and has listenership of over 14 000. It broadcasts in Sepedi (60%) in Hananwa (30%) which is a dialect and 10% in English. I also employs 25 people, of which 20% are people living with disabilities.

Deputy Minister Motaung highlighted the roles played by the MDDA, and Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in community radio stations. She said that the Blouberg Community Radio illustrate that the history of community radios in South Africa was as a result of a demand to break away from repressive regimes which were worsened by the dominance and monopoly of mass media.

“The Apartheid regime ensured that the majority of citizens were disadvantaged and marginalised in the interest of the white minority. They controlled the broadcasting industry. Since the advent of democracy, government created an agency that was tasked with developing and supporting community media in the country. Today, we have more than 160 community radio stations, five community televisions and over 100 community newspapers. These community media projects cover different urban and rural areas in this country, which collectively add to diversity of content, ownership, voice, and they provide much needed plurality to create an ecosystem of complementary and inclusivity in the media space. As we celebrate the launch of this community radio station, it is worth noting that government has so far spent over R600 million in support of community media. At the same time, we are reminded of the community sustainability challenges too. I will work closely with sector through the GCIS and MDDA in association with National Community Radio Forums and other stakeholders,” she said.

The Deputy Minister urged the local business community, government institutions and the local municipality to support the community radio station. Mayor Maria Thamaga said that they would support the station as it plays a big role in youth development.

Her sentiment was shared by the acting Capricorn District Mayor Solly Mahlatsi who said: “We are a District Municipality that works closely with community media. We are hopeful that with this support, you will strengthen your presence in the sector and become an alternative voice to commercial radio stations and the public broadcaster. It is through community radio stations such as this that we communicate development that is aimed at bettering the lives of our people. We therefore commend you for having moved with times to embrace the innovation of being on social media streaming that has given listeners across the district some flexibility, choice, control and convenience.”



Deputy Minister Nomasonto Motaung and other leaders at the Blouberg Community Radio station.



Different stakeholders and some of the community members who were in attendance



Lebogang Moabelo said:

"Today we witnessed service delivery in action. The media plays an important role in the community. We are happy to receive such a big present."



Bishop Makhura said:

"I am a regular listener of the Blouberg FM and I am happy that the station has been officially launched. It is a tool to disseminate information."