



MYDISTRICTTODAY



STAY SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

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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

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 1: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Official handover of R70 Rosendal-Senekal-Ficksburg road

By Pulane Motsitsi: GCIS, Free State

On 5 October 2023, the GCIS supported the provincial launch of October Transport Month and the official handover of the R70 Road that connects Rosendal, Senekal and Ficksburg. During the annual Transport Month, the Department of Transport and its entities showcase transport infrastructure services in aviation, maritime, public transport and roads. The dignitaries who attended the launch included the Premier of the Free State, Mr Mxolisi Dukwana, two MECs, the Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Ms Nomasonto Motaung and local mayors and councillors.

As part of the project that started in September 2023 and is expected to run for the next two years, nearly 90 kilometres of the road will be rehabilitated. The Premier and his entourage hosted local stakeholder meetings comprising local subcontractors and councillors, to introduce the main contractor and outline operational procedures of the project.

A second session was organised with the community members of the towns where the projects will take place. This was to promote openness and transparency in the community. In his address, the Premier said "We must seriously address the

imbalances in our country. Poverty is a painful reality which requires all of us to work hard to defeat and this kind of project will help us in our efforts to bring about equality in our province."

The value of the Ficksburg-Rosendal project is R263 million and its subcontracting value that will benefit local sub-contractors is estimated at R48 million while its social contribution is at 1% of the project, which amounts to R2.6 million. About R338 million has been allocated to the Rosendal-Senekal project with the subcontracting being allocated at an estimated R64 million while R3,3 million is for social contribution. The project is expected to employ about 1 922 community members within the three areas where the project will take place. About 60% of the job opportunities will be allocated to women, 40% to men and 17 to persons with disabilities.



Stakeholder engagement with local subcontractors and councillors in the Rosendal Town Hall.



Community members at Mautse Stadium.



Free State Premier, Mr Dukwana, addressing the stakeholder engagement session with local subcontractors and councillors in the Rosendal Town Hall.



Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Ms Motaung, providing a message of support.



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

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.

PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES

Dialogue on safe spaces for young boys

By Keoagile Rakgang, GCIS Gauteng

Stakeholders in Kagiso in the Mogale City Local Municipality, together with the Government Communication and Information System, hosted “a safe space for young boys” dialogue at the Chief Mogale Community Hall in Kagiso on 4 October 2023. The event aimed to engage young boys on issues they face daily and create a safe space to communicate with them. Various departments and organisations participated at the event.

The purpose for this event was to create a safe space for young boys where they could comfortably and confidently discuss the issues they deal with daily. This platform enabled them the opportunity to engage freely on topics that they cannot have with their parents at home. Topics discussed included peer pressure, bullying, substance abuse, gender-based violence and hygiene. The young boys received talks from stakeholders from various departments.

Mr Kagiso Kekae, a field supervisor from Life Line, expressed his concern that young boys of today were easily exposed to certain bad things. He emphasised on the topic of bullying and how it affects victims. “Usually, a bully is someone who is suffering from a lot of issues, from home or other internal issues, and they take it out on someone who might seem weak to them. Bullying does not just ruin the victim’s confidence or affect their self-esteem, it can even drive a person to a point of suicide. He pointed out that they have had to deal with a lot of cases where even children in primary school commit suicide because of bullying. “You need to try by all means to treat the next person the way you would want them to treat you,” said Mr Kekae. He pleaded with the young boys to not be pressured into using drugs or get mixed up with the wrong crowd.

Mr Rungulani Mhlongo, a prosecutor from the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), told the young boys that substance abuse, peer pressure,

gender based violence and many other issues could land them in jail, adding there is absolutely no joy in prison. “The only way to succeed in life is to stay in school and work hard, anything else will lead you straight to prison,” Mr Mhlongo said. He urged the youth to avoid doing bad things and instead identify positive activities around their areas to partake in. “You can join a soccer team, a dance group or even be part of the youth group in a church. Do not let anyone pressure you into doing things that you do not want to do, always stay true to yourself and always listen to your parents when they reprimand you,” he said. He further told them that boys under the age of 18 are not exempt from being arrested and charged, and that there is juvenile prison and the possibility of them being transferred to adult prison once they turn 18.

One of the young boys, Ayabonga Mahoosa, said he is so happy to have joined the Starlet soccer team because it keeps him away from trouble. He said most of his friends had given their lives to drugs and crimes, and that his love for soccer saved his life.

Ms Daphne Maponyane, an Oral Hygienist from Fanyana Nhlapo Clinic in Kagiso, educated the young boys about the importance of oral hygiene and how to properly take care of their teeth. She mentioned that the importance of oral hygiene is to prevent bad breath, maintain strong and healthy teeth and prevent some infections or diseases. She gave the boys a practical example on how to properly brush their teeth, for how long they need to do it and the importance of brushing teeth twice a day.



Mr Mhlongo from the NPA and Mr Kekae from Life Line engaging with the young boys at the Safe Space for Young Boys Dialogue.



Ms Maponyane, an Oral Hygienist, emphasises the importance of oral hygiene. Phenyo Salokala presents the topic of substance abuse to his peers.



Mr Thabang Mantsho said:

"I am very passionate about the development of young boys. I am glad that I was able to bring the boys to this session so we can have honest conversations with them. Most of them are not really from healthy backgrounds and some of them were on the verge of being drug addicts and joining some gangs, so conversations and sessions like these are really helpful. I hope there will be more in the future."



Mr Simamkele Macosa said:

"Besides my love for soccer, one of the reasons why I decided to be a soccer coach was to get young boys off the streets. Drugs and crime are a real issue in our society today. It gives me great pleasure to see them stay in school, be good boys at home and within the community. I know we cannot save all of them, but I will do the best I can with those that I can help."

PRIORITY I: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION

Limpopo Youth Summit a success

By Nkopodi Mokgoma: GCIS, Limpopo

The Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality in Limpopo, in partnership with the Sekhukhune District Local Economic Development office and the GCIS, hosted a Youth Summit at the Marble Hall town hall on 12 October 2023. Several organisations were invited to make presentations on how they could assist young unemployed people.

The town hall was full to capacity with mostly young people who came to get first-hand information about issues that affect them and how they can improve their lives.

Mathapeloa Motau from the Sekhukhune Centre for Entrepreneurship, encouraged the youth to establish businesses and be their own bosses. She cautioned the attendees “that business is like a dice game, it can be successful or fail.”

In his keynote address, the Mayor of Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality, Cllr Given Moimane, outlined the purpose of the summit. “You should be better than my generation. You must fight for your economic freedom so that you become actively involved in the economic recovery of the country,” said the Mayor.

Organisations that gave presentations and motivated young people included the Department of Correctional Services; Independent Electoral Commission; National Development Agency; Department of Employment and Labour; Free State Department of Agriculture and Rural Development; Office of the Premier and Tompi Seleka College of Agriculture.



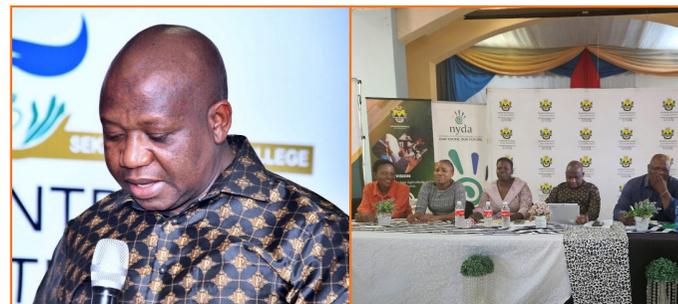
Lethabo Laropeng said:

“I am an unemployed person from Ga-Matlala Ramoshebo. I think I have gained a lot of information by coming to this event. Now know where to go when I need some assistance.”



Frank Ramatsetse said:

“I am a fashion designer from Matlerekeeng. It is my belief that these types of interactions amongst the youth are important. Young people must stop waiting for government for assistance. They must begin on their own while seeking assistance for government.”



Cllr Moimane and some of the ward councillors.



Some of the youth who attended the youth summit.

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

ANNUAL THUSONG SERVICE CENTRE WEEK 2023 EVENT AT MAPONYA MALL

By Moloko Segale: GCIS, Gauteng



Mpho Singo said:

"I have visited the Gauteng Department of Agriculture stall and registered my name for backyard gardening and the department will call me and come to my home to assist me with basic gardening and crop production."



Daniel Netshitudzi said:

"I came to the mall for shopping and I found services from government. I visited Economic Development, GCIS, Department of Health and Deeds Office stalls, and I must say I am happy to be here as I got so much information and I also did HIV tests using the Department of Health mobile services".

Government Communications (GCIS) and the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA) hosted the Annual Thusong Service Centre Week event at the Maponya Mall on 19 September 2023. The Gauteng provincial departments of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development; Agriculture (Food Security Unit), Economic Development, and Health (#KeReady), and the Right to Care, provided exhibitions. The Thusong Service Centre Week, under the theme: "Building a Professional Public Service for Quality Service Delivery", was aligned to the Public Service Month in September.

The objective of the event was to provide possible solutions to some of the service-delivery issues by taking services and information closer to the people to enhance government interventions. Since most clients were prepared to spend more time learning about the department's offerings, there were more solid interactions between officials and the public.

The Department of Health's (#KeReady) mobile clinic provided clients with the following services and information: health screenings for blood pressure, diabetes and tuberculosis, cervical screenings, mental-health counselling, and drugs and substances testing and counselling. The community members responded well to the services provided and some of them suggested more time for mobile services to accommodate additional clients.

The Deeds Office of the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development was also available to assist community members with information related to advice on property issues, confirmations of property ownership, family houses and property registration process and legal processes/records updates. The Food Security Unit of the Gauteng Department of Agriculture assisted the public to register for community gardening projects as part of poverty alleviation and to start backyard gardens/municipal land gardens and food gardening projects for schools.

The Gauteng Department of Economic Development tackled consumer-related complaints and provided education on awareness of consumer rights. The Right to Care and Mo-Africa Ithlokomele non-profit organisations also rendered services such as COVID-19 vaccinations and HIV testing and counselling, respectively.



The GCIS, DPSA and various other departments interacting with community members at the Maponya Mall Thusong Service Centre.