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TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

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PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Discussion on crime prevention and prosecution

By Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

A panel discussion, arranged by the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) on Good News Community Radio, took place on 11 February 2022 after the State of the Nation Address (SoNA). It resulted in the South African Police Service (SAPS) securing free weekly interviews on the same radio station.

This came about when the station manager of Good News Radio invited the SAPS to participate in weekly interviews on crime, safety and security in the community.

The request was for the SAPS to highlight current trends in crime and advise listeners on crime prevention tips. The SAPS welcomed the invitation. The GCIS then mobilised the SAPS and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) to participate in a post-SoNA panel discussion on the radio station.

The discussions focused on the roles and responsibilities of the SAPS and the NPA as units responsible for the reporting and prosecution of crime.

The SAPS is the first point of entry in reporting of crime and also responsible for arrests, investigations and recording evidence. It informed the listeners about its mandate and provided a brief report on various aspects of crime reporting, investigation and arrests.

The NPA representative, joining the discussion telephonically, informed the listeners about the role of the courts in ensuring that suspects are convicted and sentenced.

Listeners were informed about the close working relationship between the SAPS and the NPA. Both units are interdependent and work closely to ensure that criminals are brought to book.

The efficacy of the courts in prosecuting and sentencing the accused is dependent on the evidence uncovered and presented by the SAPS.

There are regular meetings between relevant officials of the two units for the discussion and preparation of court cases and to address blockages.

Listeners were also informed of the shared resources in respect of, among others, the Thuthuzela Care Centres for victims of sexual offences and domestic violence.

The interviewees also informed the listeners about their programmes to protect whistle-blowers, detailing the cooperation and partnership between both units in ensuring their safety.

The interview was held in English and thereafter summarised in IsiZulu.



Xolani Klaas from Good News Radio interviewing SAPS officials.



**government
communications**

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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 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

School activation event promotes human rights

By Sinoxolo Gqala: GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Government Communication and Information System held a Human Rights Month school activation programme at Thubelihle Senior Secondary School, Vonqo Location, in Amathole District Municipality on 15 March 2022.

The purpose of the session was to empower school learners on human rights, the importance and protection of human rights, promotion and the individual role and responsibility on each and every right.

Stakeholders took turns educating and empowering learners on various aspects ranging from the significance of following the right to education as enshrined in Section 29 of the Constitution; everyone has the right to basic education, including adult basic education; and to further education, which the State, through reasonable measures, must make progressively available and accessible.

Other interactions and presentations were on awareness on issues of teenage suicide, teenage pregnancy, anti-bullying campaign at schools, tuberculosis awareness, psychological and social support systems, post-basic

school programmes, scholar transport and options among other issues.

The programme was attended and supported by the Department of Basic Education, Department of Social Development, Department of Community Safety, Department of Transport, Department of Health, Department of Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture, Amathole District Municipality, Mbhashe Local Municipality and We Care Organisation.

Thubelihle Senior Secondary School has an enrolment of 242 learners and nine educators. The school starts from Grade 8 to 12, and its feeder primary school is Upper Bolotwa Primary School.

The school principal expressed his gratitude for the programme and thanked all the role players.



Stakeholders empowering learners during the activation at Vonqo.



Thubelihle Senior Secondary School learners during the Human Rights Month school activation programme.

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Deputy Minister engages tourism sector

By Eunice Nkuna: GCIS, Limpopo

The Deputy Minister of Tourism, Fish Mahlalela, visited Maruleng Local Municipality in Limpopo on 17 March 2022 to engage with the tourism sector.

The Deputy Minister's visit could not have come at a better time after COVID-19 tarnished the tourism industry in the country, as such, Maruleng was not spared from these hard times.

In his opening remarks during stakeholder engagement with tourism businesses wherein the focus was on investment opportunities, information sharing, and infrastructure maintenance, Deputy Minister Mahlalela acknowledged the hardship and appreciated the determination displayed by the tourism industry.

He further encouraged synergy between the private sector, government and the community so that the number of tourists in the country could get back to prior COVID-19 statistics.

"South Africa has been cleared off the red-list internationally after Omicron was discovered. We, therefore, need to work hard in order to be ready to receive international tourists again. The President gave us a target of 21 million tourists arriving in South Africa by 2030," said the Deputy Minister.

Situated in the south-eastern quadrant of Limpopo within Mopani District Municipality, Maruleng tourism industry is based on the region's striking landscapes and proximity to the Kruger National Park.

It also boasts of the Eastgate Airport, through which it can promote its tourism status, thus ensuring Direct access to other provinces and countries for marketing. Despite the fact that East-gate Airport

operates through a leased airstrip from the South African Defence Force, which comes with restrictions on operating hours, allocated airborne hours are from Monday to Friday, public holidays and weekends.

Other significant tourism-related activities that exist are numerous private lodges and guest houses.

There are an estimated 2 814 beds in 70 lodges, 10 guest houses and 10 resorts in the municipality. The R527 route gives access to Khamai Reptile Park, Bombyx Mori Silk Farm and Moholoholo Animal Rehabilitation Centre.

Maruleng also houses Hoedspruit Endangered Species Centre which includes the world-famous cheetah breeding.

Maruleng Mayor, councillor Tsheko Musolwa, emphasised mutual understanding and good working relations between the municipality and Maruleng tourism industry.

"I am passionate about tourism and I want to see a noticeable change in this sector before I leave office, therefore, let us work together to grow the economy of this municipality," said the Mayor.

He added by saying that Maruleng Municipality has the potential to be the tourism destination of choice. "We have massive opportunities that we can take advantage of and grow the economy of our area," he said.

The Mayor also appealed to ratepayers to play their part by paying for rates and services.



Deputy Minister Fish Mahlalele addressing stakeholders.



Tourism sector stakeholders who attended the engagement.

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Vergenoeg community receives new school

By Tebogo Monyo: GCIS, Northern Cape

The community of Vergenoeg in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality were elated with the handover of the newly rebuilt Rearata Primary School in Kuruman, following an investment of R26.5 million, by the mining company, South 32.

The handover event was held on 11 March 2022, attended by the Minister of Basic Education, Angie Motshekga, and the Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Gwede Mantashe, who appreciated the contribution by the mining company.

Minister Motshekga said school infrastructure remained a challenge for the department and that such public-private partnerships would go a long way towards alleviating the pressure from the department.

She said the contribution would ensure a conducive learning and teaching environment for both learners and teachers.

The school was previously in a dire condition, with ageing, inadequate and overcrowded classrooms, which saw the mine committing to rebuilding it as part of its Social Labour Plan (SLP). The school now boasts 14 classrooms, a nutrition block, library, computer centre, administration block and an ablution block.

Minister Mantashe said for such benefits to continue developing the people of South Africa, government needed investment in exploration.

“Continued and enhanced mining exploration will result in more mining licences and SLPs for the benefit of communities. It is in this regard that we welcome the approval of the exploration strategy for the mining industry in South Africa by the Cabinet,” he said.

Members of the community said the school will inspire learners to deliver good results as they now have better facilities and learning aids.



Pulane Mogatle said:

“Public-private partnerships can accelerate delivery of services. Communities must join hands with government to stop acts of vandalism.”



Keaaleboga Motlhanke said:

“As parents, we are grateful to South 32 and government for this beautiful school in our community of Vergenoeg. Our children will also be able to learn under better conditions.”



Minister Angie Motshekga with the school principal of Rearata Primary School monitoring the computer centre.



The newly rebuilt Rearata Primary School in Kuruman.