



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 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Women and girls dialogue

By Dr Bongeka Nkwanyana: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

Gender equality is a fundamental human right that could be violated by gender-based discrimination. On 17 March 2023, the GCIS – in collaboration with the Department of Social Development – hosted a dialogue between women and girls in the Mthonjaneni Local Municipality area to promote and discuss health, wealth, justice and gender-inequality issues.

The topics included the meaning of human rights and responsibilities, various forms of abuse, bullying and financial literacy. The attendees were educated on where and how to access services that deal with women and girl issues.

They were also capacitated with various life skills to enable them to become successful individuals with a positive and impactful influence in society. The women and girls expressed appreciation for the session that provided a platform to talk about issues affecting them.

The young girls also had a chance to engage with the older women on some of the issues that affect them, such as the impact of forced marriages on young women, the role of a woman in a family structure and home chores that are labelled as 'only suitable for women'.



Women and girls presenting and engaging on various issues affecting them and seeking solutions.



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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 4: SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Freedom Month activation

By Bakang Ditibane: GCIS, North West

On 20 April 2023, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) – in partnership with the Mahikeng Local Municipality, South African Post Office, Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and Bakwena Traditional Authority – embarked on an Information Resource Centre activation focusing on Freedom Month key messages and gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF).

In addition to distributing leaflets on Freedom Month and GBVF, the GCIS also distributed government employment vacancies and Z83 forms to the community of Tsetse village, who appreciated the government materials.

This year's Freedom Day was the 29th commemoration of the first democratic elections held in South Africa on 27 April 1994. These were the first post-

apartheid national elections to be held in South Africa where all eligible people could vote. Although we have made remarkable progress since 1994, the spectre of inequality, poverty and unemployment remains one of the most glaring impediments to South Africa's goal of national unity and social cohesion. Freedom Day was commemorated through government's national theme: "Leave No One Behind".

Furthermore, community members were encouraged to report GBVF cases, anonymously. Before the event, flyers and posters were shared with community members. The GCIS and community development workers also shared information about their services and how they can be reached.



Community members of Tsetse village collecting government materials during the activation.



Maakie Motlhabane said:

“As a community member of Tsetse, we are faced with high youth unemployment. However, I am grateful with what government has done to distribute employment vacancies to encourage our youth to apply for jobs.”



Tshepang Segwe said:

“As a Ward 4 committee member, I am pleased with the collaboration we have and the efforts of government of coming to our communities to ensure easy access to information that our community members need to empower themselves.”



Mpumalanga Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane said:

“Mpumalanga’s commitment to transit from the coal to green energy makes it an ideal investment destination. The state-owned enterprises such as Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency and MTPA are a pathway for the realisation of investment objectives into the province”.

PRIORITY I: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Roadshow ahead of BRICS Summit

By Livhuwani Todani: GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Government Communication and Information System, in collaboration with the Deputy Minister of International Relations and Cooperation, Alvin Botes, supported Mpumalanga Premier Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane during the Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS) roadshow held in Mpumalanga on 4 April 2023.

The BRICS roadshow was a build up towards the 15th BRICS Summit to be held in Gauteng from 22 to 24 August 2023. The two-day event was hosted under the theme: “BRICS and AFRICA: Partnership for Mutually Accelerated Growth, Sustainable Development and Inclusive Multilateralism”.

The first engagement kickstarted at Thaba Chweu Local Municipality in Graskop (Panorama route) where the Mpumalanga Premier and members of the Executive Council (MECs) showcased trade and investment opportunities in various sectors across the province which include energy, agriculture, forestry, tourism, mining and infrastructure development.

Deputy Minister Botes said: “The summit seeks to achieve five priorities which are: Accelerated Just Energy Transition, Acceleration of African Free Trade, Enhanced Education and Skills Development, Economic Fortunes and Deepening Multilateralism with BRICS.”

The Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency (MTPA) led a tour where BRICS diplomats visited the Graskop Gorge and the Potholes. The BRICS roadshow was concluded with a golf game and Gala Dinner, with the proceeds of the golf game donated to non-governmental organisations in the province. The Gala Dinner was well attended by, among others, representatives from business organisations in the province and the Chairperson of the Mpumalanga House of Traditional Leaders, Kgoshi Lameck Mokoena.



Deputy Minister Botes and Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane with the members of BRICS and Mpumalanga MECs.

PRIORITY 7: A BETTER AFRICA AND WORLD.

South Africa and Zimbabwe strengthen relations

By Netshikweta Doctrine: GCIS, Limpopo

The Executive Mayor of the Vhembe District Municipality (VDM), Dowelani Nenguda and his counterpart, Luka Ndou, of the Beitbridge Rural District Council in Zimbabwe, signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) at the Mapungubwe Heritage Site's Museum Hall on 14 April 2023. The MoU aimed to promote viable economic and cultural development as well as social cohesion within the two neighbouring municipalities.

The Beitbridge border post separates the two municipalities. The signing ceremony was attended by, among others, members of the house of traditional leadership, and representatives from academic institutions such as the University of Venda (Univen) and Vhembe Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) College. Dean Alunamutwe Rannditsheni represented faith-based organisations in the VDM area.

Executive Mayor Nenguda urged both municipalities to develop the programme of action to help fast-track the whole developmental processes in areas such as exhibition, trading and exchange programmes for students from Univen and the University of Zimbabwe.

“Today, we are here to witness the rebuilding of a historic event as two separated twins are rejoining to build a vibrant economy and cultural development for their countries. This partnership/agreement is not only limited between the two local councils but goes beyond as it will help the development of the Southern African Development Community (SADC) region. It speaks to the international relations between our two countries. This MoU is going to affect different areas of our economic sectors in our two regions, and I can say today that the Musina-Makhado Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is already in full swing. The SEZ is going to be the economic hub of our region, and this MoU will pave a way for the proper implementation of this megaproject, for the development of our economy,” Nenguda said.

Executive Mayor Ndou warmly welcomed the positive action taken by the two countries and the two districts separated by a river. “The agreement will bring a lot of development across the SADC region. South Africa is in negotiations of using water from Zimbabwe to ensure that the SEZ becomes a success. This agreement would enable the two countries to trade. Vhembe is more advanced in farming production and this will be used to our advantage to produce quality products using a South African breed,” said Ndou.



Executive mayors, traditional leaders and pastors attending the event



Vhembe TVET College Deputy Principal Mpho Ramulifho, flanked by Univen representative Thanyani Mphephu, said:

“Education is a critical tool for the transformation of individuals and society, that is why as institutions of higher learning, we are here today to have first-hand information on how the agreement looks like. This will enable us in reorienting the curricula for sustainable development, which seeks to prepare a holistic and value-oriented individual for useful living within society.”



Chief Nmutanzhela said:

“As the custodian of the people regardless of the borders, the primary mandate for traditional authority is to unite communities, that is why we are here today to witness the re-established of the historic action aimed at empowering the economy of the two bordered countries. Historically, Zimbabweans and South Africans were living together as brothers and sisters, therefore; the signed agreement today is a sign of togetherness. This agreement in future might be used to promote social cohesion across the entire continent, as it comprises high political unrest and power fighting, causing economic instability and intolerance among community members. The working together agreement will bear fruits, which will feed the two countries and provide viable economic development to be escalated across the SADC region. This, in future, will showcase the importance of working together as countries or municipalities, which might be emulated by all bordered countries across the continent.”