



MYDISTRICTTODAY



STAY SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

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PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Deputy President officiates World AIDS day

By Vuyolwethu Gwala: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The 2023 National World AIDS Day was commemorated at Ngcedomhlophe Sport Field in Mandeni Municipality on 1 December 2023 and was officiated by Deputy President Paul Mashatile in his capacity as the Chairperson of the South African National AIDS Council (SANAC). The commemoration incorporated the launch of the South African Chapter of the Global Alliance to end AIDS in Children.

This year's World AIDS Day was commemorated under the theme: "Let Communities Lead", which befits the country's aspirations to strengthen communities to take charge of their health and encourages greater involvement of civil society in the implementation of strategic interventions and strengthening the capacity of communities to deal with increasing stigma, discrimination and human-rights violations.

During his address, Deputy President Mashatile urged all stakeholders and communities to redouble their efforts and invest in community-led interventions and community-centred approaches in responding to HIV and AIDS.

"We need to address inequalities such as poverty, discrimination and inadequate access to services, particularly for vulnerable communities such as women, transgender persons, sex workers, persons with disabilities and children," said Deputy President Mashatile.

He called on communities to actively participate in strategic interventions to combat stigma, discrimination and human-rights violations due to HIV and AIDS.



Political principals accompanying Deputy President Mashatile during the Commemoration of World AIDS Day in Mandeni.



Community members interacting with Deputy President Mashatile and his dignitaries



Deputy President Mashatile leading the launch of the South African Chapter of the Global Alliance to end AIDS in Children.



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PRIORITY I: BUILDING A CAPABLE, ETHICAL, AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Social Compact Imbizo in Thabo Mofutsanyana District

By Phoka Mofokeng: GCIS, Free State

On 10 November 2023, the Free State Executive Council led by Premier Mxolisi Dukwana accompanied by national District Development Model (DDM) Champions, the Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Nomasonto Motaung, the Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, David Mahlobo and the Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Pinky Kekana, together with various provincial DDM champions, hosted the Thabo Mofutsanyana District Social Compact Imbizo which took place at the Phuthaditjhaba Multi-purpose Centre in QwaQwa around issues of service delivery.

The purpose of the engagement was to strengthen stakeholder relations, coordinate efforts to bring economic growth and development and accelerate service delivery within communities through the DDM. The Imbizo afforded political principals an opportunity to assess the level of service delivery in districts and the extent to which the DDM has been institutionalised. The DDM assists government to address issues at the municipal level, and allow national, provincial and local spheres of governments to have one plan, one budget in order to address all the social illness, poverty and inequalities.

Before the formal proceedings, the entourage donated two tractors to two female beneficiaries. In her address as the District Champion, Deputy Minister Motaung said a R47 Million Fikapatso Water treatment plant

refurbishment is nearing completion. The Deputy Minister hosted a media tour on 9 November 2023 as part of build-up activities towards the Social Compact Imbizo. The plant has been designed to cater 64 villages in the Thabo Mofutsanyana district. Deputy Minister Mahlobo informed the residents in attendance that water will reach their taps by March 2024. The refurbishment of Sterkfontein is complete and Fika-Patso dam is at 92%.

Premier Dukwana said, “We need to work together as the province, because it is only through collective efforts of all Involved parties that we will be able to address the disconnect that exists between communities, stakeholders and government.”

The Premier called on the business sector to buy into the growth and development strategy of the province. He sent a stern warning to members of the business community who are part of criminal networks. The Premier called out the rogue elements who instigate criminality and aid vandalism of critical public infrastructure; such as theft of electric cables in an effort to get business in the form of projects or tenders from government.



Puleng Molaba-Mofokeng with her new tractor donated by the Free State Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.



Mahadi Mopeli with her new tractor donated by the Free State Department of Agriculture and Rural Development.



Community Members in attendance at Social Compact Imbizo.



Community members engaging with government leaders at the Imbizo.



Deputy Minister Motaung addressing the Imbizo.



Premier Dukwana addressing the audience.

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Yellow Aurum Lilly Flower Festival and Tour

Nkopodi Mokgoma: GCIS, Limpopo

Sekhukhune Development Agency in collaboration with Limpopo Tourism Agency and other key stakeholders in Sekhukhune District Municipality have agreed to have the annual Yellow Aurum Lilly Flower and tour at Roossenekal, which is an event to showcase the present of the Yellow Lilly flower which is one of the protected spices from the red data list. The event is also intend to deliver an immersive experience that is structured to rally exhibitors, visitors, ecotourism enthusiasm, the media and role players within Sekhukhune District.

This year's Yellow Aurum Lilly Flower Festival and Tour event which took place at Roossenekal on 25 November 2023 was graced by, among others, Queen Thulare of Bapedi Ba Sekhukhune, MEC of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET), Rogers Monama, the

Chairperson of Limpopo Tourism, Andrew Dipela and other dignitaries from both LEDET and Sekhukhune District Municipality.

MEC Rogers Monama indicated the need to unleash tourism prospects authorised by the Yellow Aurum Lilly of Leolo Mountains and Roossenekal.

The festival ended with a tour to Mapoch caves where King Nyabela was buried and the gravesite of the late famous Afrikaners Roos and Senekal of whom the area Roossenekal was named after them.



Queen Leganabatho Thulare said:

“I am very happy to be invited to this beautiful event where we come to celebrate the most prestigious flower, which only grows in the Sekhukhune land.”



MEC Monama said:

“We wish to see this Yellow Aurum Lilly Flower Festival grow to a level of other flagship events such as Limpopo Marula Festival and Mapungubwe Art Festival.”



MEC Monama receiving the Yellow Aurum Lilly Flower.



Some of the exhibitors during the event.



PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Imbizo to empower youth and women in tourism

By Joy Themba and Ntombifuthi Mahlalela: GCIS Mpumalanga

The Deputy Minister of Tourism, Fish Mahlalela, in collaboration with the Nkomazi Local Municipality hosted an Imbizo to engage with the communities of Ehlanzeni District Municipality in Mpumalanga, on the Tourism Transformation Fund programmes at KaMdladla Community Hall on 16 November 2023.

This was a communication platform that was deliberately planned for Youth and Women on available programmes and opportunities in government across the tourism sector for them to sustain their future. As we all know that our country is faced with high rates of unemployment, more specifically the youth of South Africa, which in its numbers, includes graduates.

Government institutions together with local government and district municipalities will provide programmes to the members of the public in assistance to access those benefits. The Department of Employment and Labour has already started with these programmes benefiting youth, 1 000 youth in Bushbuckridge were selected for learnership programmes earlier this year and have already started with their classes in June 2023. Small Enterprise Development Agency and the National Youth Development Agency provide funding to persons who are willing to start their own

business. They implement and coordinate youth development programmes, monitor and evaluate all funded youth programmes across the board and also mobilise youth for active participation in the society.

Mpumalanga is one of the rich provinces in South Africa which is strategically located from the tourism's point of view. The Nkomazi Local Municipality share borders with two countries Mozambique and the Kingdom of Eswatini. This gives tourists an advantage of visiting more than one country per day. Tourists can visit South Africa, Mozambique and the Kingdom of Eswatini and book accommodation in the surrounding areas such as Pestana Kruger Lodge. People can visit Kruger National Park to see the Big Five animals or Matsamo Cultural Village to learn more about Swazi culture and book accommodation in Piggs Peak.

The Department of Tourism and its stakeholders must make strides in assisting tourism businesses to respond to the needs of visitors and their safety. The Expanded Public Works Programme and the Green Tourism Incentive Programme by doing so we will be all participating to the President slogan of 'leave no one behind'.



Communities registering and visiting the exhibition stalls before entering the community hall.



Ehlanzeni District Municipality MMC Economic Development and Planning, Phineas Selowe, MEC Economic Development and Tourism, Nompumelelo Hlophe, Deputy Minister of Tourism, Fish Mahlalela, Nkomazi Local Municipality Executive Mayor, Phindile Magagula and other political principals at the event.



Sifiso Maziya said:

“At the side of Mananga port of entry in Masibekela there is a hill with a footprint which is believed to be the footprint of the Mighty Jesus Christ where tourists likely to visit when they go hiking. But the nature of the place is not well developed, which results in less numbers of visits by tourists.”



Muzi Mabuza said:

“During the apartheid era, the then President of Mozambique Samora Machel’s plane crashed here in South Africa near the Lebombo Border Post in Mbuzini village. That place was named after him, as it is now called Samora Machel Monument. The youth and women in businesses within Nkomazi Local Municipality need to know what opportunities are presented by Kruger National Park, Matsamo Cultural Village and the location near the border posts with Mozambique and the Kingdom of Eswatini, and the Samora Machel Monument history sites.”



Deputy Minister Fish Mahlalela said:

“We chose to prioritise both women and youth, because we believe that the tourism sector remains a key driver of our country’s national economy and immensely contributes to economic growth and job creation.”