



# MYDISTRICTTODAY



Issue no. 3: February 2024

## 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:

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## PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

### Back-to-school community activation

By Khoboso Lebenya and Akholiwe Ndikinda, GCIS: Eastern Cape

In an effort to disseminate government information and create awareness around the back-to-school month, the Eastern Cape Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) Provincial Office conducted a community activation on 16 January 2024 at the provincial office and further moved to several road intersections in the East London Central Business District under the Buffalo City Metro.

The objective of the activation was to share government information that could benefit school children and parents. This Information-sharing activation included the distribution of the *Vuk'uzenzele* publication, information about government bursaries available, and the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) information pack, which was still open for applications until 31 January 2024.

GCIS officials in the Eastern Cape managed to share as much information and interacted with one of the young people, Hlumelo Potelwa, who stated that he was awaiting his matric results. He said: "I had not applied for NSFAS, but with the information that I got today that they are still open for applications, I will submit my application."

Communities were further made aware that the *Vuk'uzenzele* is a free publication that has job opportunities and its primary objective is to make government information available in a simplified manner to the people of South Africa with the language that they understand, particularly those who do not have access to government information.



Yamkela Siyokwana and Akholiwe Ndikinda interacting with the public and distributing government information at the event.



GCIS officials engaging with members of the public.



government communications

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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**PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.**

**Learners urged to excel**

*By Phoka Mofokeng, GCIS: Free State*

On 26 January 2024, the Government Communication and Information System in partnership with Matwabeng Stakeholder Forum hosted an information-sharing session at EE Monese School as part of State of the Nation Address build-up activities. The information-sharing session sought to honour the 2023 matric class and educators who played a pivotal role in ensuring that the school achieved its highest pass rate.

Furthermore, the event motivated the learners on the advantages of education in these modern times and encouraged them to take education seriously and focus on their studies.

The learners were encouraged to take control of their lives and were informed that they have the power to determine their future. Various academics who hail from the area were invited to motivate the learners and share with them, their journey and how education has helped them to be where they are.

The Department of Health spoke to girls about the negative effects of teenage pregnancy and being pregnant while at school because that affects their

studies and they run a risk of being exposed to many health issues such as high-blood pressure and heart conditions, as their bodies are not developed enough to handle pregnancy.

Learners were warned to be wary of bogus schools and colleges as they will start to apply. They were also advised to verify the legitimacy of the schools and the qualifications offered by contacting the Department of Higher Education and Training, and the South African Qualifications Authority.

At the end of the session, the top-five matric learners of 2023 were honoured with certificates and the educators whose subjects received 100% were also honoured with certificates by the Municipality and Matwabeng Stakeholder Forum.



Learners at the event.



Academics who were invited to motivate the learners.



Councillor Ntema Kgatlake handing over a certificate of appreciation to Matome Phakoe.



Councillor Mmasa Ponya handing over a certificate of appreciation to the educator.



## PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS, AND HEALTH.

### GO GEORGE helps learners to plan best route

By Jethro Grootboom, GCIS: Western Cape

After a successful programme in 2023, GO GEORGE in the Western Cape has embarked on another round of school visits, familiarising Grade 8 learners who take the bus to school with their different route options.

This year's GO GEORGE took place on 19 January 2024 in the Garden Route District where senior learners used the opportunity to learn how to use the network of routes and fixed schedules of GO GEORGE to their advantage. School children are an important component of passengers using the GO GEORGE bus service daily.

GO GEORGE Acting Manager Morné Lakay said, "Although most know their route to school, those who start high school this year might not be aware of the different routes and transfers available to get them to their new schools."

Lakay further added that they see learners waiting at bus stops, hoping to get onto a bus that might already be full by the time it reaches them, while another more convenient route is available on the network that connects the different areas in town.

A unique map depicting the different options available to school and back home has been created for each school and is being handed out and explained to the young passengers at bus stops near the schools or during group visits to the school. These maps can also be downloaded from the GO GEORGE website: [www.gogeorge.org.za/school-routes](http://www.gogeorge.org.za/school-routes).

Schools that would like to request a visit from the GO GEORGE communications team can leave a message on their Call Centre number: 0800 044 044, which has agents who are well-informed and equipped to assist passengers with trip planning.



Elethu Ntazini and Asisebenzele Josias with GO GEORGE communications champion Janell Gelant.



Jonah Wolhuter and Steven Uithaler with GO GEORGE communication champion Ferdie Geduld.



Theahandre Holland with GO GEORGE communication champion Khadija Luangula.



Tyron Jeyi explaining to the Grade 8 learners at Heatherlands High School how the bus system works.



**Advocate Faith Phala said:**

“I request the Deputy Minister of Health to follow up on the fact that albinism has been declared a disability, but when people with albinism apply for social grants, they are denied. Some people with albinism are not working and cannot afford sunscreen, even when its cloudy, our skin burns.”



**Mbuso Mdluli said:**

“I would like to enquire as to where can I report cases of violence apart from the police stations because so far, I have not been assisted.”

## PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

### Government engages members of the public

By Joy Themba, GCIS: Mpumalanga

On the 12 January 2024, the Deputy Minister of Police, Cassel Mathale, joined by the Deputy Minister of Health, Sibongiseni Dhlomo, the Deputy Minister of Correctional Services, Inkosi Patekile Holomisa, the Deputy Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, John Jeffery, and MMC Social Services, Khanyisa Mhlanga from the City of Mbombela graced the South African National Defence Force Club engagement session in Mbombela.

The Deputy National Commissioner for Support Services, Lieutenant-General Lineo Ntshiea, outlined the purpose of the engagement, which was to provide a platform to discuss crime-related challenges faced by these communities. With the sole purpose of ensuring policing services and actions that promote diversity. This engagement sought to establish and strengthen the fight against crime perpetrated against the LGBTQIA+ and people with albinism.

Communities were given an opportunity to raise concerns about the experience they encounter as LGBTQIA+ and people with albinism both in society and even when approaching government services before the Deputy Ministers could respond.

During the messages of support, the Deputy Ministers spoke on one voice that their employees in their respective departments are now trained to handle LGBTQIA+ and people with albinism. They emphasised that privacy should be prioritised. Deputy Minister Jeffery said at all correctional centres, they have now provided cells to accommodate all LGBTQIA+ as per their category so that they feel safe and secured.

Deputy Minister Mathale used the platform to create awareness on the strides made by the South African Police Service (SAPS) in ensuring the promotion of diversity and inclusivity. He said that the SAPS developed and distributed the Standard Operating Procedure to respect, protect and promote the rights of LGBTQIA+ persons with objectives to continuously create awareness to members on how to provide a respectful, inclusive and supportive service to LGBTQIA+; to prevent secondary victimisation and ensure the protection of constitutional rights of the LGBTQIA+ community.



Deputy Ministers and dignitaries visiting the exhibition stalls before the start of the programme.



Dignitaries with LGBTQIA+ representatives.



Mpumalanga LGBTQIA+ members with departmental officials at the event.