



MYDISTRICTTODAY



STAY SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

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PRIORITY 1: BUILDING A CAPABLE, ETHICAL, AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Taking services closer to communities

By Thandinkosi Zulu: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

On 27 October 2023, the Government Communication and Information System joined Emphathi Clinic and KwaZulu-Natal Social Development – Dundee Service office on an outreach programme aimed at bringing government services closer to the people. The programme was held at Vegkop farm where all farm dwellers and local citizens had the opportunity to access government services using the one-stop system.

According to the local headman, Mgwavumeleni Zondo, the farm is under-resourced and has previously been neglected from receiving the necessary resources from government because it is in a remote area.

“I am very happy today as the local Induna of this area that we are witnessing the number of government services in our farm. I want to urge all of you that in this democratic dispensation, we are part of the bigger communities and should not be left behind when it comes to allocation of services. Please continue to service us – even if it is once a month,” pleaded Zondo.

The programme began with a community engagement where various government departments presented their services to the local people. The Department of Social Development pleaded with the community to work together to fight the scourge of violence aimed at senior citizens, women and children. Gugu Mchunu assured the community that the department was there to serve them with all social needs.

Among other departments that participated on the programme was the provincial Economic Development Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, South African Social Security Agency – Dundee Service Office, Department of Employment and Labour, LifeLine Pietermaritzburg and KwaZulu-Natal Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs.



Government stakeholders rendering services during the outreach programme at Vegkop Farm.



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PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Economic Growth and Investment Summit

By Mpho More: GCIS, Northern Cape

The Frances Baard District Municipality’s two-day Economic Growth and Investment Summit was held from 15 to 16 November 2023 at the Biker’s Church in Kimberley under the theme: “Growing the District’s Economy Together for a Sustainable development”.

Its aim was to create a platform for stakeholders, led by the district municipalities, to engage in dialogue, analyse economic trends and identify opportunities for sustainable growth. The summit aims to ensure that the growth trajectory continues in a sustainable and inclusive manner, within the framework of the District Development Model (DDM).

The summit delivered key insights highlighting investment trends, opportunities, and challenges in the economic development and tourism value chain. It encouraged financial initiatives and explored districts innovative economic developments and tourism sector for growth.

The Minister of Public Service and Administration, Noxolo Kiviet, in her capacity as the DDM Champion of Frances Baard District said the district has to develop a stimulus plan that will provide support to all local municipalities, including those that are poor and vulnerable.

“The District must change its growth and development model to a systematic strategy of economic growth plans with the help of the national government and private sectors,” said Minister Kiviet.

In her closing remarks, the District Municipal Speaker, Keamogetse Mothibi declared that they acknowledge that the economic challenges facing the district are complex and require a multifaceted approach.

“We are going to use this environment to create a platform and collaboration with other role players by bringing together all the relevant role-players, including government officials, businesses and community leaders. We are committing to curbing challenges of the unemployment rate, especially amongst our youth, and we believe that by promoting entrepreneurship and supporting small businesses, we can create job opportunities for them. We are going to continue to actively participate in economic discussions and workshops where there will be sharing of knowledge and experiences and supporting initiatives that support economic growth and development in the district,” said the speaker.

The entrepreneurs who attended the event were given an opportunity to engage with role players on the problems they encounter when they seek assistance from their local municipalities, and the District Major Unondumiso Buda committed to address those problems together with the local municipalities.



Minister Kiviet giving the keynote address.



The Executive Mayor of Frances Baard District, Unondumiso Buda, addressing the audience.



The audience in attendance.

PRIORITY I: A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Handover of the 2022 Census Report

By Khoboso Lebenya: GCIS, Eastern Cape

Following the launch of the 2022 Census Report on 10 October 2023 by Statistics South Africa (StatsSA), the institution conducted visits to various provinces to hand over the report. The Eastern Cape was among the provinces that were visited where in Deputy Directors-General, Yandiswa Mpetsheni and Nthabiseng Makhatha handed over the 2022 Census Provincial Report to the Premier of the Eastern Cape, Oscar Mabuyane, who was joined by the MECs for Finance and Economic Development; Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture; and the Executive Mayor for Buffalo City Metro, on 19 October 2023, at the East London Industrial Zone.

Premier Mabuyane welcomed the province's Census 2022 Report, which shows a 10.2% increase of the population from 6.5 million in 2011 to 7.2 million in 2022, with 86% of the population being black Africans, followed by the coloured community at 7.6%, white community at 5.6%, with Indians and Asians contributing to 0.5%.

The report further shows that, the proportion of the Eastern Cape households using electricity as the main source of energy for lighting increased significantly from 75% in 2011 to 95% in 2022, 56% of children in the Eastern Cape attended some form of Early Childhood Development programme, attendance at an educational institution was at almost universal level for children aged five and six years. Almost 90% of households in the Eastern Cape owned a working cellphone in 2022.

“Census data is an important data source used for planning and evidence based decision making by government and various sectors of society. Census is a collaborative effort that requires the participation of all community members and the support of the media in disseminating critical information,” said Mpetsheni. She also indicated that they conducted the Census during challenging times of COVID-19, and that had forced them to come up with ways to ensure that the work continues.

Welcoming the report, Premier Mabuyane appreciated the work done by StatsSA and indicated that a lot has been done to change the lives of the people of the Eastern Cape, however, more still needs to be done by government and the private sector in terms of creating job opportunities.



Eastern Cape leadership welcoming the 2022 Census Report.



Yandiswa Mpetsheni officially handing over the Report to Premier Mabuyane.



GCIS Eastern Cape Provincial Director Ndlelantle Pinyana facilitating the post-media briefing.

PRIORITY 5: SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Presidential oversight visit to Emfuleni Local Municipality

By Robbie Senoelo and Perfect Molefe: GCIS, Gauteng

Government’s effort to improve service delivery received a major boost when President Cyril Ramaphosa led a delegation on an oversight visit to Emfuleni Local Municipality on 27 October 2023 to assess progress made in the delivery of basic services.

The municipality has been struggling to deliver services such as water and sanitation. This has led to the Department of Water and Sanitation intervening in upgrading critical bulk pipelines and pump station infrastructure.

During the visit at Sebokeng and Vereening, which are under Emfuleni Local Municipality, the President, accompanied by the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Senzo Mchunu, Gauteng Premier Panyaza Lesufi and a government delegation conducted a guided tour of the Sebokeng Waste Water Treatment plant to gain first-hand information and assess progress and steps taken to turn the situation around.

The Presidential Oversight Visit was conducted within the context of the District Development Model, which aims to improve cooperative governance through integrated intergovernmental planning and budgeting.

The second leg of the visit saw President Ramaphosa visiting the area’s highway pump station before meeting and engaging with stakeholders in the Vereening City Hall where he said that he was satisfied with the progress made with service delivery in the Emfuleni Local Municipality. Speaking after meeting various stakeholders, including business, community members, religious leaders and civil society, the President said there was hope for the embattled municipality.

President Ramaphosa said the national government, working together with the province, the district and local municipalities, had decided to intervene.

“I am quite satisfied with the progress that I have seen here. Real work is getting done and money is well spent. We have an implementing agent in the form of Rand Water, they are doing a really good job,” he said.

Although there were concerns and some dissatisfaction with the pace of developments raised during the stakeholder engagement, government’s messages and commitments were generally well received.



Lydia Mareha said:

“I applaud our government for implementing Section 63. I can see a notable difference in our area.”



Donald Mohanoe said:

“Now that the President has seen the condition of our roads, I hope he will do something to change the situation because without proper road infrastructure, it will not be easy to attract investors to this area.”



President Cyril Ramaphosa and Minister Senzo Mchunu during the walkabout at the Sebokeng Waste Water Treatment plant.



Belinda Grill speaking at the Presidential community and stakeholders’ engagement.



Stakeholder engagement during the Presidential Oversight Visit at the Vereening City Hall.



President Ramaphosa addressing stakeholders during the Presidential Oversight Visit.