



MYDISTRICTTODAY



STAY SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

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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:

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PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Campaign tackles bullying in schools

By Zukiswa Mqumbisa: GCIS, Eastern Cape

Various stakeholders led by the Deputy Minister of Basic Education, Reginah Mhaule and Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Pinky Kekana, joined forces in an effort to raise awareness on bullying and how bullying affects children. This was done as part of government anti-bullying intervention programme. The event took place in Gqeberha on 10 March 2023.

Deputy Minister Pinky Kekana said, "School children commit suicide because of bullying. We are here to encourage learners not to be bystanders and however; to avoid taking photos and videos of bullying because by doing that learners are encouraging the behaviour." She also touched on cyber bullying and how pictures on the Internet can have a bad impact on a child's future.

One of the learners said the programme is what they needed. "This programme is really needed in our schools, bullying affects us in a very bad way, most of us do not have self-confidence because of other learners who speaks bad to us. I am also a victim of bullying."

Government intends to initiate programmes to empower schools and school communities to be able to promote safety and protection all the time.

At the centre of these events is a drive to ensure that not only schools but the communities around them take up the challenge to rid schools of inappropriate, violent and harmful behaviours and practices.



Deputy Ministers Pinky Kekana and Reginah Mhaule addressing learners respectively.



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 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Celebrating the impact of libraries

By George Moeketsi: GCIS, Gauteng

On 23 March 2023, the Library and Information Association of South Africa, the National Library of South Africa, the Department of Basic Education and the Government Communication and Information System, celebrated South African Library Week under the theme: “Telling powerful stories”.

“Humans have told stories for as long as we can remember. These stories are used to share news, amplify the accomplishments of heroes, and pass on cultural traditions, and transfer knowledge and history. Libraries have been central in collecting, preserving and sharing these stories,” said the Ward Councillor in his opening address.

Elias Kekana, an author and teacher at Steve Biko Secondary School said: “Stories make difficult information easier to understand. Stories can change the future for the better. This year, we are focusing on telling those stories, both from a librarian and library user’s perspective, focusing on the achievements of libraries in South Africa over the years, as libraries transform to fit into the new world.”

Faith Chauke, a learner from Hammanskraal Secondary School said, “I am happy about what we heard about libraries and the role they play in our development.”



Danie Malan, Chairperson of the Library and Information of South Africa, encouraging participants to use libraries for their personal development.



Different stakeholders who attended the event.



Mishandle Mashamaite at the exhibition stall of the Library and Information Association of South Africa.

PRIORITY I: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

New economic opportunities for communities

By Lecrecia Prins: GCIS, Northern Cape

The Department of Trade, Industry and Competition (dtic) held an education and awareness campaign on 7 March 2023 in Progress, Upington in the ZF Mgcawu District to educate communities on consumer rights, acts governing liquor, the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) and many more.

The NLC also shared information on how communities can seek funding if they have non-profit organisations who help and uplift communities.

Aobakwe Gaobusi from the NLC explained the different sectors in which the commission gives funding.

“The NLC is an organisation that was started mainly to fund organisations for good causes. These include projects that deal with gender-based violence, issues of persons with disabilities, senior citizens and children. We are also funding the arts sector where we are dealing with people who work on restoring our culture, as well as sports,” said Gaobusi.

Elize Swartland, a community member, said she found the information shared on how to get funding from the NLC very interesting.

“I am looking to start a day care centre in my community since there are so many children roaming around the streets who need to be in a crèche, but their parents cannot afford it. I did not know how and where I should start to seek funding but by attending this dialogue, I was able to connect with the relevant people who can send me in the right direction,” she said.

Selwyn Louw said, “I received the information shared very well. Before that, I was so uninformed. I now know better where to start with this business idea I have been walking around with in my head for more than three years. This was really a good information session.”

The GCIS coordinated the dialogue by raising awareness about the event through loud hailing and announcements on the local radio station in Radio Riverside.

Applications for funding from the NLC opened in April 2023 for the new financial year.



A GCIS official distributing *Vuk'uzenzele* newspapers to the community.



Sibusiso Sasayi from the dtic sharing information with community members.



Community members who attended the education and awareness programme in Upington.



A GCIS official interacting with community members.



Maibel Manoko said:

“I am happy because I have checked my blood pressure levels, diabetes and cholesterol, and also received other services from different stalls.”



Mahutsa Sebetsa said:

“I received different healthcare services and I am thankful for this event and government.”



Dipuo Nnong said:

“Because clinics queues are always long, I am happy for all the services that were available here.”

PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Observing World Tuberculosis (TB) Day

By Kaone Lekgetho: GCIS, North West

Deputy President Paul Mashatile, in his capacity as the Chairperson of the South African National AIDS Council supported by Health Minister Joe Phaahla, hosted by Premier of North West province, Bushy Maape led the official commemoration of World TB Day and launched the National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs for 2023-2028 at Tlhabane Stadium, in Rustenburg on 24 March 2023.

The purpose of the commemoration was to raise public awareness about the devastating health, social and economic consequences of TB, and to step up efforts to end the global TB epidemic. On the day, the delegates visited the community of YizoYizo informal settlement in Rustenburg as part of the country’s endeavour towards finding the missing TB patients.

“As all of us are aware, tuberculosis remains one of the leading causes of ill health and death in South Africa. This is exacerbated by the fact that some TB patients do not complete their treatment while others remain “missing;” which means that they are either undiagnosed or are unreported even as they are diagnosed,” said Deputy President Mashatile.

This commemorative event was supported by prominent officials and various stakeholders. A service delivery blitz by both government departments and the private sector on the day rendered services to community members. People from all five municipalities within the Bojanala District were afforded an opportunity to be part of the event and were provided transport. This year’s theme for World TB Day is “Yes! You and I Can End TB”, and it is clarion call urging all South Africans to contribute to the national effort against TB.



Deputy President Paul Mashatile addressing the community of Tlhabane on World TB Day.



Community members at the event.



Different stakeholders providing services at the event.