



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 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Mental health awareness fun walk in Beaufort West

By Monique Warden: GCIS, Western Cape

On 27 October 2023, the Government Communication and Information System Western Cape Provincial Office in partnership with the Beaufort West District Hospital Mental Health team, Local Government Community Development Workers and the Karoo National Park held the annual Beaufort West Mental Health Awareness Fun Walk. The 5km walk took place from the District Hospital through the surrounding community; this walk is about bringing together sector departments, non-governmental organisations and the community in aid of mental well-being.

In November 2022, Western Cape MEC for Health and Wellness Nomafrench Mbombo opened the Bergsig Mental Health Ward at Nelspoort Hospital in the Central Karoo with the hope to revamp patient quality care and the reintegration of patients back into society without stigma. Unfortunately, mental health illness is still not openly spoken about in communities and the only way to change that narrative is to talk about it, educate yourself and others, to be conscious of language, show compassion and to be honest about treatment.

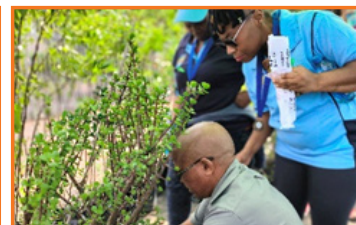
Physical exercise is also scientifically proven to boost your mood, decreasing symptoms of both depression and anxiety. Physical activities such as walking kicks up endorphin levels, the body's famous "feel good" chemical produced by the brain and spinal cord that produces feelings of happiness and euphoria.

The walk was not just an event but also acknowledged the struggle people in communities face daily and through information sharing, they create a safe space for conversations and referral so communities can seek assistance.

Participants were also gifted trees by the Karoo National Park and the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment to plant at their homes, thus creating clean and green environments.



Stakeholders and participants during the walk.



A handover of trees to participants during the walk.



Some of the participants during the Mental Health Awareness Walk outside of the Beaufort West District Hospital.



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

PRIORITY I : ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Food security measures for community members

By Moloko Segale: GCIS, Gauteng

Food Security forms part of Section 27 of the Constitutional Rights in South Africa. In order to achieve its purpose, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) coordinated an event where the Gauteng Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, and the City of Johannesburg’s Department of Social Development (Food Resilience Unit) were invited to educate the community on accessible programmes.

The event took place in a form of information sharing outreach in Kya Sands (Pipeline), an informal settlements located in Region A of the City of Johannesburg on 26 October 2023. Other departments and organisations that supported the project were South African Police Service (Douglasdale), Statistics South Africa, Gauteng Provincial Health, South African Social Security Agency, South African National Civic Association, Douglasdale Community Policing Forum Sector 2, GBV Brigades, Impact Baby Rescue, Ukusa Kwam and Christian Revival Church.

The purpose of the event was to promote and educate the community of Kya Sands on Food Security programmes available as part of government interventions that encourages accessible economic recovery measures. Is focused on community upliftment and promoted poverty alleviation for better quality of life. The Gauteng Department of Agriculture had on the day engaged with identified Green Army participants and community members. The engagements focused on, among others available homestead, schools, churches and community gardening programmes, while City of Johannesburg

(CoJ) Department of Social Development Food Resilience Unit distributed seeds, promoted and exhibited food production by existing community projects.

Two of the successful Cooperatives within the City of Joburg displayed fresh food products from existing projects. Lebasadi Coop a beneficiary group from Tshepisong (Ward 128) that started in February 2003, received training from CoJ Food Resilience Unit on plant production, agri-business, South African Revenue Service compliance and cooperative governance. The group now produces spinach, onions, carrots and beetroot. Another group was from Nevis Fresh Project in Cosmo City, which produces spinach, potatoes and tomatoes. The group also received support from 2022 and received assistance with registration as a cooperative and writing a business plan, plant production and agri-business training.

There were, however, few challenges identified in Kya Sands by Gauteng Department of Agriculture such as water shortages, secured land for gardening purposes and continuous control of food products after the inception of new projects, which need attention. It was concluded that, an open land be identified and request donations of hosepipes for irrigation purposes before the commencement of new projects. As soon as required resources are available, the department will provide assistance on backyard, schools and community gardening projects in the area.



Rodney Mudzuli addressing the audience.



Chris Tshikala engaging with Green Army participants on food gardens and available support from the Gauteng Department of Agriculture.



Members of Lebasadi and Nexis Fresh Projects selling their food products while the CoJ Food Resilience Unit distributed seeds.

PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Ensuring transport safety in communities

By Khanyiso Seyisi: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

Ugu District Municipality Deputy Mayor Mandla Chiya called upon society, business and government to ensure that transport community safety is adhered to, within communities.

The Deputy Mayor was speaking during the Government Communication and Information System initiated radio slot with Radio Sunny South Studios on 5 October 2023, which was meant to share content on Transport Month and outline key messages to the community of Ugu District. Deputy Mayor Chiya said that Transport Month was celebrated under the theme: "Siyakha".

The Deputy Mayor spoke about the progress of the road reconstruction which is known as the Marine Drive 395 Road situated near Margate.

"This road is critical for the development of tourism and key to local businesses of Ugu Municipal area at large. The refurbishment of the road is one of the big projects which is being undertaken by the Department of

Transport and is key to the economy of the area in terms of employment of local people, local services providers who will learn skills and receive business opportunities, tourism, accommodation outlets which will receive bookings and other retail outlets," he said.

He added that the Department of Transport and its entities would highlight transport infrastructure services in aviation; maritime; public transport and roads.

Deputy Mayor Chiya also said government is key in facilitating investments in rail, roads and public transport in order to create easy access for people to their places of work, study and entertainment. These investments will also help to grow the local economy and address the challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality.



Deputy Mayor Chiya said:

"October is Transport Month and during this month, the Department of Transport and its entities highlight transport infrastructure services in aviation; maritime; public transport and roads. This month will also be used to further advance the country's road safety initiatives, while also creating awareness of the economic benefits of the sector. Since we are approaching the Festive Season we encourage all the drivers and pedestrians in the Ugu District to adhere to road safety tips and regulations in order to avoid fatalities."



Deputy Mayor Chiya being interviewed at the Radio Sunny South Studios in Port Shepstone.



Notosie Frans said:

“We appreciate the information that was shared with us we will now start our gardens and feed our families. We appreciate that government is able to assist us.”



Sinxolo Makwayiba said:

“We have learnt that government assists people with home gardens. From now on, I am encouraged to practise the concept of Vuk’uzenzele. I am very much motivated. I have learnt that I can start a small business and be able to put food on the table for my family.”

PRIORITY 6: CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Thusong Service Centre Week information day

By Tabita Ngqunge: GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) raised awareness on the important services that Thusong Service Centres offer to communities across the country. This year’s Annual Thusong Service Centre Week took place from 18 to 22 September under the theme: “Building a Professional Public Service for Quality Service Delivery”.

This year’s Annual Thusong Service Centre Week took place against the backdrop of the President Cyril Ramaphosa’s pronouncement during the 2023 State of the Nation Address (SoNA), providing possible solutions to some of the service delivery issues, taking services and information closer to the people. The people of South Africa want action, they want solutions and they want government to work for them, and to focus on actions that would make a meaningful difference for them, and that would lay a foundation for a sustained recovery into the future in response to the SoNA by President Ramaphosa.

The GCIS in Buffalo City Metro Municipality encouraged communities on food security, to get involved in clean-up campaigns and start community gardens to alleviate food insecurity. Communities also had access to information and government services in line with the Batho Pele principles, as part of government’s commitment of taking services to the people.



Speakers from different government departments, stakeholders and community members at the event.