



**MY DISTRICT TODAY**



**SEND ME**  
TO BUILD THE MZANSI I WANT

Issue no. 14: April 2019

**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:

**EASTERN CAPE**

Ndlelantle Pinyana  
043 722 2602 or 076 142 8606  
[ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za](mailto:ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za)

**FREE STATE**

Mamologo Dirane  
051 448 4504 or 072 928 6068  
[mamologo@gcis.gov.za](mailto:mamologo@gcis.gov.za)

**GAUTENG**

Peter Gumede  
011 331 0164 or 083 570 8080  
[peterg@gcis.gov.za](mailto:peterg@gcis.gov.za)

**KWAZULU-NATAL**

Ndala Mngadi  
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420  
[ndala@gcis.gov.za](mailto:ndala@gcis.gov.za)

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

**Citizens urged to read**

*By Marianne Williams: GCIS, Western Cape*

Heeding the call by President Cyril Ramaphosa to “get South Africa reading”, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in collaboration with Tshienda Publications hosted a reading campaign at the PD Pause Memorial Library in Sarepta on 29 March 2019, to raise awareness on the National Reading Coalition.

Author and award-winning poet, Haroldene Tshienda from Tshienda Publications narrated to the 30 children who attended the event, the story of Lola. The children aged between four and 12 listened attentively to the story of a brave girl who was very different from others but showed courage to be herself and stand up against being bullied. The story also taught the children about their rights.

The focus of the national reading campaign is to inspire and encourage children to make reading a lifestyle of choice. The saying, “Telling stories is the oldest form of education” rings true and should be seen as an opportunity for parents, educators and also grandparents to increase appreciation for reading among children and youth. Daniel Arendse, a librarian at PD Pause Library, said reading projects are important because they help build a culture of reading, not only among children but all South Africans. The children in attendance each received a copy of a book, which was sponsored by Media 24’s NB-Publishers. The GCIS provided



Children with books they received as gifts.



Haroldene Tshienda and Daniel Arendse with children waving their flags.



**government communications**

Department:  
Government Communication and Information System  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**LIMPOPO**

Thanyani Ravhura  
015 291 4689 or 082 421 3461  
[thanyani@gcis.gov.za](mailto:thanyani@gcis.gov.za)

**MPUMALANGA**

Jerry Nkosi  
013 753 2397 or 082 316 5295  
[Jerry@gcis.gov.za](mailto:Jerry@gcis.gov.za)

**NORTH WEST**

Boitumelo Mosadi  
018 381 7071 or 073 245 0906  
[boitumelom@gcis.gov.za](mailto:boitumelom@gcis.gov.za)

**NORTHERN CAPE**

Marius Nagel  
053 832 1378/9 or 083 778 9179  
[mariusn@gcis.gov.za](mailto:mariusn@gcis.gov.za)

**WESTERN CAPE**

Geraldine Thopps  
021 418 0533/2307 or 081 281 2200  
[Geraldine@gcis.gov.za](mailto:Geraldine@gcis.gov.za)

South African flags as a symbol of government's commitment to fly the reading revolution flag high.

People are encouraged to start book clubs, read every day, exchange or donate books to local libraries and schools, write books and support reading activities in their communities.



**Author and poet Haroldene Tshienda reading a story for children.**



**Ayesha Khan said:**  
"The event was a great success and we had so much fun."



**Sindiswa Macingwane said:**

“I have learnt a lot today especially on how we can use our phones and technology to learn and know more about our health, and also to avoid things such as teenage pregnancy and HIV and AIDS.”



**Lydia Seabeng said:**

“I am so excited about the new App, because it helps us not to be afraid to visit the clinics and it will help stop any discrimination and bad treatment we have been experiencing at a clinic.”



**Given Mkhabela said:**

“This new App will help to notify us and other patients when our treatment is ready for collection at the clinic. We no longer have to queue.”

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

**Technology maximises access to health services**

*By Xolani Mndweni: GCIS, North West*

The Southern Africa HIV and AIDS Information Dissemination Service in conjunction with Khuma local non-profit organisation Kgorogo Social Investment partnered with the provincial Department of Health, Government Communication and Information System and the Office of the Premier to launch the South African Social Accountability Monitoring of Sexual Reproductive Health (SRH) and regional evidence and knowledge sharing on 29 March 2019.

With the primary target being adolescents, youth and young women, the programme aimed to address sexual and gender-based violence, teenage pregnancy and illegal abortion with links to maternal mortality, access to youth friendly SRH information and services. The programme uses new technology innovation to entice and communicate with young people about taking care of their health and developing an interest on living a healthy lifestyle.

During the launch, the programme unveiled its web application which can be downloaded onto any android device. This app allows youth to have their personal health file, which is linked to the local clinic where medical staff and affected community members can engage, advise and secure medical appointments regarding their health. Community members and young people who do not have compatible devices can access their health record/file by using one of the installed android tablets located at their local clinic for free. Furthermore, the programme has employed 25 young people who have been trained and will be visiting communities, door-to-door in Khuma to advocate healthy living, taking interest in one’s health and linking individuals online with their local clinic.



**The launch of SAM App for health at Khuma.**



**Officials display a tablet stationed at Khuma Clinic for easy access and use by the staff and the public.**

**OUTCOME 5: A SKILLED AND CAPABLE WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT AN INCLUSIVE GROWTH PATH.**



**Leslie Alfeto said:**

“There are a lot of applications to help improve knowledge and help slow learners.”



**Phiwokuhle Zolendlini said:**

“We are so grateful to the Minister for bringing us these computers because we did not know anything about computers before. Our future is now in our finger tips.”



**Sikhusele Wupu said:**

“The computers mean the most to us as they will make our studying very easy.”

**Ntabankulu youth gain new skills**

*By Ndyebo Kopo: GCIS, Eastern Cape*

The youth of Ntabankulu benefited from various skills training programmes from a two-week long session offered by different government entities. The youths were trained to acquire skills such as digital marketing, coding, 3D-printing, graphic design, domain-name-reselling, entrepreneurial skills development and media training.

The programme ran from 1 to 12 April 2019 and was a build-up towards the Freedom Walk and Economic Opportunities EXPO that took place on 13 April 2019, led by the Ministry of Communications in Ntabankulu.

The EXPO came about as result of a commitment made by the then Deputy Minister, and now the Minister of Communications Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, to a summit of young people in Ntabankulu last year in November. The Minister said the training programmes are capacitating the young people to be ready for the Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR). “The global economy is becoming more and more digitised and this is one other way of ensuring the youth is not left out but take advantage of the 4IR opportunities,” said the Minister.

The EXPO commenced with a walk at Mfundisweni village and the Minister made a stop over to hand over a Digital Terrestrial Television to Albertina Ndala of Mfundisweni before visiting the exhibitions at the venue of the EXPO.

The Freedom Walk and Economic Opportunities EXPO was preceded by a handover of a cyber lab at Nolitha Special School in Mount Ayliff, sponsored by MTN with 30 computers that have Internet connection, interactive white board, one server, media WiFi system and all computers are connected to a printer and they all have earphones. The computers at Nolitha Special School have programmes made for people with disabilities.

The Minister and Deputy Minister of Communications proceeded to launch and hand over another cyber lab at Zinyosini Special School, the best forming school in Ntabankulu. The cyber lab is sponsored by Telkom, with 50 computers with Internet connection, two servers and smart board. The cyber lab has an application that parents can use to track the academic progress of their children.



**Traning session of young people on 3D printing.**



**Nolitha Special School learners at the newly launched cyber lab.**



**Asanda Ngwane said:**

“I thought a library is where you buy books, but after today I have learnt that a library is a centre to learn and share information. My dream is to become a doctor one day, so, I have a strong passion in science studies. Having a library here will help improve my knowledge in all science studies.”



**Philile Nomiya said:**

“I knew about the library since I used to go to one in Harding town, but since we have one now at KwaJali I will use it and encourage others to benefit from it. I will further my studies and make it a point that I become a social worker since it is my dream. Government is addressing our needs and we are happy that we are getting somewhere.”

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

**Umuziwabantu community receives library**

*By Mthunzi Mkhungo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal*

Community members of KwaJali under Umuziwabantu Local Municipality expressed their heartfelt appreciation to the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Arts and Culture after the official handover of the modular library located in ward 9. The library was officially given to the community by the MEC for Arts and Culture, Sithole Moloi on 9 April 2019. It has all the resources needed by patrons, which range from a book section, children development area, newspaper section and cyber section for Internet and computer usage.

While addressing the community of KwaJali, MEC Sithole Moloi indicated that the facility is able to accommodate 100 patrons and has more than 3 000 books. “Part of the book collection in the facility are locally written books which reflect the skill that locals have in the area of art,” said the MEC.

MEC Moloi was accompanied by the MEC for Health, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, who also addressed Umuziwabantu community on the importance of using libraries as part of mental development and knowledge gain. MEC Dhlomo alluded to the fact that Umuziwabantu youth pregnancy was high and the contributing factor was mainly around the lack of knowledge.

“Library facilities also provide books that teach our people on health and ways to prevent unwanted pregnancy and also how to conduct a proper family planning. If facilities of this magnitude can be used to benefit our minds as rural communities, there could be a huge improvement in terms of unwanted pregnancy,” MEC Dhlomo concluded.



**MEC Sithole Moloi and MEC Sibongiseni Dhlomo officially opening the KwaJali Library.**



**Njabulo Gwane said:**

“I did not know much about the library. We did not have this kind of a facility not even at school. Now that the library is at my doorstep, I will ensure that my dream of becoming a teacher is realized through using the facility. Government has really assisted us the youth of KwaJali by building such a library.”