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Issue no.43: November 2022

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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

PRIORITY6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Deputy President engages traditional leaders

By Tabita Ngqunge: GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Eastern Cape House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders had an engagement with Deputy President David Mabuza on 13 October 2022, where Premier Oscar Mabuyane highlighted the good relations his office has with the traditional leaders.

Premier Mabuyane emphasised his understanding of being subjects of the kingdoms. He said every year after the delivery of the State of the Province Address, and departmental policy speeches, MECs and himself, table developmental plans for the year to the traditional leaders.

He also mentioned that development requires land and traditional leaders as landowners should play a pivotal role to enable development through availing land.

Premier Mabuyane further mentioned that many businesses are interested in investing in the most impoverished parts of the province, but land becomes an issue.

He cited the multi-billion-rand clean energy projects in the province, which are on the western side where investors have land issues as a hindrance to investing in the former Transkei.

The Deputy President outlined the reason for the visit to the Eastern Cape, which was to engage with all traditional, and Khoi-San leaders so they can respond to matters raised.

Nkosikazi Nomandla Mhlauli, the Chairperson of the National House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders, spoke about the high levels of poverty and women and children abuse. She emphasised the need to strengthen the relationship between traditional leaders and government, to ensure that challenges are resolved.

MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Zolile Williams, declared that the legislation that would allow Khoi-San leaders to be members of the Eastern Cape House of Traditional Leaders was at a progressive stage. Nkosi Gwazinamba Matanzima, Deputy Chairperson of the Eastern Cape House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders, in his closing remarks, appreciated the magnificent engagement with Deputy President Mabuza as a sign of a caring government.



Deputy President David Mabuza addressing the Eastern Cape House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders.



Members of the Eastern Cape House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders who were in attendance



**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 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Road safety awareness campaign

By Yanga Ngcukana: GCIS, Free State

The road safety awareness campaign was held through a roadblock on 20 October 2022 at Trompsburg on the N1 Bridge.

The awareness aimed to promote and encourage roadworthy vehicle use, promote safety for drivers on the road, and for drivers to adhere to the regulations of the road.

Moreover, road users were sensitised against giving random people a lift on their private transport or taking hitch-hikers along the road, for their safety.

The South African National Roads Agency Limited together with the Road Traffic Infringement Agency, Department of Health, Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), South African Police Service,

Provincial Traffic Department, Emergency Medical Services, Department of Roads and Transport, Department of Home Affairs (Immigration Unit), and Xhariep District Municipality interacted with road users on different topics and were also issued with information leaflets and condoms.

The GCIS emphasised the importance of drivers listening to the radio while on the road to get first-hand information in case there is an obstruction such as an accident or a community protest along the road.

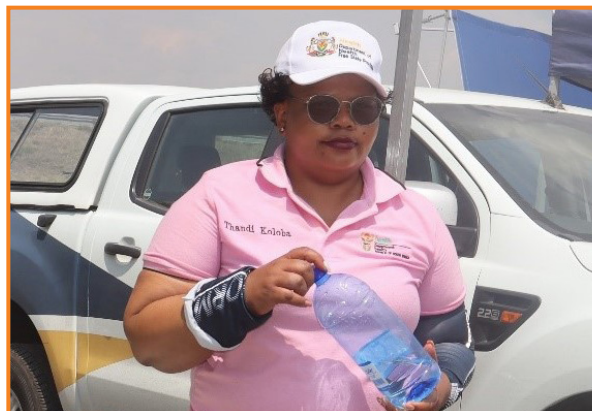


Officials interacting with truck drivers and giving out pamphlets.



Baba Chris said:

“It is a good initiative to see government on the road, and for a change, we are given condoms and information. I will take the condoms to the truck inns.”



Thandi Koloba said:

“It gives me great fulfilment to know that I have contributed to someone’s life through information today. These integrated programmes of government carry a lot of weight for the community.”

PRIORITY 4: CONSOLIDATING THE SOCIAL WAGE THROUGH RELIABLE AND QUALITY BASIC SERVICES.

Public service awareness blitz

By Bakang Ditibane and Karabo Diale: GCIS, North West

On 26 October 2022, various government departments, institutions and other stakeholders, embarked on a public service awareness blitz campaign in Ramatlabama Six Hundred Village Tribal Council under the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality.

The blitz campaign was attended by Ramatlabama Six Hundred Chief and Member of the Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders Council, and Kgosi Gobusamang G. Shole of Batlounge Baga Shole Traditional House.

It follows to ensure that service-delivery interventions and exhibitions are rolled out to various communities from far-flung areas in the province.

The campaign has had a positive impact on the lives of various citizens of Ramtlabama as it made government departments more accessible and visible.

Basic services required by citizens have been rendered under one roof resulting in improved, consistent and efficient service delivery.

Abraham Kubu who is a member of Batlounge Baga Shole Tribal Council said, "I thank each and every government department that honoured the

invitation to come and render their service to the people of Ramatlabama. I want to encourage community members present here to visit and make use of each department stall and receive the necessary information and help."

Stakeholders such as the South African Social Security Agency, Department of Social Development, Department of Health, Department of Labour, Ramatlabama Community Development Workers of Ward 3, The Aurum Institute, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA), Government Communication and Information System, Department Economic Development, Environment Conversation and Tourism, North West Office of the Premier, South African Red-Cross and the Department of Home Affairs engaged with the public, shared information and provided services.

Information material included the Vuk'uzenzele newspaper, road safety leaflets, pamphlets on Ithuba bursary, Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, and the Constitution booklets among others.



The community of Ramatlabama Six Hundred village during the public service awareness blitz.



Lucus Motlhabane said:

"As a councillor of Ward 3 Mahikeng sub-region in Ramatlabama, I am delighted that today we have various key departments to assist our people. I am very happy that we will work together with the tribal authority to assist the people. We would like to encourage the people to use these kinds of services whenever they are given the opportunity so that it is easier for them to get access to all these different key departments. Government is really trying hard to bring government departments closer to the people, and we are happy by this initiative taken by the departments to come and visit us in the rural areas so our people do not spend on transport fare."



Mmabatho Tolomo said:

"As a community development worker in Ward 3, we are here in Ramatlabama, and the purpose of this initiative is to ensure that various key departments bring services to the people in need. I am happy with the partnership we have with these departments and will continue hosting such campaigns."

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Kuruman hosts Gender-Based Violence dialogue

By Tebogo Monyo: GCIS, Northern Cape

The Department of Social Development and the Government Communication and Information System, working with other stakeholders, hosted a community dialogue in Seoding village in Kuruman, on 4 November 2022, to discuss how government and community members can join hands to fight against the scourge of Gender-Based Violence (GBV).

The event comes after an increased number of human trafficking cases were reported in the Kuruman area, in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District.

The dialogue was attended by, among other key stakeholders, the Directorate for Priority Crime Investigation (Hawks), the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), the Department of Health, Department of Education, Department of Health Justice and Constitutional Development, and civil society.

Advocate Mpho Makgaga, from the NPA, said the fight against GBV must be a societal issue and pleaded with victims not to withdraw charges against perpetrators, as this set the fight against GBV backward.

“Sometimes communities lambast law-enforcement agencies and prosecutors when in actual fact, some victims withdraw cases before they are concluded. Community members then see these people in communities and get angry with the justice system,” she said.

Onalenna Saku, a GBV survivor, said victims of physical and emotional abuse, expected perpetrators to change and that this was often to their own detriment. She shared her story of being in abusive

relationships until she decided to seek help for the sake of her children. She was assisted by social workers at the Thuthuzela Care Centre at Kuruman Hospital.

Brigadier Shimie Mojela from the Hawks said the district was becoming an epicentre of human trafficking in the province, and that this was a serious concern for government.

He explained the difference between human trafficking and human smuggling, saying human trafficking refers to the trade of humans within the boundaries of a country, most commonly for forced labour, sexual slavery and commercial sexual exploitation, while human smuggling was the trade of humans across an international border.

“Parents should not tire to raise, respectful boys, who understand that girls are not objects that can be used and abused. Fighting GBV is a societal responsibility that cannot be relegated to government alone”, said social activist, Pastor Lebo Nkadimang.

There was a general consensus among attendees that if the war against GBV was to be won, a concerted and deliberate partnership between government and the citizens must be developed.



Coceka Smous from the Department of Social Development facilitating the dialogue.



A candle-lighting moment of silence was observed in remembrance of GBV victims.



Onalenna Saku said:

“Once someone starts to physically abuse you, and you forgive the person with the hope that he will change, you will continue to be abused and it might end fatally. So, my advice to all who are abused is that they need to get out of such relationships and seek help.”



Daniel Pedinyana said:

“Our children, especially in the villages, must be taught that every human being must be respected. The abuse of women must be stopped in its tracks.”



Lebo Nkadamang said:

“Society must join hands with government to fight GBV, and government must support community-based organisations working with issues of GBV, to have a more positive impact.”