



# 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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### GAUTENG

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## PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

### Deputy Minister visits Vulindela Primary School

By Tinyiko Molefe: GCIS Gauteng

The Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Thembu Siweya, in partnership with Aspen Pharmacare conducted back to school and state of readiness visit for the second quarter of schools reopening at Vulindlela Primary School in Orange Farm, Gauteng, on 7 April 2022.

The Deputy Minister engaged with the District Education, school management, teachers, learners, and school governing body.

She said that the purpose of the visit was to offer support to the school by engaging key stakeholders.

“We are here to offer support to challenges that are faced in the school, feel free to engage and let us know your challenges so that we can assist and look for solutions towards conducive learning and teaching environment,” said Deputy Minister Siweya.

Learners were encouraged to work hard, attend school and seek assistance when they face challenges.

Sanitary towels, stationery, masks and sanitiser were donated to the school on the day.

Sanele Khoza from Aspen Pharmacare said, “We are here today bringing these donations because we care and we want you to stay in school so that you can have a better future”.

Most of the learners at the school are from disadvantaged families and assistance offered to the school was appreciated.

Mashudu Malimagovha from the Gauteng Department of Education said, “We appreciate the visit and the donations that were provided to the school because we need every assistance in the school. Our school is in a poor community and most of our learners are from economically disadvantaged families.”



Deputy Minister Thembu Siweya with Ward Councillor Makhosazana Ndlela at the event.



The official handover of the donations to the school.



government communications

Department: Government Communication and Information System  
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.



**Pertunia Mkhliswa said:**

“Our children are our future. I am here to support the school towards a conducive learning and teaching process.”



**Pretty Gcaka said:**

“I am happy about the visit and the support that was offered today. Better solutions were achieved in challenges encountered by the school.”



Moleko Karel said:

“I am very happy to be working at the farm as it is the only work I know to do.”

## PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

### Government provides support to farmers

By Ntombi Mhlambi: GCIS Free State

Government, through the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development provides training and support to farmers and emerging farmers in the country.

Nooit Gedacht, a 4231-1 hectares farm located at R70 road in Welkom, Free State, started in 2016, planting ground nuts.

Currently, the farm is 300% arable land and 123% grazing land, planting sunflowers and maize.

The farm has been able to create permanent jobs for six people and about 50 to 100 temporary jobs during the harvesting season.

The owner of this farm, Happy Letsitsa, applauded government for assisting him.

“Government afforded me with lots of formal training on agriculture which provided me with much-needed information, as I was from the retail sector when I started this farm,” said Letsitsa.

Letsitsa further added that in 2019, the Free State Department of Agriculture and Rural Development donated a 70-kilowatt tractor, which made a difference in the growth of the farm.

“We manage to expand by planting more maize hectares, which we had to lease from the neighbouring farm,” Letsitsa explained.

Reflecting on the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic, Letsitsa said even though the cost of the seeds and chemicals increased the farm was fortunate enough not to lose any of its employees.



Happy Letsitsa at his Nooit Gedacht sunflower and maize farm in Welkom.

## PRIORITY 5: SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

### Communication and media training for new councillors

By Sandiswa Mdingi: GCIS Eastern Cape

The Chris Hani District Municipality together with the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), Eastern Cape Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) and Parliament conducted a communication induction and media training for the council members and senior administrators on 23 March 2022 in Queenstown.

The key objective of the session was to equip councillors led by the Executive Mayor and senior management on, among other outputs; government communication policy, local government communication system and structures, communication as a strategic service delivery tool, development communication, crisis communication, protocol, media engagement and practical skills.

Chris Hani District Municipality Executive Mayor, Councillor Wongama Gela lauded the initiative, adding that the session will equip councillors and management on government communication and media.

“This training session will shape and sharpen our skills in dealing with the media and using communication to connect with our communities on a wide range of issues,” he said.

GCIS Provincial Director Ndlelantle Pinyana emphasised the role of communication as a strategic function and its importance at the local government level as it is the coalface of service delivery.

He also added that communication assists in disseminating government information and programmes to the people.

“It is important that the new councillors and management are well trained on how to use the media effectively and as a strategic tool for service delivery. Government communication is important in bettering people’s livelihood and developing the economy of our district. Investors are attracted to local municipalities that communicate better with media and society as a whole,” Pinyana concluded.

CoGTA Director of Cooperate Communication Mamnkeli Ngam presented on the local government communication system, crisis communication protocol, rapid response measures, importance and advantages.

Zarena Kroese from Parliament trained the council on diplomacy and protocol issues when dealing with international visits. The district municipality has hosted countries such as China and South Korea.

The last leg of the session saw councillors led by the Executive Mayor receiving first-hand practical training on dealing with and handling the media.

The training was welcomed by the council and all the participants.



Ndlelantle Pinyana speaking on the role of communication as a strategic function.



Zarena Kroese conducting diplomacy and protocol training.

## PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

### Right to access government services

By Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS KwaZulu-Natal

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in partnership with Sthabile Community Development Organisation and South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) held an information-sharing session at Amatikwe Hall in Inanda, eThekweni on 30 March 2022.

The purpose of the activation was to inform and educate community members about the importance of the Constitution, The Bill of Rights, the significance of Human Rights Month, the mandate of Chapter 9 institutions such as the SAHRC, and the Office of the Public Protector.

The activation emanated from an engagement with Sthabile Community Development Organisation, a non-profit organisation (NPO) in Amatikwe.

The NPO stated that more information, education and awareness around human rights, the Bill of Rights, and the Constitution were needed in the community.

Members expressed concerns that communities and individuals were aware of their rights but some disregarded their accompanying responsibilities in respecting the same rights.

The GCIS also mobilised the North Central Operation Sukuma Sakhe coordinator, located in the Mayor's Office, Safer Cities and the Department of Social Development.

Other departments that participated in the activation were the Inanda South African Police Service, Department of Health, Department of Cooperative Governance and Youth for Christ Organisation.

Ayanda Nene from the SAHRC in KwaZulu-Natal informed the community about the founding principles and importance of the Constitution.

He provided a brief overview of each chapter, elaborating on the Bill of Rights, and accompanying responsibilities and the mandate of Chapter 9 institutions.

Nene further advised on the types of cases that the SAHRC can investigate and the processes and procedures that must be followed when lodging a complaint with the SAHRC.

The officials from other departments informed the attendees about their services, engaging with them on issues of clarity and responding to questions in respect to the COVID-19 vaccines, foster-care grants, crime in the area, especially the issue of drugs and substance abuse.

This engagement further reinforced the right to access to services, as enshrined in the Bill of Rights.

The Provincial Department of Health took the right to access services one step further by rendering services such as sugar and blood pressure testing, HIV and AIDS counselling and testing.



Stakeholders addressing community members at the event.