



# MYDISTRICTTODAY



# STAY SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

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## PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

### School Human Rights activation

By Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

In the past, there have been multiple incidents of violence at Marklands Secondary School among learners, some involving learners and parents, and learners and educators, which eventually heightened racial tensions. The most recent incident was the shooting of a learner by another. Drugs and substance abuse is rife in the area and many learners are from poor socio-economic backgrounds and unstable family structures. The GCIS consulted with the South African Police Service (SAPS) to host a Human Rights activation at the school on 23 March 2023.

Other stakeholders participating in the activation included LifeLine, the Department of Social Development and the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA). The purpose of the activation was to educate learners on their rights and responsibilities and emphasise that bullying, violence among learners and against educators are human rights violations and crimes punishable by law. Speakers were selected strategically to include an advocate from the NPA, a probation officer from Department of Social Development and a social worker from Lifeline. Learners in conflict with the law would meet these

officials. A legal practitioner informed the learners about court processes involving learners, the long-term consequence of having a criminal record and the impact of bullying on the victim. He also informed them of their right to equality, dignity and respect, emphasising that any racial comments and violence was a violation of one's human rights. Such cases will result in criminal prosecution and possible imprisonment. There were reported incidents of bullying, cyberbullying, violence, racial prejudice among learners and against educators. A social worker from LifeLine and the probation officer also addressed the learners. The criminal justice implications in respect of cyberbullying were also discussed.

The activation also aimed to deter violent behaviour in the future. Learners were implored to find better ways to deal with conflict, seek advice and guidance from educators and social workers and focus on learning and developing themselves as our future leaders.



Learners attending the activations.



A police officer addressing the learners.



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 I: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.**

**Minister launches agricultural hub**

*By Ephraim Malema and Kaone Lekgetho: GCIS, North West*

The Minister of Energy and Mineral Resources, Gwede Mantashe, officially launched the Marikana Agricultural Hub near Rustenburg on 12 May 2023.

Minister Mantashe, who is also the champion of the Bojanala District Development Model, said the project will redeem the mining community, create employment and fight poverty.

“The mining community is participating in the economic development in their area and it is good to see the mining community venturing in other business sectors rather than focusing only in mining. I would like to launch many other projects like this in the mining community,” he said.

The success of the Marikana Agricultural hub is driven by the partnership between Sibanye Stillwater mine and the Mineworkers Development Agency. The Chief Executive Officer of the Mineworkers Development Agency, Tshimane Montoedi, said the project will create food security and bring happiness to many families in Marikana.

“We are involved in many projects, but this partnership is the first of its own kind. Our objective is to replicate this project to other mining communities and this will only become successful if many stakeholders join us,” he said.

The Marikana Agri-hub include, amongst others, vegetable gardens, chicken farming and also cleaning the dumping sites to make sure that people of

Marikana live in clean environment. More than 300 people from Marikana are benefiting from these projects, which have brought back hope to the residents of Marikana.

The South African Police Service urged community members to have peaceful protests and not destroy public buildings. The municipal building was torched eight years ago due to service delivery protest and now harbours criminals. He pleaded with community members not to destroy government properties as it has negative impact on service delivery.

During the open field event, Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform encouraged community members who are farmers to apply for farmer support programme, which opened in May 2023. The farmer support programme will close end of July 2023. Molepo Peter from the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) urged community members not to misuse social grants they receive, such as child support grants meant for children. It was further stated that the SASSA gold card is still valid and can be used until 31 December 2023.

The IEC encouraged youths over 16 years to register to vote in the ward they are staying in. Voter Registration weekend is scheduled for November 2023 and February 2024. The event also taught parents about FPB regulations and restrictions pertaining content classifications for children.



Minister Gwede Mantashe launching the Agri-hub in Marikana.



Chicken farming and beneficiaries of the Marikana Agri-hub.

## PRIORITY 1: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

### Government takes services to the people

By Maria Ramoshaba: GCIS, Limpopo

On 19 May 2023, the Government Communication and Information System in partnership with Mabatlane Thusong Service Centre stakeholders and other parastatals celebrated Workers' Month by taking services and information to the people. The aim of the session was to enlighten and educate them about their rights. This was an open field event held at Alma, a farming community which is in Ward 2 of Modimolle-Mookgophong Local Municipality.

Ward Councillor John Majoko appreciated the initiative, as they never had a campaign on integrated services in the area for a longer period. Stakeholders who empowered the community were the Department of Health, Department of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform (DARDLR), Department of Social Development, Limpopo Economic Development, Environment and Tourism (LEDET), South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), South African Police Service (SAPS), Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA), National Credit Regulator (NCR), Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), Film and Publication Board (FPB) and the Modimolle-Mookgophong Local Municipality.

The Department of Health encouraged community members to take their children aged between five and 15 years to vaccinate against measles. During the event, community members were provided with an opportunity to check their blood pressure and sugar levels, and HIV and AIDS status.

The NCR also encouraged community members to loan or buy at shops with an NCR sign as they are registered and informed of the credit regulations. Those who are not registered usually take identity documents and clients' bank cards. An NCR representative stated that as a consumer, you have the right to be given at least 20 business days' notice of credit providers' intention to report adverse information on your profile at the credit bureau. He said if a lender takes your identity document or bank cards, they should be reported to the police or NCR.

In their presentation, LEDET said consumers have rights. They have the right not to buy expired goods at the shops. If you bought expired goods, you have the right to take it back. They stated that; community members need to understand their rights and enforce them. It was indicated, that consumers have the right to seek advice, redress from unfair, illegal and unacceptable marketing practices.

The SAPS also urged the community members to have peaceful protests and not destroy public buildings. The municipal building was torched eight years ago due to service delivery protest and now harbours criminals. He pleaded with the community members not to destroy government properties as it has negative impact on service delivery.

During the open field event, The DARDLR encouraged community members who are farmers to apply for farmer support programme, which opened in May 2023. The farmer support programme will close end of July 2023.

Peter Molepo from SASSA urged community members not to misuse social grants they receive such as child support grants meant for children. It was further stated that the SASSA gold card is still valid and can be used until 31 December 2023.

The IEC encouraged youths over 16 years to register to vote in the ward they are staying in. Voter Registration weekend is scheduled for November 2023 and February 2024. The event also taught parents about FPB regulations and restrictions pertaining content classifications for children. ICASA pledged to attend to community network connectivity challenges.



Alma community members during the service delivery drive.



**Maria Legodi said:**

"I am happy that today in Alma we have services from government. I am worried that the Department of Home Affairs did not come due to network issues in our area. Please help us solve the network issues for our children and elderly people to get services. Some 12 learners were here to apply for identity documents but could not do so due to network issues."



**Gilbert Mafora said:**

"I appreciate the information shared. Now I know that I have rights as a consumer. I have a small poultry project. I will grab the opportunity and apply for the farmer support before the end of July 2023. I have never registered to vote but I will do so."



## PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

### Celebrating Human Rights

By Esmarelda McKay: GCIS, Western Cape

As part of Human Rights celebrations, a dialogue was held with the Human Rights Commission and various stakeholders at Hopefield Thusong Service Centre. The local stakeholders included the Government Communication and Information System West Coast, the Hopfield South African Police Service, Mfesane non-governmental organisation, Department Social Development, Saldanha Bay Local Municipality, The West Coast District Municipality and the Community Safety Forum.

The purpose was to commemorate Human Rights Day and have an active dialogue on how far the country has gone when it comes to protecting and upholding human rights. The theme for this year was “Consolidating and Sustaining Human Rights Culture into the Future”.

The session was very fruitful and the community actively participated in terms of engaging and asking question on how to protect human rights when they are being violated. The need for a follow-up session in the area was raised.



Eugene Rapalane said:

“The importance of protecting your human rights lies with your and your rights come with responsibilities.”



Community members listening to an official from the Human Rights Commission.



A police officer informing the community about the importance of supporting the police.