



MY DISTRICT TODAY



STAY SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

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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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PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Harry Gwala District COVID-19 awareness

By Mthunzi Mkhungo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The third wave of COVID-19 in South Africa seem to be taking hard shape as most of the provinces are experiencing high numbers of reported positive cases, with Gauteng leading thus far.

Harry Gwala District Municipality in KwaZulu-Natal led by the Executive Mayor, Councillor Zamo Nxumalo and his counterpart, Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality Mayor, Councillor Elizabeth Ngubo took the fight to the streets of Harry Gwala to reach out to pension pay points to emphasise the importance of adhering to COVID-19 regulations, and also remind people on what it means to be on 'Alert Level 4' of the lockdown.

The government leaders engaged Harry Gwala residents at Ixopo Town and the management of retailers, on 6 July 2021, about the danger of the COVID-19 third wave and the Delta variant in South Africa.

Mayor Nxumalo encouraged people who are 50 years and above to register and be vaccinated.

The Government Communication and Information System, Department of Health, and Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs were part of the activation.

Mayor Nxumalo and Mayor Ngubo concluded the activation by visiting one of the community radio stations based in the Harry Gwala District to amplify government message on the COVID-19 and further educate residents about the benefit of vaccine.



Mayor Zamo Nxumalo and Mayor Elizabeth Ngubo during a COVID-19 activation awareness campaign.



Mayor Zamo Nxumalo engaging with senior citizens at the Ixopo Post Office during a COVID-19 education awareness campaign.

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COVID-19 vaccine registration details for 35-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 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

First innovative digital centre in Mthatha

By Phiwokuhle Zokufa: GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams and Eastern Cape Premier Oscar Mabuyane officially opened the first Innovation and Digital Skills Centre in Mthatha on 11 June 2021.

The center is a partnership between the Department, the Eastern Cape Provincial Government and Liquid Intelligent Technologies South Africa. The centre is a state-of-the-art that will allow young unemployed people from underprivileged communities to use it for job hunting.

The introduction of the fourth industrial revolution (4IR) requires young people and entrepreneurs to have digital skills, and the COVID-19 pandemic has proven the need to embrace the 4IR.

The opening of the centre is part of government’s plan in partnership with the private sector to ensure that young people benefit from these skills. The opening of the centre will equip students and unemployed youth with digital skills in line with government’s priority to empower them to start their own businesses.

Courses offered are designed to allow students to learn more about Microsoft Office fundamentals. Learners are taken through basic Microsoft Word, Excel and Outlook skills. The course will introduce learners to the design thinking process and illustrate best practices for each step along the way.

This is part of a three-part course where learners will be taken through the fundamentals, programming concepts and instructions on data structures and algorithms.

“The opening of the centre proves that government and the private sector can work together, when we are investing in young people, we are investing in the future,” said Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams. She further said the 4IR has proven to be a platform that enables people to access services and that it is an economic driven platform.

“I am so excited the course has enabled me to understand Microsoft even more,” said one of the student beneficiaries. She also said that she has been using Microsoft Word to do her assignments, but through the course, she has learnt that there are other features she can use to be creative when doing her assignments.”



Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams interacting with a student.



Inside the state-of-the-art digital centre in Mthatha.

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

Programme uplifts communities

By Monique Warden: GCIS, Western Cape.

Thusong Service Centre outreaches attract many community members who are not able to access services from various government departments and partners.

Thusong mobile outreach activities were held in Merweville and Nelspoort on 22 and 24 June 2021 respectively, as both towns are among the most economically poverty stricken in the Central Karoo District Municipality.

In order to access most services people, need to travel to Beaufort West or Laingsburg costing many of them money they do not have, hence the outreaches are often held to bring services closer to the people.

The Department of Employment and Labour, Easy Pay, Small Enterprise Development Agency, Disaster Management, South African Social Security Agency, Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, the Electoral Commission, Department of Social Development, Home Affairs, Department of Human Settlements, MICT SETA, Department of Transport and Public Works, Department of Health, Right to Care and the South African Revenue Service were all in attendance.

One of the Thusong Service Centre partners Easy Pay, which is part of the Net 1 Group of Companies and strives to provide secure affordable banking accounts to the unbanked, handed out wheelchairs to Gloria Storm and Lilly Stemmel.

Gloria Storm, who resides in Merweville, has been immobile for the last few months due to illness and has struggled to leave the house.

Lilly Stemmel, from Nelspoort has been in a wheelchair for the past year and half since she lost both her legs to diabetes. She has been very fearful of the old wheelchair she has been using since it provided no front safety to ensure she does not fall out of it.

Storm and Stemmel are both immensely thankful to Easy Pay for the wheelchairs and the local government Thusong Service Centre Programme for bringing much needed services directly to the people.



Gloria Storm with the delegation from the Local Government Thusong Service Centre and Easy Pay.



Lilly Stemmel with Easy Pay and Local Government Thusong Service Centre delegation in Nelspoort.



Stakeholder providing services to community members during the Thusong Service Centre Outreach Programme in Merweville.



Community members receiving services during the Thusong Service Centre Outreach Programme.

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Youth engage on economic recovery

By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Government Communication and Information System supported the Mpumalanga Department of Education together with the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality and the Mpumalanga Legislature during a Youth Month engagement, which focused on economic recovery, at Ehlanzeni TVET College, Mashishing Campus, on 14 June 2021.

The session sought to tackle socio-economic challenges faced by the youth of Thaba Chweu Local Municipality, and to devise strategies for youth empowerment and employment through sustainable partnerships.

The Executive Mayor of the municipality, Councillor Friddah Nkadimeng, said that a collective approach is essential towards addressing the socio-economic challenges facing the municipality.

She said that the closing down of businesses due to the COVID-19 pandemic and other factors had an adverse impact on the local economy, thus contributing to the high unemployment rate. This also affects the municipality's ability to collect revenue, thus hindering the provision of basic services.

Mayor Nkadimeng said that the Municipality's Economic Recovery Plan has identified mining, forestry, agriculture, and tourism as essential catalysts towards reigniting the local economy.

The Principal of the TVET College drummed up support of the business sector in the fight against the COVID-19 pandemic. He said the college is in dire need of personal protective equipment to ensure the protection of both the lecturers and students against the pandemic.

Mbuyane also said that the integration of theory and practical is important to ensure students' responsiveness to the dynamics of the market.

Glencore South Africa representatives confirmed their continued support to the college through an allocation of R5 million towards the building of extra lecture rooms.

Bridget Mathebula from the Mining Qualifications Authority said that they assist the TVET college through the capacitation of lecturers and the work placement of students.

The Student Representative Council also raised concerns that students should be given first preference in local mines in order for them to gain skills and sharpen their knowledge through learnerships and also by absorbing them when there are vacancies. This will assist in economic development for the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality.

The public-private-partnership remains a fundamental weapon for economic recovery after the COVID-19. The networking sessions by the Ehlanzeni TVET college will be sustained to establish critical partnerships required for the growth of the institution.



Stakeholders and students who attended the youth engagement session in the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality.



Ehlanzeni TVET College Mashishing Campus principal addressing the audience during a youth engagement session.



Ehlanzeni TVET College Mashishing Campus School Representative chairperson highlighting student concerns.



Mayor Friddah Nkadimeng addressing the audience.