



MY DISTRICT TODAY



STAY SAFE

PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS

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PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

COVID-19 awareness activation in Makhanda

By Noluvuyo Mangweni: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Councillor Mzobanzi Nkwentsha and Yoliswa Ramakolo mounting a COVID-19 poster in Makhanda.



Councillor Mzobanzi Nkwentsha doing loud hailing in Makhanda.

On 13 November 2020, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) embarked on a COVID-19 activation in Makhanda. This was an intervention by the GCIS after Sarah Baartman District Municipality was identified as one of the current COVID-19 hotspots.

The activation was done in collaboration with the Rhodes University, Makana Local Municipality and various other government stakeholders to sensitise Makhanda residents about Level 1 regulations.

Makhanda is said to be having a hectic night life in the form of parties and tavern visits. Often, these night time engagements are said not to be

regulated. As a result, Makhanda has seen a high rise in new COVID-19 cases over the past few weeks; some of which are attributed to the unrestricted night time activities. Concerns arose from the Rhodes University Student Wellness Section when the university reported active COVID-19 cases.

During the session, stakeholders observed some level of defiance by the residents of Makhanda. However, the stakeholders proceeded to all planned routes in Makhanda for loud hailing and also visiting various liquor establishment to check compliance.



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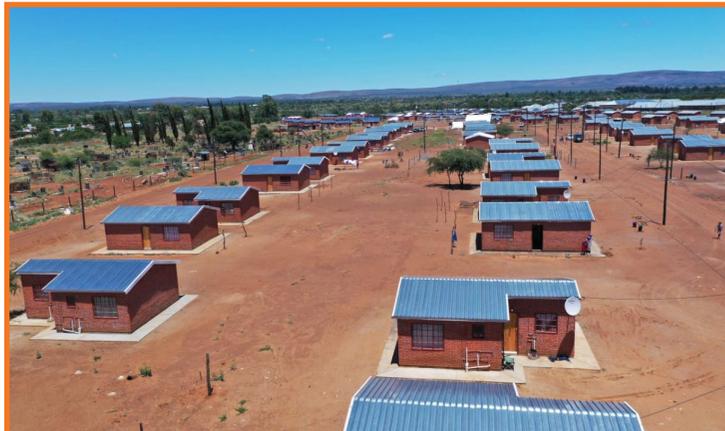
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PRIORITY 5: SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Home owners urged to go green

By Tebogo Monyo: GCIS, Northern Cape



The view of some of the houses at the Wrenchville 300 Housing Project in Kuruman.



A community member planting a tree as part of the Greening Challenge project.

The Department of Human Settlements, Water and Sanitation together with the Northern Cape Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, visited the Wrenchville 300 Housing Project in Kuruman on 1 December 2020, for an information sharing session.

The event was also held with the community to engage on issues related to housing, water and sanitation, and the Greening Challenge project. The project is intended to encourage communities to plant trees and vegetables, and to beautify their township.

During the event, residents were informed about the successful completion of the previous housing project, and also had the opportunity to listen to stories of beneficiaries who moved in to their new houses from December 2019. A total of 240 houses were completed and ready to be allocated to beneficiaries in the shortest space of time.

Wrenchville ward councilor, Bertus Eiman, said he was happy that the project unfolded smoothly and that more families would be housed in decent and proper houses. He expressed his gratitude to the department for ensuring that jobs were created for local residents, who benefited economically from the project.

Magrietha Kerneels, one of the beneficiaries who moved in to her new house and also the first-time owner of a house at the age of 66, was applauded by the department for her greening efforts of planting trees and developing a vegetable garden in her yard. She said her love for cultivating and planting was developed when she used to work at the farm. She said she would continue to motivate her neighbours and the community at large to take good care of their houses and to plant as many trees and vegetables as possible.

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

Minister visits Ilembe District

By Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Stakeholders who attended the inaugural meeting in Ilembe District Municipality.



Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma engaging with a 101-year-old beneficiary of a house.



Sod turning ceremony at Mandeni Driving Licence and Testing Centre site.



Minister Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma during in Ndwedwe Local Municipality.

The Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Nkosazana Dlamini Zuma, undertook a working visit to Ilembe District from 17 to 20 November 2020, and engaged with a range of stakeholders, including traditional leaders, local and district councils. She also conducted site visits to various infrastructure projects.

On 18 November 2020, Minister Dlamini Zuma led the Inaugural District Development Model (DDM) meeting with government leaders, civil society and the media. The proceedings opened with the Ilembe District Mayor Councillor Siduduzo Gumede providing a status report on the municipality, highlighting demographic diversity, socio-economic status, education, skills shortages, gender-based violence and service delivery issues, impact of the COVID-19 and the district's economic recovery plan. Mayor Gumede acknowledged the importance of the DDM, especially in rural development.

Minister Dlamini Zuma stated that while the economy and more facilities and social activities have been opened and the country has moved to Level 1, the COVID-19 is still a threat and health facilities are recording new infections daily. She urged the house not to let their guard down and to remain vigilant.

The Minister also spoke about the roles and responsibilities of local government according to its constitutional mandate to provide transparent, accountable, democratic governance and services, ensure and promote community participation and create a safe and healthy local environment. She also spoke against the silo style functionality of departments and lack of cooperation between the departments and other spheres of government, which hampers service delivery and resulted in protests.

From 19 to 20 November, the Minister held engagements with the four local councils, leading discussions on the DDM concept of integrated, aligned and consolidated planning to expedite service delivery, eradicate silos and provide decentralised services. The DDM Terms of Reference, and District Poverty Reduction Plan were also discussed.

Minister Dlamini Zuma also participated in a sod-turning ceremony for the Mandeni Driving Licence Testing Centre, handed over a house to a 101-year-old citizen, and visited the Maphumulo Water Works and Eshlahleni access road and bridge construction site.



PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Addressing the scourge of gender-based violence

By Robbie Senoelo: GCIS, Gauteng



Stakeholders distributing information product in Laezonia Informal Settlement.



Community members collecting information products in Laezonia.

Government’s effort to fight the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) received a boost when the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), in partnership with community development workers (CDWs) and other stakeholders conducted the awareness campaign at Laezonia Informal Settlement in Centurion on 11 November 2020.

The objective of the campaign was to create awareness about issues of GBVF and domestic violence, to encourage men to take a stand against violence and to encourage victims to speak out and seek assistance.

Supported by CDWs, Community Policing Forum, Gauteng Office of Consumer Affairs, South African Social Security Agency and Tshwane Health’s Multi-Sectoral Aids Management Unit, the GCIS managed to expand government’s reach in terms of information dissemination and conducting a door-to-door campaign as part of community mobilisation.

Naphtali Moremi, one of the community leaders, expressed her gratitude for the initiative. She identified alcohol abuse as the major source of the pandemic. “I am so delighted you decided to bring this campaign here. It is as if you knew that there are lots of cases around here, you know, without any public amenities, people use and abuse alcohol as a social activity with negative outcomes,” said Moremi.

Community members were urged to report abusers and violence to the South African Police Service.



Ntombi Ravhele said:

“I did not know that there is help for victims of gender-based violence living in a squatter camps, like us. People have always been reluctant to report cases at the police station thinking that it is a waste of time but now I know better and I will assist or advice those in distress.”



Boysie Makeke said:

“I do not understand why men abuse their wives or girlfriends. Violence cannot be a solution and I wish young and old men understand that. I wish we could establish a Men’s Forum that will provide guidance to men.”