



MYDISTRICTTODAY



**STAY
SAFE**

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

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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 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Tackling drug and substance abuse in schools

By Moloko Segale: GCIS, Gauteng

As part of promoting school safety programmes, the Government Communication and Information System together with its stakeholders South African National Council of Alcoholism and Drug Dependency, the South African Police Service and Impact Africa held two successful information-sharing sessions at Gateway School in Ruimsig (Roodepoort) on the 28 February 2023.

The sessions sought to, among other things, promote safety in schools by addressing physical, verbal, social and cyber bullying among children. SAPS addressed the issues having a formal presentation and engagements on social issues affecting them. These issues include social media, swearing, bad or unruly behaviour, formations of gangs in schools, physical and psychological intention of hurting others among others. The aim of the presentation was to promote respect, good behaviour, politeness and willingness to help one another.

The main aim of the information-sharing session was to create awareness and educate learners about the impact of drugs and substance abuse on physical and mental health; guide them on how to handle peer pressure, resist temptations and know what one needs to do to avoid being involved. Moreover, discussions on understanding puberty and other life changing stages that have dire consequences such as dating or being sexually active.

Information on available services of psychosocial support and safety and where to report such cases were shared during the session. Assistance and intervention measures were also presented for diagnosis, counselling and treatment in case of drug addiction and how to handle life-changing stages of puberty, dating and reporting sexual offences/crimes to law-enforcement agencies.



Junior and senior learners in different sessions.



**government
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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.



Heidi Kotze said:

"I appreciate all the efforts put into this event, especially the emphasis on services available for victims of abuse. I would also like to have the Department of Social Development or any other mandated department to come on board for the next session for them to address other issues such as other available services, teen development and behaviour, community interventions, especially for people with disabilities."



Douglas Dhliwayo said:

"I listened to the presenters and their engagements and I appreciate their efforts as they will assist the schools in instilling discipline."



Thoko Ndwandwe said:

"My plea to the Premier is to engage with law-enforcement agencies at the municipal level not to chase us as hawkers from where we operate our small businesses. Those dealing with by-laws are harassing us and by so doing, they are encouraging people to commit crime as we have high level of unemployment. We urge the Premier to protect us as we are trying to fend for our families."



Michael Ngobeni said:

"My plea to the Premier is to come up with the best strategy to create jobs. I am unemployed. If government and private sector can collaborate and create jobs for this province, many people will benefit."

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

Mpumalanga Premier delivers State of the Province Address

By Sibusiso Chauke: GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in Mpumalanga conducted the Pre-State of the Province Address (SoPA) awareness campaign by rolling out community activations aimed at disseminating government information to the public. The event took place in Mbombela Stadium on 3 March 2023. During the activations, members of the public were encouraged to share their views on service delivery and what they need provincial government to address, which is affecting their lives. The 2023 SoPA information leaflets were distributed, community members were encouraged to take part in the SoPA so that they know about government plans. Moreover, the community members raised several challenges. They have asked government to address, as the matter of agency, issues such as unemployment, crime, electricity load shedding, poor roads infrastructure and water as basic needs for communities.

Community members were encouraged to participate in government engagements with the society to ensure that required services are delivered. The *Vuk'uzenzele* newspaper and information leaflets on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, bullying and SoPA were distributed to community members.

The GCIS shared consolidated opinions with the Office of the Premier. On the day of the SoPA, support was provided to Premier Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane as she outlined the Programme of Action for the province.



GCIS official Sibusiso Chauke sharing information with community members.



Premier Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane delivering the State of the Province Address.

PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Measles vaccination campaign in Oudtshoorn

By Jetrho Grootboom: GCIS, Western Cape

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) Western Cape Provincial Office in partnership with local stakeholders from the Bridgton Clinic, WoW Elderly Women Club, Child Welfare, Bridgton South African Police Service (SAPS) Sector Commander, Oudtshoorn Municipality and Bridgton Neighbourhood Watch conducted a door-to-door campaign to engage community members, at Bridgton settlement, in the Oudtshoorn Municipality about measles vaccination campaign. The event took place on 3 March 2023.

Health care professionals vaccinated toddlers who were not attending crèche or school during the door-to-door campaign, while social workers from Child Welfare interacted with parents of the children, who are in dire need for social services. Bridgton SAPS Sector Commander, together with Bridgton Neighbourhood Watch, enquired on crime-related challenges that the community is experiencing, while the WoW Elderly Club, registered elderly people to establish an elderly club in the area.

A GCIS official in the area interacted with community members and shared with them: *Vuk'uzenzele* newspapers, communicated the key messages on anti-corruption, Gender-Based Violence and Femicide, and further education and training opportunities from the local TVET colleges, among others.

Health officials assisted TB patients, who were supposed to visit the clinic on 28 February 2023, however, were unable to do so due to poor health. The stakeholders agreed on having mobile clinic to visit the patients in order to provide the necessary health services needed in the area.

Government has embarked on a nationwide child immunisation campaign to vaccinate children at schools, early childhood development centres and other public places to ensure that no child is left behind. Measles and HPV vaccines offered by government are safe and effective. HPV Vaccine protects girls from developing cervical cancer later in life. HPV vaccination is offered to learners in Grade 5 from the age of nine and above in public schools through the school-based campaign. Schools have been issuing consent forms to learners for parents and caregivers to sign to enable health workers to immunise learners. No learner will be immunised until his/her parents or legal guardian has given permission through signing a consent form, and parents are strongly encouraged to provide this consent. Unimmunised children are at the highest risk of contracting measles and infecting other classmates and household members. Measles vaccines are available free of charge at public health facilities and parents are encourage to take their children there.

Parents of children under 15 who are not in crèches, daycare centres or public schools, are urged to take their children to their closest clinic. For children in crèches, daycare centres or public schools, the department will be visiting them through the integrated school vaccination programme to offer convenient and safe vaccinations. Parents will need to sign an informed consent form, sent by the education facility, giving permission for their child to receive the measles vaccination.



Stakeholders visiting homes during the campaign.



A health official administering the measles booster to toddlers on the street.

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

International Women's Day commemoration

By Doctor Marebane: GCIS, Limpopo

MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Nkakareng Rakgoale, joined hands with the world in celebrating the International Women's Day at Ga-Matlala Setumong on 8 March 2023. International Women's Day seeks to recognise the social, cultural, technological and political strides made by women.

The theme for the event was "DigiALL; Innovation and Technology for Gender Equality". The MEC, who was the Acting Premier, highlighted socio-economic impact of gender digital divide, challenges faced as well as mechanisms of the intervention to ensure optimal participation of women in the fast paced technological world.

"It is paramount importance that women are not left behind on the matter related to innovation, invention and technology so that we do not perpetuate the legacy created by the historical gender imbalances. Women can and must lead in technology," said MEC Rakgoale.

Meanwhile, Sport, Art and Culture MEC Nakedi Kekana highlighted the challenges faced by people with disabilities.

"Women living with disabilities should not be left behind as we embark on this International Women's Day celebrations," she remarked. MEC Kekana also said that there should be acknowledgement of different realities for different populations of women.

"Women and girls with disabilities face compounded vulnerabilities in the society and they should be included in the commemoration of this day and further in conceptualising the fight for gender equity and equality," she added. The MEC also called on girls and women with disabilities to consider different sporting codes.



Patricia Maleka said:

"It is important to commemorate the day as it reminded the world about the contributions made by women."



Dr Ngwako Rapakwana said:

"It is encouraging to see that women's contribution is recognised and commemorated throughout the world."



MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale addressing the audience.



Members of the public who attended the event accessing government information.