



MY DISTRICT TODAY



**STAY
SAFE**

PROTECT 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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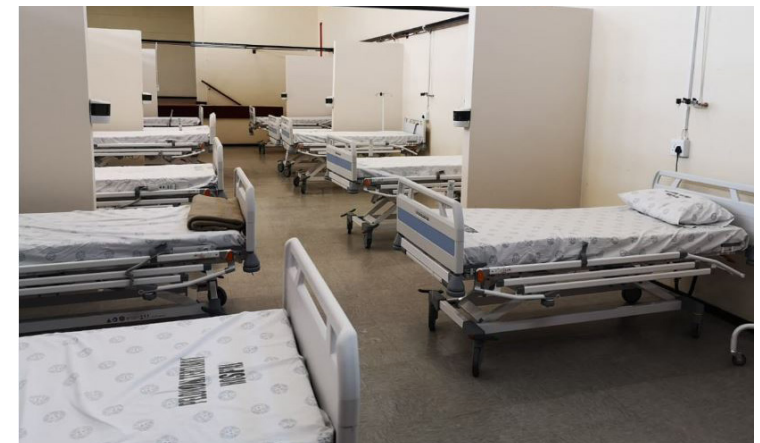
PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Hospital receives additional COVID-19 resources

By Cholo Mothibi: GCIS, Free State



Free State Premier Sefora Ntombela and MEC Montseng Tsiu during the opening of the high-care unit.



The recently launched high-care unit at Universitas Hospital in Bloemfontein.

On 13 August 2020, Free State Premier Sefora Ntombela accompanied by the Health MEC Montseng Tsiu officially opened the expanded COVID-19 beds and high-care unit at Universitas Hospital in Bloemfontein. The space, known as Tumelo, was previously used as a car parking.

The hospital now houses 103 expanded beds space for COVID-19 patients. The Premier explained that the project would be rolled out to other hospitals such as Pelonomi and Bongani in Welkom. She further said that government would also officially open the doors to a field hospital that is established at the showgrounds in Bloemfontein.

Premier Ntombela thanked all government leaders, healthcare workers and professionals who continue to work tirelessly to ensure everyone's safety.



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PRIORITY 4: SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Emalahleni supports distressed communities

By Livhuwani Todani: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Some of the old age and disability centres that benefited from the Emalahleni COVID-19 food relief programme.

The Emalahleni Local Municipality is the epicentre of COVID-19 cases in Mpumalanga and this has led to a high number of people being retrenched due to the pandemic. The municipality, in partnership with local businesses and mines, created a food zone storeroom where food parcels were donated.

Since the beginning of the nationwide lockdown, about 4 500 distressed families, old-age homes, disability centres and young girls benefited from food parcels and sanitary towels from the food zone.

While distributing the food parcels to some of the centres on 12 August 2020, Emalahleni Municipality Chief Coordinator of old age and disability, Trudy Mavimbela, said, "We welcome the support received from local business, companies and mines for food parcels and sanitary towels. We also call upon other stakeholders to come on board to support our old-age homes, disability centres and distressed families with distribution of personal protective equipment to the centres. Together, we can flatten the curve by adhering to COVID-19 regulations and always washing our hands with soap or sanitisers, keeping a social distance, wearing mask and going out only for essentials."

PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Launch of the Dial-a-Tutor programme

By Elias Malindi: Department of Education, North West



MEC Mmaphefo Matsemela addressing learners and stakeholders.



Onkabetse-Thuto Secondary School learner dialling a tutor during the launch.

In its efforts of bring the classroom closer to learners launched the “Dial-a-Tutor” programme at Onkabetse-Thuto Secondary School in Ratlou Local Municipality on 5 August 2020. The long school break necessitated the department to initiate a programme that aims to provide learners with an individual attention from subject specialists without disturbance from other learners.

The contact solution of calling a toll-free number will provide all high school learners from Grade 8 to 12 across the province, with an opportunity to interact with the tutors on different subjects. The number that learners need to dial is 0800 383 383 and this number can be called between Monday and Friday, from 07:00 to 20:00.

A Grade 12 learner, Neo Macklein, from Onkabetse-Thuto Secondary School, indicated that she called the toll-free number and was assisted in Mathematics and Accounting.

Percy Modillane, who is a participating subject specialist for Business Economics, highlighted that the programme has

given learners an opportunity to raise questions without fear of their classmates. He further highlighted that even teachers are beneficiaries of the programme because they also call to request materials for their subjects.

Education MEC Mmaphefo Matsemela encouraged learners to use the toll-free number effectively. “Let me take this time to encourage you to fight on until you realise your dreams. In October, we are going to provide Grade 12 learners with psychosocial support. This will be able to calm down the learners’ emotions when they write their final examinations. Learners have been exposed to difficult times due to the COVID-19 virus. This programme needs to be embraced by the entire community in order for it to be successful.

“The initiative is an additional intervention towards assisting learners. This programme will benefit learners as it simplifies teaching and learning. I am pleading with parents to encourage and support learners to call the toll-free number,” said MEC Matsemela.



Gurswin Velters said:

"I have been employed at the centre for two years as manager. I am excited to commence with my job, before I was unemployed. This centre gives me the opportunity to help our youth here in Melkhoutfontein to better their lives. Before this centre, people needed to travel over 50 kilometres to get Internet services, which from now, will be at their doorstep."



Hatnick Mannewil said:

"I have been employed as development manager at the centre to assist our people to apply for jobs online, study online and to do computer training, thus ensuring that they are ready for the future that will help them grow optimally."

PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Hessequa community Internet centre

By Jetrho Grootboom: GCIS, Western Cape



Western Cape Premier Alan Winde led the unveiling of the plaque.



Western Cape government leaders inside the recently opened Melkhoutfontein e-Centre.

Western Cape Premier Alan Winde and Human Settlements MEC Tertius Simmers, accompanied by Hessequa Municipal Mayor Grant Riddles and Garden Route District Mayor Memory Booysen, officially opened the Melkhoutfontein e-Centre on 10 August 2020 in Hessequa Municipality.

"The e-centre, formally known as Cape Access Programme, provides opportunities. It is a platform where the community connects with the world. I encourage everyone to make use of this opportunity, to have a future and make a difference in their lives. This opportunity should be used to the maximum, to make people's dreams come true," said Premier Winde.

The Cape Access Programme is one of the Western Cape government's programmes that brings free access to information and communication technologies and the Internet to rural communities. It functions as a service-delivery programme by providing computers with Internet access in venues housed in public libraries, Thusong Service Centres and other access points.

The Melkhoutfontein e-Centre is the 74th centre to be established in the province and the fourth centre in Hessequa Municipality. The programme contributes to the ability of the rural and disadvantaged citizens to access government information and services, and to stimulate innovation.

Through this programme communities will be able to; access government and business services and information, type curriculum vitae, search and apply for economic opportunities, get digital skills training, among many other things.