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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:

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PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Kokosi youth empowered on gender issues

By Thokozane Mbatha: CoGTA, Gauteng and Tshidi Mokoka: GCIS, Gauteng

The West Rand District Forum invited the Commission for Gender Equality to empower the youth of Kokosi in Merafong City Local Municipality, on issues concerning gender equality. The event took place on 16 and 17 February 2022.

The training toolkit is designed to educate and capacitate civil society organisations in the development sector and public servants on human rights, gender equality principles and practices.

The training initiative sought to rebuild and strengthen the capacity of a team of gender trainers across provinces, who will educate communities at large. It integrates a participatory approach to gender education through modules that are designed to offer practical gender and development training skills.

According to Keketso Sekhu, a representative from the commission, the training was very important in ensuring that young people especially those from community organisations in the area are informed on gender equality issues.

“Our overall goal is to strengthen the capacity of these organisations and gender trainers to implement gender-responsive programmes such as training, awareness campaigns, information dissemination, and advocacy to communities they serve,” she said.

Local organisations that formed part of the training included Ithemba La Bantu, Vukani Home Based Care, Rudo Home Based Care, Adult and Education Training, Ubuntu Safe Home and New Revelations Teens Club.

One of the participants, Kgotso Nelson November from Adult and Education Training said, “I learnt a lot of things in this two-day training. Many times, we talk about this, but never knew how to relate it in our everyday lives. I wish the commission can organise this type of workshop with the community at large because some of these inequalities are done by people we live with.”



Young people from various organisations participate in gender equality empowerment sessions in Kokosi.



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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: SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Government takes services to Siyabuswa

By Reki Skosana: GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Government Communication and Information System partnered with Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality, Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and the Department of Employment and Labour to provide government services to the people of Siyabuswa and surrounding areas on 1 March 2022.

The community managed to access government services such as the unemployment database registration, Unemployment Insurance Fund claim assessments payments, and Compensation for Occupational Injuries and Diseases Act, 1993 (Act 130 of 1993).

Government information products were also distributed to those who attended the event.

Moutse Community Radio Station also attended the event for the purpose of marketing the event to mobilise more community members to attend this event to get assisted.

The community members expressed relief with regards to accessing government services so swiftly and smoothly.

The community was also reminded to observe COVID-19 protocols such as wearing masks and sanitising their hands frequently.



Community members accessing government services at the event.



Angel Makubyana said:

"I was here to sign on my payment and will come back after two weeks to check if my things were successful or not. The service I got was good, without any problems."



Timothy Shabalala said:

"I got assisted in filling the Unemployment Insurance Fund form and all was done smoothly. I thank government officials for that."



Beauty Mthimunye said:

"I was here for Unemployment Insurance Fund payment and they assisted me very well."



Phisiwe Chaba said:

“Today’s roadshow was very fruitful as most people managed to address issues that made it difficult to progress in their business. We hope that the Minister will help to sort out those challenges and cut out red tape.”



Thabang Mapitsi said:

“I am happy that the roadshow took place today as I voiced out the challenges that are within our businesses and it might happen that the Minister was not even aware of them. I believe there is going to be change as she promised to eradicate red tape.”

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Roadshows to help small businesses

By Phoka Mofokeng, Ntombi Mhlambi and Cholo Mothibi: GCIS, Free State

The Department of Small business Development and its agencies, the Small Enterprise Development Agency, and the Small Enterprise Finance Agency hosted the Small, Medium, and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) and Cooperative Roadshow from 1 to 2 March 2022.

The road shows were conducted under the theme “unlocking opportunities for SMMEs and Co-operatives for economic growth and job creation,” and aimed at engaging the SMMEs and cooperatives in the province to give the required support through government agencies and private companies, and form partnerships.

The activities were led by Small Business Development Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams and Small Business Development Deputy Minister Sidumo Dlamini, supported by the Deputy Minister of Employment and Labour, Boitumelo Moloi, and the local leaders in Harrismith, Welkom and Mangaung.

The roadshows are critical in ensuring that there is a seamless engagement across all spheres of the government.

Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams said it is vital that as a department they fast track the removal of red tapes that are preventing the SMMEs to access opportunities in government.

Deputy Minister Dlamini informed those in attendance that the department is available to assist with the formation of correct cooperatives which would help government to change the economic situation of the country.

The Deputy Minister also encouraged young people to participate in agriculture, which contributes a lot to the development of the entire province and the country.

The department will further hold discussions with the provincial and local municipality on how to maximise the use of Special Economic Zones, to drive participation and benefits of SMMEs in the strategic sectors of the economy.



SMMEs that were in attendance in Welkom.



Small business owners at the event in Harrismith.

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

Presidential Imbizo in North West

By Kaone Lekgetho: GCIS, North West

On 12 March 2022, President Cyril Ramaphosa led the first Presidential Imbizo programme under the banner of the District Development Model (DDM) at Mmabatho Stadium in Mahikeng.

Different government leaders from various levels also attended the Imbizo.

The programme served as a platform to unpack service-delivery issues in North West and also considered ways to resolve and tackle issues that were raised by community members.

The programme was led by the Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), Obed Bapela, who is also the DDM Champion of Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality.

North West Premier Bushy Maape welcomed the audience and gave an overview of the province.

CoGTA Minister, Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma, unpacked the purpose of the Presidential Imbizo.

“We are here because the President, during the SoNA, said no one should be left behind and also said that South Africa needs a new consensus and that we must discuss our challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality then find solutions. We know that inequality has a gender, racial and geographical dimensions. The Imbizo is here for the President to listen to you, we are all here to work together, to commit to what is going to happen,” the Minister said.

Various community members from all North West districts municipalities were granted an opportunity to engage and voice out their challenges.

President Cyril Ramaphosa said, “We came here to listen and to be guided by communities who are the real beneficiaries of the services we are providing.”

One of the community members said, “I plead with you, Mr President, to please assist us with a community hall. Secondly, every time it rains, our elders suffer when they have to go receive their medications because the roads are not in good state and not functional.”

Ministers reported back to the issues raised by public dwellers. They addressed different issues and committed to resolving and following up on the matters.

Responding to the issues of gender-based violence (GBV), Social Development Minister Lindiwe Zulu said, “Myself and Minister Bheki Cele agreed that in three weeks’ time we are coming back because we want to have a stronger local structure, both provincial and local structures which are stronger and empowered to deal with the challenges of GBV.”

There were various government departments stalls that rendered services and shared information with the public at the Imbizo.

President Ramaphosa and Premier Maape received their vaccine boosters at the event and also encouraged others to get theirs.



Community members who attended the Presidential Imbizo.



President Cyril Ramaphosa addressing community members at the Imbizo.



Puso Matebesi said:

“I am from Ditsobotla Local Municipality. I am happy that the President is here in Mahikeng to listen to our challenges. We have mines at Bodibe but they are not taking part in developing our town. I am pleading with the President to engage with the mining sector and investors that operate there to develop our town.”



Morekolodi Mankolwane said:

“I am the founder of Mansalema Enterprise based at Mafikeng Digital Innovation Hub. We came up with a solution to create a software application. We have learnt about a few skills here on the hub and would like government to further provide skills development programmes to assist start-up businesses. I have met with Minister Nkosazana Dlamini-Zuma today who is impressed by our work.”



Rebaone Kgotwe said:

“I am the co-founder and CEO of Kagoentle. We deliver chronic medication from health facilities to the comfort of people’s home. We have been funded by the National Youth Development Agency. We had an interview with the President and it was actually a great experience.”