



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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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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PRIORITY3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH

Back-to-School campaign and Matric Class of 2024 appreciation ceremony

By Phoka Mofokeng; GCIS, Free State

On 23 January 2025, the Government Communication and Information System in collaboration with Community Development Workers, the Matwabeng Stakeholder Forum, Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality and Setsoto Local Municipality, hosted a Back-to-School campaign at the EE Monese School in Matwabeng, Senekal. In attendance were the Executive Mayor of Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality, Cllr Conny Msibi and Member of the Mayoral Council (MMC) for Community Safety, Cllr Komane Koalane from the Setsoto Local Municipality.

The ceremony was held to celebrate the Matric Class of 2024 and its top achievers, to appreciate the work done by teachers and motivate and inspire hope for the class of 2025. The occasion was initiated by Cllr Msibi and all other schools in Matwabeng township such as Libertasie High School, EE Monese Comprehensive School, Ithabiseng Secondary School and Rehotse Secondary, also formed part of the celebrations.

Cllr Msibi thanked and praised the different school principals, the staff and parents who have always been supportive to the students, and encouraged the new cohort of matriculants to help the district claim its space on the provincial and national education stages. She also pleaded with the learners and teachers to work hard to achieve good results and informed them about available bursaries at the municipality. School shoes were also donated to the learners.

Representatives from the Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs and ABSA, spoke to the learners on available opportunities at their institutions. Top achievers were awarded certificates of excellence, and the educators whose subjects received 100% were also honoured with certificates for exceptional performance.

Learners were cautioned to be wary of bogus schools and colleges, as they start applying to higher institutions of learning. They were advised to verify the legitimacy of the schools and the qualifications offered by contacting the Department of Higher Education and the South African Qualifications Authority.



Learners from various schools in Matwabeng in attendance at the Back-to-School campaign programme.



government
communications

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Mayor Msibi with MMC Koalane issuing a Certificate of Excellence to Mokheseng Chabalala who obtained three distinctions.

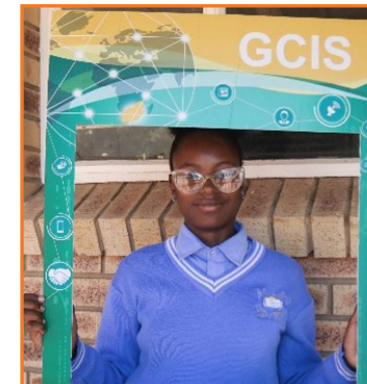


Mayor Msibi and MMC Koalane issuing a Certificate of Excellence to Ms Lerato Mpada whose class obtained a 100% pass rate.



Palesa Nkele said:

"I am grateful to be part of the campaign today, and I am happy about the results achieved by the class of 2024. As the class of 2025, we are going to better appreciate the work of government by visiting our school."



Bathabile Mokoteli said:

"The campaign today has brought so much knowledge, and I am inspired by the class of 2024. The motivational speeches we received today have motivated me, and I will be working hard this year to ensure that I achieve good results."

PRIORITY 5: SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT

Rand Water donates dignity packs to Zuurbekom Primary School learners

By Tshidi Mokoka; GCIS, Gauteng

Rand Water's Back-to-School campaign significantly impacted learners from the Zuurbekom Primary School on 7 February 2025, when they received visitors who came to the school bearing goodies. The water utility, accompanied by the Gauteng Department of Basic Education West District, Community Development Workers from the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and a local councillor from the Rand West City Local Municipality, came to the school to distribute dignity packs.

The dignity packs included basic toiletries, including sanitary pads, all packed in brand new school bags. This initiative aims to ensure that learners from poor families did not miss school due to lack of essential hygiene items.

According to Mr Luvuyo Magavu, Regional Accounts Executive at Rand Water, the initiative was inspired by President Cyril Ramaphosa's State of the Nation Address delivered on 6 February 2025, which emphasised government's efforts to strengthen the education sector and provide quality education for all learners. He encouraged the learners to take education seriously, avoid detractors and consider pursuing engineering studies, as Rand Water awarded bursaries to interested students.

The Chairperson of the School Governing Body (SGB) and members of the Zuurbekom Ward Committee also supported the programme.



Mr Magavu addressing the learners who received dignity packs.



Some of the learners proudly showcasing the bags they received from Rand Water.



Mr Montewa Teleko said:

"It is heartwarming to see the work that Rand Water has done for our school, as we have been trying as educators to collect enough money to buy for the needy learners. We are thrilled that they chose our school to receive these dignity packs, which will make a tangible difference in the lives of our learners."



Ms Jasmeen Abraham said:

"As Chairperson of the SGB, I am grateful to Rand Water for what they did for the school and its learners. Many of these learners are in need of these items, and their families cannot afford them. I just hope they will keep on doing this kind gesture to more schools in our area."

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES

Operation Sukumasakhe Outreach Programme in Ray Nkonyeni Municipality

By Khanyiso Seyisi; GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

On 28 January 2025, the Integrated Community Registration Outreach Programme was held at Qhinqa Secondary School, Izingolweni, under the Ray Nkonyeni Local Municipality. This programme was led by the South African Social Security Agency under the banner of Operation Sukumasakhe.

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) collaborated with the departments of Home Affairs, Social Development, Correctional Services, Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Health, Human Settlements and the South African Police Service to offer a variety of services to the community.

In addition, the Disaster and Fire and Rescue units from the Ray Nkonyeni Local Municipality and Ugu District Municipality, demonstrated to the community how to deal with disasters and prevent fires. They provided safety tips on how to react when floods and other disasters struck.

The Office of the Public Protector (OPP), one of the public entities established to strengthen South Africa's democracy, was represented by Ms Phindile Ndovela, the Outreach Officer, who outlined services offered by the Chapter 9 institution.

There was also a non-governmental organisation known as Siyakwazi NGO, which assists learners, especially those with special needs, by referring them to relevant schools that cater to their learning needs.

Ray Nkonyeni Local Municipality Ward Councillor, Mr Sifiso Ngcece, explained the services offered by the municipality, while other departments present also assisted community members to access identity documents, social grants, business owner licenses and other government services.



Ray Nkonyeni Municipal Fire and Rescue official, Ms Zandile Mbokazi educating the community of Izingolweni about their services



Ms Mavuso explaining the services of the OPP, while the GCIS shared messages on Back-to-School campaigns and gender-based violence and femicide to the community.

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES

Gender-based violence and femicide awareness broadcast on community radio

By Mpho More; GCIS, Northern Cape

Media reports across the country have reported an alarming increase in the number of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) cases. President Cyril Ramaphosa has urged society to work with government to address the drivers of the problem.

In January 2025, as part of government and civil society's commitment to eradicating the scourge of GBVF, the Government Communication and Information System facilitated a two-day panel discussion centred around the role of the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), the Department of Justice (DoJ) and Constitutional Development and the South African Police Service (SAPS), including civil society in the issues relating to GBVF on Revival FM.

The panel discussed the role they play in fighting the scourge of GBVF and the support they provide to the victims. Family and Marriage Society of South Africa, together with the Moral Regeneration Movement and traditional health practitioners, emphasised that parents needed to be aware of their actions, as they were the ones setting examples for their children.

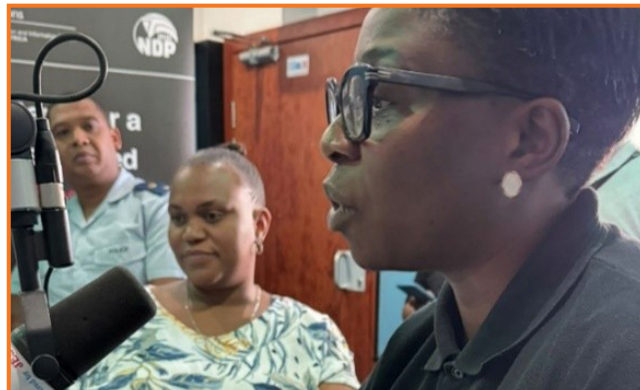
Lieutenant Colonel Sergio Kock of SAPS, reminded the community to always be vigilant and protect women and children from such heinous crimes. He said, "As men, we must lead by example in our homes, by drinking responsibly and protecting our own families." He further advised the community to avoid dangerous areas such as secluded areas, dilapidated houses and taverns.

Advocate Mpho Tau from the NPA responded to questions from listeners relating to cases being struck off the roll or withdrawn. She said, "We are accountable to the community we serve. Complainants have the right to go to the prosecutor and find out why the case was withdrawn. There are various reasons for withdrawing cases, for example, lack of evidence." She further urged the community not to become spectators or bystanders and rather play an active role by attending awareness campaigns and reporting cases of GBVF even if they were happening in the neighbourhood. Both the NPA and the DoJ had an opportunity to deliberate further on the Domestic Violence Amendment Act 14 of 2021.

Civil society expressed their gratitude to government and the private sector, for always empowering them on how to deal with GBVF cases.



The panel discussion on Revival FM focused on GBVF.



Advocate Mpho Tau of NPA deliberating on the amended Domestic Violence Act.



Pastor James Williams of the Moral Regeneration Movement deliberating on instilling moral values in the society.