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PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Women dialogue to tackle violence

By Mbuyiseli Boqwana: GCIS, Western Cape

On 31 August 2022, the Minister in The Presidency, Mondli Gungubele, and Gugulethu community stakeholders such as the Provincial Department of Community Safety, Community Policing Forum, Gugulethu Development Forum, and religious leaders hosted a women's dialogue at Ikhwezi Community Centre, to address challenges and plans to improve the fight against the scourge of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF).

The dialogue offered various stakeholders from government and non-governmental organisations, an opportunity to engage the Minister on the devastating impact of GBVF in their community.

A call has been made for government interventions to be integrated and provide support to the community for action-oriented campaigns.

Minister Gungubele spoke about the National Strategic Plan which is a government and civil society multi-sectoral strategic framework to realise a South Africa free from GBVF.

The Minister said the plan was unveiled with the implementation of six pillars, which include how people access police stations quickly, dealing with gender stereotypes, ensuring that women have access to the economy and an integrated approach in dealing with women issues.

This dialogue, which was also supported by Ward Councillor Thembinkosi Mjuza, was necessitated by the prevalent cases of GBVF in Gugulethu and surrounding communities.



Minister Mondli Gungubele addressing the audience.



Women from Gugulethu and surrounding areas who attended the dialogue.



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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 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Economic opportunities for women

By Aphinda Langa: GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in the Joe Gqabi District hosted the Women's Empowerment Seminar at Bunga Hall, in Sterkspruit, Eastern Cape, on 26 August 2022.

The seminar focused on skills development, funding for small businesses and fighting Gender-Based Violence.

Zwele Ngayeka from the Manufacturing, Engineering and Related Services Sector Education and Training Authority (MerSETA) said, "There are 21 Sector Education and Training Authorities in South Africa and their role is to provide skills development.

MerSETA provides skills development programmes that are in manufacturing, engineering and related services. We also accredit training institutions and monitor the quality of training within the sector so that those institutions are up to date with the industry standards."

Andiswa Dlabantu from the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism provided information for funding for small businesses.

"Other than funding for small businesses, there is also funding for a franchise because the business already exists, there is not much work that goes into applying for funding for your franchise, you just need to work with your franchisor and they will guide you through what needs to be done," said Dlabantu.

Other stakeholders who took part in the seminar included the Department of Social Development, Department of Human Settlements, Independent Electoral Commission, Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, South African Police Service, Legal Aid South Africa, Department of Home Affairs, ABSA, Senqu Local Municipality and the Joe Gqabi District Municipality.



Joyce Stephens from Legal Aid South Africa engaging with the attendees at the seminar.



Community members who attended the seminar.



Tiny Lenyehelo said:

“The event is what I had expected it to be, with lots of resolutions on how to assist government to fight crime. I am hopeful that there will be implementation.”



Jack Ramohomane said:

“The fight against illegal mining cannot be won without the involvement of the Department of Minerals and Energy.”

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Municipality hosts safety and security summit

By Ntombi Mhlambi: GCIS, Free State

The Matjhabeng Local Municipality hosted a safety and security summit in collaboration with the South African Police Service (SAPS) on 15 September 2022 in Welkom.

Held under the theme: “Safety through multi-collaboration on a local level,” the summit came after a noticeable increase in crime activities in the Matjhabeng area, as crime has a socio-economic impact on society and stakeholders at large.

The Free State MEC for Police, Roads and Transport William Bulwane, spoke on crimes such as Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, and illegal mining that is very high in the Matjhabeng area, and hoped the summit will yield positive solutions to these crimes.

SAPS Lejweleputswa District Commissioner-General Lerato Molale presented an overview of crime statistics of the Matjhabeng.

He mentioned that police need assistance from society to fight crime.

Stakeholders deliberated in commissions, which discussed different crimes activities that are prime and provided solutions that may assist the SAPS and the municipality to fight crime.



MEC William Bulwane addressing the audience at the summit.



Commissioner-General Lerato Molale presenting at the summit.

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

Deputy President engages with traditional and Khoi-San leaders

By Bakang Ditibane: GCIS, North West

On 16 September 2022, Deputy President David Mabuza in his capacity as Chairperson of the Inter-Ministerial Task Team led an engagement with the traditional and Khoi-San leaders at the North West House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders, in Mmabatho.

The Deputy President was accompanied by among others, North West Premier Bushy Maape, Members of Executive Council, Mahikeng Local Municipality Mayor Tshepiso Mphahlele and Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality Executive Mayor Khumalo Molefe, Deputy Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Obed Bapela, Deputy Minister of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Mcebisi Skwatsha, and several other senior government officials.

The engagement was part of the ongoing efforts by government to ensure that traditional and Khoi-San leaders work together with government to expedite rural development and promote social cohesion and nation-building.

Deputy President Mabuza has been on continuous provincial visits aimed at resolving some of the challenges raised by the sector and ensure that traditional and Khoi-San leaders play their role in rural development.

The Inter-Ministerial Task Team was established to address challenges of socio-economic concerns afflicting communities under traditional leadership.

Government tabled a coordinated response towards addressing matters raised by the traditional and Khoi-San leaders in the previous meeting which includes; advancing land ownership, building institutional capacity and ensuring support to traditional leaders, advancing infrastructure investment and skills development in rural communities and fast-tracking the finalisation of policy, legislative and constitutional matters.

The Deputy President said, "From the issues raised they should be lined to the responsible department and a time-frame should be set to noticeably set out a progressive report going forward."

Deputy President Mabuza reiterated that government would resolve the challenges faced by traditional leaders in North West.

Furthermore, he pleaded to the Office of the North West Premier to set a time frame and task team to resolve matters raised by the traditional leaders.

Premier Maape said in his closing annotations that the Members of the Executive Council planned to reconvene in the week of 23 September 2022 to address concerns raised by the traditional leaders.



Deputy President David Mabuza addressing the North West House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders.



The North West traditional and Khoi-San leaders during the engagement with the Deputy President.