



MYDISTRICTTODAY



**STAY
SAFE**

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

Issue no.15: May 2023

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:

EASTERN CAPE

Ndlelantle Pinyana
043 722 2602 or 076 142 8606
ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za

FREE STATE

Yolisa Blom
051 448 4506 or 072 130 9893
yolisa@gcis.gov.za

GAUTENG

Peter Gumede
011 331 0164 or 083 570 8080
peterg@gcis.gov.za

KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420
ndala@gcis.gov.za

PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Stakeholders engage with inmates

By Monique Warden: GCIS, Western Cape

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) held a series of dialogues at the Beaufort West Correctional Centre. The GCIS held a human rights dialogue on 29 March 2023, with the Ministry of Health, South African Police Service (SAPS) and the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development in attendance. Presentations were made to sentenced inmates in the centre on anxiety and depression, criminal records and societal expectations, restorative justice and the role of a father.

Participants also engaged with speakers to highlight the stigma associated with being parolees or ex-offenders and the struggle to navigate in communities when released. They also highlighted the sad realities of spending many years behind bars and leaving with a skill that they now cannot use because no one wants to hire an ex-offender and how that affects them and their families.

Attendees agreed that there was still more work to be done in every area of government, society and correctional centres for better inclusion. In order to prepare and help inmates in a holistic manner before returning them to society as active citizens, systems of support also need to be put in place for ex-convicts.

In order to make the message clear that there was hope and chance for ex-offenders, the SAPS has put forward information about expungement of criminal records for offenders who commit certain offences. Visit <https://www.saps.gov.za/faqsdetail.php?fid=57> for more information.



Speakers addressing inmates during the dialogue.



**government
communications**

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



LIMPOPO

Thanyani Ravhura
015 291 4689 or 082 421 3461
thanyani@gcis.gov.za

MPUMALANGA

Jerry Nkosi
013 753 2397 or 082 316 5295
Jerry@gcis.gov.za

NORTH WEST

Boitumelo Mosadi
018 381 7071 or 073 245 0906
boitumelom@gcis.gov.za

NORTHERN CAPE

Ofentse Moeti
053 832 1378/9 or 084 390 4330
Ofentse@gcis.gov.za

WESTERN CAPE

Geraldine Thopps
021 418 0533/2307 or 081 281 2200
Geraldine@gcis.gov.za

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 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Deputy Minister hosts Mining and Energy Imbizo

By Lindokuhle Chiliza: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources and Energy, Nobuhle Nkabane, hosted the Mining and Energy Imbizo at eMadungeni Community Hall in Hluthankungu under Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality in Harry Gwala District, KwaZulu-Natal on 18 March 2023. The Deputy Minister was accompanied by Deputy Minister of Health, Sibongiseni Dhlomo, Deputy Minister of Performance, Monitoring and Evaluation, Pinky Kekana, Deputy Minister of Home Affairs, Njabulo Nzuza, Deputy Minister of Employment and Labour, Boitumelo Moloi, Executive Mayor of Harry Gwala District Municipality, Zamo Nxumalo and Mayor of Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality, Elizabeth Ngubo.

The Imbizo sought to address mining and energy related issues affecting Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality, and the mining companies in the area. This was in line with President Cyril Ramaphosa's call to set a path of creating strong District Development Model (DDM) intergovernmental teams that work in unison to improve the lives of community members

within the districts. This was one of government's efforts to enhance the implementation of the DDM, while facilitating urgent responses and actions at district and local levels.

The programme began with a visit to Sibalukhulu High School in Ixopo where the Deputy Minister Dhlomo encouraged youth to use the youth services in clinics offered by the Department of Health. The leadership also donated 500 sanitary towels, first-aid kit and WiFi to the clinic. They then proceeded to the hall where the official Imbizo took place. Thousands of uBuhlebezwe residents were eager to listen to presentations from various leaders.

Several services offered by the Unemployment Insurance Fund Mobile Bus, Home Affairs Mobile Bus and the Department of Health's mobile clinics were rendered at the venue.



Various leaders visiting information stalls displaying government information.



The Deputy Ministers during the community engagement session.

PRIORITY 4: SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Summit advances economic development

By Tebogo Monyo: GCIS, Northern Cape

From 15 to 17 March 2023, the Joe Morolong Local Municipality, hosted a successful Local Economic Development (LED) summit. The event brought together Small, Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs) from all municipal wards, government departments, mining companies and local businesses. The summit was organised under the theme: "Improve the economic development of our local SMMEs".

On the first day of the meeting, Acting Municipal Manager Tebogo Tlhoale highlighted the importance of the summit and encouraged attendees to participate fully, so that good resolutions on how economic development should be driven, within the Joe Morolong Local Municipality. He further said: "We want you to assist us as the municipality to review our LED strategy, to ensure that you as SMMEs can grow your businesses, and ultimately help us as government, to create meaningful and sustainable jobs for communities of Joe Morolong Local Municipality."

Tlhoale encouraged delegates to empower themselves by always being aware of applicable legislation and policies in relation to local economic development. During the summit, different stakeholders such

as the Department of Small Business Development, the Small Enterprise Development Agency and mining houses presented the opportunities available to SMMEs.

The Joe Morolong Local Municipality Mayor Dineo Leutlwetse-Tshabalala, addressing the summit said; it was only through cooperation that they will effectively fight against the triple challenges of poverty, high unemployment and inequality, to develop their small businesses to become macro businesses that contribute to the growth of the economy of the country.

Tshoganyetso Cogang, an entrepreneur in goat farming, said; the municipality previously assisted him, he will continue relying on government to grow his project further.

"Things are difficult as diseases that lead to us losing our livestock hinder our growth and therefore, government must continue to assist us by providing us with fodder, veterinary and other similar support systems," he said.



Delegates from various wards, sector departments and big corporates who attended the summit.



Oupa Loselo said:

"I am working with small manufacturing businesspeople and our expectations is that those who are here representing the mines and the sector departments will present to us opportunities that are available that can assist us as SMMEs to grow."



Ruta Sekgoro said:

"I am from a project called Aganang Handwork and was assisted by the Joe Morolong Municipality, with a fund of R350 000 as a start-up and we were able to buy machinery and a bakkie through the support of government and the mining houses."

PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Freedom Month celebration

By Lindelwa Fuku and Phoka Mofokeng: GCIS, Free State

On 26 April 2023, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) visited Wongalethu Secondary School in Bethulie to remind and educate the learners about freedom and democracy in South Africa. The educators and the School Governing Body members were part of the initiative where they took the learners back to the start of Freedom Day in 1994. The learners entertained the audience with performances such as a poem and music dedicated to the day and one learner presenting a speech.

The Department of Correctional Services alerted learners about crime prevention and demonstrated how different and difficult it is to have freedom taken from somebody because crime was committed. A male inmate from Bethulie, shared his experiences from inside prison. He warned the youth against drugs and assaulting one another. "Learners should treat each other as brothers and sisters. They must protect each other," he said.

The learners were grateful to have been part of the information session, thus interacting with the stakeholders.

The GCIS also collaborated with community development workers and Centre for Community Impact during Freedom Month dialogue at Ithabiseng Intermediate school on 20 April 2023. The aim of the dialogue was to raise awareness on the significance of the month and commemoration. The dialogue created awareness on the importance of Freedom Month and Freedom Day Commemoration and gave learners the opportunity to reflect on their understanding of the constitution and its values.

The learners discussed significance of Freedom Month in our democracy, the role of citizens played in nation building, promotion of social cohesion and the changes they want to see going forward in 2024 as the country will be celebrating 30 years of democracy. The learners focused their discussions mostly on the changes they want to see being implemented in 2024, as they believe those are issues not allowing them to be free in societies they live in. The burning issue they highlighted was racism and that there should be racial integration in schools. The issue of judicial reform was also emphasised, as they believe that the justice system favours perpetrators more than victims. They believe that the Constitution does not reflect on modern times and needs to be amended.

Learners emphasised school policies on dress code and sports codes, as they believe that the dress code policy infringes on some of their basic rights enshrined in the constitution. On the sports code, their argument was that black schools does not have any other sports facilities beside soccer ground and netball ground. They further emphasised that curriculum and language policy needs to be looked at as they feel that it favours white minority more than black people. They feel that they too should be educated in their mother tongue. Lastly, their discussion touched on the school nutrition and requested that department should look at the menu as they eat the same meals two times a week. The learners ended their discussion by saying that jobs should be created for them.



Learners, educators, government stakeholders and an inmate during the Freedom Day event.



A learner engaging with other learners during the Freedom Month Dialogue.



Bongani Hamnca said:

"I really loved this session, because it was not only a speech session but learners also got to interact with the speakers and got some Constitution booklets."