



MYDISTRICTTODAY



**STAY
SAFE**

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

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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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PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Government supports local businesses

By Thenjiwe Konono: GCIS, Northern Cape

The Northern Cape Provincial Government celebrated Women's Day, on 9 August 2022, with the small and medium-sized businesses in the Pixley Ka Seme District, in Lowryville, Colesberg.

Premier Zamani Saul and his executive council, commemorated this historic day, with the purpose of promoting women's socio-economic rights and empowerment.

The Premier emphasised the significance of fighting for the economic emancipation of women, and therefore, pledged R5 million towards the Local Economic Development division at the Umsobomvu Local Municipality.

The fund is intended to assist women to grow their businesses, enabling them to be employers and contribute towards growing their communities.

During the event, 30 women-owned small businesses each received a donation of R10 000, to grow their businesses.

An amount of R100 000 was also handed over to Nthabiseng Majiya who is the Banyana Banyana team member who participated in the WAFCON championships.

Local sports teams also benefitted from the prestigious event, by receiving equipment, while R100 000 and R150 000 were donated to Colesberg Primary School and Umso High School choirs.



Local businesses receive donations from the Northern Cape Government to grow their businesses.



**government
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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COVID-19 vaccine registration details for 18-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.



Olwethu Tshoma said:

"I am originally from Noupoot. I own a laundry and dry-cleaning business. I was awarded R10 000 and will use it to purchase a washing machine and iron for the business. I did not expect to receive such great news today."



Nosakhe Mekile said:

"I have been running a kitchen restaurant for the past three years now and was not aware that government was noticing what I was doing. I am very grateful."



Marta Poonyane said:

"As the chairperson for the local women's association. I have listened to all the speakers and noted their services. We now have to sit and do a business plan so we can apply for government services."



Palesa Ditaunyane said:

"As a person, you learn every day. Today I learned about the manual irrigation method that was explained to me today."

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Farmers' Day and exhibitions

By Yanga Ngcukana: GCIS, Free State

As part of Women's Month celebrations, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) together with the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, the Department of Small Business Development, Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA), Karan Beef, University of South Africa (UNISA), Motheo TVET College, and Sernick were in Fauresmith on 4 and 5 August 2022 to celebrate Farmers Day and for farmers' exhibition respectively.

The celebrations aimed to educate and empower community members, especially women who have an interest in the agricultural sector for work and business purposes.

Those who were interested in starting a business in agriculture were given so many options to choose from, ranging from different fields of study, how to start a business in agriculture, and different options where they can get funding for their businesses.

An official from UNISA explained how women can get financial assistance to study at the institution.

Representatives from SEDA and the Free State Development Corporation explained their role in assisting women and people from disadvantaged backgrounds with business opportunities.

The GCIS advised women and farmers to do background checks on the people they hire to help in their businesses to minimise the risk of getting robbed.

On the second day of the celebrations, farmers erected exhibition stalls to showcase their products to the community and government departments had gazebos with promotion and marketing material.

Some of the agricultural products that were available on the stalls were live chickens, slaughtered chickens, eggs, and canned fruit and vegetables. Those stalls were managed by women.

The women in agriculture had the opportunity to interact with experts in the farming industry in an effort to exchange and learn new ideas in crop and animal farming.

Leaflets on economic opportunities and *Vuk'uzenzele* newspaper were also handed out to the people for more information on government services and the institutions that may assist with funding.



Female farmers who attended the event at Fauresmith Town Hall.

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Promoting women's rights

By Khanyiso Seyisi: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

As part of commemorating Women's Month, Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) coordinated a radio programme at Nongoma FM in KwaZulu-Natal, on 4 August 2022, to create awareness and promote the rights of women.

This talk show, which was hosted by the afternoon drive host Martin Mkhwanazi was driven by the speakers from Lifeline Zululand represented by women, Jhpiego and the Department of Health represented by men.

The GCIS led the talk show by sharing content and guidance on messages to be shared with the listeners.

During the proceedings of the interview, Lifeline Zululand Social Worker Nonzuzo Ntima, Jhpiego officials Welcome Lamla and Nkululeko Zindela shared their perspectives and suggested solutions to assist in fighting the challenges which are faced by women and children such as Gender-Based Violence (GBV), rape, crime and human trafficking.

Speakers emphasised on these fundamental issues affecting women since the 2022 celebrations of Women's Month happened against the backdrop of significant challenges faced by the South African economy and amid country-wide efforts to try to come to terms with the COVID-19 pandemic and the KwaZulu-Natal flood disaster.

Women all over and in Zululand District have been affected by economic decline, which has also caused social effects and unemployment among young women. Therefore, the talk show highlighted those issues and ways of finding solutions to them.

While discussing the issue of GBV, men were urged to intervene to stop the scourge and take action.

Women were also urged to break the silence and report the perpetrators of GBV to law-enforcement officers and use the relevant toll-free lines to report these matters.

Nongoma FM confirmed their commitment to assist in the fight against GBV. The station promised to host as many as possible radio talk shows throughout the year and feature prominent and influential speakers in order to intensify the awareness campaign.

Callers were given the opportunity to air their views and some confessed especially the women that they are the victims of abuse.

The presenter referred them to the relevant authorities, toll-free numbers and offices where they can be assisted.

The GBV Command Centre of the Department of Social Development operates a national 24hr/7days-a-week call centre facility, with an Emergency Line: 0800 428 428. This is supported by a USSD, "Please call me" facility: *120*7867#.

A Skype Line 'Helpme GBV' for members of the deaf community also exists (Add 'Helpme GBV' to your Skype contacts). An SMS-based line: 31531 for persons with disabilities (SMS 'help' to 31531) also exists.



Nongoma FM radio host Martin Mkhwanazi and guests during a radio programme coordinated by the GCIS on promoting the rights of women.

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Presidential Social Sector Summit

By Jacob Molete: GCIS, Gauteng

President Cyril Ramaphosa delivered a keynote address at the closing ceremony of the Presidential Social Sector Summit held at the Birchwood Conference Centre in the City of Ekurhuleni, on 5 August 2022.

“Four years since I spoke of the need for this social sector summit in my inaugural State of the Nation Address (SoNA) 2018, it is wonderful that we have finally reached a point where we can convene this summit,” said President Ramaphosa.

The summit took place on 4 and 5 August 2022 under the theme: “Fostering Social Cohesion to enable Socio-Economic Participation in Communities”.

In his keynote address, President Ramaphosa urged government and civil society to work together for the socio-economic development of communities, citing the success of the Solidarity Fund as an example wherein government and civil society worked together in funding COVID-19 initiatives.

Stakeholder from various businesses, labour and international organisations delivered messages of support to the Presidential Social Sector Summit.

“We must encourage voluntarism especially amongst the youth, who in turn can gain necessary skills and experience to enable them get into job market thereby decrease unemployment and poverty,” said United Nations’ Resident Coordinator Dr. Ayondele Odusola.

During the summit, delegates were divided into five working commissions to discuss and participate to formulate policy instruments to guide the civil society organisations’ work across the country.

The summit commissions focal points were:

1. Resource mobilisation.
2. Transformation and job creation.
3. Capacity building.
4. Regulatory framework.
5. Community.

Each commission’s rapporteurs delivered a report on their commission’s recommendations on the formulation and policy instrument to guide civil society organisations’ work.

The summit ended with the signing social compact between government and civil society, a shared national agenda and commitment that will guide all sectors of society in building South Africa envisaged in Vision 2030 of the National Development Plan.

The signing of the compact will foster a strong state-civil society partnership to tackle poverty, inequality and employment, and to deepen democratic participation.



President Cyril Ramaphosa delivering the keynote address at the Presidential Social Sector Summit.



The signing the Social Sector Framework Agreement during the closing ceremony of summit.



Susan Khumalo said:

“The Resource Mobilisation Commission agreed on the establishment of a Central Civil Society Fund located in The Presidency for coordination of civil society resources.”



Steve Letsike said:

“We advocate for the revival and support of cooperatives to develop them especially by training people on cooperatives.”



Nonkosi Mvana said:

“We, the Portfolio Committee on Social Development, are the watchdog, therefore we shall monitor and ensure the implementation of all the resolution taken at this Presidential Social Sector Summit.”



Thulani Tshefuta said:

“Our Constitution provides for a flexible enabling environment for cooperation between government and civil society. The supporting legislation and regulations that govern civil society should also provide for enabling environment for civil society organisations to thrive but not tie our hands and feet through over-regulation.”