



MYDISTRICTTODAY



STAY SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

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PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Residents vaccinated in Graaff-Reinet

By Noluvuyo Mangweni: GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 18 August 2021, the Government Communication and Information System supported the Department of Health during a loud-hailing programme in Umasizakhe in Graaff-Reinet.

The loud hailing was aimed at informing and mobilising the community about the United Nations Children's Fund truck activation roadshow that kicked off in the Camdeboo Sub-district on 16 August 2021.

The activation also sought to encourage community members to vaccinate and to remind them about the non-pharmacological methods to prevent the spread of COVID-19.

Umasizakhe is said to be one of the areas that have shown an improvement in the rate of vaccinations; although it still remains one of the places with the highest number of infections.

A community health promoter motivated men in the area to vaccinate.



A health worker assisting the elderly to register for vaccination during the truck activation.



Yvonne Britz administering COVID-19 vaccine on Andre Pokpas.



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COVID-19 vaccine registration details for 18-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 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Advancing the rights of women and children

By Morena Motloung: GCIS, Free State

Women’s Month in the Free State was commemorated in a form of a dialogue on realising women’s rights at Namahadi township in Mafube Local Municipality on 18 August 2021.

The awareness programme focused on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) and other related crimes, with specific focus on orphans, young women and girls, and children who head households.

Children were strongly encouraged by the South African Police Service (SAPS) to break their silence and blow the whistle against GBVF crimes, which violate their constitutional rights. These sentiments were echoed by Mafube Hospital health workers, who emphasised the effects of teenage and unwanted pregnancies, which ultimately lead to suicidal tendencies among young women.

The Speaker of Mafube Local Council, Councillor Matsatsi Mofokeng, encouraged orphans to use government initiatives for their benefit. She made a practical example of Ivy Matsepe-Casaburri Nutritional Centre that was donated to the municipality by the Department of Social Development for special purposes of feeding the needy and orphans.

Children appreciated the initiative by joint local stakeholders as a gesture and a symptom of a caring community.

This programme was coordinated by stakeholders such as the Government Communication and Information System, Department of Health, SAPS, Mafube Local Municipality, Community Policing Forum, Free State Care In Action and Qaphelani Hlokomelang.



A police officer sharing information with community members.



Children from Namahadi township who were in attendance.



Captain Motsoari said:

“Let us work together to encourage women to report cases of abuse in their households and make them realise that they have rights which are respected by the South African Police Service. The rule of law is bigger than any kind of crime.”



Sister Rapitsi said:

“The Department of Health is working tirelessly to rescue young ladies who have attempted suicide and sometimes illegal abortions after they were exposed to sexual abuse and fell pregnant.”



Captain Mthembu said:

“Men should learn or continue to respect women. No man should be in the forefront of abusing women, not only during Women’s Month, but all the time. I urge all men to be proud enough of their sexuality and own up to the responsibilities that come with being a man, and stop the abuse against women. Otherwise you will be reported to us, we will bring you to book and you will be put away from society.”



Elizabeth Shange said:

“I am happy to receive information from government about issues that affect us. We live in an environment where men abuse us daily or we know of those close to us who are abused. It is up to us to report this so that we can live our lives the way we want to.”



Kedibone Gabooi said:

“As young women in our community it is in our hands to ensure that we are able to stand against those who are committing these crimes. Staying and thinking that your abuser will change is not helping at all especially if there are children involved. People need to make a choice that they want to live a life free of abuse.”

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Campaign tackles violence and abuse

By Tshidi Mokoka: GCIS, Gauteng

As part of the Women’s Month programme, the Government Communication and Information System in partnership with community development workers (CDWs) in Merafong City Local Municipality, conducted a Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) programme, targeting the community of Kokosi Ext 99 on 11 August 2021.

GBVF is regarded as a pandemic in the country and statistics indicate that women are becoming victims of this scourge.

It is against this background that stakeholders realized the need to ensure that information about GBVF Eand avenues that are available to assist victims is shared with community members.

The activation was further used to provide the community with contacts of organisations they can report to and to share with people they know who may be going through this.

A CDW, Norman Gaobonwe, said, “Working closely with communities such as this one, it is imperative that information is made available, so, women and children who find themselves in such situations know of shelters where they can be protected.”

Stakeholders such as the Gauteng Consumer Affairs and Independent Electoral Commission shared information on services they render.



Stakeholders engaging with community members.

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Information session on violence and femicide

By Reki Skosana: GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Government Communication and Information System in partnership with the Victor Khanye Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Department of Social Development, South African Police Service and non-profit organisations, conducted an information sharing session that sought to educate and empower women with information concerning Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) in Botleng on 17 August 2021.

During the session, the participants were divided into commissions and provided with questions for discussions and sharing of experience on GBVF, and they demonstrated their understanding and also came up with possible solutions that might assist if explored.

They also received information from stakeholders, to assist them should they encounter or witness acts of GBVF. Participants were happy to have been able to attend the session, some citing that they gained more insight on the matter by attending this session.

Information on COVID-19 vaccination roll-out was also communicated to those who attended and they were urged to go for their vaccination and also encourage those who are not yet vaccinated to do so.

The public was further urged to continue to practise non-medical ways to fight against COVID-19 pandemic.



Connie Khumalo said:

"I have gained a lot from this session. We were also told not to keep quiet about the issues of violence against women and also to share our difficulties with others for quicker assistance."



Nelisiwe Mbonani said:

"I have learnt a lot about women abuse. The police official also explained very clearly on how a protection order operates. I am grateful for all the information I received."



People who attended the session.



A police officer addressing attendees.