



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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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:

EASTERN CAPE

Ndlelantle Pinyana
043 722 2602 or 076 142 8606
ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za

FREE STATE

Yolisa Blom
051 448 4506 or 072 130 9893
yolisa@gcis.gov.za

GAUTENG

Peter Gumede
011 331 0164 or 083 570 8080
peterg@gcis.gov.za

KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420
ndala@gcis.gov.za

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Celebrating 30 Years of Freedom

By Khoboso Lebenya: GCIS, Eastern Cape

As part of celebrating the 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy in South Africa, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) Eastern Cape Provincial Office, in collaboration with Keith Ngesi Radio, organised a panel discussion engagement with Chapter 9 and 10 institutions based in the Eastern Cape.

The discussions were aimed at creating a platform for the institutions to share information and also reflect on their role in our democracy.

The panellists came from the Public Service Commission, represented by Commissioner Lulu Sizani, Commission for Gender Equality, represented

by Nceba Mrwebo, Public Protector South Africa, represented by Sibongile Lwana and the South African Human Rights Commission, represented by Zukiswa Mqakanya.

The engagement also provided a platform to enlighten the public about their rights and services that are being offered by the aforementioned institutions. People were encouraged to exercise their democratic rights in building a better South Africa for all who live in it. A word of gratitude was extended to all the panellists.



Lulu Sizani, Sibongile Lwana and GCIS Provincial Director Ndlelantle Pinyana during the discussions.



Nceba Mrwebo, Lulu Sizani and Sibongile Lwana reflecting on 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy.



Panel discussions at Keith Ngesi Radio.



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

MPUMALANGA

Jerry Nkosi
013 753 2397 or 082 316 5295
Jerry@gcis.gov.za

NORTH WEST

Boitumelo Mosadi
018 381 7071 or 073 245 0906
boitumelom@gcis.gov.za

NORTHERN CAPE

Ofentse Moeti
053 832 1378/9 or 084 390 4330
Ofentse@gcis.gov.za

WESTERN CAPE

Geraldine Thopps
021 418 0533/2307 or 081 281 2200
Geraldine@gcis.gov.za

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Consumer protection awareness campaign

By Doctor Marebane: GCIS, Limpopo

The Government Communication and Information System in partnership with the Department of Trade, Industry and Competition held an awareness campaign on consumer protection and companies acts at Moletsi Thusong Service Centre on 27 March 2024. In total, 30 registered local business representatives were invited and received training on various acts.

According to Millicent Zwimbane who coordinated the event, the primary objective of the Act was to establish consumer rights and provide free, effective and efficient enforcement of those rights through the establishment of the National Consumer Commission, the National Consumer Tribunal accredited industry ombud schemes such as the motor industry with the aim of creating consumer rights and provide means of enforcement of consumer rights.

Among others, the attendees were educated about their rights to free and unlimited access to goods and services. They were also educated about their rights to demand quality services as they are entitled to timely performance and completion of services.



Part of the small business campaign who attended the event at Moletsi Thusong Service Centre.

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Human Rights Month embraces children's rights

By Khanyiso Seyisi: GCIS, Kwazulu Natal

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), Lovelife SA, Lifeline Durban, KwaZulu-Natal Department of Social Development and Ugu District Municipality shared information on this year's Human Rights Month under the theme: "Three decades of respect for and promotion of human rights" at Malangeni Secondary School, Scottsburg under Umdoni Local Municipality on 8 March 2024.

School learners were also given the opportunity to reflect on 30 years of their children rights. In addition, the learners were informed about safety tips for gender-based violence, Teenage Pregnancy, Sexual Abuse, contraceptives and use of condoms.

Ugu District Municipality, KwaZulu-Natal Department of Social Development, Umzinto Office, Lifeline Durban, Umdoni Sub-District and the GCIS conducted this Human Rights Month and gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) awareness programme aimed at creating awareness for school learners about their rights and also solicit feedback regarding the 30 years of democracy and human rights.

Ugu District Municipality was represented by Nombuso Mpanza of Special Programmes Unit in Umdoni Municipality, who shared information about human rights, especially those of children.

The Department of Social Development (Umzinto) was represented by Sibongile Myeza, who shared some knowledge regarding GBVF awareness and teenage pregnancy. In addition, she advised learners to visit their office at Umzinto Town or South African Police Service should they encounter incidents and other social ills.

Myeza advised the school learners about psycho-social counselling services in order to keep their mental health to intact.

Learners were also informed about cyber bullying, substance abuse, rape and domestic violence by Lifeline Durban Social Worker, Buyi Mzobe and GCIS's Regional Communications Coordinator Khanyiso Seyisi respectively. The Department of Health encouraged learners to use contraceptives to avoid unwanted pregnancies and prevent HIV and AIDS infections.



Ugu District Municipality official Nombuso Mpanza addressing the Malangeni Secondary School learners.



Lifeline's Buyi Mzobe sharing information concerning GBVF.



Stakeholders who presented at the event.

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Business incubator grooms small business

By Jacob Molete: GCIS, Gauteng

Department of Small Business Development Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams officially opened the Gibela Business Incubator at Kwa-Thema Business Park on 10 April 2024. In her opening remarks, Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams said, “Today’s launch of Gibela Business Incubator bears testimony of government’s intent to transform small businesses into real game-changers and catalysts for economic growth and job creation.”

The Gibela Business Incubator, a partnership between the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA), the City of Ekurhuleni and the Gibela Rail Transport Consortium, benefits 291 township based Small Medium and Micro Enterprises (SMMEs). Gibela Rail Transport Consortium has invested R10.2 million in the facility, marking a successful private-public partnership initiative, which the Minister says is important because government cannot do everything alone.

“The SEDA incubation programme provides existing and aspiring entrepreneurs with a variety of essential services such as physical co-working space, shared infrastructure (co-creation spaces) and shared services,” said Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams.

After undergoing incubation, SMMEs that are market ready graduate into independent enterprises. Five SMMEs in various sectors, which include baking and confectionary, Information and Communication Technologies, beauty, and cosmetics, graduated from the incubator’s programme.

Through the Gibela Business Incubator, assistance provided to these SMMEs enterprises included getting products to be approved by the South African Bureau of Standards (SABS), accessing machinery through SEDA’s Technology Transfer Programme, and participating in various business training and support services.

To ensure their sustainability and participation to transform the economy, small businesses require support and for consumer make a conscience decision to buy proudly South African products from these small businesses.

“We are here today to celebrate these small businesses, however, for them to succeed, we must buy their products and support our own,” said Minister Stella Ndabeni-Abrahams.



Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams, Councillor Nomadlozi Nkosi, SEDA Board Chairperson Xoliswa Daku, Chairperson of the National Youth Development Agency, Asanda Luwaca, Chairperson of Gibela Business Incubator Prof Edith Vries, Gibela Business Incubator CEO Justine Mogashoa, Senseni Tjameka of Handyman Bakery, Lebohang Skosana of Toca Essentials, Dimpho Mashile of Kgayo Cosmeceuticals and Louis Mtsweni of LSG Network Technology.



Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams delivering keynote address at the official opening of Gibela Business Incubator, Kwa-Thema Business Park.



Minister Ndabeni-Abrahams cutting ribbon and reading plaque to officially mark the opening and launch of the Gibela Business Incubator at Kwa-Thema Business Park.



Dimpho Mashile said:

“We pride ourselves with the research design and manufacturing skincare products using African indigenous herbs and technology. We currently have four products such as facial moisturiser, serum, toner and gel cleanser. The incubation has assisted us greatly they took us from product ideation, testing, compliance and help with funding and manufactory of our four products.”



Senzeni Tjameka said:

“We are the Handyman Bakery we produce bakery products such as bread, cakes, biscuits, birthday cakes and scones. The incubation has assisted us to ensure we market ready, get required compliance, financial and non-financial support and equipment so that we can thrive and compete.”



Lebohang Skosana said:

“We specialise in manufacturing of wellness products using African indigenous herbs. Our products range includes oils, body-creams, tissue oils, bar-soaps and body care products for both male and females. The incubation centre has help us a lot with product testing and getting SABS approval and environmental health compliance.”