



MY DISTRICT TODAY



STAY SAFE

PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS

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PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Dialogue on violence and COVID-19

By Thandinkosi Zulu: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Community members who attended the dialogue.



Ntombikayise Ntuli from the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs addressing the audience.

On 2 November 2020, the Government Communication and Information System joined the departments of Social Development, Health and the South African Police Service on a gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) dialogue. The objective of the dialogue was to reduce incidents of violence and abuse within communities.

The programme was held at the Qhudeni Community Hall in Nquthu, KwaZulu-Natal, where about 45 community members participated and raised issues on GBVF cases in the area. Community members called on the justice system to fast track judgement on cases of GBVF as it's a serious threat to livelihoods. Nosipho Mbele, from the Department of

Social Development, urged community members to report abuse. She also discouraged against GBVF cases being withdrawn after families have had internal negotiations as this further perpetuates the scourge.

Community members were also reminded to apply safety measures since COVID-19 is still a threat.

"Government is here to share knowledge that will help you. COVID-19 is with us and we must apply safety precautions such as sanitising or washing our hands and always wearing masks in public areas," said Ayanda Hadebe from the Department of Health.



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PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Construction underway for Petrusville Primary School

By Moleboheng Maphutsi: GCIS, Northern Cape



Premier Zamani Saul and MEC Zolile Monakali at the Petrusville Primary School.



Government leaders who attended the ceremony.

On 9 November 2020, Northern Cape Premier Zamani Saul, together with Education MEC Zolile Monakali and the Executive Mayor of Pixley ka Seme District Councillor John Lolwana, officiated a ceremony to mark the construction of the new Petrusville Primary School.

This event is part of the Department of Education's quest to improve the construction of schools which were previously built with asbestos-containing material. The department outlined the health risks associated with asbestos and how to address this challenge.

The R100-million school includes a reliable water system, sanitation and other infrastructure resources that will enable a favourable learning environment for pupils. The school will be fully fitted with a modern administration block. Other new features added to the school are media and nutrition centres, ablution facilities and science labs.

The department called on the community to work with national and provincial government in achieving and seeing the fulfillment of this vision.

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Talking safety with Toekomsrus boys

By Tshidi Mokoka: GCIS, Gauteng



Tshita Mashige engaging with the learners.

On 12 November 2020, the Rand West City Local Municipality Public Safety Department, in partnership with the Randfontein Police Station and the West Rand Muslim Association gave a safety talk at the Hartzstraat Primary School in Toekomsrus, targeting young boys from grades 3 to 7. The event engaged these scholars on gender-based violence and other challenges, such as substance abuse, that can have dire life consequences.

Tshita Mashige from the Randwest City Public Safety Crime Unit said: “The reason we are here today is to provide you with skills and information that you can apply in ensuring you behave as gentlemen towards women. You are children now, but you will grow up to be men so you have to decide what kind of men you want to be.”

He further said that due to the area these boys live in, which has high cases of gangsterism and substance abuse, it is important that they make education the most important thing in their lives. “Education is one thing that no one can ever take away from you,” he concluded.



Constable Portia Mabala from Randfontein Police Station distributing donated packs.

During the event the West Rand Muslim Association donated packs with each containing a facecloth, toothpaste, toothbrush, soap, toilet roll and deodorant. Ebrahim Mokoena from the association said: “The reason we give these to you is to encourage you to practise cleanliness, and further encourage you to share with those who are not as privileged as you are. To be a great man means showing compassion to others and not being afraid to stand up against bullying, especially when it is perpetrated against female learners or friends around you.”

Member of Parliament Jane Khoza, and other stakeholders such as the Department of Social Development, community development workers, the South African Police Service, the Government Communication and Information System and the West Rand Disaster Management also supported the event.

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Awareness campaign spreads across Free State

By Cholo Mothibi: GCIS, Free State



Deputy Minister Phumulo Masualle addressing the community of Smithfield.



Stakeholders that attended the engagement at the Relebohile-Sibulela Secondary School.

On 2 November 2020, Public Enterprises Deputy Minister Phumulo Masualle, together with Free State Education MEC Tate Makgoe, Treasury MEC Gadija Brown and Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs MEC Thembeni Nxangisa, embarked on a gender-based violence (GBV) awareness campaign in Smithfield.

The proceedings started at the Relebohile-Siyabulela Secondary School where learners were advised on ensuring proper preparation for their final examinations. MEC Makgoe explained the plans in place to develop the education sector in Xhariep to ensure that education offices are available within the district.

Government officials also visited the Sivile-Reutlwile Victim Empowerment Centre to monitor the services offered at the facility. Thereafter, a community engagement was held at the George Rantee Community Hall to discuss tackling GBV. This was followed by a meeting with families affected by GBV. MEC Nxangisa delivered a message of support and strongly condemned abuse against women and children. He encouraged boys and men to act responsibly.

The Xhariep District Men's Forum shared insight regarding their involvement in the fight against the scourge of GBV. The District Development Model was also launched in the Xhariep District. Deputy Minister Masualle emphasised the importance of the community and government working together to ensure the success of the model.