



MYDISTRICTTODAY



**STAY
SAFE**

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

Issue no.27: July 2022

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: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Mandeni youth in agriculture programme

By Lindokuhle Chiliza: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The agricultural sector is the backbone of the economy in many countries across the globe. In South Africa there seems to be a lack of youth participating or involvement in this particular sector.

On 22 June 2022, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, and Mandeni Local Municipality Youth Office lead youth in the agriculture awareness programme in Mandeni Nembe Hall.

The aim of the programme was to capacitate the youth of Mandeni to join the agricultural sector and contribute to the local economic development.

Critical information was shared by different stakeholders, with youth who have an interest in starting up small agricultural businesses.

Means of assistance were also shared such as institutions that give non-refundable grants, incentives and start-up capital.

A variety of existing agricultural businesses within Mandeni and Ilembe District, which are funded by entities such as Ilembe Enterprise, and ways of obtaining funding were also shared. This included information on suppliers of agricultural produce within Ilembe.

Furthermore, the youth were informed about the new potential agricultural markets such as a type of mushroom that people can farm, which is less costly and has a huge demand.

The programme yielded positive engagements and laid a solid foundation for even greater partnerships to empower the youth.



Deputy Mayor Bhekithemba Magwaza handing out seeds, manure and other essentials for farming to the youth.



Mandeni youth who attended the agriculture programme.



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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.

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Mandela Month winter blanket drive

By Sekgauri Nketle: GCIS, Free State

On 15 July 2022, the Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Thembi Siweya, together with the Executive Mayors of Fezile Dabi District Municipality, Councillor Dennis Khasudi and Ngwathe Local Municipality, Councillor Victoria De Beer, hosted the winter blanket drive in Tumahole at Ratang Maqheku Old Aged Centre by spending time with the elderly.

This activity, which formed part of Mandela Month, saw 70 blankets donated to members from all three luncheon clubs in Tumahole including Schonkenville, Leratong and Ratang Maqheku.

Ratang Maqheku was officially launched on 6 November 2020 as a donation from De Beers Group Voorspoed Mine after the Ngwathe Local Municipality donated a land in 2006 for the structure to be built.

The centre is registered with the Department of Social Development as a non-profit organisation and is managed by former professionals. Deputy Minister Siweya interacted with the elderly during this activity on various issues that concerns them.

She assured the elderly that she heard their cry about feeling unsafe in their respective communities due to heightened crime rate and guaranteed that she will share the information with the Police Ministry.

The elderly people of Tumahole were very excited and felt included, they could not stop expressing their joy over the event and chanted rhythms of praises and joy towards the end of the function.



Deputy Minister Thembi Siweya addressing the elderly at the event.



Senior citizens from Tumahole at the event.

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

Observing Mandela Day in Swellendam

By Louis Botha: GCIS, Western Cape

The Swellendam Local Municipality together with the Government Communication Information System (GCIS) engaged with residents in the informal settlement area in the main town of Swellendam regarding the importance of waste management and preservation of service infrastructure and the environment. This was done in line with this year's Mandela Day celebrations, which took place on 18 July 2022.

The GCIS assisted the municipality with marketing collateral to aid in educating residents about the importance and advantages of managing household and personal waste appropriately, as opposed to littering and dumping waste.

The Community Workers Programme officials further distributed these flyers to various households.

In addition, as part of an environmental awareness initiative, the Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment (DFFE) Local Government Support (LGS) together with the Overberg District Municipality aided the municipality with the implementation of its stencilling project.

The stencilling project includes stencilling selected storm water drain inlets with painted messages aimed at deterring the public from dumping pollutants and litter alongside or directly into storm water drains.

The project commenced on 18 July 2022 with the team stencilling a skip and a storm water drain inlet in the informal settlement area and Station Street, respectively.

The DFFE LGS plans to stencil a total of 10 storm water drains in the Swellendam area in the coming weeks.

Acting Municipal Manager Anneleen Vorster, Executive Mayor Francois du Rand and other senior management also participated in these Mandela Day activities and further engaged with the residents.

Mayor Du Rand recently launched a campaign, aimed at promoting the importance of active citizenry and participation, and further encouraging residents to become engaged members of their communities.

Residents are encouraged to readily take charge of their environment and become agents of change in their communities. The campaign reiterates that this is a responsibility that each and every community member bears as a resident and citizen.

The active citizenry can be as small a gesture as cutting the grass on the sidewalk in front of one's home, or as big as a campaign to clean up one's street or educate young people about democratic values, skills and participation.



Mayor Francois Du Rand addressing Swellendam residents.



Members of the Community Works Programme who participated in the Mandela Day outreach

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

Youth encouraged to vote during elections

By Tshidi Mokoka: GCIS, Gauteng

The West Rand Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) conducted the Youth in Democracy dialogue targeting young people living in and around the area of Magaliesburg in Mogale City on 23 June 2022.

The dialogue held at the Ubuntu Arts and Craft Centre was commemorated under the theme: "Youth Vote Matters – exploring the role of youth in democracy".

According to the IEC, statistics show that some young people are disillusioned with all that is happening around them, which has led to them not participating in all democratic processes of either voting, registering to vote or taking part in community activations geared towards the youth.

It has been observed that during election days, the youth regard the day as a holiday and would rather go out and do other things than come out to vote.

Quincy Sedisa from the IEC said, "As the IEC, we have observed this trend of the youth having relinquished their voices and rights to others. Because you as young people are no longer voting, other people will always be making decisions for you and unfortunately, those people do not have your direct interests at heart."

He encouraged the youth to change the status quo and be the change they want to see in their lifetime.

"Make use of resources that are made available to you and strive to be an agent of change in the community you live in. Register to vote and make your voices heard," Sedisa concluded.

Neo Maphunyi a young person from Magaliesburg said that it is important that stakeholders such as the IEC engage the youth on issues that are rife in the community.

"Young people do not want to vote because they ask themselves what they are voting for. It is important that young people come together and take part in positive engagements and democratic processes," said Maphunyi.



Quincy Sedisa from the IEC engaging with the youth at the event.



The youth were also afforded an opportunity to speak out.



Sithembiso Sigwayi said:

"I learnt a lot today from this dialogue that as young people, we can make a change as long as we work together. It is important to remember that our vote matters and if we fold our arms and do nothing; our needs will never be addressed."



Junior Nhlapo said:

"As a member of the West Rand Youth Development, I pledge that I will use my influence to encourage the youth to start participating in democratic processes and never lose hope, that their aspirations can be achieved."



Ntsoaki Gabonewe said:

"Not participating in democratic processes such as voting only hurts us as the youth. It means that there is no one representing our needs in Parliament. Going forward, I will take part during election times knowing that my vote is my right."