



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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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 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Prevent Foetal Alcohol Syndrome

By Vuyolwethu Gwala: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

To observe World Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Day on 9 September 2022, Deputy Minister of Social Development, Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu, held a dialogue with women of Harry Gwala District Municipality at the Greater Kokstad Town Hall.

The dialogue began with a nine-minute 'sounding of the alarm', which is symbolic of the pain experienced by children due to the syndrome.

Deputy Minister Bogopane-Zulu urged women to refrain from consuming alcohol when they are pregnant, as this exposes their unborn children to multiple health problems that include abnormalities, learning difficulties, intellectual and cognitive disabilities, and low birth weight.

"When you consume alcohol during pregnancy, you are depriving your unborn child of an opportunity to live a fulfilling, healthy and normal life," said Deputy Minister Bogopane-Zulu. She added that Foetal Alcohol Syndrome is preventable but irreversible.

Participants in the dialogue agreed that alcohol abuse was a major challenge in the community. They cited stress, lack of recreation and peer pressure as some of the reasons for the rampant alcohol consumption. They also indicated that children as young as 10 years old indulged in alcohol, which has a negative effect on their mental development and growth.

Dr Rubi Singh said Foetal Alcohol Syndrome tampers with children's growth and development, both physically and mentally.

"As different stages of development occur in each trimester of pregnancy, the specific time during which you consume alcohol while pregnant can have different negative effects on the development of the baby. This condition is irreversible," said Dr Singh.

The ninth day of the ninth month is observed as Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Day and it aims to create awareness about the dangers of alcohol to unborn children. The number "nine" signifies the full term of pregnancy during which mothers should avoid alcohol consumption.



Women engaging on issues of alcohol affecting their community.



Deputy Minister Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu addressing the attendees.



**government
communications**

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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 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

March against violence

By Tinyiko Molefe: GCIS, Gauteng

The Government Communication and Information System supported the South African Police Service and other stakeholders to organise a march against Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Ratanda, on 14 September 2022.

The purpose of the march was to raise awareness and educate the community on steps and interventions to be taken to reduce GBV cases.

During the activation, the community was provided with information that will assist them in GBV cases, and also educated about GBV signs and where to report the cases of abuse.

“Our focus is to assist and educate the community about GBV and to let them know that our doors are always open to serve everyone who faces

challenges, including GBV in the community,” said GBV Brigade, Lungile Mahlangu.

The community was also encouraged to report GBV cases because the scourge has a negative impact on the community including the health state of the affected residents.

Lizzy Klaatse from the Department of Health said, “GBV has numerous negative effects on the community. We are here today to encourage the community to report GBV and also assist victims of abuse.”



Stakeholders marching in Ratanda and displaying messages against GBV.



Stakeholders visiting homes in Rantanda to engage with community members.



Enoch Mohlala said:

"The information that I received was very useful and will assist me in addressing GBV incidents in my community."



Evelyn Lephoto said:

"GBV affects us all. I will play my part and report it."

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Youth Empowerment Fund benefits youth

By Todani Livhuwani: GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Government Communication and Information System supported by Mpumalanga Premier Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane during a district development outreach that was supported by Nkangala District Mayor Councillor Leah Mabuza, Mpumalanga Provincial Government Deputy Director-General Peter Nyoni and Dr JS Moroka Mayor Councillor Nomsa Mtshweni, in Waterval on 15 September 2022.

The three-day programme provided government services at the doorsteps of the communities in Dr J S Moroka Local Municipality.

Premier Mtsweni-Tsipane visited various projects in the municipality that are being funded by the Mpumalanga Provincial Government.

One of these projects is Poultry Farm which is owned by a 29 years old young woman, Lungile Mkhize from Waterval.

Her business, named Lungile Poultry Farm, received funding of R2.7 million from the Mpumalanga Youth Empowerment Fund, and the payment is done in phases.

Lungile is one of the beneficiaries who took advantage of the Youth Empowerment Fund, which was availed to assist young entrepreneurs and cooperatives.

The Premier was pleased to see the work done by this cooperative. "We are going to monitor and support the Lungile Poultry Farm to ensure that it is sustained, and we also encourage other young people to apply for funding and get mentorship so that their businesses can grow," she said.

Lungile Poultry Farm has already employed 18 people and has acquired land for bigger production that will also employ more people in the future.

The firm has a borehole and water tanks and currently busy with the construction of new structures that will accommodate more broiler chickens.

The business aims to increase its daily production from 3 000 to 10 000 eggs. The farm is currently supplying local markets and has already secured good working relationships with local retailers.

Lungile Poultry Farm is also receiving training from the Department of Agriculture extension officers on farming, and the National Youth Development Agency on marketing and business plan.



Cebo Mahlangu said:

"I am the project manager at Lungile Poultry Farm. I am happy that we got the funding from the Mpumalanga Youth Empowerment Fund and we have already employed 18 young people. When we increase the production, we hope to employ more people."



Lungile Mkhize said:

"I am grateful to the Mpumalanga Youth Empowerment Fund. I want to encourage young people to use this opportunity. Government has created lots of opportunities for young people; let us use them to create more employment opportunities."



Lungile Mkhize welcoming Premier Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane and other leaders.



Lungile Poultry Farm eggs production and the marketing tools.

PRIORITY 5: SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Batho Pele service delivery drive

By Lilly Mohlosana: GCIS, Limpopo

On 16 September 2022, the community of Vaalwater in the Modimolle-Mookgophong Local Municipality commemorated Public Service Month and the Annual Thusong Service Centre Week at the Mabatlane Thusong Service Centre.

The campaign was spearheaded by the Government Communication and Information System together with the Office of the Mayor in Modimolle-Mookgophong, to bring integrated services closer to the people.

Government departments and institutions such as the Department of Employment and Labour, Department of Home Affairs, Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, Department of Social Development, South African Social Security Agency, Independent Electoral Commission, Eskom, Small Enterprise Development Agency and community development workers provided services and engaged with community.

The service-delivery drive brought relief to Vaalwater community members and surrounding farms who often have to travel more than 60 kilometres to access services.

Although the Department of Home Affairs does not render services at Mabatlane Thusong Service Centre on a daily basis, the department was able to process 12 first time identity applicants, issued 11 birth certificates, 41 people collected their smart ID cards while 10 applied for the cards.

The different institutions were provided with an opportunity to empower community members with information on the different services they offer.

Stan Tema, Mabatlane Thusong Service Centre manager, also shared information on the background of the centre and services rendered at the Waterberg Waves Community Radio Station.

In his keynote address, Acting Mayor Councillor Simon Motsomane acknowledged the efforts and commitments made by the public servants of the Mabatlane Thusong Service Centre and encouraged them to continue providing services to the community of Vaalwater.

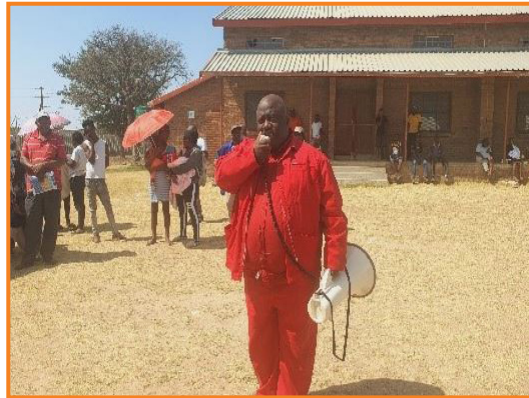
He asked the public servants to intensify the communication of the Thusong Service Centre programme for community members to know when the different departments will be at the centres.

He further asked public servants to be accessible and visible as per the Batho Pele principles.

The community of Vaalwater was happy about the outreach and the outcome, and asked government to host more campaigns of this nature to cater for those who live in rural and disadvantaged areas.



Eskom and the Department of Labour rendering services to community members.



Lesetja Monyela said:

“Public servants have the duty to provide services to the community of Vaalwater. I also request that all stakeholders gathered here today continue to put people first.”



Malatswa Molepo said:

“The South African Social Security Agency has introduced a Child Support Grant Top-Up. The Department of Social Development provides an additional R240 top up on the R480 Child Support Grant that is already received by the guardian to help orphaned children. The grant is intended to assist the guardians caring for the orphans to provide for their basic needs. The foster child must be legally placed in your care and be younger than 18. Go to your nearest South African Social Security Agency office with your ID, death certificate, birth certificate and refuge ID. ”



Sarah Lebese said:

“I travelled to Modimolle, which is 60 kilometres away from Vaalwater to apply for my ID, but today I am happy that I did not miss school because the Department of Home Affairs is in my neighbourhood and I could collect my ID.”