



# MYDISTRICTTODAY



# STAY SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

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## PRIORITY I: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

### Agency celebrates 20 years of existence

By Phiwe Phillips: GCIS, Eastern Cape

Born to redress the 'news deserts' that the apartheid system had created, the Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA) is responsible for giving a voice to those who had no voice in the pre-1994 South Africa. This year, the MDDA celebrates 20 years of providing grant funding to South Africans from previously disadvantaged communities to start their own radio and TV stations or newspapers and digital platforms.

To celebrate this significant milestone, the MDDA is embarking on a nationwide roadshows to provide access to opportunities to those needing to establish localised mass media outlets. The first leg of the 2023 Grant funding roadshow was held at Garden Court, East London, Imbadu Conference Room. Stakeholders such as the South African Revenue Service, Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, Sentech and social development presented about the importance of having community media that caters for communities.

The second leg was the cocktail function held at ICC Hotel, East London on 14 June. The Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Nomasonto Motaung and the Chairperson of the Board, Hlengani Mathebula, were among the dignitaries who addressed the attendees. To kick-start the celebrations, the cocktail reception was attended by stalwarts from the community media sector such as Lumko Mtimde, Pamela Timakwe, Phumla Williams and other stakeholders.

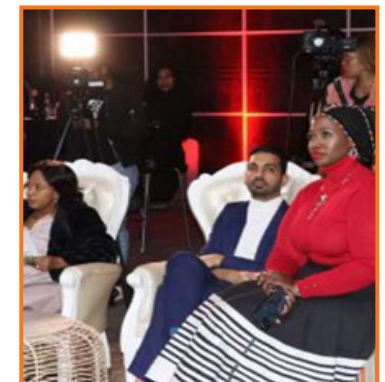
"To our beneficiaries, we will continue to enable access to information to communities in languages they understand," said Mathebula.



Stakeholders presenting and engaging at Garden Court.



Deputy Minister Nomasonto Motaung, Hlengani Mathebula at the cocktail function.



Nomkhosi Peter at the cocktail function.



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.

**PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.**

**Environmental awareness clean-up campaign**

*By Moloko Segale: GCIS, Gauteng*

World Environment Day was observed on 5 June 2023, forming part of the United Nations Environmental Programmes. South Africa adopted the entire month of June to heighten awareness of environment issues through various activities.

Following the proposed content focus for June, Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) together with the Douglasdale South African Police Service, South African National Council for Alcoholism and Drug Dependency, Christian Revival Church, Ukusa Kwami, Impact Africa, other members of the Kya Sands Stakeholders Forum and volunteers from Leroy Merlin and various organisations, planned and conducted an Environmental Awareness Clean-up Peace Campaign.

The event was conducted under the theme: “Building peaceful and clean societies – one community at a time”. The event took place on 23 June. All stakeholders gathered at the Christian Revival Church on Witkoppen Road in Fourways and walked to Kya Sands Pipeline area for a clean-up peace campaign.

The main objective of the campaign was to address and promote hygiene, cleanliness and encourage community members of Kya Sands to take care of the environment. In the planning discussions, it was suggested by the GCIS that the environmental awareness campaign also be used as a platform to share information with the aim of promoting cholera awareness and prevention.

For a more impactful campaign, all stakeholders members had on 21 June, visited the area to mobilise community members to join in and assist on the day of the campaign and to encourage them to be part of the programme as a form of bringing a sense of inclusion, responsibility and accountability. Through proper planning, organisation and mobilisation, the event had more support from volunteers, community members and other private companies that brought about a positive mood and success to the project.



All stakeholders and volunteers who were part of the clean-up project.



Kya Sands Stakeholders Forum members, volunteers and members of the community hard at work.



**PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION SKILLS AND HEALTH.**

**South Africa hosts BRICS summit**

*By Todani Livhuwani: GCIS, Mpumalanga*

The Government Communication and Information System supported the Minister of Higher Education to prepare for the 15th BRICS summit to be hosted by government. The meeting was held over two days at the Kruger National Park in Skukuza. The meeting was attended by all Ministers and senior officials from the Department of Higher Education for BRICS countries to strengthen relationships. Issues discussed were on climate change, entrepreneurship development, skills for the changing world, mutual recognition of qualification, out of school youth, labour market intelligence, and early childhood development and university global ranking.

The 10th Higher Education BRICS Meeting convened under the theme: “Responsive and Relevant Education and Training in the Global Context”. Mpumalanga was chosen as a host as the province has the newly established University of Mpumalanga.

“The daunting task before us as BRICS Ministers of Education is to consolidate the resolution of this sectoral engagements and table them to the BRICS Heads of States in August 2023 when we host 15th BRICS Summit,” said Higher Education, Science and Technology Minister, Blade Nzimande.

The BRICS Ministers of Education welcomed the invite by South Africa and vows to work together to enhance education.



Members of the BRICS and senior officials during at the meeting.



Learners welcoming BRICS members.



India's Minister of Higher Education Rajkumar Ranjan Singh engaging with Tlangelani Ubisi from University of Mpumalanga at the Exhibition stands.



**Minister Blade Nzimande said:**

“We want our Higher Education Curriculum to be recognised globally more to our BRICS partners so that our universities can train doctors and other qualifications that are recognised globally.”



**Brazil's Vice Minister of Education, Denise Pires de Carvalho said:**

“We gather here as BRICS to discuss various topics that affect our education, such as climate change as we have to teach our youth how to mitigate them. In Brazil, we have already conducted more research about climate change and we have to share with our BRICS partners.”



## PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

### Anti-corruption dialogue

By Cholo Mothibi: GCIS, Free State

Research has shown that a high rate of corruption is taking place at the borders where immigrants are crossing over to South Africa without proper documentation, which leads to selling and exchanging of identification. The Government Communication and Information System in partnership with the South African Human Rights Commission (SAHRC) and other stakeholders, therefore, conducted a dialogue to discuss with communities the importance of having proper documentation and the abuse of women.

The dialogue was held on 12 July 2023 at the Qibing Community Hall in Wepener and was attended by the Department of Health, SAHRC, Border Management Authority, Public Protector, and the South African Police Service. Thato Masiloane from Qibing Clinic explained the challenges

they face when assisting foreign-national patients who do not have birth registrations documents and encouraged parents to register their children.

Sabata Mokhele from the Boarder Management Authority explained that a mother is the main parent who gives permission for registration of the child, which means if a mother is from a foreign country, then the child also needs to be registered in the country of the mother.

The session was followed up with discussions from members of the community, as they needed more clarity, especially on issues of documentation.



Ntebele Fethe said:

“I am very happy and appreciate the information we received from the departments on issues regarding safety of identity documentations.”



Mapaseka Hlukyana said:

“I am happy that the Office of the Public Protector and others came closer to the people of Wepener so that we know what services they offer.”



Seabata Mokhele addressing the audience.



A community member participating in the dialogue.