



MY DISTRICT TODAY

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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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Outcome 7: Vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities with food security for all

Farm workers informed about their right to peaceful protest

Peter Titus, GCIS Western Cape

Farm workers in De Doorns in the Cape winelands and west coast recently went on strike. Apparently, because farm workers were being intimidated and prevented from gathering and discussing unions or wages.

The Government Communication and Information System's (GCIS) Regional Coordinator, Peter Titus, visited the area to assess the situation. He detected that tensions were very high and the situation was on the brink of exploding into real violent protest. To calm the situation, Titus liaised with various stakeholders to discuss the provincial government's response to the situation.

Titus arranged a phone-in radio programme during which the Premier of the Western Cape, Helen Zille, and the Minister of Agriculture in the Western Cape, Gerrit van Rensburg, were interviewed. Both Premier Helen Zille and Minister Van Rensburg said the economy of the Western Cape depended on agriculture and asked farm owners and workers to start negotiating to find solutions to the conflict.

The local GCIS office recorded an information radiospot about the roles and responsibilities of protesters, which they broadcast for two weeks on the community radio station. The aim of the radiospot was to get protesters to protest peacefully, and not to steal and vandalise government and private property. The message also included contact details of the South African Police Service, the Department of Labour and the GCIS district office. The community radio station reaches three municipalities and has a listenership of 140 000.



The community radio station played an important role in informing community members of proper conduct during protest action.



government
communications

Department:
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Outcome 1: Improved quality of basic education

Public-private partnership working together for better basic education

Karen Foutie, GCIS Northern Cape

Early childhood development (ECD) is important for developing core capabilities such as motor, cognitive and social skills that directly affect a child’s performance later on. For this reason, ECD practitioners are there to ensure quality learners for the future of South Africa. By investing in children and working together, South Africa can produce better leaders with greater vision.

In recent years, the private sector has expanded its role to finance and provide educational services in South Africa. An example of this is Kolomela Mine, which invested R1,2 million in ECD towards training ECD practitioners and providing the necessary resources at the ECD Centre in the Tsantsabane Municipality area in the Northern Cape.

Training will run for 18 months and comply with the key focus areas of education within both the South African Government and Khumba’s Social and Community Development Strategy.

“ECD is a critical part of every child’s life before entering the foundation phase in school,” George Benjamin, public affairs manager at Kolomela Mine said. The Department of Social Development identified 20 ECD practitioners for the training. After completion, the practitioners will obtain a NQF Level 4 certificate.

This investment in the education of children of Tsantsabane Municipality will uplift the community by improving the quality of education from an early age and in doing so create jobs.

Herman Mooketsi from the Department of Social Development said, “It is indeed a noble task with lasting effects and a huge contribution to the leaders of the country.”

“The partnership between Kolomela Mine and Tsantsabane Municipality will take us forward. This investment will not only bring about investment in the infrastructure and job creation, it is an investment in the future of our nation. After all, the children of today are the adults of tomorrow and they will be making a real difference,” Elroy Phete, mayor of Tsantsabane Local Municipality concluded.



Back – left to right, Petro Saaman, Obakeng Isaacs (Acting Municipal Manager of Tsantsabane), George Benjamin (Sustainable Development Manager, Kolomela Mine), Mervin October (Department of Social Development District Director) and Elroy Phete (Mayor of Tsantsabane).
Front – left to right, Herman Mooketsi (Provincial Department of Social Development), Magda Louw and Huldah Barnard (Custoda Trust).



Outcome 12 (b): An empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship



X-K fm, preserving the culture of the San

Galaletsang Bosman

Platfontein, situated some 10 km from Kimberley in the Northern Cape, has been home to the !Xhu and Kwe communities since 2003.

Before then the San people resided in Schimtdsdrift in the Pixley ka Seme District Municipality in the Northern Cape. Schimtdsdrift, a former Army settlement 80 km west of Kimberley, was established in 1990.

During their stay in Schimtdsdrift the Army provided education and the medium of instruction was Afrikaans. This posed a challenge because the elders feared for the extinction of their indigenous language and culture.

This led to discussions with Radio Sonder Grense (RSG), which were followed by a proposal to the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA), resulting in the birth of X-K fm, a radio station for the San people just outside Kimberley in the Northern Cape.

The station plays an important part in the community to preserve the !Xhu and Kwe languages of the San and reconcile two tribes who historically did not see eye-to-eye.



These children are recording music that will be played on the station.

Initially, they started by broadcasting from a van, but now boast a state-of-the-art station building. The station started with five presenters, four

male and one female. Presenters broadcast in two languages, !Xhu and Kwe, while news is broadcasted in Afrikaans and the other two languages. The station is funded by the SABC and does not generate its own income.

Currently, X-K fm broadcasts from 06:00 to 21:00 as per ICASA regulations after which the station crosses over to RSG. The station boasts a listenership of 6 000 and is used as a community information centre where government and non-governmental organisations broadcast information.

“We also use the station in emergencies such as calling an ambulance, police – even urgent mail that needs a quick response, is delivered here and we call the owner to collect it,” the station manager Regina Beregho said.



Station manager, Ms Regina Beregho and the children recording music to be played on the station.

X-K fm also records its own drama and music in !Xhu and Kwe. This keeps the youth busy and off the streets, and preserves the languages.

This station has dedicated staff who conduct thorough research to produce quality content for the station.



Outcome 3: All people in South Africa are and feel safe

Men united against gender-based violence

Tabita Ngqunge: GCIS – Eastern Cape

International Men’s Day (IMD) is celebrated on 19 November each year. Since its inception in 1999 in Trinidad and Tobago, the day has found support around the world.

IMD focuses on the health of men and boys, improves gender relations, promotes gender equality, and highlights positive male role models. It brings discrimination against men and boys under the spotlight and celebrates their achievements and contributions, in particular their contributions to community, family, marriage, and childcare. In addition, IMD aims to promote basic human values.

The Eastern Cape Men’s Sector, in partnership with the Eastern Cape Aids Council, hosted the IMD in East London with a walk and public dialogue. A large crowd of mainly men and boys gathered at the Oxford Trinity Church in East London, leading a two-hour march to the City Hall to commemorate IMD. The march also contributed to the build-up for the 16 Days of Activism of no Violence against Women and Children campaign.

During interviews with the media, Reverend Canon Lulama Ntshingwa, chair of the Eastern Cape men’s sector said, “The aim of the march is to emphasise the importance of responsibility and make modern men, especially young men, aware of gender equality and spread the message that they should love and protect their families and partners. It is time we revived male responsibility because responsible men do not rape.” The theme of the march was “Men can be responsible”.

Women, children, traditional and religious leaders supported the march. Women from ward 11 in Buffalo City said they wanted to be present to show their pride of what these men were doing. After the march, a public discussion took place in East London. Representatives from different provinces, including Limpopo Men’s Sector, Gauteng Men’s Sector, Mpumalanga Men’s sector, KwaZulu-Natal Men’s Sector, North West National AIDS Council, the Treatment Action Campaign and National Association of People with AIDS gave messages of support and promised to remain responsible men.

Mbuyiselo Botha from Sonke Gender Justice and Chief Ngangomhlaba Matanzima from the Eastern Cape House of Traditional Leaders addressed the meeting, which contributed to a very inspirational debate. Their speeches emphasised how to groom young men to be responsible and promote gender equality. In addition, it was emphasised that boys should be monitored and that discrimination because of sexual orientation should be discouraged



Men march against gender-based violence.



Men’s sector representatives from different provinces during public dialogue

