



Issue no.40: October 2022

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## PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

### Young women tackle violence

By Keoagile Rakgang and Tshidi Mokoka: GCIS, Gauteng



Women marching to Mohlakeng Police Station to hand over a memorandum of complaints.

The Gauteng Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs in collaboration with Rand West City Local Municipality and the Local Government Youth Development Forum (LGYDF) held a Young Women Engage session in Mohlakeng, Randfontein, on 1 September 2022.

The purpose of the engagement was to raise awareness about all matters around Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) and other crimes perpetrated against women and children in the area of Mohlakeng and beyond.

GBVF affects most women, so, the session was aimed at providing a platform where young women get informed about opportunities they can access to empower themselves.

The day started with a GBVF march led by the Gender-Based Violence (GBV) Brigades to deliver the memorandum to the police to have a 24-hour police station with designated officials to assist the community with the crime.

"As a community of Mohlakeng, we have been promised a better-equipped police station but that has not happened. Instead, the station is forever closed and people cannot afford to travel to town to access these services," said Thapelo Maleke, LGYDF leader.



Community members listening to messages shared by stakeholders on empowerment programmes.

After the march, young women including those from the GBV Brigades and other organisations in the West Rand were invited to participate in the session where stakeholders shared information on empowerment programmes to improve the lives of people.

Meals on Wheels CEO Nelisa Mabenge spoke about the empowerment programme that her company has launched.

"It is there to train, develop, educate and prepare young people for the market. Gone are the days that when you graduate, there is nothing waiting for you in the world. It is about time that young women be educated on economic empowerment and not be left behind," she said.

Other stakeholders included the Department of Social Development, Tsosang Community Programme, National Youth Development Agency, Gauteng Economic Development, and the Department of Employment and Labour. They informed young women about all the programmes put in place that they can access to improve their lives.

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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.



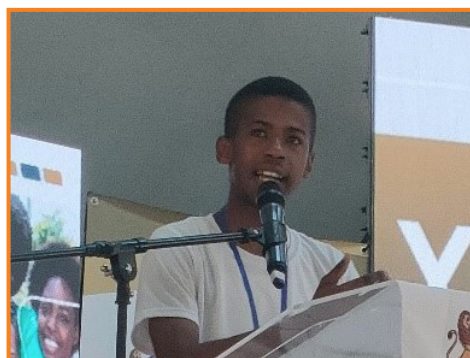
#### Julia Molefe said:

"I have gained a lot of knowledge about Gender-Based Violence as a person living with a disability because people always take advantage of us. I am also happy about the opportunities that are available for us."



#### Lerato Menoe said:

"This was a chance for us to voice out our concerns about the police station in Mohlakeng. People have to go far to seek help, which can be difficult when they have to open cases."



#### Ontathile Mashaba said:

"It is time to take the necessary steps to ensure that the women and girls of South Africa are protected. It is our responsibility as the Tsosang Community Programme to ensure that GBVF victims are assisted and supported throughout."

## PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

### Men discuss health issues

By Menzi Ntaka and Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health together with the Qadi Tribal Authority held an Isibaya Samadoda at the Qadi Tribal Court in eThekweni Metro, on 9 September 2022, which provided health services to the community and medical male circumcision.

Prince Nhlanganiso Zulu, Izinduna and Dr Sethembiso Mncwango, CEO of the Inanda Community Health Centre, engaged the men in a dialogue where men's health issues, mental health and others that affect men were addressed.

Men from the community raised their concerns about the effects of circumcision. Dr Mncwango, in his response, debunked the myths surrounding medical male circumcision and sexually transmitted diseases.

Prince Zulu, who is an ambassador for the non-profit organisation, SOKA, engaged with the men of the community on burning issues that relate to sex education, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), and how men should behave in their communities.

Dr Mncwango also addressed the audience on the role that men can play in preventing and eradicating GBV.

Alcohol-related illnesses were also discussed and some men allege that when they go for treatment at the clinics for such illnesses, they are belittled by the nurses. They said the treatment prevents them from seeking health services.

Some indicated that those who have certain health or mental health issues are perceived to be weak by their peers and other community members. The stigmatisation based on stereotyped perceptions of men was addressed.

The importance of taking care of one's health was emphasised and men were encouraged to get help as and when needed, whether it is related to physical or mental health issues or any other they are dealing with.

Men who were in attendance appreciated the information shared, especially on male circumcision. One of the community members, Simo Magwaza said, "We really appreciate the services being brought to us. Male circumcision is important because at our age having a foreskin can cause many health issues, and removing it brings a sense of relief because of hygienic benefits."

The presence of the tribal authority, represented by Induna Nxumalo, Induna Ngidi, Induna Magwaza, and others, showed support for the outreach and will ensure the sustainability of the programme through further cascading of the information presented by Dr Mncwango. Issues raised by the men will also be addressed at the community level by the traditional authority.



Qadi community members receiving healthcare services from the Department of Health.



Various stakeholders engaging with the Qadi community.



## PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

### Government supports rural women in farming

By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga

In commemoration of World Food Day and the International Day for Rural Women, the Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Nokuzola Capa, accompanied by Mpumalanga MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs, Busisiwe Shiba, handed over Mzinti Mini Packhouse to cooperatives in Nkomazi Local Municipality on 15 October 2022.

The cooperatives were formed 12 years ago and they are still functional today. In total, there are 13 registered cooperatives with accredited non-profit organisation certificates.

The cooperatives produce red onions, strawberries, cabbages, tomatoes, butternut, beetroot, green and red peppers.

The Mzinti farmers have been using old ways of keeping their products fresh after harvesting and they relied on trees, and water sprinkling while waiting for selling them.

These farmers have now received a modernised mini pack house from the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, which consists of a cold room, packaging tables, sink to wash the products before packaging.

Delivering the words of support the MEC Shiba said, “As a province, we really appreciate the work done by the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development through their partnership with the SAFDA [ South African Farmers Development Association] in realising the potential these women have in farming. We promise that the province will give all the much-needed support and training.”

The Matsamo Traditional Council donated land to the farmers for the department to construct mini packhouse, which benefitted a lot of women as it was also handed over on the International Day for Rural Women.

Deputy Minister Capa thanked the role played by the traditional council in donating land to the communities and showing its dedication to economic development projects such as farming.

Now that the mini packhouse has been handed to the farmers, local hawkers and school nutrition providers are welcome to buy their products at a reasonable cost rather than travelling too far for affordable products.



Deputy Minister Nokuzola Capa, Lindiwe Maseko and MEC Busisiwe Shiba cutting the ribbon to open the mini packhouse.



Deputy Minister Nokuzola Capa with the entourage during a walkabout at the exhibition stalls where women displayed and sold their vegetables.



Dudu Mashaba from People with Disability Sugarcane Farmers addressing the audience.



**Mabekisa Shongwe said:**

“I am pleased as the community member and Matsamo Tribal Council member to witness such economic driven project led by our very own rural women in farming. I urge to support them and also give information to the hawkers around Nkomazi villages that now they cannot travel too far to buy fresh vegetables for distribution.”

## →PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

### Launch of fire awareness campaign

By Louis Botha: GCIS, Western Cape

In preparation for the Western Cape Summer Fire Season, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment's Working on Fire (WoF) in partnership with Theewaterskloof Local Municipality launched the 2022 Fire Awareness Campaign at Victoria Hall, in Caledon, on 14 October 2022.

This launch was also aligned with celebrating the International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction.

Speaking at the launch the Executive Deputy Mayor of Theewaterskloof Local Municipality Alderman Michels said that the United Nations designated 13 October as International Day for Disaster Risk Reduction to promote a global culture of disaster risk reduction.

WoF's Community Fire Awareness Officer, Rayganah Rhoda, said that numerous unwanted fires have occurred in the province and "with awareness in these areas we hoping to educate the community in taking ownership and pride in the surroundings".

He added that early preparedness ensures a reduction in unwanted fires and reduces losses. "A proactive community assesses risks and prepares its property by reducing, removing, or mitigating its fire risks," he said.

Due to the history of the veld fires in the Overberg area, there is a need for more fire awareness intervention on how to prevent and eliminate the causes of unwanted veld fires in those affected areas. The purpose is also to have a concerted effort to raise awareness of the risk of veld fires and empower the affected communities

"By working together, we can prepare for and prevent disasters to protect our communities, especially our poor and vulnerable of society, and to place Theewaterskloof Local Municipality on a state of disaster preparedness and mitigate incidents that cannot be avoided," said Deputy Mayor Michels.

He further called on all role players and stakeholders, to join our efforts to reduce disaster risk. This multi-stakeholder launch will be followed by a series of fire awareness education drives for communities in fire-prone areas in the province particularly in the Overberg Region, as it has been identified as an area of concern.



Firefighters doing a march and drill session prior to the launch of the fire awareness campaign.



Raynard Geldenhuis presenting on the fire management approach for Overberg District.