



MYDISTRICTTODAY



Issue no. 13: April 2024

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PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Water Week Awareness campaign targets learners

By Yanga Ngcukana: GCIS, Free State

On 8 March 2024, learners at Mooifontein Primary School situated at Zastron in the Free State, were taught water-saving tips and hygiene. The Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) led the programme at the school whereby about 92 Grade 5 learners were taught water-saving tips, how to wash hands properly, and how to save water since it is a scarce resource. This was part of Water Week Awareness celebrated by the DWS during Human Rights Month.

As a courtesy and a way of promoting hygiene and cleanliness at the school; toilet paper, cleaning detergents, and toilet brushes were donated to the school and each of the learners that were present received a token of appreciation from the departments.

Human Rights Month 2024 was commemorated under the theme: “Three Decades of Respect for and Promotion of Human Rights”. The Government Communication and Information System gave a brief history of why human rights are important and what happened in the past and learners were further engaged on the topic.

The school was also encouraged to participate in the programmes of government such as learners’ competitions that are building the learners’ minds and such information was shared with learners and school management. The Department of Employment and Labour; and community development workers also supported the programme.



Larry Crip giving opening remarks to the audience at the school hall.



Marcus Monyakani was addressing the learners.



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Yanga Ngcukana engaging with the learners on Human Rights Day and Human Rights Month.



Two learners demonstrating how to properly wash hands.

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Bringing government closer to the people

By Monique Warden, GCIS: Western Cape

Experience from across the world shows that decentralisation, when properly implemented, is one of the most powerful and effective tools to reduce poverty and inequality, accelerate rural development, and enhance the participation of citizens in their own development. The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in collaboration with the Electoral Commission of South Africa and the community development workers held a range of ward based local mini-Thusong outreaches from 1 to 30 March 2024. The sessions sought to bring government closer to the people and enhance service delivery to citizens. Four outreaches were held across the Beaufort West municipal area in Merweville, Mandela Square, Rustdene and Nelspoort.

Government departments and non-governmental organisations such as Right to Care, the Department of Social Development (DSD), Central Karoo District Municipality Fire and Rescue, South Africa Police

Service (SAPS), Road Accident Fund and the Department of Employment and Labour joined the engagement ensuring that the community could have health checks, test for TB, certify documentation and apply using the ESSA database at their doorstep. The community could also be made aware of the dire need in the Karoo for Safety Parents and learn about fire hazards directly from key departments.

These outreaches improve citizens' interaction with government institutions, help increase public awareness of government policies and regulations. They are also such an important vehicle for ensuring that no one is left behind in all rural communities.



The Department of Employment and Labour engaging the community during one of the outreaches.



SAPS discussing community safety and stock theft during one of the outreaches.



The DSD engaging with the community on foster parenting during one of the outreaches.

PRIORITY I: BUILDING A CAPABLE, ETHICAL, AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Deputy Minister conducts oversight monitoring visit

By Bakang Ditibane: GCIS, North West

On 26 March 2024, the Deputy Minister in The Presidency responsible for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Pinky Kekana, accompanied by the Deputy Minister of Public Service and Administration, Chana Pilane-Majake, North West MEC for Education, Viola Motsumi, Member of the Mayoral Committee of Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality, Councillor Dimakatso Malwane and Tswaing Local Municipality Mayor, Norah Mahlangu in partnership with traditional leadership, Office of the Premier in the North West, provincial government departments and the Human Rights Commission participated.

The purpose of the visit was to assess the progress of government-integrated efforts to restore Deelpan under the Ngaka Modiri Molema District Municipality after prolonged heavy rainfalls between December 2021 and March 2022 that resulted in over 75% of the village submerged in water. In May 2022, Deputy Minister Kekana, Deputy Ministers of Health, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, and Human Settlements immediately visited Deelpan to assess the damage, establish progress with government interventions and identify areas for further support.

Subsequently, the Deelpan Flood Disasters Monitoring Task Team, chaired by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation working with sector departments, established to facilitate accelerated interventions in the area. To date, significant inroads created to rebuild a better Deelpan in terms of human settlements, health, poverty alleviation and socio-economic programmes, among others. Use the latest oversight monitoring also to commemorate Human Rights Month and entail walkabouts to key developments in the village.

The first phase of new housing project saw 103 houses beneficiaries, which is nearly complete. Kgosi Molete of Bakolobeng Tribal Authority donated the land.

In her remarks, Deputy Minister Kekana said they are satisfied with the progress made and that the team that leads the disaster management in the province and her team from the department are working very closely but so far.

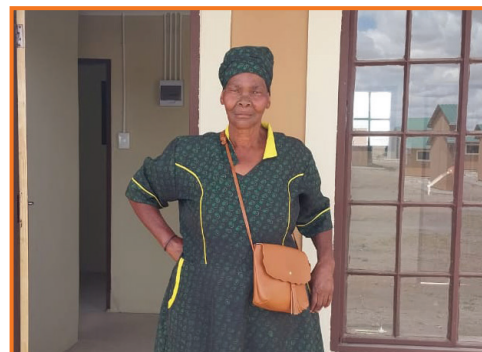
Kgosi Molete of the Bakolobeng Tribal Authority said they still have to come with the entire bulk water system. Government committed another 371 houses will be built as soon as suitable land is allocated by the tribal authority as part of the second and third phase will include residential area, which has a recreational facility.

Furthermore, Deputy Minister Kekana reiterated that although some challenges are not addressed, progress has been made. On issues of electricity, Eskom will only come once everything is at 80% completion and already. Deputy Minister Kekana further went on an oversight visit at Badibana Secondary School, and to Sereti agricultural facility and Deelpan community clinic and showcased the National Flag as part of Human Rights Month.



Martha Nkokwane said:

"I am overly happy that today I am one of the beneficiaries to receive a house from our government."



Everlin Kadolo said:

"I am overjoyed with happiness to have benefited from the houses that we have been in need of because we were removed from the shacks."



Kediemetse Mathe said:

"We are pleased to see that Deelpan Clinic is operational, so that we can receive the necessary medical attention. Previously, mobile clinic had been coming into our village on a scheduled basis."



Mpho Mosewu said:

"I am happy because seeking medical care has become accessible to us here in Deelpan."

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB RECREATION.



Asanda Ntswayintswayi said:
 "I am happy to have been part of this training. It will help me improve my business."

Deputy Minister assesses economic access

By Tabita Ngqunge: GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 20 March 2024, the Deputy Minister in The Presidency, responsible for Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation, Pinky Kekana, undertook a frontline monitoring visit to the East London Industrial Development Zone (ELIDZ) where she met with the top management led by the Chief Executive Officer (CEO), Simphiwe Kondlo and the Executive Mayor of Buffalo City Metropolitan Municipality, Princess Faku. Also in attendance were representatives from the Office of the Premier, the Department of Economic Development and Environmental Affairs and Tourism and the Buffalo City Development Agency.

The Deputy Minister's visit was against the backdrop of previous visits and frontline monitoring conducted by the Department of Planning, Monitoring and Evaluation at the Zone to unlock bottlenecks that may potentially hinder the successful operation of the ELIDZ.

Reflecting on the visit, Kondlo shared with the Deputy Minister's delegation, the successes they have recorded as the zone, one of them being awarded

eight clean audit opinions for eight consecutive years and they were one of the first industrial development zones in South Africa to be awarded a provision operator's licence in September 2002. The zone has come a long way since that very first milestone. Not only has it overcome various institutional and programme challenges to be where it is today, but it has, as the first operational industrial development zones in South Africa, helped to inform the South African government's Special Economic Zones programme make up and policy framework.

The visit was concluded by the media engagement and a walkabout tour within the industrial development zones, with the special mention of the visit to the Science and Technology Park where a group of young people from around Buffalo City Metro were being trained by the ELIDZ.



ELIDZ CEO and Deputy Minister Kekana engaging with members.



The Deputy Minister and the delegation during the frontline monitoring visit.