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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 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Firefighting skills programme bear fruits

By Joy Themba and Nonkululeko Mkhathswa: GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Government Communication and Information System provided communication support to the Deputy Minister for Department of Environment, Forestry and Fisheries, Maggie Soty, as she officiated the parade of 124 Working On Fire forestry recruits at the Kishugu Training Academy. The forestry teams comprised 32 females and 92 males who were recruited from different areas in the Western Cape and Eastern Cape, due to the risk posed by large forestry areas in those regions. The candidates were exposed to a 25-day training that sought to equip them with firefighting skills.

The Working On Fire Managing Director Trevor Abrahams said they had been doing the programme for the past 17 years, recruiting unemployed people from villages across the country and train them to become fire fighters. "We had about 15 000 young people placed within our local municipalities and airports. What we are having here today with you Deputy Minister is the testimony of dedication and partnership by the private sector and government," he said.



Deputy Minister Maggie Soty with some of the top achievers of the programme.



Graduates after receiving their certificates on basic firefighting skills programme.



**government
communications**

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Deputy Minister Soty together with the Working On Fire Kishugu Training Manager, presented certificates and trophies to some learners. The Deputy Minister said that the programme is an intervention to try and assist government as some the students do not have formal education but they strive to acquire skills through various programmes. "Above all, I appeal to you graduates to embrace this opportunity and use your newly acquired skills in your communities," she said.



Winston Jones said:

"I am 53 years old. I am happy that I finally made it to this skill development programme. It has not been an easy journey for me to study at this age. Through dedication and passion, I want to go back to my society in the Western Cape, and give the best I have learnt here through firefighting, save lives, livestock and properties."



Yanga Nkosana said:

"When I first joined the training it was not easy. My body was not used to training and waking up early in the morning but I have gained a lot of experience and I really appreciate the opportunity I received."

PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Prevent the spread of coronavirus

By the South African Government

Government remains committed to do everything in its power to mitigate against the spread of coronavirus in our country. Coronaviruses are a large family of viruses, some causing illness in people and others that circulate among animals, including camels, cats and bats. Analysis of the genetic tree of this virus is ongoing to know the specific source of the COVID-19. There is currently no vaccine to prevent the infection. The best way to prevent infection is to avoid being exposed to this virus.

Everyday preventative actions to help prevent the spread of coronavirus, includes:

- Wash your hands often with soap and water for at least 20 seconds. If soap and water are not available, use an alcohol-based hand sanitiser.
- Avoid touching your eyes, nose, and mouth with unwashed hands.
- Avoid close contact with people who are showing symptoms of being sick.
- Stay home when you are sick.
- Cover your cough or sneeze with a tissue paper, then throw it in the trash and wash your hands.
- Clean and disinfect frequently touched objects and surfaces.

For more information on coronavirus visit www.nicd.ac.za or www.health.gov.za or contact the toll-free number 0800 029 999.

Symptoms of coronavirus may appear between two and 14 days after exposure and they include:

- Fever.
- Coughing.
- Shortness of breath or difficulty in breathing.
- Chills, body aches, sore throat, headache, diarrhoea, nausea/vomiting, and runny nose.

PRIORITY 6: A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Government reaches out to citizens

By Valencia Rachuene: GCIS, Head Office

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) embarked on its monthly programme to market its services. A community activation was held at the Soshanguve Crossing in Pretoria on 28 February 2020. The team distributed government information materials such as the Constitution booklets. There was also a distribution of the Masters of the High Court services and Justice Directory booklets, the *Vuk'uzenzele* and *InSession* newspapers, as well as communicated post-State of the Nation Address messages to the public.

While interacting with the public, the team realised that most people who visited the information stall did not know much about the GCIS, however, the officials shared the information explaining the vision, mission and overall mandate of the department.

Community members also appreciated being informed about the government vacancy circular that is published every Friday on the Department of Public Service and Administration website. Furthermore, they were encouraged to follow GCIS social-media pages using the information printed on the department's goody bags shared with them.



Government officials distributing information materials to community members.



Sbhongimpilo Mdabe said:

“There are factors that contribute to school drop-outs, and other socio-economic factors that government has not looked into. We suggest that the solution to most of our problems is not in Parliament only but civil society must be involved too. The President spoke about gender-based violence and I think focus should also be on human trafficking. Girls and women go missing every day, which is a concern.”



Muhammed Shaik said:

“Domestic violence is common problem which needs to be attended to properly. Unemployment is also a huge challenge.”

PRIORITY 6: A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Young people engage in SoNA outcomes

By Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The Democracy Development Programme hosted a post-State of the Nation Address (SoNA) dialogue in eThekweni, KwaZulu-Natal on 20 February 2020. About 120 delegates who were mainly youth attended the dialogue.

Most issues that were discussed include unemployment, small, medium and micro-sized enterprises support, education, gender-based violence, land expropriation, energy generation, the Sovereign Growth Fund and equal access to high-quality services. Delegates indicated that more information and clarity was needed about the strategies that would be employed to deal with these issues and how such would be done. Zooming in on the Sovereign Wealth Fund, Aubrey Matshiqi, who facilitated the dialogue, suggested that the fund should aim to eradicate inequality and poverty, improve health and education services.

The overarching message from the dialogue was that government needs to allocate resources and also implement the plans mentioned in the SoNA, ensure that education, health and energy issues are resolved and that graduates who performed well are employed. Land was identified as a resource to end poverty in communities, hence land expropriation should be adequately budgeted for and expedited in order to eradicate inequality and poverty while also growing the economy.



Group discussions on SoNA outcomes.



A participant raising his views on SoNA.