



MYDISTRICTTODAY



STAY SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

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PRIORITY I: ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND JOB CREATION.

MDDA donates new studios

By Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

On 11 August 2023, during National Women’s Month, the Media Diversity and Development Agency (MDDA) launched the new state-of-the-art studios at Inanda FM and magazines, UniQ and Ulwazi. All three media houses are women-led and owned.

Inanda FM, a community radio station in Inanda and a media stakeholder to the Government Communication and Information System in eThekweni, was assisted for the third time, this time with new studios. *Ulwazi* is an online magazine with a 10 000 copy print distribution in Umlazi. It caters for high-school learners and focuses on all issues relating to youth of that age including careers, study and examination tips, health issues, sports,

music and entertainment. *UniQ* is a magazine that caters for the needs of the marginalised and victimised LGBTQIA+ communities. A group of concerned people to raise awareness and educate communities about the LGBTQIA+ community who face constant violence, discrimination and victimisation from their families and communities in which they live. The discrimination and violence have robbed many members of the LGBTQIA+ community of their rights to life, dignity, freedom and equality. The MDDA has funded both these new magazines, making it possible for them to be printed and distributed. The funding to *UniQ* magazine was also used to remunerate their journalists.



The new equipment and studio at Inanda FM.



Mayor of eThekweni Municipality, Mxolisi Kaunda, addressing the audience.



Hlengani Mathebula, Chairperson of the MDDA, addressing the audience.



Community members who attended the launch.



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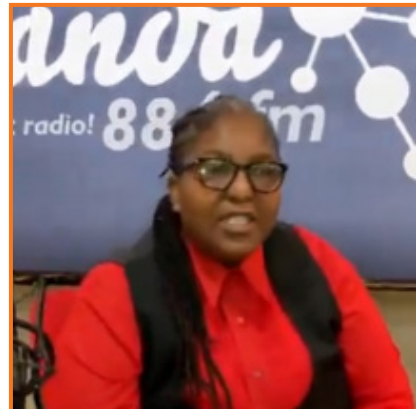
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COVID-19 vaccine registration details for 12-year-olds and above:

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.



Thandeka Msani-Ngobese (Station manager at Inanda FM) said:

“The MDDA first assisted Inanda FM in 2008/09 with training, furniture and equipment to set up the station. They assisted again in 2011/12 for training and development. Now is the third time they are funding us with the studios. We thank the MDDA for their continued support and assistance.”



Indlovukazi Mapule said:

“UniQ is an online magazine focusing on the LGBTQIA+ family. The reason we started this magazine was that we saw the homophobic attacks that were happening and saw the need to educate the people. Thanks to MDDA for assisting financially therefore we are able to issue and pay all the journalists. This is the beginnings of greater things. We appeal to government and our stakeholders to ensure that these publications reach the people out there.”



Londiwe Msimang (Ulwazi magazine) said:

“Our magazine is published quarterly, specifically for high-school learners. We print and distribute 10 000 copies in Umlazi but people from across the country can access our magazine through our website. The publication is fully funded by the MDDA, the funding helped to print and distribute the magazines. We appeal to government to provide us with information specifically for high school learners. We would like to be an information partner to government.”



Ntombizodwa Molefe said:

“One of the lessons that I took from this session is that we should not be turning a blind eye when we see or hear about abuse. These days, domestic violence is no longer between partners. With the high rate of substance abuse in Magaliesburg, children have started assaulting parents to get money to buy drugs. It is up to us as women to stop this and report our children to the police.”



Constable Marble Taele said:

“I am a member of the police service but I too am a victim of domestic abuse. I had to learn that where you come from does not determine where you are going. Being part of the police assisted me a lot even when I felt anger against my abuser and was having thoughts of attacking him. Through the support of my colleagues and the women’s network I was able to remove myself from that toxic situation with my dignity still intact.”

PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Tackling Gender-Based Violence and Femicide

By Tshidi Mokoka: GCIS, Gauteng

As part of Women’s Month, the Magaliesburg Police Station in partnership with the local stakeholder forum members conducted a Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) dialogue targeting women living in and around Magaliesburg. The purpose of the dialogue was to provide a platform to women to air out issues affecting them in terms of crimes perpetrated against them.

The station commander, Lieutenant-Colonel Mawewe Vuma, gave a message of support to the women and encouraged them to use the station and other available avenues to report incidents of domestic violence.

“It is important that as a station and as the police we are seen to be doing all we can to ensure safety for everyone in the community. Sometimes, victims or families affected by GBVF suffer in silence and never find the courage to speak up,” he said.

He further encouraged women to be the eyes and ears for the police on the ground and report such crimes when they see them happening to their neighbours, family members or any other person going through this.

“Do not allow silence to rule your lives while going through the most heinous crimes that are committed by those close to you. There is help out there, all you need to do is stand up and ask for help,” he concluded.

Various stakeholders such as Community Policing Forum, Victim Empowerment Unit, crime prevention wardens and many others attended to provide and listen to what some of the women were raising on how they are affected by GBVF.

One of the attendees Tshidi Motlhabi, who is herself a survivor of GBVF, shared her story on how her life changed after her husband shot her during an incident of domestic violence.

“I am so proud to be part of this event and to share my story with the women today. I ended up in a wheelchair and went blind because of my injuries. It is important to seek support from social workers and the church or any other organisations that are available to help families and victims of GBVF,” she said.



Station Commander Vuma addressing the women during the dialogue.



Women from Magaliesburg attending the dialogue.



Sorphy Ntuli said:

“I am concerned by rates and taxes as I was told that if I am not a rates payer, I will not get any government tender. I am appealing to government to make the processes easier.”



Sibusiso Sikhosana said:

“I am appealing to government to consider all our companies when giving business and to consider same companies.”

PRIORITY 1: ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES AND JOB CREATION.

Government empowers local businesses

By Sibusiso Chauke: GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Government Communication and Information System in conjunction with Mpumalanga Provincial Treasury hosted Provincial Supply Chain Management and Opportunities Indaba at KwaMhlanga Legislature in Thembisile Hani on 18 August 2023.

Outlining the purpose was Mpumalanga Provincial Treasury Head of Department, Gugu Mashiteng.

“We are here to empower local businesses with information that will enable them to be sustainable in their businesses. We want all the community members to access opportunities we offer regardless of political affiliation. We are urging all of you to be compliant in terms of procurement processes so that you can get business from us as government without favours. We have various funding opportunities, please pay attention to all the presenters as we have brought different stakeholders to share with you, the opportunities they are offering,” said Mashiteng.

Provincial Treasury official responsible for Thembisile Hani Local Municipality, Lydia Sehlako, presented tendering requirements and opportunities in government.

“You must have company registration, tax registration, active bank account and municipal account. You need to complete the required forms when we ask for quotation from you. When we call and send emails to you, we do it to have portfolio of evidence that we did contact because some usually say we were not contacted. We want to avoid such situations and you are urged to respond when we contact you. Please feel free to come to our offices to check what is it that you are lacking in your business so that we assist you. We want all of you to benefit from our government”, said Sehlako.

Other stakeholders such as ABSA, Standard Bank, Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport, Department of Economic Development and Tourism, South African Revenue Service, MEGA Mpumalanga and College of Agriculture also attended the initiative. All the stakeholders shared the opportunities available and the processes.

Mashiteng concluded the session by asking all government officials to share their contacts with the public for information-sharing purposes. She also promised that more sessions would take place to ensure that local businesses are empowered.



Mashiteng engaging with the attendees in KwaMhlanga.



Councillor Michael Kgosiengewang said:

“We support the strategy of the SAPS to fight crime and that the men and women who have decided to volunteer their time to fight crime and criminality, is a step in the right direction and they must be supported.”



Tshupetso Pampoen said:

“I joined the Community in Blue to uproot criminals from the community, especially those who are selling drugs. I plead with communities to support us and to work with us to fight crime.”

PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Launch of Community in Blue patrollers

By Tebogo Monyo: GCIS, Northern Cape

The South African Police Service (SAPS) is mandated to prevent, combat and investigate crime; maintain public order and protect and secure the inhabitants of South Africa.

It is with the above objectives in mind, that the SAPS in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality launched the Community in Blue Patrollers on 7 August 2023, at the Wrenchville Community Hall.

More than 300 patrollers will volunteer their time to work with the SAPS in all the 13 police stations in the district. Some of their key responsibilities include, deterring anti-social behaviour; identifying and exposing criminals and criminal activities within communities; and supporting crime prevention campaigns.

Speaking on behalf of the district municipality, Councillor Ontlametse Kgopodithata, applauded the men and women who raised their hands to voluntarily contribute in a structured manner towards crime-fighting initiatives of government.

She said it was rare for people to give their own time and energy to help others without expecting anything in return.

“You, who have raised your hands to work with us, we applaud you and thank you for not asking what government is doing about crime. You have instead asked, what am I doing about crime, what is my contribution towards fighting crime and when you heard about this initiative, you raised your hand, stood up and said, I want to be counted as part of the solution,” she said.

Acting SAPS District Commissioner Brigadier Kenneth Baloyi said that the patrollers will be trained and will work closely with the police in their communities, because fighting crime must be a collective effort between the police and communities.

He said the community policing philosophy was an approach that focused on establishing partnerships and enhancing work relations with members of the communities. He said the philosophy required the police to inherit a proactive approach to address public safety concerns.

Thabiso Kedithibetse, the District Chairperson of the Community Policing Forum, said patrollers will work closely with the forum and SAPS, and must be applauded for being part of the solution towards the high levels of crime in communities.



Thabiso Kedithibetse addressing the audience.



Councillor Ontlametse Kgopodithata addressing community members at the launch.



The Community in Blue patrollers at the event.