



MY DISTRICT TODAY

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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

OUTCOME 10: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS AND NATURAL RESOURCES THAT ARE WELL PROTECTED AND CONTINUALLY ENHANCED.

Writer: Lebogang Mothapa, GCIS Provincial Office

Green economy: Does it include you?

The celebration of Environment Month in June is an annual event on the calendar of South Africa's environment sector.

This year's celebration recognised the significance of the green economy in tandem with our drive towards a low-carbon economy in South Africa.

South Africa also celebrated this year's Environment Month while still basking in the afterglow of successfully hosting the 17th Conference of the Parties (COP17) to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change in Durban as well as Cabinet's approval of the *National Climate Change Response Policy White Paper* last year.

Both were major milestones that have laid a proper foundation and also created a fertile ground for South Africa to start engaging in the green-economy debate.

The theme chosen to celebrate World Environment Month in South Africa was "Green Economy: Does it Include You?" The theme emphasised the centrality of people's involvement in the green economy. The green economy is defined as "one that results in improved human well-being and social equity, while significantly reducing environmental risks and ecological scarcities".

It is against this background that the Department of Environmental Affairs, in partnership with Morula Sun, Mabopane Sports Council, Mabopane Local Football Association, Sport and Recreation South Africa and the Government Communication and Information System, celebrated World Environment Day on 5 June 2012 at the Odi Stadium in Mabopane.



Young volunteers singing before the cleaning starts

The celebration was coupled with a number of activities, including conducting cleaning-up campaigns, tree planting and sports activities.

The aim of the day was to give a human face to environmental issues; empower people to become active agents of sustainable and equitable development; promote an understanding that communities are pivotal to changing attitudes towards environmental issues; and to advocate partnership, which will ensure all nations and people enjoy a safer and more prosperous future.

The celebration of World Environment Month will afford the Department of Environmental Affairs and the partnering stakeholders an opportunity to clean and green the environment; increase the level of public awareness regarding the green economy; highlight key programmes and priorities for the environment sector and sport in general; showcase the key green economy intervention measures undertaken by stakeholders; and raise awareness and elicit support of business, sportspeople, government, non-government organisations and communities.

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



OUTCOME 3: ALL PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE AND FEEL SAFE

Writer: Odas Ngobeni, GCIS Provincial Office

Let's fight crime together

Tzaneen's Cluster Police Commander, Major-General Maggy Mathebula, has called on young people to work with the police in the fight against crime and substance abuse.

Mathebula was addressing hundreds of learners at the launch of the Ritavi Youth Against Crime Forum at the Nkowankowa Stadium.

The campaign marked the start of Youth Month celebrations, against the backdrop of Child Protection Awareness Week.

She welcomed the launch, saying government was committed to the fight against crime, but needed communities to be involved, especially young people.

Mathebula told learners that they were welcome to contact her or the Station Commander if they did not get help from any of the officers under her command. "If there are sensitive issues that you feel you can't discuss with any other officer, you are welcome to contact either the station commander or myself directly," she said.

According to the secretary of the Youth Against Crime Forum, Leah Malungana, the organisation was established to make youth part of the solutions to the challenges in the communities, because they are directly affected by crime. "Through this structure, we will liaise with relevant stakeholders, especially the South African Police Service (SAPS) to implement programmes to get youth involved in the fight against crime," she said.



Tzaneen Cluster Police Commander, Major-General Maggy Mathebula, Provincial Chief Operations Officer, General Mashego, and Acting Mayor of Tzaneen Municipality, Councillor Samson Maunatlala, escort the soccer teams to the field during the launch of Ritavi Youth Against Crime.

"Some of our programmes will include awareness campaigns on the dangers of substance and alcohol abuse, career guidance and also to monitor safer school programmes," she added.

The acting Mayor of Tzaneen Municipality, Councillor Samson Maunatlana, also welcomed the initiative. "We need young people of your calibre to join hands with various community structures, the SAPS and community policing forums. We need to protect our communities, our children, our sisters, our mothers and grandparents from criminal elements in our society."

"We need to put our hands together in fighting this crime. I know that you know the people who break into our houses. You know who the thieves

are, you know who the rapists are, you know who the robbers are, you know the fraudsters, the corrupters and the scammers. It is your civic duty to inform law-enforcement agencies because by doing so you will be saving lives," said Maunatlana.

Fighting crime is one of the five priorities of government.