



MYDISTRICTTODAY



Issue no. 27: July 2024

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PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Anti-crime campaign focuses on cross-border crime

By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga

Mr Jackie Macie, the newly appointed Mpumalanga Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Community Safety, Security and Liaison, hosted a stakeholder engagement at Dluhluma village on 12 July 2024, in collaboration with members of the South African National Defence Force (SANDF), South African Police Service and the local Community Policing Forum (CPF). They discussed criminal activities happening around the Nkomazi Local Municipality, particularly the high rate of car theft. Some of the criminal activities have been attributed to illegal immigrants crossing the mountain borderline of Mozambique and the Kingdom of Eswatini.

Communities have complained about crimes such as car theft, hijackings, theft of livestock, human trafficking, gender-based violence and femicide, and murder cases that cannot be solved because perpetrators are never apprehended. Communities expressed their concern and frustration over the

difficulty of recovering their livestock once it was smuggled into the Kingdom of Eswatini or Mozambique. Some community members blamed the high unemployment rate in the area for the unprecedented increase in crime.

Some of them pleaded for increased support to CPFs to intensify crime-prevention efforts and the inclusion of CPF members in the recently advertised posts of Crime Prevention Wardens (CPWs). The spate of break-ins at several schools also came under the spotlight, with residents complaining that thieves were stealing learners' laptops and food. It also emerged that recently, unknown assailants killed two security guards.

Communities were assured that government would dig trenches along the borderline to curb the smuggling of stolen goods, vehicles and livestock.



Nkomazi Local Municipality Executive Mayor, Cllr Phindile Magagula, welcoming everyone and sharing a message of support for the programme.



Community members and government officials discussing crime-fighting strategies in the Nkomazi Local Municipality area.



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Mpumalanga MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Mr Macie, said:

"Communities must work with the police and you must not take the law into your own hands."



Mr Simon Ntiwane said:

"We plead for the inclusion of CPF members in the recently advertised posts of CPWs. We also propose that SANDF members must patrol the borderline and ensure no livestock, vehicles or counterfeit goods are taken across."



Mr Mjacu, the Acting District Director of the Xhariep District Municipality, said:

"As we bear witness to the devastating consequences of elder abuse, it is now in our hands to put a stop to it."



Trompsburg community member, Ms Matshidiso Khwinani, said:

"I am a member of the Luncheon Club in Trompsburg. I wish more members would join as we help one another. We offer emotional support and counselling to members who are victims of abuse."

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Government tackles elder abuse

By Tlholohelo Monyetsane: GCIS, Free State

On 5 July 2024, the Department of Social Development (DSD), Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) and the Kopanong Local Municipality in the Xhariep District collaborated with the Older Persons Forum and key stakeholders to host the Elder Abuse Awareness Day at the Reddersburg Community Hall. This event aimed to raise awareness of the often-overlooked issues of elder abuse in communities, as well as promote actions to protect and support vulnerable senior citizens.

The alarming increase in elder abuse cases compelled the DSD to act decisively to combat this scourge. According to the Acting District Director of the Xhariep District Municipality, Mr Thulani Mjacu, the increasing number of elder abuse cases being reported in Trompsburg, Smithfield and Reddersburg police stations is disturbing. "Shockingly, many of these cases involve family members who are supposed to be caregivers but instead exploit and harm their vulnerable elders," he said. Health Department officials who provide door-to-door services for the elderly have also encountered the deplorable living conditions of the elderly.

Ms Madu Jafta-Mohale, the Acting Director of the Special Needs unit in the DSD, has had firsthand experience with elder abuse. She previously left her

private sector job in Gauteng and returned to the Free State to care for her abused mother. She mentioned the introduction of luncheon clubs in various towns within the Xhariep District, which serve as beacons of hope.

Ms Tlholohelo Monyetsane, from the GCIS, expressed concern that although former President Nelson Mandela left a legacy of freedom for elders, they are currently enduring the pain of living in fear of being ill-treated by their family members.

In her closing remarks, Ms Matana Masana, the Chief Whip of the Kopanong Local Municipality, said the event was a significant step towards creating a society that values, respects and protects elderly citizens. She noted the importance of providing support and showing love to elders, as grey hair is a crown of splendour that is attained in a righteous manner.

Sergeant (Sgt) Lebogang Leeuw said that they discovered that most elders are afraid to report abuse to police because they want to protect their families, children and grandchildren.



Sgt Leeuw addressing the community members.



Elders from different towns in the Xhariep District filled the Reddersburg Community Hall.

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Youth Expo promotes inclusive economic growth

By Sinxolo Gqala: GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in the Amathole District partnered with the Great Kei Local Municipality to host a Youth Expo on Economic Opportunities at the Nomalady Rululu Community Hall in Makhazi Location, Mooiplaas, on 27 June 2024.

The Expo aimed to empower youth on economic opportunities being provided by government departments, municipalities, entities and other private sector role players.

Mr Thembelani Maphanga, the Project Manager for Manufacturing, Graduate Development and Placement, and Digital Training unit of the Eastern Cape Development Corporation (ECDC), urged the youth to use digital platforms effectively as they are a stepping stone to turning around enterprises and enabling personal development. He added that most successful enterprises were using digital platforms to drive the sale and consumption of their products. "Youth enterprises must market and promote their products and services to potential buyers and users," he said.

Ms Nomagcina Suduka, a young entrepreneur and member of an agricultural cooperative, emphasised the importance of using digital skills and platforms to expand the reach of a business. "Youth must

knock on all doors to access funding and other non-financial support. We only need to be resilient and persistent, then our requests will be considered so that we can expand our enterprises and create employment opportunities for others," she added.

Youth and community members received information about various economic opportunities such as enterprise funding, financial and non-financial enterprise support, incubation, skills development, bursaries, internships and job placement.

Various stakeholders – including the departments of Public Works and Infrastructure; Employment and Labour; Home Affairs; Health; the Eastern Cape Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform; ECDC; South African Revenue Service (SARS); South African Social Security Agency; Statistics South Africa; Siseko Artisans and Management Institute; Standard Bank, and Amathole District Municipality – formed part of the programme by providing their services and information.



GCIS Amathole Regional Communication Coordinator, Sinxolo Gqala, explaining the purpose of the Youth Expo held at the Nomalady Rululu Community Hall in Ward 4 of the Great Kei Local Municipality.



Mr Maphanga, from the ECDC, presenting a variety of offerings in the economic sector, including job placement opportunities and funding schemes.



Youth participating at the Youth Expo in Ward 4 of the Great Kei Local Municipality.



SARS officials rendering their services during the Expo.

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Awareness campaign targets public places

By Sebjalo Rachuene: GCIS, Head Office

On 18 July 2024, officials from the Information Resource Centre (IRC) of the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in Pretoria conducted a public-awareness activation for the Nelson Mandela Day commemoration and Opening of Parliament Address (OPA) by President Cyril Ramaphosa.

The team began by displaying mobilisation posters for the OPA and Nelson Mandela Day around Tshedimotsetso House building, the GCIS's Head Office in Hatfield, Pretoria. They also distributed

information products on the Government of National Unity at the Bosman and Marabastad bus stations and taxi ranks respectively, to raise awareness of the Nelson Mandela Day commemoration and OPA 2024.



GCIS IRC team placing OPA 2024 posters around Tshedimotsetso House.



GCIS IRC team distributing OPA 2024 and Nelson Mandela Day leaflets at the Bosman bus station in Pretoria.



GCIS IRC team distributing information products at the Bosman taxi rank.



The GCIS IRC team conducting an activation at the Marabastad bus station and taxi rank to encourage commuters to participate in the Nelson Mandela Day commemoration and follow the OPA 2024 live on television and radio.