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PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Learners receive information about child and substance abuses

By Dr Bongeka Nkwanyana: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

On 17 May 2024, Childline KZN – in collaboration with the Department of Social Development (DSD), South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (SANCA), South African Police Service (SAPS), Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) and Department of Economic Development – conducted a child and substance abuses awareness campaign at the Gobandlovu and iLembe Primary School in uMhlathuze

Local Municipality. In addition to sharing information on how to identify and report child and substance abuses, the event also aimed to encourage learners to debunk culturally motivated myths that are used to perpetuate incidents of gender-based violence. The learners highly appreciated the information.



Siyethemba Vilane from SANCA engaging students about the dangers of substance abuse.



Ilembe Primary School learners listening attentively to a representative from the DSD talking with them about issues related to children's well-being.

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PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Mpindweni village benefits from a new state-of-the-art clinic

By Ndyabo Kopo: GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Minister of Minerals and Energy, Mr Gwede Mantashe, officially handed over a new state-of-the-art clinic to the community of Mpindweni village in the Eastern Cape on 12 April 2024. The Mpindweni Clinic was constructed by Samancor Western Chrome Mine, as part of the company's Social and Labour Plans' initiatives, in partnership with the Eastern Cape Department of Health.

"This clinic is built as a result of what is contained in the law, that mining companies should have what we call Social and Labour Plans. This allows communities where these mines are situated in or areas that are labour-sending areas to mines such as the Eastern Cape, to benefit from developments such as this one," said Minister Mantashe.

The community of Mpindweni used to travel about 22 kilometres to Madzikane Ka Zulu Memorial Hospital in KwaBhaca town to access healthcare services. The Mpindweni Clinic offers various conventional services that were not available in clinics based in villages. Some of the services are National Health Insurance compliant. The clinic boasts facilities and services such as a nurses' home; mother-child and women's healthcare; treatment

of communicable diseases; mental health and substance abuse; treatment of trauma; emergency, and health prevention and rehabilitation, amongst others.

"We are over the moon that today we have a clinic here in Mpindweni. We are no longer going to spend money to travel to Madzikane Ka Zulu Memorial Hospital in town and sleep over there a night before because we want to be the first in line the following day. We are very much grateful that the elderly, our wives, brothers, sisters and children will access primary healthcare nearby and there will be no need to take a taxi", said a visibly jubilant resident of Mpindweni village, Nkosifikile Majola.

The building of the clinic contributed to the local economy of Umzimvubu by employing 35 community members during the construction phase, 40% of them being young people. During the construction phase, the project invested over R3 million towards the beneficiation of local small, medium and micro enterprises.



Some of the equipment at the newly built Mpindweni Clinic.



The Mpindweni Clinic officially handed over to the community of Mpindweni village.

PRIORITY 1: BUILDING A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Last District Development Model (DDM) Presidential Imbizo ignites hope and inspires youth

By Mpho More: GCIS, Northern Cape

As part of preparations for the last DDM Presidential Imbizo of the Sixth Administration held on 9 May 2024 in Kuruman in the Northern Cape, several build-up programmes were held to mobilise the community. In particular, a two-day Career Expo was held at the Thabo Moorosi Multi-purpose Centre in Mothibistad in Kuruman, on 7 and 8 May 2024.

Government departments and private organisations showcased career opportunities to about 3 000 learners from high schools in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality area.

The exhibitors included the Department of Basic Education, Assmang Manganese Mine, B-SAFE AFRICA, South African Institute of Chartered Accountants, North-West University, Sol Plaatje University, South African Police Service, John Taolo Gaetsewe Developmental Trust Fund, South African National Defence Force and Bophelo Resources.

The learners were very excited to receive clarity from the exhibitors about their prospective careers.

In his vote of thanks during the DDM Presidential Imbizo, the Northern Cape Member of the Executive Council for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs, Bentley Vass, on behalf of the Northern Cape Provincial Government, expressed his gratitude to President Cyril Ramaphosa and his Cabinet for the support they received for the past five years, especially through the DDM.

“The DDM is a perfect example of good governance with good intentions and we have managed to work on some of the commitments that were tasked to us. Those projects speak on investing in education and improving service delivery,” said Vass.



Learners at the Career Expo and some posing with textbooks received from stakeholders at the two-day event.

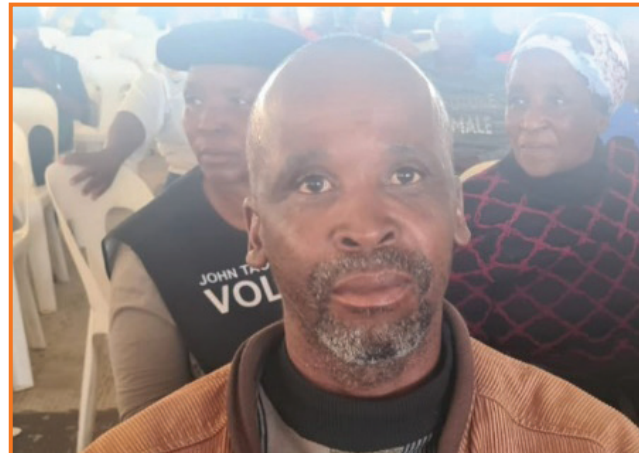


Learners experimenting with technological gadgets.



Kelebogile Morena said:

"I am so glad that the President has answered my questions and that he is promising that people over 35 years will also be considered in skills development."



Mothibi Mere said:

"In our 30 years of democracy, government has provided us with water, electricity and roads; I am happy about service delivery in our district."



Boikobo Salagae said:

"I am working for the Expanded Public Works Programme. I am happy that the President said the programme is still continuing. It has assisted me a lot because I am able to support my family."

PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Child Protection Week a success

By Peter Titus: GCIS, Western Cape

This year's National Child Protection Week campaign, from 29 May to 5 June, sought to mobilise all sectors and communities to embrace the holistic development, care and protection of children. It was commemorated in collaboration with various government departments and civil-society organisations operating in the child protection space.

The Cape Winelands District Office – in partnership with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (DoJCD); Department of Correctional Services (DCS); Department of Social Development (DSD); National Prosecuting Authority (NPA); Provincial Department of Local Government; Community Development Workers Programme; Government Communication and Information System (GCIS); Breede Valley Association for the Physically Disabled; Nuwehoop School for the Deaf; Sean Kelly

Association for the Sensory Disabled, and the South African Police Service (SAPS) – held a mobilisation march on 31 May 2024 to highlight the protection of children, including vulnerable children with disabilities.

More than 200 representatives from various organisations from the Cape Winelands District participated in the march against child abuse, which crossed through all the main roads of Worcester in the Breede Valley Municipality. It culminated in the signing of a pledge to ensure that parents and adults are capacitated to deal effectively with situations related to a child's development. Various media houses such as the Worcester Standard, Media24 Online and the Valley FM Community Radio Station covered the event.



Various departments and stakeholders that formed part of the march on 31 March 2024 at the Cape Winelands District office, led by the DSD in Worcester.



The National Child Protection Week march proceedings with the Tiny Toddlers Early Childhood Development group from the community of Roodewal in Worcester.



Representatives from the DoJCD, NPA, DSD and DCS, marching against child abuse.



A GCIS interview at the Valley FM Community Radio Station to ensure that 171 000 people in the Valley receive key information on how to protect their children.



Ms Jaqueline Davids from the DSD said:
“All children have the right to protection, education and privacy, according to Article 28 of the Constitution.”



Vatiswa Jacobs from the SAPS said:
“The SAPS will always be there for any person and any child in need, and will act as a custodian for the protection of children.”