



**MY DISTRICT TODAY**



Issue no. 20: June 2019

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**OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP.**

**Inmates view the inauguration of the President**

*By Mojalefa Senokoatsane: GCIS, Free State*

On 25 May 2019, as part of celebrating the Presidential Inauguration and commemorating Africa Day, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) together with the Department of Correctional Services hosted a very enlightening Presidential Inauguration live-viewing event with the inmates of Bizzah Makhate Correctional Centre in Kroonstad.

The event was aimed at ensuring that all those who are incarcerated also acknowledge that they have not been forgotten and they are still considered important members of society. It was also a positive gesture of showing the inmates that they will still be warmly welcomed within their communities once they are released. This programme was also in line with the mandate of the Department of Correctional Services of ensuring that inmates are rehabilitated and are able to be successfully reintegrated into society.

The programme of the day, which was directed by inmates themselves, began with providing those who were in attendance with the Acapella Rendition of one of the popular songs. Caroline Mokgothu, who is also an inmate at Bizzah Makhate Correctional Centre, stole the hearts of many with her poem, which was about women inmates who have broken the law and they are now asking their communities for forgiveness. The inmates were appreciative of the gesture shown by the GCIS of ensuring that they are also part of this historic moment.



The participants watching the inauguration live viewing.



Bizzah Makhate Women Offenders Choir providing entertainment during the event.



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**Poppy Letsie said:**

“This is good for us. It makes us to feel good to be part of the community as we are always asking for second chance to the outside world. We are pleading for a second chance from President Cyril Ramaphosa.”

**Ntombi Sonqishe said:**

“We thank God for the fact that we were given the opportunity to be part of the inauguration of our President. We have learnt from our mistakes and hope for a second chance in life.”

**OUTCOME 14: A DIVERSE, SOCIALLY COHESIVE SOCIETY WITH A COMMON NATIONAL IDENTITY.**

**Eastern Cape celebrates Africa Day**

*By Tabita Ngqunge: GCIS, Eastern Cape*

The East London beachfront was abuzz with beautiful outfits representing different African cultures, as the newly appointed Eastern Cape Premier Oscar Mabuyane led a parade in celebration of Africa Day. The provincial government joined the rest of the country and celebrated the day under the theme: "Celebrating 25 years of democracy: Building a Better Africa and a Better World". The theme sought to raise awareness about the contribution of African countries to South Africa's Struggle for liberation.

Premier Mabuyane highlighted that the country's freedom and democracy was possible due to the contribution of other African countries. "Our freedom was made possible by the contribution of other African countries in the fight against apartheid, who provided military training, education and shelter to many activists who left our country to prepare for an all-out war against the violent regime of apartheid. As we celebrate the 56th anniversary of the African Union, here in South Africa we are celebrating 25 years of freedom and democracy. We are a country that is at peace with itself and the rest of the world. Africa made us the democratic South Africa, thus we agree today that we are who we are because of others," said Mabuyane.

African countries such as Nigeria, Zimbabwe, Mozambique, Democratic Republic of Congo and many others including the local cultures such as Xhosa, Khoi and San people also prepared their traditional food, which was displayed and tasted at the exhibition.

The celebration was preceded by educational social dialogue programme done by the Department of Sport, Recreation, Arts and Culture, in partnership with the South African National Institute for Crime Prevention and the Reintegration of Offenders. There was also a debate facilitated by the International Office for African Students from the University of Fort Hare. Learners from eight different schools participated in debate around the importance of continental free trade area, role of education, border control and free movement of people, economic integration, and common currency and social cohesion as a key tool towards building a better Africa.



**Premier Oscar Mabuyane and other government leaders at the Mdantsane Library book display stall.**



**Participants at Africa Day celebrations.**



**Provincial leadership led a parade from Orient Theatre to Esplanade.**



**Cultural groups performances during the celebration.**

**OUTCOME 2: A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS.**



**GCIS officials distributing material to residents.**



**Mavis Palma said:**

“I have been using this clinic for many years, events like this one helps us as residents and they create awareness to residents. We appreciate what the Department of Health is doing for our community.”

**Open Day at Schoemansdal Clinic**

*By Nonkululeko Mkhathshwa: GCIS, Mpumalanga*

Schoemansdal residents and surrounding communities were gathered at the Schoemansdal Clinic on 16 May 2019, for Healthcare and Awareness Open Day. The event was attended by ward councillors from Nkomazi Local Municipality, the Department of Health with operational managers from different clinics, Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), home-based care organisations and traditional healers.

Patients were informed of the dangers of not being consistent in taking their medication. Furthermore, residents were encouraged to visit the clinic regularly for check-ups and vaccination to prevent viruses such as influenza and malaria. Traditional healers warned people about the dangers of not disclosing their sickness when consulting with them, thus encouraging residents to work hand in hand with them as well as the Department of Health.

The manager of the clinic applauded the community for using the clinic’s services. She also encouraged pregnant women to visit the clinic regularly for check-up and for collecting contraceptives. SASSA, International Organisation for Migration, health promoters and the GCIS had their stalls outside where information was shared with communities.



**Residents from Schoemansdal and surrounding communities who attended the event.**



**Stakeholders and councillors who addressed the community.**



**Jimmy Motlhabe said:**

“As a health promoter, one of my mandates is to ensure that children are safe in their environments. Working in partnership with all these stakeholders, we provide parents and guardians with information on child safety.”



**Nomthandazo Mbatha said:**

“It is important that as a child I receive information that I can use to keep myself safe from all those who are trying to commit crime against children. I will ensure that I take this information and share it with some of my friends who were unable to be here today.”



**Lebo Kabai said:**

“As a mother of a young child, I try by all means to always keep her safe. I appreciate the visit by all these stakeholders to our communities to keep on reminding us that it is our duty as parents to ensure that our children are safe.”

## OUTCOME 3: ALL PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE AND FEEL SAFE.

### Information blitz on child protection

*By Tshidi Mokoka: GCIS, Gauteng*

In an effort to create awareness on Child Protection Week, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in partnership with Randfontein South African Police Service (SAPS), Public Safety, Department of Health and Women against Women Abuse, conducted an activation on 30 May 2019 targeting the community of Brandvlei. The purpose of the event was to educate community members about child safety and also encourage them to report crimes that are perpetrated against children.

Parents and guardians were informed about the importance of protecting children and always know their whereabouts. SAPS and Public Safety officials educated community members about the dangers of human trafficking and how it can happen. People were encouraged to always be on the lookout and to report crime to the police so that protection can be provided.



**Sergeant Hendricks from the SAPS educating the community about child abuse and human trafficking.**



**GCIS official Robbie Senoelo providing information on children's rights and responsibilities.**