



MY DISTRICT TODAY

Issue no. 16, May 2012

CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

For more information about similar programmes, which 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

Trevor Mokeyane
051 448 4504 or 083 255 0042
tshenolo@gcis.gov.za

GAUTENG

Peter Gumede
011 834 3560 or 083 570 8080
peterg@gcis.gov.za

KWAZULU-NATAL

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

Community is service-delivery

By: Lorna Bodlani

The GCIS Budget Vote was tabled on Thursday, 10 May 2012, in Parliament. The occasion presented an opportune platform for the GCIS to showcase some of the communication products and platforms and to market itself to various stakeholders. Although the event was held in Cape Town, subsidiary outreach events were held across all provinces mainly to create awareness on the GCIS Budget Vote and to profile the Government's Thusong Programme with specific emphasis on the services offered by Thusong Service Centres.

On the morning of 10 May, Minister Collins Chabane and Deputy Minister Obed Bapela, led an outreach event at the Mbekweni Thusong Centre in Paarl. The event was preceded by a walkabout at the Klappmuts mobile Thusong where various departments were providing services. Community members interacted with the Minister and his deputy and appealed for more services from government.

Most of the people reached at this event were young people who were informed about opportunities they could access from government. The new Youth Service Guide (<http://www.gcis.gov>

[za/resource_centre/multimedia/posters_and_brochures/youth_guide/youth_guide-2.pdf](http://www.gcis.gov.za/resource_centre/multimedia/posters_and_brochures/youth_guide/youth_guide-2.pdf)), which contains information that young people can use to improve their lives, was well received and commended. This was in line with what Minister Chabane alluded to during his budget speech when he said: "In our fight against the triple challenge of unemployment, poverty and inequality, it is as important for government to create tangible, practical opportunities for a better life as it is to let people know, in the first place, that these opportunities exist."

As every citizen has the right to information, the GCIS solely exists to fulfil the need to give information to South African citizens. The GCIS offices can be accessed in all provinces. Go to www.gcis.gov.za to find out more about your nearest GCIS office .



government
communications

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

LIMPOPO

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

MPUMALANGA

Tiisetso Ramotse
013 753 2397 or 072 219 5136
tiisetso@gcis.gov.za

NORTH WEST

Mareka Mofokeng
018 381 7071 or 083 382 5909
mareka@gcis.gov.za
Galebonwe Diokana
018 381 7071 or 082 559 167
galebonwe@gcis.gov.za

NORTHERN CAPE

Marius Nagel
053 832 1378/9 or 083 778 9179
mariusn@gcis.gov.za

WESTERN CAPE

Ayanda Hollow
021 697 0145 or 083 255 7665
ayanda@gcis.gov.za

National symbols are key to national identity

Maria Ramoshaba



Freedom Day is the annual celebration of South Africa's first non-racial democratic elections that took place on 27 April 1994. The day represents peace, unity, and the restoration of human dignity to all South Africans. In the spirit of building a South Africa that belongs to all, Freedom Day celebrations are intended to unite all South Africans.

In his Freedom Day speech President Zuma said, "On Freedom Day we recall and celebrate a heroic and selfless struggle that was fought over more than three centuries. It was fought in the battles of young people for education."

Based on this background the GCIS embarked on a campaign to inform and educate learners at

the Dagbreek and Lekkerbreek primary schools in Limpopo's Blouberg Local Municipality about their national identity. This was done with the assistance of the *National Identity Passport* produced by the Department of Arts and Culture. The *National Identity Passport* explains the importance of the national symbols such as the flag and its protocol, the National Anthem and its history as well as the National and Provincial Coat of Arms. Educators were given copies of the *National Identity Passport*.

Learners were asked what Freedom Day means to them. Some said it was Good Friday; the day Nelson Mandela was released from prison; and Human Rights Day. The responses indicated that more effort have to be made to educate the

nation about this remarkable day in our country's history.

The most effective way to reflect the birth of a new nation is through the introduction of new national symbols. National symbols are key to the definition of a nation. It is through these symbols that national identity is achieved.

Learners were made aware of the direct broadcast of the Freedom Day celebrations and the National Orders on SABC.

