



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE 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 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Launch of new infrastructure projects

By Sandiswa Mdingi: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Mayor Nontombizanele Koni officially opening the Cacadu Park.



The newly constructed vehicle testing station in Emalahleni.

The Eastern Cape Provincial Government and Emalahleni Local Municipality officially launched eight newly constructed projects to Emalahleni Local Municipality communities on 15 October 2020. The completed infrastructure projects that also created jobs to the Emalahleni community are: Tsolokazi and Maqwathini access roads, Cacadu Park, Bailey Bridge in Tsembeyi village, vehicle testing station, two internal street paving in Dordrecht and Indwe townships, and Phase 3 of the Cacadu Park.

These service-delivery initiatives are aimed at transforming communities for the better, as were desperately required by residents, to maintain and improve the welfare of its people. The Emalahleni community requested government to continuously maintain and service these newly completed projects to benefit future generations. Some of them are vital for youth development.



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

Marius Nagel
053 832 1378/9 or 083 778 9179
mariusn@gcis.gov.za

WESTERN CAPE

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

One elderly community member mentioned that the projects have wiped the tears of the families of those who have died trying to cross the Tsembeyi village bridge, before it was constructed.



The Bailey Bridge in Tsembeyi village before completion.



The Bailey Bridge in Tsembeyi village after the construction.

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Minister engages with farmers

By Fatima Modise: GCIS, North West



Minister Thoko Didiza and MEC Desbo Mohono during an engagement with farmers in Greater Taung.



Farmers and stakeholders who attended the engagement in Greater Taung.



Minister Thoko Didiza during her visit to Lerouxspan in Lekwa Teemane Municipality.

The Minister of Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Reform, Thoko Didiza, visited the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District Municipality to engage with commercial, subsistence and small-scale farmers across the Greater Taung Local Municipality at Bosele Primary Cooperative Farm near Matolong village on 12 October 2020. The Minister was accompanied by North West MEC for Agriculture Desbo Mohono.

Some of the issues raised by the farmers included the expansion of the irrigation scheme since the area is huge and has a potential of growing in terms of crop production. The farmers also requested government to assist them in revitalising their cooperative and later develop it into a secondary cooperative, which will be the umbrella for others.

Minister Didiza said the irrigation infrastructure is one of the key areas where farmers need assistance from government. She further explained that the farmers should sit down and come up with a strategy to revitalise the cooperative, so that they can approach government with something in hand.

On the second day of her visit, the Minister visited farmers in Lekwa Teemane Local Municipality in Lerouxspan, where she engaged with the owners and monitored progress that has been made.

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Broadcasting Digital Migration awareness

By Phoka Mofokeng and Ntombi Mhlambi: GCIS, Free State



Warden community members who attended the Broadcasting Digital Migration programme.



Deputy Minister Pinky Kekana issuing DStv basic course and Digital Terrestrial Television installations certificate to a trainee.



Deputy Minister Pinky Kekana at an inspection visit in Warden.



Deputy Minister Pinky Kekana during a monitoring visit at the Kroonstad Post Office.

The Deputy Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Pinky Kekana, led the Broadcasting Digital Migration programme inspection in Warden, accompanied by the Executive Mayor of Thabo Mofutsanyana District, Malefu Vilakazi and the Mayor of Phumelela Local Municipality, Tlokotsi Motaung, on 29 September 2020.

The inspection was part of the department's mandate of ensuring the roll-out of the Broadcasting Digital Migration programme in South Africa as government is in the process of migrating the country from analogue to digital service, thus ensuring universal access to broadcasting services. Digital migration will, among other things, provide viewers with more channels, ensure access to all free-to-air channels of good quality picture and sound, parental guidance and control of programmes.

Deputy Minister Kekana and the delegation participated in the issuing of youth trainee certificates to the youth of Nketoana and Phumelela municipalities who attended the DStv basic course and Digital Terrestrial Television installations programme. The Deputy Minister concluded her inspection by visiting five houses that have migrated from analogue to digital, to engage with the beneficiaries.

Deputy Minister Kekana then launched the Broadcasting Digital Migration Walk-in Centre on 30 September 2020, at the Kroonstad Post Office in Moqhaka Local Municipality. This centre is meant for communities to register to receive free Set-Top Boxes that government provides to households earning less than R3 200 a month.

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

Gauteng promotes clean environment

By Tshidi Mokoka: GCIS, Gauteng



Jacob Thapelo Dlamini said:
“I have been using a paraffin stove for a long time and it is true that the use

of paraffin is troublesome and causes a lot of health problems. The stoves that were donated by the department will help us in living a better life in areas that we reside in.”



Mmateboho Mohale said:
“I am happy to have received this from the department as it will help me when cooking for my family. The smell of paraffin in our shacks is overwhelming and is

not good for us. However, we had no choice but to use it as there is no electricity in our area. The methanol stove will help a lot in our everyday lives while we strive to fend for our families.”



Thabo Selamolela said:
“I appreciate what the department has done for us today. For

the longest time I have been using coal or paraffin in my house. These has resulted in my family leaving me to live with my other relatives because they could not stand the fumes that were coming out of these. The methanol stove is a life-saver for us and will also prevent unnecessary fires in the area.”



Government official Matilda Gasela standing with beneficiaries of the methanol stoves.



Illegal dumping area in Brandvlei that was cleaned by government officials and the community.

The Gauteng Department of Agriculture and Rural Development (GDARD) donated close to 500 methanol stoves to the community of Brandvlei, on 28 October 2020, particularly those living in informal settlements. This is a group of people who use paraffin stoves or coal in their everyday lives.

The stoves help reduce the impact of air pollution. The GDARD Head of Department, Matilda Gasela, informed the community of the importance of living in an environment free of air pollution. Reports indicate that fumes from paraffin stoves and coals used by people affect the environment, and that these stoves are the cause of most fires in the informal settlements. “The stoves given out today are much safer and will go a long way in ensuring a clean environment inside houses people live in. Unlike paraffin and coal, methanol does not pollute the air,” said Gasela.

In addition to the stoves, the department also initiated a cleaning campaign in the area in line with the Bontle Ke Botho campaign to encourage communities to adopt a cleaner and greener Gauteng. Gasela told the community that it is in their hands to ensure that they live in areas that discourage dumping. “Air quality is important, and climate change has in recent years shown the world how our own environment can work against us if we do not take care of it,” she said.

Patricia Matuwane, a member of the West Rand District Mayoral Committee informed people that the municipality is in the process of passing bi-laws that will ensure that people caught dumping are either fined or jailed. “We are always collaborating with GDARD to provide communities with resources and infrastructure to help keep areas clean, but we realise that this is a losing battle as people continue to live around filth that they dump close to where they live. It is our hope that people will stand up and report those who dump to relevant authorities,” she said.

Other services that were available on the day include agro-processing, where people were encouraged to use their yards to plant vegetables, which they can provide for their families and later sell to their neighbours.