



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Gender equality workshop empowers traditional leaders

By Khanyiso Seyisi: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The Department of Social Development (DSD) and the European Union (EU) hosted a Traditional Leadership and Gender Equality Workshop at the San Lameer Resort Hotel and Spa in Margate, KwaZulu-Natal, on 20 March 2024.

The workshop aimed to empower traditional leaders through discussions, roundtables and capacity building focusing on developing champions in the fight against gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF). The workshop also looked at gender segregation, the legislative framework governing gender issues, children's rights and forced marriages.

The Ugu District Municipality, Ray Nkonyeni Municipality, Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and Government Communication and Information System participated in the workshop, which coincided with the commemoration of Human Rights Month in March.

The Speaker of the Ugu District Municipality, Cllr Sizwe Ngcobo, served as the programme director while Dr Bongzi Owusu from the DSD explained the background and purpose for the workshop. Ms Rosa Selebi of the EU outlined the collaboration between the EU and government.

Inkosi Mbuso Praisegod Ngcobo, Chairperson of the Ugu Local House of Traditional Leaders, delivered a message of support for the workshop, explaining the role of Ugu Local House of Traditional Leaders in combating GBVF, children's rights, and safety tips to prevent child and women abuse.

Other speakers representing various organisations such as Zomnotho Community Development, the Department of Home Affairs, DSD, Men's Parliament and South African Police Service also shared their knowledge on the scourge of GBVF.



Inkosi Busani Zungu, Inkosi Bhokamadoda Radebe, Inkosi Mthokozisi Cele, Inkosi Themba Mavundla and the Chairperson of the Ugu Local House of Traditional Leaders, Inkosi Ngcobo, at the Traditional Leadership and Gender Equality Workshop.



Speaker of the Ugu District Municipality, Cllr Ngcobo and Ray Nkonyeni Municipality Mayor, Cllr Zodwa Mzindle, addressing the traditional leaders.



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PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Internet connectivity opens opportunities for the people of Modimolle

By Maria Ramoshaba: GCIS, Limpopo

Deputy President Paul Mashatile – supported by the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Mr Mondli Gungubele, members of the Limpopo Provincial Executive Council, and district and local mayors – launched Phase 2 of the South Africa (SA) Connect project at the Ephraim Mogale Stadium, under the Modimolle Local Municipality, on 19 April 2024.

The main purpose of the project was to provide Wi-Fi connection to communities whilst also ensuring universal access to the internet. The programme is consistent with government’s commitment to achieve the National Development Plan: Vision 2030 technological goals by fostering an inclusive information society and positioning government to play an enabling role in providing broadband to communities. It also mobilises the capability, resources and energy of public and private sectors to realise a bold vision of achieving 80% connectivity by 2024.

In his speech, Deputy President Mashatile stated that our children rely on the internet for learning, which supports us in improving our health and well-being, keeps us connected to loved ones and contributes to strengthening our local economies by making it easier for local entrepreneurs to conduct business.

The Deputy President said he was, alongside Minister Gungubele, deeply humbled to deliver to the people of Modimolle, the unveiling of the cultural treasures of mankind for all. The SA Connect programme is essentially a platform for the free exchange of literature, ideas and communication with other countries, as espoused in the Freedom Charter.

The project will create opportunities for 75 small, medium and micro enterprises. So far, 16 companies have already been appointed as internet service providers, including three youth-owned, two women-owned and one owned by a person with a disability.

The data packages offered to the community of Modimolle are affordable. The two data options are the R5 day package of 1GB and the R245 unlimited monthly package that allows you to connect day and night, week after week. With that power of digital connectivity, you can connect to your loved ones and old friends, make new friends and even have time to communicate through government online.

Thanks to the SA Connect programme, the Modimolle community is now part of the digital world.



Deputy President Mashatile, Minister Gungubele and the Premier of Limpopo, Mr Stanley Mathabatha, during the launch of the SA Connect Phase 2 Project.



Community members during the launch of the SA Connect Phase 2 Project at the Ephraim Mogale Stadium.



Deputy President Mashatile, Premier Mathabatha and Minister Gungubele visit households in the Modimolle Local Municipality area.

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Partnership supports township economy and cooperatives

By Moloko Segale: GCIS, Gauteng

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) has supported the OB Tlali Leadership Academy in its collaboration with various stakeholders to provide information and guidance to local entrepreneurs on the township economy, formation of cooperatives, financial literacy and management, and various other available services.

The partners included the City of Johannesburg's Library and Information Services, the Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment (GDARDE), the Gauteng Department of Economic Development (GDED), Gauteng Office of Consumer Affairs (GOCA), Gauteng Enterprise Propeller (GEP) and various commercial banks.

The OB Tlali Leadership Academy, which is represented in the Local Government Communicators' Forum, promotes the Township Economy Programme that assists township-based entrepreneurs to expand and grow through training and funding. A Township Economy and Cooperatives session, in a form of a community dialogue, was held at the Cosmo City Multi-Purpose Centre on 10 April 2024.

This session was part of the Economic Reconstruction and Recovery Plan by supporting new and upcoming entrepreneurs operating spaza shops, fast-food outlets, shebeens, bakeries and hawkers in townships. The information provided included corporate social investment using available resources. The GDARDE emphasised the development of community-based farmers by providing training and

resources on livestock and crop farming, household gardening, cooperatives and support to businesses specialising in agri-processing and production.

Information was also presented about the importance of monitoring and providing assistance throughout the projects, including regular site visits, assistance with agricultural-related challenges and training on how to run your own farming business. The GDARDE also has agricultural advisors based in various regions to provide group study empowerment coaching and mentorship to encourage cooperatives in communities.

The GDED promoted enterprise development and provided information on informal trading. Mr Malusi Mbusi from the department provided information on the role of various programmes such as the Expanded Public Works Programme and the Enterprise Development Unit, which recently provided a programme on artisan training and supported the development of cooperatives, registration for compliance and addition to the department's database.

The GEP is a GDED agency that promotes, fosters and develops small enterprises in Gauteng by providing funding instruments such as contract and franchise financial support. The GOCA, which is also part of the GDED, provided information on consumer rights, fair pricing and interest charges regulations for business owners.



Mr Oscar Mthembu from the GDARDE and Mr Mbusi from the GDED sharing information on various accessible benefits to tackle economic challenges.



Princess Machete said:

“Today I was fortunate to be part of the attendees of the session on entrepreneurship and cooperatives initiatives. The session was so informative. If you are a local entrepreneur do not miss such workshops because they help in providing information that most upcoming business owners need. It helps us on how to access funds, how to start businesses, how to ensure compliance, how to run a professional business and to tackle everyday entrepreneurs’ challenges. I think it is vital to attend this type of session if you get an opportunity to do so.”



Vusumizi Amon Mbatha said:

“I am a resident of Cosmo City, Ward 100, from the local Entrepreneurs Business Forum, and I have a registered cooperative and have an interest in growing my business. This session is personal to me because I know there are programmes necessary to uplift, increase knowledge and skills for the community to be able to be self-sustained in terms of running their own businesses and providing employment amongst the youth and women in general.”

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Matsamo Thusong Service Centre hosts Cheka Impilo wellness campaign

By Joy Themba and Ntombifuthi Mahlalela: GCIS, Mpumalanga

On 19 April 2024, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) partnered with the Department of Health, South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), Electoral Commission of South Africa; Right to Care, Mobile X-Ray Equity and United States Agency for International Development to provide health-related services to the community of Nkomazi Local Municipality in Mpumalanga.

The Cheka Impilo wellness campaign aimed to encourage people to have regular health screenings and tests, to know their health status and take action. The day's services included health tests for HIV and AIDS; tuberculosis; high blood pressure; sexually transmitted infections; eye screening; condom distribution, and pre- and post-exposure prophylaxis.

Mpumalanga Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Health, Ms Sasekani Manzini, the Matsamo Traditional Council Acting Chief, MM Shongwe and Nkomazi Local Municipality Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC) for Community Services, Cllr Lindiwe Vuma, attended the event.

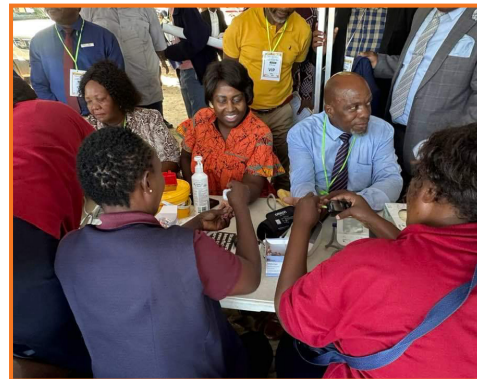
GCIS official, Ms Joy Themba, requested MEC Manzini and MMC Vuma to assist in reviving the Matsamo Thusong Service Centre, which is only left with two service providers – SASSA and Matsamo Telecentre, the latter which provides accredited computer training. Despite the availability of offices, no departments or parastatals are rendering services to the communities from the Matsamo Thusong Service Centre. The centre previously provided communities with services at their doorstep but now they have to travel long distances to access birth certificates, identity documents and passport services.



Community members listen attentively to MEC Manzini speaking about the importance of the Cheka Impilo wellness campaign.



Members of the community undergoing their health screenings for high blood pressure, diabetes, HIV and other non-communicable diseases. People were taught about the importance of the Cheka Impilo wellness campaign. MMC Vuma, MEC Manzini and Acting Chief Shongwe led by example by openly participating in health screenings.



GCIS officials disseminating government information to community members and marketing the Matsamo Thusong Service Centre.