



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS

Issue no. 36: October 2020

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PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Information blitz for Grade 12 learners

By Livhuwani Todani: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Livhuwani Todani engaging the learners during the information session.



Some of the Grade 12 learners at Sifunile Secondary School with information products they received.

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in collaboration with Emakhazeni Education Circuit, University of Mpumalanga, and the Department of Home Affairs conducted a school activation on 18 September 2020, as part of celebrating Public Service Month and Annual Thusong Service Centre Week by bringing services closer to the people.

The event was aimed at raising awareness on issues such as gender-based violence, COVID-19, bursaries, career guidance and application for identity documents for Grade 12 learners at Sifunile High School. The school, based in Sakhelwe Dullstroom, is one of the rural institutions that produce good results in mathematics in the Nkangala District, and most of the learners are from distressed families who cannot afford university fees.

The GCIS printed bursary forms from the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, and Land affairs, South African National Roads Agency Limited, and information material on National Student Financial Aid Scheme 2021 bursaries, for distribution to Grade 12 learners.

Officials from the Department of Home Affairs encouraged learners to visit their offices to apply for identity documents cards. The University of Mpumalanga also outlined the courses offered at the institution and encouraged learners to apply using their smart phones during this time of COVID-19. The learners and the school principal welcomed the visit.



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PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Hospital opens COVID-19 ward

By Ntombi Mhlambi: GCIS, Free State



CEO of Bongani Hospital Dr Sesi Nosi, Lejweleputswa Mayor Sebenzile Ngangelizwe and family members of Nurse Martha Kediemetse Chao at the opening of the COVID-19 ward.



Lejweleputswa Municipality leaders and Free State Department of Health officials assessing the surge ward.

A large number of cases of COVID-19 infections around Matjhabeng Municipality makes it a hotspot area. Bongani Regional Hospital, therefore built a ward to accommodate COVID-19 patients only. The facility, which used to be home for nurses, was officially opened on 15 September 2020 in Thabong.

“The ward is named after one of the Struggle icons, Martha Kediemetse Chao, who was a nurse and shop steward during apartheid,” said the Executive Mayor of the Lejweleputswa District Municipality, Sebenzile Ngangelizwe, at the opening of the ward.

The Chief Executive Officer of Bongani Hospital, Dr Sesi Noge, said having such a ward not only prepares them for the second wave of the virus that may come, but that it will also be used as antenatal, after the COVID-19 has passed. She thanked the dedicated frontline workers that worked tirelessly to treat COVID-19 patients.

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

Thusong Service Centre Week celebration in Merafong

By Tshidi Mokoka: GCIS, Gauteng



Ntombi Thakuli engaging with the community during the activation.



Warren Nemaenzhe distributing information products to community members.

The Annual Thusong Service Centre Week takes place in September and was aligned to Public Service Month. This year's activities were planned under the theme: "Growing South Africa together for an Ethical Public Service" in an effort to promote services rendered by public servants, especially those that are based in Thusong Service Centres.

The Government Communication and Information System in partnership with Merafong City Office of the Speaker, community development workers (CDWs) and the Independent Electoral Commission conducted the Annual Thusong Service Centre Week activation, targeting the community of Madala Side Informal Settlement in Khutsong, on 18 September 2020.

Thusong Service Centres are recognised as one-stop shops established by government to ensure that services are brought closer to communities. "As CDWs, we are mandated to engage with communities to share plans and programmes of government. During the activation, it is our duty that we educate people about Thusong Service Centres, services that can be accessed from there and to further encourage people to stop using their hard-earned money to travel to town visiting institutions such as the Department of Home Affairs, South African Social Security Agency and South African Police Service that are housed inside the Thusong Service Centres," said CDW supervisor, Warren Nemaenzhe.

The activation was further used to create awareness about the upcoming local elections to be held next year, to educate the community about COVID-19 and to encourage them to use their local clinic within the Thusong Service Centre for screening and testing.



Desiree Jaars said:

“People have been accessing government services and information since 14 September 2020. All these services are normally accessible 120 kilometres away. We have signed a Memorandum of Understanding with various government departments to ensure that they visit the community at least once a month. To prevent transmission of COVID-19, we are complying with the pandemic protocols such as the wearing of masks and observing social distancing. People are screened and sanitised when they enter the premises.”



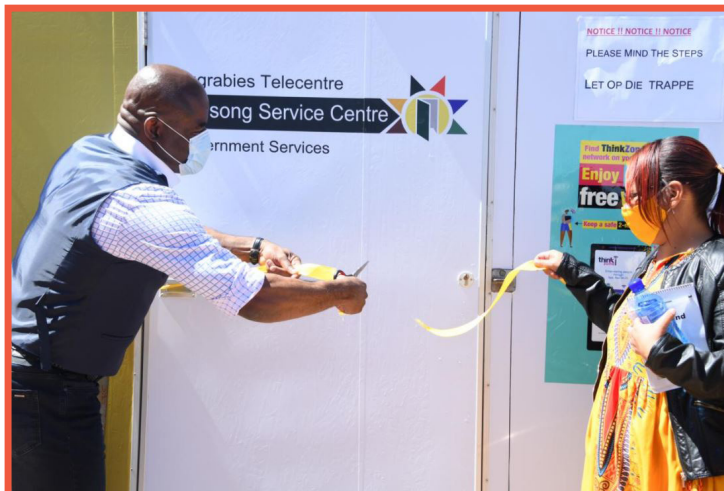
Emmarentia Tshupane said:

“The free Wi-Fi is highly appreciated. I think it is going to make things easier for us as young people, and also Grade 12 learners. As the youth, we are committed to protecting this space and we will ensure that no one vandalises this place.”

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

Free Wi-Fi installed at Augrabies

By Charles Moeti: GCIS, Northern Cape



Northern Cape Premier Zamani Saul cutting the ribbon to open the telecentre at Augrabies Thusong Service Centre.



Some of the community members of Augrabies who attended the event.

Northern Cape Premier Zamani Saul, accompanied by Social Development and Sport, Arts and Culture MECs, relaunched the Telecentre at Augrabies Thusong Service Centre on 16 September 2020 in the Kei Garib Local Municipality.

The relaunch was one of the activities organised to celebrate the Annual Thusong Service Centre Week from 14 to 18 September 2020. The event coincided with the observance of Public Service Month.

The telecentre is expected to provide the community with access to free Wi-Fi, provided by a company called Think-Wi-Fi. The pilot project offers uncapped data that is available to the community of Augrabies on a 24-hour basis.

It is envisaged that the community will use the free Wi-Fi to access much-needed government services at the satellite Thusong Service Centre, which was established in order to bring government information and services closer to the people in an integrated manner.

Premier Saul encouraged community members to work together with government to ensure full ownership of these services. He also emphasised the need for access to information and how people can leverage the Wi-Fi programme to empower themselves through information.

“We appreciate the opportunity of hosting the national Annual Thusong Service Centre Week and hope that the community of Augrabies will fully utilise this important resource,” he said. The access to free Wi-Fi will be rolled out at all Thusong Service Centres throughout the province.