



MY DISTRICT TODAY



STAY
SAFE

PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS

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PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Level 1 regulations awareness campaign

By Tshidi Mokoka: GCIS, Gauteng



Stakeholders distributing information leaflets and engaging with community members in Khutsong.

In an effort to create awareness on regulations on COVID-19 Alert Level 1, the Westrand District Communication Forum members in partnership with the Gauteng Consumer Affairs, ICollege and Merafong community development workers (CDWs) conducted a loud hailing and distribution blitz targeting community members at Khutsong Ward 2, on 9 March 2021.

With some regulations being eased on Level 1, it is important for communities continue to follow regulations as set out to stop the spread of the virus. Warren Nemaenzhe from the CDW programme said, "As CDWs, we are mandated to work within communities and it is our aim to ensure that people adhere to COVID-19 protocols."



Steve Mbisi conducting loud hailing on Level 1 regulations in Khutsong.

During the activation, the community was encouraged to continue the three basic regulations of wearing masks, washing hands and keeping a social distance in order to stop the spread of COVID-19.

Stakeholders were able to share information about the COVID-19 vaccine and informed the public on the vaccine roll-out. The activation was further used by the Independent Electoral Commission, to create awareness about the upcoming local elections and reminded the community to register in the new ward, as the area is a new development.



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Nokude Notana said:

"I appreciate the information that we received today. We were moved to this new development and seeing departments coming to us to share information that is needed to improve our lives works well for us. Our young people are now able to engage with ICollege to see how they can access education."



Michael Phori said:

"As a young person, I know how tempting it is to flout protocols thinking I know better. However, when I think of doing this, I remember that every day there are people who are being infected and some are dying because of the virus. People need to be reminded to adhere to the regulations. The fact that stakeholders came to our area shows that government is working hard to curb new infections."

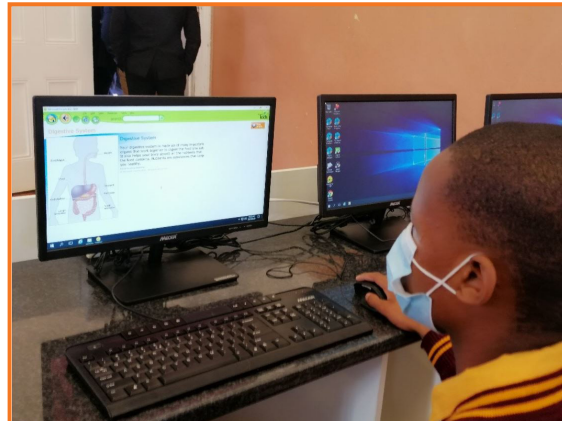
PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Government school programme benefits youth

By Sinoxolo Gqala: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Eastern Cape Premier Oscar Mabuyane and Healdtown High School principal officially opening the school cyber lab.



A learner conducting a Life Sciences project on a computer at a new cyber lab.



Premier Oscar Mabuyane, Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams and the youth that will participate in the Skills Development Programme in Coding.

The Department of Communications and Digital Technologies together with Eastern Cape Provincial Government launched two Information and Communication Technology (ICT) focused projects in Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality on 26 February 2021, as part of the back-school programme.

The two projects include a new cyber lab that was unveiled in the historic Healdtown High School in Fort Beaufort and a coding skills training programme in Alice. Both projects will benefit the young learners and the youth from the Raymond Mhlaba Municipality.

The new cyber lab was championed by the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies and was donated by the Telkom Foundation through an information and communications technology (ICT) roll-out collaboration. It has 42 computers, a classroom visualiser and a projector. It is connected to the Internet and will benefit learners from all grades.

Eastern Cape Premier Oscar Mabuyane handed over the lab on behalf of Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams. The Premier said the cyber lab is part of government's effort to restore the glory and academic success of the iconic Healdtown High School. He added that government is prioritising the roll-out of ICT in schools to shape and nurture learners in technology at the basic education level.

"Healdtown High School is known for its historic roots and its alumni has done tremendous work in different fields. The likes of Professor Loyiso Nongxa, Dr Mvuyo Tom and leaders in former President Nelson Mandela, Govan Mbeki, Raymond Mhlaba and Robert Sobukwe, among others, did their

secondary education here. We are also grateful for the work that the school products are doing to restore the school," the Premier said.

A Grade 12 learner, Aphile Kunu, was so ecstatic about the cyber lab in his school, he said the lab will assist them in learning and researching their work. He added that as Grade 12 learners they will also research and learn more about different career paths they will take after matric. "I am doing mathematics and physical science, and I want to venture into the engineering field, so this lab will assist me to know more about the different fields and opportunities in the engineering sector," he said.

The alumni of Healdtown also donated 30 advanced scientific calculators to Grade 12 learners as part of their academic success restoration programme in the school.

Later in the day, the Minister of Communications and Digital Technologies, Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams, handed over laptops to a group of youth that will be undertaking a Skills Development Programme in Coding, in Alice.

The Minister was joined by Premier Mabuyane, Human Settlements MEC Nonkqubela Pieters, Sports, Recreation, Arts and Culture MEC Fezeka Nkomonye, Executive Mayor of Amathole District Municipality Khanyile Maneli and Raymond Mhlaba Local Municipality Mayor, Bandile Ketelo during the handover programme.

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

Service delivery fleet for Maluti-A-Phofung

By Phoka Mofokeng: GCIS, Free State



Maluti-A-Phofung Mayor, Chief Whip and Municipal Manager inspecting the new fleet.

In a quest for efficient and effective service delivery, the Maluti-A-Phofung Local Municipality Executive Mayor Masetjhaba Lakaje-Mosia, Chief Whip Betsi Mofokeng, Member of the Mayoral Committee of infrastructure, Mamaponesa Mokoena, and Municipal Manager Tseko Mothamaha inspected the new fleet, which arrived on 19 March 2021 at the Municipality Infrastructure Offices in Phuthaditjhaba. The fleet is specially meant to repair and maintain the roads in all Maluti-A-Phofung areas and it consists of two graders, a Bomag and a Tractor Loader Backhoe.

The municipality is still expecting more vehicles to improve quality services. Executive Mayor Lakaje-Mosia said. "In our leadership tenure, we will make sure that we deliver the right quality and improved services, and we urge our communities to report any misuse of these property." She concluded her speech by saying "let us all work together to better the lives of our communities."

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES

Stakeholders tackle GBVF in KwaMashu

By Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



The CEO of the National Development Agency addressing the audience.



Stakeholders who were in attendance.



Sibusiso Mthethwa said:

"I work for the Jes Foord Foundation, which is based in Kloof and serves various communities. We are the beneficiaries of the National Development Agency that is funded under the programme of Criminal Assets Recovery Fund. The foundation promotes awareness around gender-based violence (GBV) in communities and we are focusing on young people the most. We provide free counselling onsite for all GBV survivors. We also do comfort packs for victims. We have partnered with all the Thuthuzela Care Centres in the province and provided them with comfort packs. The dialogue helps us to get feedback on the hindrances that we face in our day-to-day work. Secondly, when we meet like this, it helps government to know what the backlogs are that are a challenge."

The National Development Agency (NDA), eThekweni Municipality, National Prosecuting Authority, South African Police Service, Department of Correctional Services, Department of Social Development and South African Social Security Agency, and civil society organisations hosted a community dialogue on gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) at the Princess Magogo Stadium on 12 March 2021. The area of KwaMashu is reported as a gender-based violence (GBV) hotspot in KwaZulu-Natal.

The purpose of the dialogue was to afford survivors and families of deceased victims of GBVF an opportunity to share their stories with a view to empower the audience and highlight the challenges in their pursuit of justice.

Civil society organisations such as The Jes Foord Foundation, KwaMashu Family and Child Welfare, The Gugu Dlamini Foundation and KwaMashu Youth in Action Organisation spoke about their work and services they provide for GBV victims and survivors.

Some of the issues raised by civil society organisation included the collection of forensic evidence and DNA analysis. In most cases, the success of a conviction rests completely on the results of DNA analysis, for example, in the case of babies, toddlers and mentally ill people who cannot speak for themselves. When a "DNA cannot be analysed" result is received, the success of a conviction is compromised and

justice is denied. The issue of DNA analysis requires more intervention from government to provide such services locally as, presently, the DNA analysis is done in Pretoria.

Further, stakeholders required clarity on the "DNA cannot be analysed" result. For example, is there something wrong with specimen, was it contaminated or could the DNA not be analysed due to capacity constraints in terms of human and material resources at the department? If the specimen was the problem, how can this be rectified in the future to prevent such results?

One survivor advocated for the development of a national DNA bank to facilitate the identification and conviction of the perpetrator. Another issue was the perceived lack of empathy and compassion from court officials. Magistrates' and lawyers' attitudes and style of questioning or communication with the witness or survivor, is perceived to be intimidating sometimes.

These are seen as the main contributors to the reluctance of victims or survivors to report and follow due process through to court. Another issue identified as a barrier was language, as the court-cases are predominantly conducted in English.

This dialogue, according to stakeholders, was hugely effective in not only creating awareness but also in encouraging communication

among the stakeholders. Issues of concern and blockages in the system that frustrate civil society organisations in their daily work were highlighted and discussed, and government departments were lobbied to address these concerns in terms of policy, legislation, infrastructure, skills and services.

Pinky Myeza said:

"As a rape victim, I can testify that tracing perpetrators' DNA is a very difficult process, which in most cases fails dismally. These awareness programmes that we do help a lot, because there are people who are raped but are afraid to speak out either by feeling ashamed or being threatened. Others do not speak out because of the nature of their jobs they fear they will be blamed for being provocative. By telling my story, I am trying to assist those who are battling with opening up with their rape stories. Sometimes other victims have this anger inside them because of what happened to them, of which is something they cannot change but they need to heal."

