



# 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:

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## PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

### Smart Skills Centre opened in Saldanha Bay

*By Esmarelda Mckay: GCIS, Western Cape*

The Chemical Industries Education and Training Authority (CHIETA) has launched its first Smart Skills Centre in Saldanha Bay in the Western Cape, bringing digital skills development to the doorstep of rural communities.

The Minister of Higher Education, Science and Innovation, Dr Blade Nzimande, officially opened the centre on 25 October 2022.

This Smart Skills Centre is part of the bigger plan to revolutionise digital skills development in all nine provinces and to cater for the development of small, medium and micro enterprises.

The new centre is also a monumental step towards South Africa's digital skills development; not only to meet the demands of the Fourth Industrial

Revolution, but also to accelerate local innovation and enterprise capabilities, which will drive job creation and economic growth.

It will offer various digital skills development programmes based on technologies such as block chain, artificial intelligence, software development, data science and mobile repairs.

CHIETA forecasts that a minimum of 10 000 unemployed youth from surrounding rural communities will benefit from this centre over the next five years.



Minister Nzimande with CHIETA officials, Saldanha Bay Local Municipality Executive Mayor André Truter and other stakeholders who attended the opening ceremony.



The Smart Skills Centre located in the main street of Saldanha Bay.



**government  
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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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.

### uMshwathi Thusong Service Centre praised for its efficiency

By Mlungisi Dlamini: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The uMshwathi Local Municipality in the uMgungundlovu District Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal, together with the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), led an information-sharing session to promote access to government services and information at the uMshwathi Thusong Service Centre, on 21 September 2022.

The South African Social Security Agency; Department of Home Affairs (DHA); Independent Electoral Commission; South African Police Service, healthcare services and the Vukuzithathe farming project were among the various organisations that provided community members with information on their various programmes.

Some stakeholders urged women to report rape cases to the police, and use available health services to avoid unplanned and early pregnancies. They were further encouraged to use health facilities to obtain free services like the morning-after pill.

Community members also shared their experiences about the uMshwathi Thusong Service Centre, saying that it is a preferred service point due to its efficiency in providing services.

They cited the occasional slow pace of service delivery due to the influx of people from other areas who prefer this centre, especially for the DHA services. According to the community members, government needs to pay attention to staff capacity at the centre because it is only enough to serve the local community.

The information-sharing session also provided a platform for local emerging farmers to market and sell their produce.



Community members accessing information products from the GCIS.

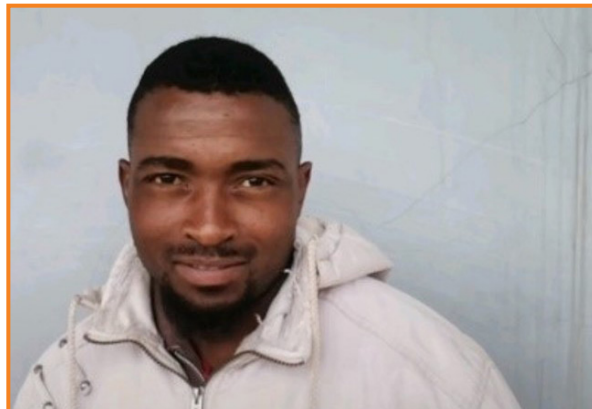


Local farmers selling their fresh produce at the centre.



**Siphamandla Ndlovu said:**

"I am happy with the service that I usually receive at the centre. I always get assistance when I come here. The staff here is friendly and they often update us about problematic issues while waiting on the queue."



**David said:**

"It is for the second time that I am visiting this centre. My first experience about services here was great and today I have not experienced any problem. I am from Bloemfontein but I am treated equally with the locals."



## PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

### Breast cancer can be beaten!

By Tshidi Mokoka: GCIS, Gauteng

The month of October was commemorated as Breast Cancer Awareness Month, aimed to raise awareness about the impact of the disease.

The Government Communication and Information System, in partnership with the Social Development Unit of the Mogale City Local Municipality, held a Cancer Awareness Programme on 21 October 2022, at the Chief Mogale Community Hall, targeting mostly women from in and around Kagiso.

The purpose of the programme was to ensure the distribution of correct information and participants engaged with health officials who deal with the disease daily.

Statistics show that breast and cervical cancers cause most deaths among women. However, if detected early, more lives could be saved.

In ensuring correct information was shared with participants, stakeholders from the West Rand District Health, Leratong Hospital and Fanyana Nhlapo Clinic provided first-hand information about breast cancer and the resources that are available in health facilities in the district.

Matron Winnie Modisane from the surgical unit in Leratong Hospital told the women about the importance of knowing their bodies so that they can identify when something is wrong.

“Self-examination is very important, especially after getting your monthly periods. You need to examine your breasts by making a circular motion to look for lumps. Always when you stand in front of your mirror to check for symmetry, what is on the left, should be on the same line as what is on your right. If things don’t look the same, quickly visit your doctor or the nearest clinic so that they can do thorough check-ups,” said Matron Modisane.

Matron Modisane further informed participants that when cancer is picked up early, it could be beaten.

“But staying knowing that there are abnormalities in the body, cancer cells will spread throughout the body and it will be difficult to cure, especially when it is found to be in stage four,” she said.

She also educated the women on cervical cancer and encouraged them to always do a Pap smear every October.

“It is important that women know their health status and can be quickly helped when they test positive for any of the cancers or diseases that might kill them,” she emphasised.

Two women who survived breast and cervical cancers also attended the event to motivate and encourage other women in their fight against the diseases.

Maki Machuisa is a breast cancer survivor. In her testimony, Nonzima Modimokwane, a cervical cancer survivor, said “it is important to listen to your body and know when things are not going right”.

According to her, she received the cervical cancer diagnosis because she had fought and pushed to ensure tests were done to check what was wrong with her.

“The first few times when I visited health facilities nothing was discovered but I knew that something was wrong. I saved my life because I insisted and because of this, I was able to receive treatment sooner. It is better to be safe than sorry,” she concluded.



Matron Modisane educating participants on the services available to cancer patients.



Participants from in and around Kagiso who attended the session.



**Tholakele Mkiva said:**

"As a young woman, I am going to start listening to my body and make sure I visit a health facility to look for solutions when I am sick. I have realised that diseases such as cancer can be beaten as long as you seek help as soon as possible."



**Pretty Nkosi said:**

"One thing that I have learned today from all the stakeholders who talked to us is that it is very important to know our bodies. Ignoring all the signs that show that something is wrong with your body can be detrimental, and when you realise it, it might be too late to receive help."



**Chief KV Nkosi said:**

"We welcome government's efforts in investing in the community with this state-of-the-art studio. We as Amakhosi, engage our communities about developments and engagements through this community radio as we use our local language that reaches our elders and community at large."



**Bongiwe Mkhabela said:**

"As a siSwati news reader and a journalist, I am grateful for the state-of-the-art digital studio. My job is now simple as we are able to get all local and international news using our digital platforms, and this makes us connect with our local community to receive and share the latest news that is happening locally."

## PRIORITY 1: BUILDING A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

### MDDA funds state-of-the-art studio for Barberton Community Radio

*By Livhuwani Todani: GCIS, Mpumalanga*

The Media Development and Diversity Agency (MDDA), in collaboration with the Government Communication and Information System, unveiled a state-of-the-art studio for Barberton Community Radio on 14 October 2022.

The business sector, non-profit organisations, faith-based organisations and traditional leaders attended the ceremony, which also celebrated 25 years of the station's existence. The stakeholders appreciated the government for investing in community media.

They said that the initiative assists them with relevant and accurate government content that is in their local language, and the station gives the community a platform to engage on various topics that affect them.

The station manager of Barberton Community Radio, Cynthia Sambo, thanked the board members of the radio station for having faith in her to run the day-to-day programmes of the station without interference.

"Today we have this state-of-the-art studio because here at Barberton Community Radio we work together as a team. We are proud as a station that we have produced many presenters who are doing well at national broadcasting stations, and we promote our local artists by giving them free airtime," said Sambo.

Some of the former presenters of Barberton Community Radio who attended the event were also acknowledged for their support and contributions.

The Acting Chief Executive Officer of the MDDA, Mzuvukile Kashe, thanked the board members and station manager for meeting the criteria process for receiving the grant worth R2.1 million to build this state-of-the-art studio.

The Barberton community was also requested to continue protecting their infrastructure.



**Sandile Masuku, the technician manager, briefs the guests about the state-of-the-art studio funded by the MDDA.**

