



Issue no.24: July 2022

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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FREE STATE

Yolisa Blom
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GAUTENG

Peter Gumede
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KWAZULU-NATAL

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

Deputy President engages military veterans

By Todani Livhuwani: GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Government Communication and Information System provided support to Deputy President David Mabuza in his capacity as the Chairperson of the Presidential Task Team on Military Veterans, when he visited Mpumalanga to engage with the provincial government and Military Veterans Associations, at Mbombela Army Base on 7 June 2022.

The Deputy President was accompanied by Mpumalanga Premier Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane, Deputy Minister of Military Veterans Thabang Makwetla, and several Members of the Executive Council and the Provincial Director-General Makhukhu Mapuru.

The members of the military veterans came in their numbers. During the engagement, the Mpumalanga Provincial Government presented on the progress made on several social issues such as the provision of housing to members of military veterans.

Various presentations from different stakeholders were made on interventions aimed to speed up the progress in assisting the members.

The veterans raised issues of local offices not operating and this brings a communication void between the members and the government. They requested that each local municipality has its own office.

Furthermore, the members requested the Deputy President to speed up their request on social issues.

The Mpumalanga Provincial Government noted all concerns and promised to attend to them.



Deputy President David Mabuza addressing military veterans.



Military veterans who attended a stakeholder engagement session.

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WESTERN CAPE

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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: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Opportunities for Ntabankulu youth

By Ndyabo Kopo: GCIS, Eastern Cape

The hall at Mngeni Primary School in Mngeni village was packed to the rafters when young people of ward 9 in Ntabankulu gathered during the Post-State of the Nation Address Youth Development and Empowerment Seminar held on 22 June 2022.

This session was informed by the dire need to heighten communication programmes on economic opportunities post the devastating effects of COVID-19 on the economy and consequently, loss of jobs.

The Government Communication and Information System partnered with the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) and Ntabankulu Local Municipality to invite government stakeholders and agencies to engage young people on programmes aimed to support business start-ups, youth-owned businesses, post-school opportunities, applying for the National Student Financial Aid Scheme, and skills development opportunities, especially those found offered by the Sector Education Training Authorities (SETAs).

"The part that talked about business support drew my interest the most, as I am in the process of starting my own business," said Nosipho Nogada from Bomvini village.

The seminar also included an educational drama play as part of IEC's community youth outreach campaign to address the concerning matter of low youth voter turnout and low numbers of registered youth on a voters' roll.

This happens against the backdrop of Ntabankulu Local Municipality being marred by service-delivery protests during the 2021 general and local government elections.

The seminar, in this regard, also served as a platform to engage young people on many service delivery concerns they have.

The seminar was attended mostly by out-of-school youth, many of whom are unemployed.

"Our country has an act that focuses on skills development and some of the people who should benefit from this are young people, especially out-of-school youth," said Zwelethemba Ngayeka from the Mechanical, Engineering and Related Services SETA.



Youth Development and Empowerment Seminar held at Mngeni.



PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Safeguarding children for a better tomorrow

By Lilly Mohlosana: GCIS, Limpopo

In response to the Child Protection Campaign, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) partnered with Mahwelereng South African Police Service (SAPS) and social workers based at Mahwelereng Magistrate Court to host child protection engagement and activities at Kganyane Primary School and Uitzicht village under Mogalakwena Local Municipality on 2 June 2022.

The children were sensitised about their rights and responsibilities regarding education, shelter, sexual abuse, the usage of substances, child labour and bullying.

The social worker, Zamani Manganyi, encouraged the children to take their education seriously and stay out of trouble so they do not end up in juvenile prison.

He further indicated that they work mostly with young offenders and most of the crimes committed by young children around the Mogalakwena area range from shoplifting, housebreaking, robbery, and theft.

The SAPS urged the children to report any form of abuse to the teachers, parents and even to the police.

The Ward Councillor of the area also addressed the children and encouraged them not to be pressurised by friends to do things against the law.

She committed to disbanding any form of groups that sit around the school and personally taking those children to school if she sees them on the street during school hours.

In addition, Grade 8 and 9 learners from Uitzicht village received sanitary towels from the GCIS that were collected during the sanitary drive. The purpose was to bring dignity to the girls and keep them in school as some missed school when they are in the menstrual process.



Lekhureng Crèche staff said:

"Children are protected even though more needs to be done. Keeping them in crèches reduces incidents of child neglect and abuse."



Julia Selolo from Thakethi Crèche said:

"Government is doing its job in protecting children. Parents should also play their roles."



A police officer interacting with the learners of Kganyane Primary School.



Children emphasising the message against child abuse.

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Youth Day celebrations in Brandvlei

By Willem van Dalen: GCIS, Northern Cape

The Government Communication and Information System led Youth Day celebrations in Brandvlei, in the Namakwa District on 16 June 2022.

The event, held at the Brandvlei sports ground, began with the youth marching against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, crime and substance abuse.

Young people held placards carrying messages against substance abuse, and the abuse of women and children.

The Mayor of Hantam Local Municipality, Councillor Lynette Olyn, told the group that they should empower themselves to reach higher milestones and should never allow their circumstances to drag them down.

“You should ask yourselves whether you are going to sit back and accept your current situation, especially in the deep rural areas, or you use the opportunities that stem from the lessons learnt on 16 June 1976, to reach your dream,” the Mayor said.

Mayor Olyn also encouraged the young people to focus on their education as government is making it easier for previously disadvantaged learners to access post-matric education, through the National Student Financial Aid Scheme.

After the formal event, the youth participated in netball and rugby matches to conclude the celebration, supported by the Department of Social Development, and Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs.



Brandvlei youth marching against the abuse of substance, women and children.



The youth of Brandvlei at the event.



Petronella Cloete said:

"I appreciate the fact that government takes Youth Month seriously. Some of our youth have become addicted to drugs and crime. It is good for them to hear what the youth in the past went through to ensure that they have a free decision on what they want to do with their lives. It is good that there are a number of initiatives to empower and motivate them to make something of their lives."



Cecil Cloete said:

"It is a great initiative of our government to reach the youth with positive messages. We know that our youth has fallen into a number of potholes in life. A day like Youth Day, where they can see that government is taking them seriously, might just change their attitude to become more positive and start building on our country. Job creation remains the biggest problem in our area."



Nicole Boyce said:

"I think that since 1976 our government has taken giant steps to assist the youth of South Africa to become economically independent. The fact that we celebrate Youth Day means that our government sees the youth of the country as a great asset. We have to work together to stop the youth from sliding backwards. Sometimes the youth is afraid to speak their minds, maybe because they are afraid of what other people might say. It is a pity that so many of the youth finish school, but cannot gain employment."



Desmary van Rooi said:

"The fact that government celebrates Youth Day shows that the youth of our country is still high on government's list of priorities. Except for the language issues, I don't think there has been much done for the youth of the country till now. It all depends on the youth to stand together and to make things happen themselves."