



MYDISTRICTTODAY



**STAY
SAFE**

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

Issue no. 41: November 2021

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:

EASTERN CAPE

Ndlelantle Pinyana
043 722 2602 or 076 142 8606
ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za

FREE STATE

Yolisa Blom
051 448 4506 or 072 130 9893
yolisa@gcis.gov.za

GAUTENG

Peter Gumede
011 331 0164 or 083 570 8080
peterg@gcis.gov.za

KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420
ndala@gcis.gov.za

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Volunteers receive certificates

By Mlungisi Dlamini: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

About 35 social volunteers in uMgungundlovu District Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal have been trained on social cohesion train the trainer course with the support of the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

These volunteers are expected to drive Moral Regeneration Movement (MRM) programmes and activities around the district to bring about moral rehabilitation.

The three-day accredited training, which targeted the general public, civil society groups and stakeholders from the government sector took place in Eastwood area from 21 to 23 October 2021.

Handing over the accreditation certificates to participants, Advocate Daniel Dunia of Arts and Culture thanked the uMgungundlovu MRM executive for active participation in the programme since the community unrests in July this year.

He said that the training of 35 volunteers is the first of its kind making uMgungundlovu District a trendsetter in the whole country.

The secretary of uMgungundlovu MRM, Mazwi Mkhize said, "The purpose of the MRM is to promote social cohesion within the society and ensure participation of all structures youth, people with disabilities, traditional leaders and religious leaders."



Volunteers who received accreditation certificates.



Vusi Mvelese receiving his certificate.



**government
communications**

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



LIMPOPO

Thanyani Ravhura
015 291 4689 or 082 421 3461
thanyani@gcis.gov.za

MPUMALANGA

Jerry Nkosi
013 753 2397 or 082 316 5295
Jerry@gcis.gov.za

NORTH WEST

Boitumelo Mosadi
018 381 7071 or 073 245 0906
boitumelom@gcis.gov.za

NORTHERN CAPE

Ofentse Moeti
053 832 1378/9 or 084 390 4330
Ofentse@gcis.gov.za

WESTERN CAPE

Geraldine Thopps
021 418 0533/2307 or 081 281 2200
Geraldine@gcis.gov.za

COVID-19 vaccine registration details for 18-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.

Xhariep youth empowerment session

By Lindiwe Maswili: GCIS, Free State

One of the challenges faced by young people in Xhariep District is the inability to access relevant information. For this reason, the Free State Department of Social Development, Department of Employment and Labour and the Office of the Premier identified the need for a youth empowerment session, organised on 18 October 2021 at Koffiefontein.

This session was aimed at engaging and sharing information on careers and other economic opportunities with the youth of Xhariep.

Gerald Modise, a representative from the Premier's Office who also happens to be a Koffiefontein resident outlined the gaps, challenges and opportunities facing the youth within the area.

These challenges include lack of participation in community development programmes, low number of youth registering at Motheo TVET College in Koffiefontein and their non-participation in internships, bursaries and learnerships made available in the districts.

Modise urged the youth to ensure that they complete their studies or programmes as an extremely high drop-out rate was reported among those that are in the TVET colleges and in learnership programmes.

He also pointed out that at the core of these challenges lies the issue of alcohol abuse and a high pregnancy rate among young women.

Government Communication and Information System official Cholo Mothibi informed the attendees about the services rendered by the organisation that the youth can use to obtain government-related information.

The session turned out to be a fruitful engagement where the attendees were granted an opportunity to ask questions relating to the obstacles they face in their respective studies and fields of interest.

He said that the training of 35 volunteers is the first of its kind making uMgungundlovu District a trendsetter in the whole country.

The secretary of uMgungundlovu MRM, Mazwi Mkhize said, "The purpose of the MRM is to promote social cohesion within the society and ensure participation of all structures youth, people with disabilities, traditional leaders and religious leaders."



Stakeholders addressing the youth of Xhariep on careers and economic opportunities.



Christiane Human said:

"I would like to say that this centre helped us a lot. I was a homeless person in Carletonville and did not want to come here. But since I have been here, life has been better and for that, I say thank you to the people who came to fetch us from the streets when we were on lockdown to ensure we are safe and have somewhere to sleep."



Francisca Botha said:

"I would like to say thank you to people who took me in here. They really showed that they care for us and I would not hesitate to recommend other homeless people to come here. The centre was able to find my cousins and I will be leaving shortly to live with them."

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

Government restores hope to the homeless

By Sbu Chauke, Department of Social Development: Gauteng

The Gauteng Department of Social Development in West Rand District hosted the World Homeless Day at Quegal Restoration and Refugee Centre for Homeless in Magaliesburg on 7 October 2021.

Giving the purpose of the celebration, the West Rand Region Social Work Manager Mumsy Morwane said, "We are here to promote the collaboration of different stakeholders in delivering effective and efficient services to families.

"We are creating awareness about the plight of the homeless and the contribution members of the public can make to address homelessness. We want to educate our beneficiaries about services of different stakeholders. As a department we strive to restore hope and dignity amongst you (the homeless)."

One of the beneficiaries, Samuel Tabe, gave a testimony. He said, "I am from a royal family in Cameroon. I never like the tradition of royal life. I came to South Africa long time ago for work. I had a good job, staying in Sandton. In 2019 my work permit expired and went to the Department of Home Affairs to renew it. The process was easy until I lost my job, place to stay because I could not afford anymore. I moved to Alexandra with my two sons and rent a room. We faced financial challenges and moved out, we stayed in the streets until lockdown came into effect due to COVID-19. We were fortunate with my sons as government removed us from the street and taken to the shelter. In November last year we were taken to this shelter (Quegal Restoration and Refugee Centre)," said Tabe.

He further added that they are taught various skills at the centre such as farming, baking and sewing.

The West Rand Regional Director Mantshebo Kobeli also addressed the beneficiaries and indicated that the period of the COVID-19 pandemic influenced the establishment of the centre. "When lockdown started, we did not have any shelter for homeless in the West Rand, but we saw potential in this shelter and we formed partnership. I would like to commend the shelter and beneficiaries who are here because you are restoring your dignity," said Kobeli.

When the country experienced a surge in the COVID-19 outbreak, President Cyril Ramaphosa announced the national lockdown to curb the spread of the virus.

Homeless people were identified across the province as a group that needed to be protected.

The beneficiaries at Quegal Restoration and Refugee Centre access all the necessary services such as psychosocial support, counselling, skills development, substance abuse services, sports and cultural activities.



Mumsy Morwane addressing the audience at the event.



Some of the beneficiaries and stakeholders who were in attendance.

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Government intensifies vaccination campaign

By Sinxolo Gqala: GCIS, Eastern Cape

Government launched the Vooma Vaccination Weekend campaign from 1 to 3 October 2021, which was aimed at intensifying the COVID-19 vaccine uptake by all eligible groups. The Vooma Vaccination campaign is also intended to ensure that the country achieves 70% coverage of vaccinated adults by end of December 2021.

President Cyril Ramaphosa urged all people to take up the vaccine in order to protect themselves, families and communities.

In the Amathole District Municipality, the Vooma Vaccination Weekend campaign was launched by the Executive Mayor, Councillor Khanyile Maneli and the Executive Mayor of Mbashe Local Municipality, Councillor Samkelo Janda, at Singeni location, in Chizela, Dutywa.

Scores of community members, among them the elderly, women, men and youth joined the campaign and received their vaccine jabs administered by the Department of Health.

One of the community members, Nelisiwe Toni, was very happy to have received her vaccine jab. "I am grateful for this opportunity of getting my jab. I was worried that the fourth wave would arrive with us not having had our vaccines yet in our area. Government has answered our call of bringing the vaccines to us," she said.

Department of Health District Director Sindiswa Gede said no one will be left unvaccinated in the area. Executive Mayor Janda called for all the adults to heed the call by government and get vaccinated to protect themselves against COVID-19.



A community member being taken through the vaccine safety and temporal side effects before getting a jab in Chizela.

Government has noted that about 6 000 people who are 60 years or older are being vaccinated every day, which means that there will be 1.8 million of them unvaccinated at the end of the year. As a result, government and various stakeholders have introduced the Vooma vouchers to ensure that many people aged 60 and above get vaccinated ahead of the fourth wave, because they are at highest risk of getting severely ill or dying from COVID-19.

For the month of November 2021, all people who are 60 years and older who will be getting their very first COVID-19 jab, will automatically receive notification of a R100 voucher as an SMS on the cell number they gave for vaccination.

They can redeem it at any Shoprite, Checkers or U-Save stores. They will be invited to send an SMS to 44040 to say "Yes" to confirm they would like to receive it. This SMS is free.

Those who do not have a free Money Market account with Shoprite will need to register either in-store or by free USSD, WhatsApp or mobile App.

This free service will ensure that the voucher can be traced and re-issued if it is lost and if it has not already been redeemed. It also means that people do not have to spend the full voucher at once. The voucher is valid for 30 days after receiving it.



An elderly man receiving his COVID-19 jab.