



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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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:

EASTERN CAPE

Ndlelantle Pinyana
043 722 2602 or 076 142 8606
ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za

FREE STATE

Yolisa Blom
051 448 4506 or 072 130 9893
yolisa@gcis.gov.za

GAUTENG

Peter Gumede
011 331 0164 or 083 570 8080
peterg@gcis.gov.za

KWAZULU-NATAL

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

PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Gender-Based Violence and Femicide summit

By Esmarelda Mckay: GCIS, Western Cape

The West Coast District Municipality hosted a successful summit on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) in Moorreesburg on 1 August 2023. A total of 250 stakeholders from local, provincial and national governments, together with non-governmental organisations attended the event at the Moorreesburg Town Hall. Attendees explored solutions to address the scourge of GBVF in communities, seeking to localise strategies from the National Strategic Plan on GBVF and the Western Cape Government GBV Implementation Plan.

Inputs from the summit will be condensed into a GBV Action Plan for the West Coast region, which will form part of the district's overarching Community Safety Plan. The MEC for Social Development, Sharna Fernandez, told attendees about the provincial GBV Implementation Plan and the

key interventions borne from it. This includes the establishment of a GBV transversal task team that meets every month, and an increased rollout of GBV services and interventions on the ground.

“National and provincial governments can dream up the best plans, but without municipal or community buy-in, nothing will happen. My hope for today’s summit was for different role players to collaborate to find sustainable solutions to the scourge of violence plaguing women, children, members of the LGBTQIA+ community, and men who are abused by their partners. This was indeed achieved. Strategies that are unique to the people and the resources available in the West Coast District Municipality were found. I am eager to see these plans implemented,” said MEC Fernandez.



MEC Fernandez and other stakeholders at the summit.



David Joubert giving inputs on commitments to fight GBVF.



Various stakeholders at the event.



government communications

Department: Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



LIMPOPO

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

MPUMALANGA

Jerry Nkosi
013 753 2397 or 082 316 5295
Jerry@gcis.gov.za

NORTH WEST

Boitumelo Mosadi
018 381 7071 or 073 245 0906
boitumelom@gcis.gov.za

NORTHERN CAPE

Ofentse Moeti
053 832 1378/9 or 084 390 4330
Ofentse@gcis.gov.za

WESTERN CAPE

Geraldine Thopps
021 418 0533/2307 or 081 281 2200
Geraldine@gcis.gov.za

COVID-19 vaccine registration details for 12-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 I: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Government addresses water challenges

By Mlungisi Dlamini and Vuyo Gwala: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

Government is addressing the water challenges affecting the area of Vulindlela in the Msunduzi Municipality following intervention by the Department of Water and Sanitation to construct a new bulk water system to address water shortage.

On 21 July 2023, President Cyril Ramaphosa, accompanied by the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Senzo Mchunu, Acting Premier Nomagugu Simelane, Deputy Ministers, MECs and local leadership conducted service delivery oversight visits in the area and a sod-turning ceremony for Vulindlela Phase 1 bulk water project. This infrastructure will service approximately 300 000 households in Msunduzi and uMngeni municipalities, upon completion.

During his visit to Danville Water Treatment Plant, the President was particularly impressed with how the R1 billion funding by government had been spent to refurbish the plant while providing about 400 job opportunities in line with government’s commitment to create more jobs.

President Ramaphosa concluded his oversight visit with a community Imbizo where he interacted with community members from Vulindlela and surrounding areas on issues affecting them.

“While conceding that mistakes have been made in the past, we remain committed to improving people’s lives,” said President Ramaphosa, adding that councillors need to come closer to the people they serve, while ensuring that they do more and talk less.

Issues that came into the spotlight during the Imbizo include youth unemployment, drug abuse, and water and electricity shortages. The President added that government was working tirelessly to create job opportunities for the people of South Africa.



President Ramaphosa receiving a briefing about the work done at Danville water treatment plant.



Danville water treatment plant.



President Ramaphosa and other dignitaries at the event.

PRIORITY I: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Small businesses receive a boost

By Yanga Ngcukana: GCIS, Free State

On 4 August 2023, the Mayor of Mohokare Local Municipality, Zingisa Mgawuli, and the Speaker, Retshesitswe Thuhlo, at Smithfield in a Small Business Open Day activation activity whereby local small businesses displayed their own work through exhibition stalls.

Baking, artwork creatives, school clothing, honey, and furniture were some of the items that were on display and were all manufactured locally or within the municipality. The Mayor also thanked the Small Enterprise Development Agency for giving small businesses the platform to expose themselves to greater markets. She also committed to continuing to assist where possible because 'these women are the breadwinners at home and they also provide work to other people locally'.

Thuhlo challenged the community to provide support to these businesses by buying their products.

"Let us support our local businesses as it also gives value for money," he said.

Other stakeholders that supported the event were the Department of Agriculture, Land Reform and Rural Development, Independent Electoral Commission, and the Department of Employment and Labour.



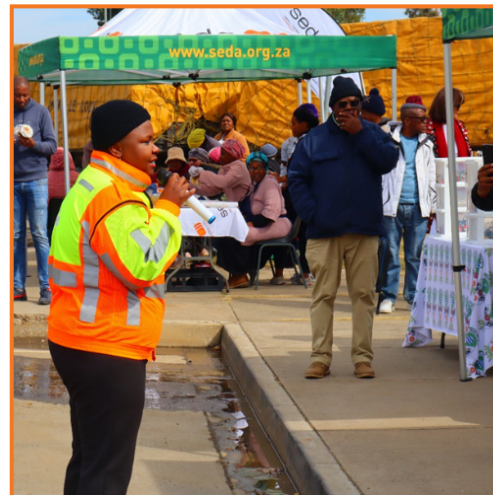
Sinazo Ndzakana said:

"This was a good initiative, because now we know the businesses and what they are all about. It was encouraging to also see the Mayor being part of the event."



Brenda Zulu said:

"I am in the hospitality business and I hope this initiative will really give us the exposure to our people and government."



Mayor Mgawuli addressing small business owners and community members.



Community members visiting an exhibition stall at the event.



Some of the stakeholders who exhibited their products and services at the event.

PRIORITY I: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Building a capable local government

By Zukiswa Mqumbisa: GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) provided government communication orientation and induction to the multi-party coalition government in the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality in Gqeberha from 25 to 26 July 2023. This was in partnership with Cities Network, EC OTP, Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and South African Local Government Association. The session focused on basic media training, government-communication orientation, protocol and a media networking session. Those in attendance included Mayoral Committee and the senior management of the institution.

Effective communication is critical in maintaining and enhancing good relations between the Metro and its stakeholders, including the media. The protocol and media training aimed at capacitating the messengers of the institution on media handling, which included areas such as “how to deal with media interviews, how to conduct themselves during interviews, availing themselves for interviews, preparing of interviews and how to dress for an interview”.

The other focus of the session was on building relations with local media in the area of the Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality. During the media networking session, media was given an

opportunity to share insights on the stories they carry as news and talk on what they, as the media perceive as newsworthy. Councillors were given an opportunity to engage the media.

Councillors were happy to have received the training and indicated that they had a better understanding of the role played by the communications as a strategic function of the institution. The leadership of the municipality committed to ensuring that the development of a communication strategy for the metro is prioritised and that support is provided in the execution phase.

Nelson Mandela Bay Metropolitan Municipality Executive Mayor Gary Van Niekerk committed that the municipality will sit in this fashion again to draft a strategy. He also advocated forward councillors to receive the same training, as it will be also highly beneficial for them as well.

The media training unravelled many issues the communication office was confronted with, such as operational budget, access to the office of the Executive Mayor, clear communication lines between the Head of Communications and the political leadership forming part of the Mayoral Committee.



Executive Mayor Van Niekerk addressing councillors and the audience at the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium in Gqeberha.



Khusela Rantjie addressing speaking at the event.



GCIS Provincial Director Ndlelantle Pinyana facilitating the training.



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