



MYDISTRICTTODAY



**STAY
SAFE**

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

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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:

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PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

COVID-19 vaccination awareness

By Noluvuyo Mangweni: GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Government Communication and Information System together with the Department of Health and Kheth'Impilo organisation conducted a COVID-19 vaccination awareness activation in Jeffrey's Bay, Ocean View on 6 May 2022.

Statistics have shown that Jeffrey's Bay area is among the areas with the lowest vaccination numbers in the Sarah Baartman District Municipality.

During the previous waves of COVID-19 infections, a significant percentage of COVID-19 active cases would come from this small town.

The COVID-19 Joint Operation Centre of the district resolved that more communication efforts were needed in order to educate the community about the COVID-19 vaccine.

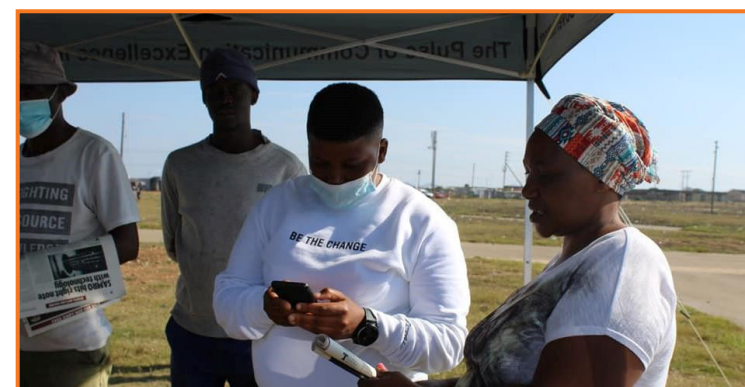
Stakeholders agree that intensified communication efforts would significantly improve vaccine uptake.

Over 50 vaccines were administered to new vaxxers at the pop-up vaccination facility that was made available for the purposes of this awareness activation.

Communication efforts through various communication platforms continued in the area and across the district to improve vaccination uptake.



COVID-19 vaccination site at Ocean View.



A Department of Health official assisting a resident with COVID-19 vaccination registration.



**government
communications**

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Geraldine@gcis.gov.za

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 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Tackling HIV and AIDS stigma

By Tebogo Monyo, GCIS Northern Cape

The John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality in collaboration with civil society and different local religious denominations commemorated the International AIDS Candlelight Memorial on 8 May 2022.

The memorial, held at the Dibeng Community Hall in the Gamagara Local Municipality, was also an opportunity for the group to pray for all the people living with HIV and AIDS, and mobilise communities in the fight against the virus.

The event was attended by the local municipality Mayor Edwin Hantise, Members of the Mayoral Committee of the District, Councillors Kegomoditswe Masilabele, Ontlametse Kgopodithata and Mike Kgosiengewang.

Councillor Kgopodithata, said government, together with its stakeholders, would continue to ensure that campaigns that tackle HIV and AIDS are prioritised.

He said that thousands of events have been organised across the world by community-based organisations, since the 1983 memorial event, aimed at creating awareness and breaking the stigma.

Patricia Makati, a member of the People Living with HIV, said the fight against HIV and AIDS, must not be forgotten and that the stigmatisation of people who are HIV positive was discriminatory and had a deadly blow.

Several testimonies rendered at the event by persons living with HIV were intended to motivate community members who are struggling to accept their HIV-positive status, to be open and to accept help from various stakeholders.



Some of the community members who attended the candlelight memorial service.



The candlelight prayer session at the event.

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Greyton Mountain Bike Trail opening

By Louis Botha: GCIS, Western Cape

The Executive Mayor of Theewaterskloof Local Municipality Kallie Papier and other municipal officials welcomed the Western Cape Cultural Affairs and Sports, Anroux Marais, to Greyton for the official opening of the Greyton mountain bike trail, on 30 May 2022.

Visitors and locals have been enjoying the newly upgraded trail, after the department provided about R200 000 funding to upgrade and improve the existing 10km trail.

The upgrades have made the Greyton mountain bike trail a competition worthy trail, and Theewaterskloof Municipality looks forward to welcoming big sporting events such as the Cape Epic to their trails in the future.

MEC Marais said it is always a pleasure and honour for her to see what their funding has achieved.

"Recreation is so important, because it gives our children something to do and keeps them away from trouble. Any sport activity also helps to promote physical and mental fitness, which is very important, but even more important than that is the fact that sport unites communities," she said.

"There are so many factors and things dividing our communities, but sport has always brought people together. It is the one place where we can forget about our differences and come together

over a mutual love for something. I hope that this trail will also be a place where people gather and get together to have fun and enjoy the outdoors and each other's company," added the MEC.

Mayor Papier thanked the MEC's Office for its continued support and funding opportunities that make projects such as the upgrading of the Greyton Mountain Bike trail possible.

"I am very proud of the work that everyone has done on this project and it would not have been possible without the funding we received from your department. I would like to thank you for that and I would like to take this time to thank the residents of Greyton. I know they appreciate these upgrades and as Theewaterskloof leadership. We will continue to support projects like this, because this is a tourism town and we need to cherish that by supporting the locals," said Mayor Papier. The Mayor further said that he believes that things are going to improve as the tourism sector is fast recovering from the negative impact of the COVID-19.

"Our officials work very hard to assist our communities and I have high hopes that tourism and arts-and-culture within our towns will flourish again. Tourism is very important to the economy of our towns, so I would like to thank everyone involved for the opportunities created and their efforts to support tourism," concluded the Mayor.



MEC Marais, Mayor Papier and other municipal officials during the opening of the upgraded Greyton Mountain Bike Trail.



Mpho Marema said:

“Men are urged to be advocates of no violence against women and children. They need to be fathers, uncles, brothers and even brothers-in-law. If you are a real man, it does not matter where you are, take a stand against whatever you see as Gender-Based Violence. Think of your mother, wife or even daughter.”



Thabo Nkadimeng said:

“I think today’s dialogue has taught us a lot about how to behave or react towards issues of gender abuse, particularly against women and children. We are urged to begin by starting a conversation, and talking to our friends, family, and community members about what gender-based violence looks like, and why it is harmful. We also have to ensure that survivors get help from places such as a local police station or hospital, non-governmental organisations such as People Opposed to Women Abuse, and Family South Africa. We are hopeful that something will yield something positive very soon.”

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Men engage to prevent violence against women

By Itumeleng Bogatsu: GCIS, Gauteng

Violence against women is a serious violation of human rights and a huge concern to society.

Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) is a global pandemic that affects one in three women in their lifetime.

On 19 May 2022, government departments arranged a dialogue that saw men in Thembisa, from a wide variety of social and organisational sectors attending the event held at Masiqhakaze Secondary School.

The dialogue sought to engage men and boys on issues of GBVF and urge them to speak up if they are having problems, change individual men’s attitudes and behaviours, and teaching men to intervene against other men’s behaviour.

This, however, did not take away the fact that men too, can be victims of domestic violence, but are mostly the perpetrators.

The forms of violence discussed included physical, financial, verbal and sexual abuse.

It was agreed that men can play a role in addressing these issues by forming prevention programmes such as workshops and social norms marketing campaigns.

It was also said it would be important that men who provide these programmes work to develop strong alliances and accountable relationships with women doing this work, and that they look at how male privilege and sexism may impact their leadership.

The Department of Social Development has a Gender-Based Violence Command Centre that operates 24 hours a day and seven days-a-week. The facility employs social workers who are responsible for call-taking and call referrals.

The centre is available on a toll-free number: 0800 428 428, USSD *120*7867# or SMS ‘help’ to 31531 or Add ‘Helpme GBV’ to your Skype contacts.



Men who attended the dialogue in Thembisa.



Men formed groups to discuss various topics and report back.