



# MYDISTRICTTODAY



# STAY SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

Issue no.26: July 2023

## 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:

### EASTERN CAPE

Ndlelantle Pinyana  
043 722 2602 or 076 142 8606  
[ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za](mailto:ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za)

### FREE STATE

Yolisa Blom  
051 448 4506 or 072 130 9893  
[yolisa@gcis.gov.za](mailto:yolisa@gcis.gov.za)

### GAUTENG

Peter Gumede  
011 331 0164 or 083 570 8080  
[peterg@gcis.gov.za](mailto:peterg@gcis.gov.za)

### KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi  
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420  
[ndala@gcis.gov.za](mailto:ndala@gcis.gov.za)

## PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

### Central Karoo observes health and advocacy days

By Monique Warden: GCIS, Western Cape

Two health and advocacy days were observed in the Central Karoo for the LGBTQIA+ community and allies to the community on 14 and 15 July in Beaufort West at the Youth Hub in Mandlenkosi and in Prince Albert at the Prince Albert Community Trust, respectively. Both events were a collaboration by the Government Communication and Information System, Desmond Tutu Health Foundation, Local Government Community Development Workers, Gilead, Central Karoo Pride and Trans Tec SA.

Amelia Mfiki from the Desmond Tutu Health Foundation started the conversation with a discussion on gender orientation and gender identity, highlighting the significance of asking people their gender preference to insure gender inclusive pronouns of "He/She/They" are used by choice.

It was also highlighted that queer and transgender members of communities struggle to access health services, even in rural communities where judgement is less vicious, the elements of judgment and feeling unsafe are still rife.

Ron Addinall from the Department of Social Work and Social Development at the University of Cape Town spoke eloquently on his work with gender-diverse youth and the study of human sexuality, elaborating that every young person has the right to say who they are and according to the standards of care it is the role of health care practitioners to guide and help them reach it without judgement.

Research has shown that queer and transgender children need good support systems to avoid low self-esteem and depression with consensus being reached through these engagements that support starts at home, school, church and in the broader community therefore more awareness education needs to happen in all of these spaces.

There is a joint obligation as government, civil society and communities to be more inclusive and change gender-bias policies in the work place and in schools.



Ron Addinall addressing the audience.



Amelia Mfiki leading the discussion.



Some of the community members at the two events.



government communications

Department: Government Communication and Information System  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**LIMPOPO**

Thanyani Ravhura  
015 291 4689 or 082 421 3461  
thanyani@gcis.gov.za

**MPUMALANGA**

Jerry Nkosi  
013 753 2397 or 082 316 5295  
Jerry@gcis.gov.za

**NORTH WEST**

Boitumelo Mosadi  
018 381 7071 or 073 245 0906  
boitumelom@gcis.gov.za

**NORTHERN CAPE**

Ofentse Moeti  
053 832 1378/9 or 084 390 4330  
Ofentse@gcis.gov.za

**WESTERN CAPE**

Geraldine Thopps  
021 418 0533/2307 or 081 281 2200  
Geraldine@gcis.gov.za

**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.**

**Economic opportunities for young people**

*By Sinxolo Gqala: GCIS, Eastern Cape*

The youth of Cathcart braved the wet and cold weather to be part of the Youth Empowerment Expo, hosted on 27 June 2023 by the Government Communication and Information System in collaboration with Amahlathi Local Municipality. The purpose of the programme was to expose, empower and capacitate youth on various economic opportunities, enterprise funding/development schemes, skills development, learnerships, bursaries, career counselling and entrepreneurship support programmes that are provided by government, entities and other partners.

Tabling her message of support, Amahlathi Council Speaker, Councillor Nokuzola Mlahleki, said as the municipality welcomes the initiative, more especially in the areas of Cathcart where the majority of youth have little-to-no information on various offerings and opportunities that can turn their fortunes. She urged the youth to take up the opportunities presented and act upon them to change their lives.

Inga Cassie runs a catering company in Cathcart and expressed appreciation that the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) has committed to

come and conduct workshops and training in business management, market linkages and roadmap to their non-financial support packages.

“We run small businesses that require training in various aspects so that we receive the necessary accreditation to cater for different scales of events,” she added.

Representatives from government departments and entities including the Eastern Cape Department of Public Works and Infrastructure, Department of Employment and Labour, Department of Social Development, Amathole District Municipality, SEDA, Health Welfare SETA, Media, Information and Communication Technologies SETA, Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, and the South African Revenue Service, took turns sharing their offerings and services to the youth during the session.



Some of the youth who attended the career expo.



Stakeholders addressing the youth during the career expo.



Carlos Bilankulu said:

“I believe if Eskom and its leadership can listen to our concerns as community members these engagements will yield positive results. We need each other for the Just Energy Transition project to be a success and what is important is job creation.”



Franky Khumalo said:

“I believe change is good as long as it does not affect us negatively as the community. We will wait and see.”

## PRIORITY I: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

### Minister reaches out to community members

By Sibusiso Chauke: GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Government Communication and Information System supported the Minister of Public Enterprises, Pravin Gordhan, and the Presidential Climate Commission’s visit to Komati Power Station on 7 July 2023. The purpose was to gauge Just Energy Transition Project progress. Komati was officially taken off the grid in October last year after serving the population since 1961 and serves as a beacon of hope when it comes to transitioning coal fired power stations into renewable energy hubs.

Minister Gordhan together with the commission members engaged with staff, former staff members and community leaders during the visit on how the project will boost the economy and create job opportunities. Hundreds of people who worked at the plant while it was still running have either been transferred to other power stations, continue to work there on maintenance

of infrastructure or are being upskilled to work on renewable energy. Minister Gordhan said, “I really like to take this opportunity to thank Eskom employees for working tirelessly to ensure that this project become successful.”

“In November 2022, the World Bank and Canadian Clean Energy and Forest Climate Facility Loan approved a R9 billion concessional loan to Eskom to fund Komati’s decommissioning. We believe this will assist in community development,” said Minister Gordhan.

The visit was concluded by engagement between committee members and community representatives for their views.



Minister Pravin Gordhan engaging with the audience at Komati Power Station.





Neli Tshingila said:

“We have a problem at Emziyonke Primary School where there are only three educators. Learners do not have enough educators and cellphone network is also a challenge in our area.”



Gugu Hlatshwayo said:

“We need scholar transport because learners walk long distance to school and there are network connectivity challenges in Emhlumayo and Emangweni. The roads are also bad.”

## PRIORITY 1: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

### President engages with communities

By Patrick Mchunu and Menzi Ntaka: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The seventh District Development Model Imbizo was held in Emhlumayo, under Alfred Duma Local Municipality in uThukela District on 30 June 2023, where President Cyril Ramaphosa engaged with communities on challenges they face in relation to service delivery.

The event was organised under the theme: “Leave No One Behind” which accentuates the President’s dedication to inclusive and equitable development. President Ramaphosa was accompanied by members of Parliament and Provincial Legislature respectively, various Ministers and Deputy Ministers, KwaZulu-Natal Premier Nomusa Dube-Ncube, uThukela District Municipality Mayor, Inkosi Ntandoyenkosi Shabalala, Members of Executive Council, Amakhosi Chairperson of uThukela District Municipality, Inkosi Sipho Sithole, business, civil society and various government departments.

The Imbizo sought to prioritise the needs and aspirations of every community member, in particular those who have historically been marginalised. Leading up to the Presidential Imbizo, various government departments hosted several build-up activities within uThukela District such as the Career Expo by the Deputy Minister of Transport, Lisa Mangcu, and public engagement on water issues by the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Senzo Mchunu. In addition, government departments showcased various exhibitions and government services leading up to the start of the main event.



President Cyril Ramaphosa addressing the audience.