



MY DISTRICT TODAY



**SEND ME
TO BUILD THE MZANSI I WANT**

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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:

EASTERN CAPE

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

FREE STATE

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PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Community dialogues on violence and substance abuse

By Natasha Peterson: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Natasha Peterson sharing information with farm workers.



Mona-Lisa Nogilana from the Eastern Cape Liquor Board sharing information with community members.

From 17 to 18 October 2019, the Eastern Cape Liquor Board in conjunction with Heineken held community dialogues in Humansdorp to tackle the issue of substance abuse. The events were held in partnership with the Government Communication and Information System, Department of Social Development, Department of Health, South African Social Security Agency, South African Police Service, Department of Home Affairs, Sarah Baartman District Municipality and Kouga Municipality.

The dialogues focused on sharing information with various community members such as new mothers at clinics, and also farm workers and local men in the township. Some of the topics covered focused on the role that substance abuse plays in gender-based violence and fetal alcohol syndrome.

Young men who formed part of the dialogues said that social pressures to drink were very high and that alcohol was easily accessible for minors. They also indicated that their parents and elders in the community were making it part of 'manhood' to consume alcohol.

If you have drugs or alcohol problem, contact the South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence through their provincial offices. Contact details are on the link www.sancanational.info/contact or WhatsApp them on 076 535 1701.



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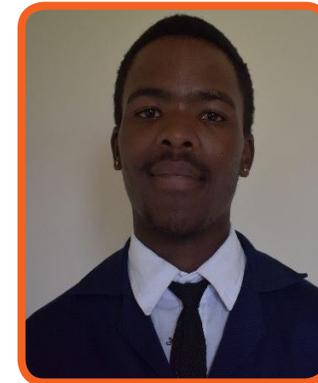
Henry Jacob said:

“Today was a big success. Everyone learnt something new and now we are more empowered. If we see a pregnant woman drinking, we now know what it will do to her baby so we will urge her to stop drinking.”



Eric Pieterse said:

“This session was good and gave me a lot of knowledge. We do not always have access to this information. As men, we also have the responsibility to guide others.”



Masibulele Jack said:

“I think that as communities, we must take responsibility for our actions. People who are drinking need to think about the effect it has on others in the community. As young men, we need older men to look up to.”

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

Government provides houses to the elderly

By Cholo Mothibi: GCIS, Free State



Rethabile Taole said:

"I am very happy that my granny received a house after staying in a shack for such a long time. Thanks a lot to our government."



MEC Mamiki Qabathe said:

"As the MEC for Social Development, I am very happy that the President visited the Free State today to hand over houses to the elderly, more especially that they are the people I am working with."



Some of the houses that were handed over to beneficiaries.



President Cyril Ramaphosa meeting and handing a house to Teboho Mosala.

President Cyril Ramaphosa opened an event and also handed over houses to beneficiaries in Bloemfontein on 26 October 2019. This was in line with the Social Housing Project, which was initiated in 2016 in an effort to accommodate different types of people with different backgrounds. The project has a target of building 402 houses, of which 258 were ready for handover.

The President handed three houses with title deeds to Matokelo Josephina Taole, Elizabeth Veldman and Teboho Mosala, who is blind.

President Ramaphosa spoke about the District Development Model, which focuses on the districts to ensure development within communities and ensures that service delivery takes place.

He also stated that the project was another government initiative to create jobs and encourage small businesses and women to work together with big businesses. The President concluded his address by condemning gender-based violence and also advised men to respect women. "As men, we should zip our pants up, and stop raping women and children," he said.



Marriam Williams said:

“I am representing A re Ageng Social Services for women and children. I am also a victim of abuse and I have come to deliver my speech and speak to women who think that it is difficult to get out of the abusive relationship. When you get out it is the beginning of a new life. Women need to know that they do not have to stay and take abuse, you are the captain of your own ship.”



Anathi Msindo said:

“I am 18 years old and I am from Dellville in Germiston. I used to smoke dagga, cigarettes and abuse alcohol for almost four years. I got a wake-up call when I was arrested in the beginning of 2019, but it was through the diversions that I attended and I can say it is through the Department of Social Development that I am where I am today. The messages that I have for youth is that they should never give up.”

PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Conference on substance abuse

By Pakeng Matsetse: GCIS, Gauteng



Minister Lindiwe Zulu addressing the delegates at the conference.



Some of the delegates who attended the conference.

Substance abuse is one of the global problems that impact negatively on daily activities and productivity of labour force. This results in countries experiencing unfavourable balance of payments caused by struggling economies. It has devastating effects for families as it affects children, youth and adults, and is associated with a lot of social ills.

It is therefore against this background that the Department of Social Development held the International Conference on Substance Abuse and Family Related Interventions from 31 October to 2 November 2019 at Birchwood Hotel and Conference Centre.

The conference sought to create a platform for delegates to share information and views regarding substance abuse and to help improve family well-being through the implementation of effective national policies, among other issues.

The Minister of Social Development, Lindiwe Zulu, said, “We must all join hands to prevent South African citizens from becoming addicted to drugs. Civil society organisations need to have a louder voice in dealing with the scourge of alcohol and drug abuse, we need to capacitate those organisation to assist us in this fight.”

About 250 delegates from the Southern African Development Communities region countries of Lesotho, Botswana, Mozambique, Swaziland, Zimbabwe, Angola, Malawi, Mauritius, Namibia, Tanzania and Zambia attended the conference.



Vanessa van Wyk said:

“The programme was insightful. I do not have any excuse not to either go to school or to join the Youth Employment Service. I do have multiple opportunities at my disposal. All I need to do is to grab them.”



Rodney Rollen said:

“I have a business with my father. We need funding for our business to prosper. It gives me great joy to know that as a youth I can apply for funding from National Youth Development Agency, especially because the business enhances my skills.”



Lerato Masilo said:

“My business partner and I started an organisation under Wildlife and Environment Society of South Africa, the initiative that aims to preserve nature. The initiative encourages community members to plant indigenous plants instead of artificial ones.”

PRIORITY 1: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Young people exposed to government opportunities

By Moleboheng Maphutsi: GCIS, Northern Cape



Graciz Abraham from NCPETF explaining the application guidelines to the youth..



The youth of Delportshoop listening to presentations by stakeholders.

On 24 October 2019, the Government Communication and Information in collaboration with Delportshoop Youth Service Centre and Northern Cape Premier’s Education Trust Fund (NCPETF) held a dialogue on skills development in Delportshoop. The purpose for the event was to expose the youth to a wide variety of career and skills development opportunities.

Stakeholders used the platform to market their services to the community, and they also outlined how their services can be accessed. During the programme and in-depth explanation on what Youth Employment Service (YES) initiative entails was done. Furthermore, the logistics around the application process and requirements were detailed out. Applications for the YES initiative are conducted electronically on <https://www.yes4youth.co.za/>.

Individuals who had the desire to further their studies were introduced to the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) and NCPETF. Lauretta Magau from the Youth Service Centre, urged the youth to further their studies. “In order for you to qualify for NSFAS, it is vital to firstly acquire your matric certificate. Secondly, ensure that you are in possession of an admission letter from a university or TVET college of your choice,” Magau concluded.

To allow all potential applicants, the NCPETF extended their closing dates to 15 November 2019. To help young people from the rural community, the Delportshoop Youth Centre committed to assist interested applicants to do online applications.