



MY DISTRICT TODAY



STAY
SAFE

PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS

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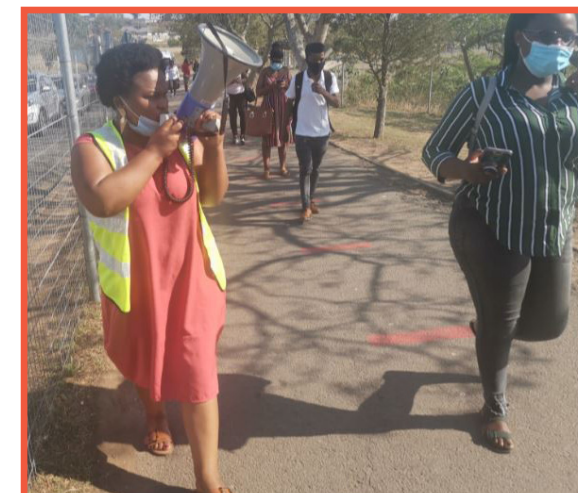
PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Tackling COVID-19 in universities

By Tabita Ngqunge, Phiwokuhle Zokufa and Noluvuyo Mangweni: GCIS, Eastern Cape



A government official engaging with the University of Fort Hare students on COVID-19.



A government official raising awareness on COVID-19 at the Walter Sisulu University.

Some institutions of higher learning are faced with concerning cluster outbreaks related to COVID-19. As part of rapid response initiatives to fight the spread of the virus among students, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) partnered with the Department of Health, Buffalo City Metro Municipality, Right to Care Non-Governmental Organisation and the University of Fort Hare (UFH) on 23 October 2020 to raise awareness on COVID-19 at institutions of higher learning.

An awareness campaign was conducted to intensify messaging on COVID-19 at Souji Residence of the UFH. Another initiative was held in partnership with the WSU, South African Police Service and Liquor Board at Walter Sisulu University, Nelson Mandela Drive Campus, and the other one at the East Cape Midlands TVET College Grahamstown Campus in partnership with the Makana Local Municipality.



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This awareness campaign comes amid growing concern around issue of students' non-compliance to COVID-19 protocols in the institutions. The campaign was part of an ongoing integrated government effort in reducing and suppressing the spread of the virus at ward, village, cluster, township and community levels. Students had an opportunity to interact and access information from various stakeholders and COVID-19 awareness posters were mounted across campuses to caution students.

The loud-hailing activation was done at the WSU and received immediate positive feedback from the students. Some appreciated the initiative taken by government to remind them about the prevention methods to prevent a second wave of the virus.

Students were advised to download the COVID Alert App, which alert users when they are in close contact with any other user who has tested positive for COVID-19 in the past 14 days. The App is zero-rated and does not attract any data costs.



COVID-19 awareness poster mounted inside the Nelson Mandela Drive Campus.



Yolisa Ramokolo from the Makana Local Municipality mounting a poster at the East Cape Midlands TVET College.

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

COVID-19 taxi rank awareness campaign

By Jetrho Grootboom: GCIS, Western Cape



A Garden Route District health practitioner distributing COVID-19 information leaflets.



Bongeka Mesna said:

"We are very grateful for the 500ml bottled hand sanitisers and information products. We keep on reminding our customers to wash their hands regularly, but without access to running water around here it is impossible. This will really help us to always keep safe."



A government official handing over sanitiser and information material to a vendor.



Garden Route District health practitioners distributing information material to the public.

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) collaborated with the Garden Route District Municipal Health Practitioners on 30 October 2020 to host a COVID-19 awareness activation at Thembaletu Taxi Rank. The event formed part of a targeted communications strategy to heighten awareness around COVID-19 Level 1 protocols. The communications campaign was grounded in the need to effect behavioural change around good hygiene, cloth-mask wearing, social distancing, and what to do when you are sick within areas where there has been a substantial increase in community transmission over the past few weeks.

Garden Route District Health Practitioners and GCIS Regional Communication Coordinator spoke to commuters, shoppers, vendors and taxi drivers at the taxi rank about the importance of adhering to the COVID-19 regulations through wearing a mask, keeping a social distance and washing hands as often as possible. "The pandemic we are facing can only be defeated if we all put an effort to follow the rules," said Garden Route District health practitioner, Jessica Erasmus.

Officials handed out COVID-19 awareness information leaflets and other materials, and visited several vendors to donate 500ml bottled hand sanitisers.

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Pupils receive bicycles from government

By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga



MEC Gillion Mashego addressing learners and stakeholders.



Learners receiving their bicycles.



Government leaders handing over bicycles to school learners.



Bicycles handed over to learners with helmets for protection.

Mpumalanga MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport Gillion Mashego together with the Executive Mayor of Thaba Chweu Local Municipality, Councillor Friddah Nkadimeng handed over bicycles to learners from various schools in Thaba Chweu, Bushbuckridge and Nkomazi local municipalities on 16 October 2020.

The purpose of the initiative was to ensure that learners who travel less than five kilometres and do not qualify for scholar transport get to school on time. The programme is a supplement to scholar transport and comes after learners from various schools in Thaba Chweu were compelled to travel long distances to school every day, thus affecting their school performance.

Recipients of the bicycles were identified in partnership with the Department of Education. The programme also assists to enhance effective teaching and learning at schools by reducing travel time, and the bicycles remain the property of schools after learners have completed Grade 12. Learners were encouraged to look after the bicycles and use them for school purposes only. The event was supported by other stakeholders such as the Community Policing Forum, school governing body and educators. About 1 000 bicycles were handed over to learners in Nkangala, Ehlanzeni and Gert Sibande districts in October, which is Transport Month.

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

Ministers visit Harry Gwala District

By Mthunzi Mkhungo and Mlungisi Dlamini: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Minister Jackson Mthembu addressing stakeholders at the Revlei Hospital.



Minister Jackson Mthembu and Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma visiting a media centre.



Minister Jackson Mthembu and Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma during the Umzimkhulu stakeholder engagement session.



Minister Jackson Mthembu and Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma engaging with local leaders during water projects visit.

The Minister in The Presidency, Jackson Mthembu, accompanied by Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma visited the Harry Gwala District Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal from 12 to 14 October 2020.

Minister Mthembu, as the district champion to Harry Gwala, was engaged in a comprehensive three-day programme covering briefings and discussions with stakeholders, site visits to medical and shelter facilities and interactions with the media, which resulted in the inauguration of the District Development Model (DDM).

“The President has sent us to visit all districts in the country to assess our response to the COVID-19 pandemic and gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) – which the President has also characterised as a second pandemic in South Africa. Our visit to the Harry Gwala District is informed by the implementation of the DDM, which requires government as a whole to work together in a seamless manner to deliver services to our people,” said Minister Mthembu.

The visit was concluded by the inauguration of the Harry Gwala DDM, which saw various stakeholders converging at the Bhongweni Youth Centre in the Greater Kokstad Local Municipality. Part of key stakeholders who form part of the DDM inauguration were youth formation, youth in business, emerging women entrepreneurs, tribal authority, private businesses, farmers association, ratepayers association and many others.