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Issue no.22: June 2023

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PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Ndlovukazi community welcomes information-sharing session

By Sandiswa Mdingi: GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 23 May 2023, government provided the community of Ndlovukazi village in the Enoch Mgijima Local Municipality under Chris Hani District Municipality in the Eastern Cape with useful information on gender-based violence (GBV). The district office of the Government Communication and Information System collaborated with the Department of Social Development (DSD) to make this initiative a success.

A local community leader, Ms Mmama Khulu, expressed her appreciation for the information-sharing session, saying she would also teach other people about GBV and probably save lives. "We live in a society where people use words and violence to put others down. In some households, men suffer the same fate as women. When a person is seen as being inferior, it becomes easier to treat them with disrespect and violate their rights," she said.

Ms Bulelwa Lali from a Thuthuzela Care Centre explained that the one-stop facility was introduced as a critical part of South Africa's anti-rape strategy to reduce secondary victimisation and improve conviction rates. The Thuthuzela project is led by the National Prosecuting Authority's Sexual Offences and Community Affairs Unit, in partnership with various departments such as the DSD, Department of Health and South African Police Service. "Our centre's integrated approach to rape care is one of respect, comfort, restoring dignity and ensuring justice for victims of sexual violence. Our centre is free of intimidation and we treat each case confidentially," she said.

Other government departments at the event included the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Department of Home Affairs, South African Social Security Agency and Department of Employment and Labour.



Government officials engaging community members during the event.



Some of the mobile government services rendered on the day.



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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 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

GCIS promotes efforts to curb violence against women and children

By Robbie Senoelo: GCIS, Gauteng

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), in conjunction with the Mali Martin Polokegong Centre (MMPC) in Bronkhorstspuit and other stakeholders, conducted a gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) awareness campaign at Sokhulum Village on 9 June 2023.

The MMPC is a safe haven centre (shelter) which provides safety, emergency and temporary accommodation to women and children who have been exposed to violence and need guidance, support and information in the process of healing.

The event – which coincided with the South African Social Security Agency’s integrated community registration campaign – aimed to educate the public and create awareness about GBVF, and encourage and empower victims to speak out against the scourge and seek assistance.

The campaign also aimed to address and highlight community safety issues such as GBVF and engage with women in the judiciary, including developing training material on GBVF-related issues for the judiciary.

Other participants in the campaign included the South African Police Service in Bronkhorstspuit, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, community development workers, Gauteng Office of Consumer Affairs, Motor Industry Ombudsman South Africa and Gauteng Community Safety’s GBV brigades. The partnership allowed the GCIS to expand the dissemination of government-related information by conducting a door-to-door community education and mobilisation campaign.

Addressing the community members, Ms Lahliwe Ntuli, a Peer Educator from the MMPC, expressed the frustrations and challenges encountered by women, especially women in rural and peri-urban areas. “People in this area do not know how to deal with GBV, where to go for assistance and the absence of a police station does not help the situation,” said Ms Ntuli. She thanked the various stakeholders for enlightening those attending the event with information.

“*Kwanele*, it’s enough! I urge all women to take charge; speak out and stop GBVF,” Ms Ntuli concluded.



GCIS official George Moeketsi (in a black jacket) interacting with community members and distributing leaflets during the GBVF awareness campaign in Sokhulum. GBV brigades also engaged community members during the event.



Mbali Mathebula:

“The truth is that girl children and women do not feel safe in our community and the sad reality is that we fear people who are supposed to love, care and protect us; but I am happy that you brought us a message of hope. We hope for the best.”



Mxolisi Gumede said:

“The event was educational for me because I work with young boys, teaching them karate. There are things that we tend to ignore when dealing with children but this programme has made me aware of them. It would be good if the programme can be conducted often so that we can benefit from more information.”



Doctor Masuku said:

“We received a lot of information regarding substance abuse; I think the solution to this scourge is to apprehend the suppliers of drugs. Regarding the issue of healthcare, these events assisted us in getting men tested because they do not like going to health facilities but when we have events of this nature they do attend and do health checks.”

PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Dialogue on social ills targets men and boys

By Reki Skosana: GCIS, Mpumalanga

On 8 June 2023, Government Communications (GCIS) – in collaboration with the Victor Khanye Local Municipality, Department of Social Development, Nkangala District Municipality, Mpumalanga Department of Culture, Sport and Recreation, loveLife, Department of Health (DoH), community policing forum, South African Police Service, traditional leadership and civil-society organisations – conducted a Men and Boys Dialogue in Delmas.

The event afforded the men and boys the opportunity to discuss, among others, issues related to social ills such as gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), sexually transmitted infections and substance abuse.

They also participated in various commissions to discuss the impact of the social ills in the community and their root causes.

The panel consisting of officials from various government departments shared some insights on the topics in a well-coordinated manner. The participants welcomed the information session as being informative and educational, and requested more of such conversations in the near future to address various social ills in the community.

The DoH’s mobile services conducted free health checks on the participants. Government information products such as *Vuk’uzenzele* newspaper, and leaflets on GBVF and bullying, were distributed.



Men and boys engaging in a dialogue at the Extension 3 community hall in Delmas.



Katlego Motsumi said:

“I am really happy that government brought information to us relating to bursaries and how to start a business, and many more opportunities.”

PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Youth Opportunities Roadshow a success

By Bakang Ditibane: GCIS, North West

On 2 June 2023, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) provincial office in North West partnered with the Harambee Youth Employment Accelerator, Youth Employment Service and National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), as well as other employment and entrepreneurship entities, to hold a Youth Opportunities Roadshow to kick-start Youth Month activities in North West.

More than 1 500 young people from various districts in the province gathered in Setlagole Village, under the Ratlou Local Municipality, to access available work and business opportunities during the North West SA Youth Opportunities Roadshow.

After a welcoming address by Ratlou Local Municipality Mayor, Clr Matlhomola Jafta, the North West Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Education, Ms Viola Ntsetsao Motsumi, who was representing North West Premier Bushy Maape, outlined the purpose of the roadshow. She encouraged young people to take advantage of the opportunities brought by the NYDA, SAYouth.mobi and other stakeholders.

The MEC discouraged young people from getting involved in gangsterism, saying it would never benefit them. She outlined issues and challenges faced by youth, especially those in deep rural areas of the province, such as drugs and substance abuse, and unemployment.

MEC Motsumi encouraged the youth to use the event to empower themselves with employment and business opportunities made available by various entities and the North West provincial bursary scheme.

Mr Mike Phokela from the NYDA outlined their mandate and the core services they provide such as youth opportunities and development programmes, which include funding to qualifying youth to start a business. Some beneficiaries gave testimonies on their personal achievements to encourage other youth to also register and apply for funding from the NYDA.



Government departments interacting with community members of Setlagole Village.



GCIS officials interacting with community members.