



# MYDISTRICTTODAY



# STAY SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

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## PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

### National Heritage Day launch

By Doctor Marebane: GCIS, Limpopo

The Minister of Sports Arts and Culture, Zizi Kodwa, launched the National Heritage Month at Moletsi Thusong Service Centre in Limpopo, Polokwane Local Municipality on 31 August 2023 under the theme: “Celebrating our cultural diversity in a democratic South Africa”.

During the event, five books written by the locals were launched and the Minister highlighted the importance of preserving cultural customs and traditions.

“As a nation, we have our own spiritual practices and this is how we understand life. Heritage is our inheritance, we express ourselves as people through our belief systems, customs and tradition,” said Minister Kodwa.

He further stated that dance, songs and music are part of our heritage and culture. “When we celebrate we sing, when we are sad we also sing and we sing or dance to express whatever emotions we might feel inside. The Heritage Month aims to celebrate who we are as a nation. We must celebrate our indigenous knowledge,” he added.

He urged all the local Mayors to plan activities to celebrate Heritage Month in their respective municipalities. He called on the community to work closely with traditional leaders and also to share indigenous knowledge with the youth.

The event was attended by various stakeholders which include traditional leaders, MECs, Mayors from all Limpopo districts as well as councillors. Ambassadors from Taiwan also graced the event and donated wheelchairs to the local people with disabilities.

The event was characterised by various dancers that included the famous Xitsonga musician, Dr Thomas Chauke, who also launched his book. Various Kiba dances were also performed. The Minister committed that the Pedi Dinaka dancers will perform during the national Heritage celebrations to be held in KwaZulu-Natal on 24 September.



Cultural dancers entertaining the audience at the event.



Flags of different countries displayed as a sign of sovereignty and sense of belonging.



government communications

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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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.



Letladi Moloto said:

“I am happy that the launch was commemorated in my home village.”



Dorin Makhura, Mmapitsi Kganyago, Dorin Thantsha and Mmanoko Thantsha said:

“We have wholly enjoyed the heritage launch event and will forever embrace our Sepedi culture.”

## PRIORITY I: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

### Women's Month event commemoration

By Sikelela Zokufa: GCIS, Western Cape

The provincial Women's Month event was held in the Khayelitsha Training Centre on 29 August 2023 under the theme: "Accelerating Social-economic Opportunities for Women's Empowerment". More than 60 people attended this event, which was organised by the Government Communication and Information System in partnership with Masakhane Zimbokodo Women Empowerment and Somagwaza Institute.

Campaigns for women's economic empowerment seek to provide women with increased access to resources and decision-making opportunities. The event was organised for women to motivate and help one another in everything they are facing, be it at home or within the community.

Furthermore, the event raised awareness on gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF). Some of the highlights include sentiments from Women in Business, motivational speakers and trainers such as Joy Mkhunqwana who said, "There are many things that this event has taught us as women, most importantly, we have learnt the importance of being independent, learning to do things on our own, and also using what we have to get what we do not have or rather what we want."

Other speakers emphasised independence in women while others reflected on learning the importance of Ubuntu and the way they should treat one another as community members.

Wiseman Nako from the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) shared how, through collaboration and partnership with other key stakeholders, SEDA can aid in the development, support and promotion of small businesses to ensure their growth and sustainability. He also offered to train them on how to start a business. Nako highlighted the importance and advantages of having a registered company for people with small businesses who did not know the importance of registering their businesses or where they should go when they need help in their businesses.

Nolukholo Tobo from Isitha raised awareness of the LGBTQIA+ community and gender-based violence, thus teaching the audience how they should treat those who are part of this community.

Nomi Nkondlo discussed programmes intended to raise living standards and economic health. She also spoke about green and township economy. The event was a huge success.



Noloyiso Mbetheni said:

"We have learnt a lot, and we gained some new information. I hope everybody gained something in this event. I am so motivated the event was very informative."



Nosethu Manxilana said:

"This experience was beneficial for small businesses and taught us lessons about life in general. The programme was educational in terms of community economic development and things women can do to become independent and be able to support their families."



Masakhane Zimbokodo Women Empowerment members posing for a photo with Nkondlo.



Women at the event.



Nkondlo addressing the audience.



Farita Mashaba said:

"I am the Awareness and Linkage Officer, based at the GRIP Provincial Office, Nelspruit. At GRIP we have satellite offices which we call care rooms mostly based at police Stations and at Hospitals. We offer trauma counselling to rape and domestic violence survivors."



Laurencia Motha said:

"I am a No Means No facilitator and today we invited the community and stakeholders to discuss GBV and to find ways to reduce or to stop GBV."



Nozipho Dladla said:

"I am No Means No instructor. We implement empowerment on self-defence skills to help women aged 19 to 24, we empower and teach them our safety goal, which is to get away from the hands of perpetrators. We also teach them about responsible reproductive health and also teach them financial literacy skills such as saving and budgeting. We also teach them on how to prepare for interviews."

## PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

### War against violence intensifies

By Bongani Mazibuko: GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) partnered with GRIP and other stakeholders on an intervention programme to deepen the fight against gender-based violence through an engagement and awareness session. The event took place at Silobela Community Hall in Gert Sibande District, Mpumalanga on 7 September 2023. Government held an interactive and empowering sessions where in four commissions deliberated on topics such as "What is gender-based violence (GBV)", "What are the causes of GBV", "What are the consequences of GBV" and "What can be done to end GBV".

The Department of Social Development presented about the various interventions and services offered to victims of GBV. An official from GRIP also presented about their services to girls and young women.

Bongani Mazibuko, Senior Communication Officer, at the GCIS Gert Sibande District, presented on the role of the GCIS in creating awareness about GBV and the fight against GBV and femicide. He also distributed

GCIS information leaflets on understanding and combating violence and femicide to the community members who attended.

Nsizwa Radebe from the Department of Health based at Silobela Clinic encouraged the young women to protect themselves from abusive relationships and leave abusive, toxic and unsafe relationships and if need be protect themselves by taking contraceptives.

The community members welcomed the intervention from government and private stakeholders to curb the high number of violence and femicide and also committed to work with law enforcement and social workers to report all GBV cases with the community. Departments who participated in the event were Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality, Department of Social Development, Department of Home Affairs and home-based care workers.



Community members participating actively in the discussions.



Groups reporting back after discussions.

## PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

### Youth event a huge success

By Thandinkosi Zulu: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The Newcastle Local Municipality recently hosted the biggest Youth Career Expo, which recorded the largest youth participation. The youth-oriented outreach initiative forms part of the municipality's strong commitment towards ushering a new era of youth development through empowerment campaigns.

The Youth Expo, hosted on 3 August 2023, saw some of the country's leading institutions of higher learning, sector departments and key economic drivers assembling in one roof, all with a mutual goal of empowering our young future leaders. Young people were presented with useful information for their career development. The programme began with career information presented by various institutions of higher learning and academic professionals explaining different career opportunities and their requirements. This was followed by the mayoral address.

According to Mayor Xolani Dube, the municipality is tasked with the responsibility to shape the future leaders of society through key deliverables of the municipality's youth development strategy, the expo

outreach initiative aims to tackle issues faced by the youth through the promotion of education and information sharing programmes.

"We are a leadership that strongly advocates for education because knowledge is the ultimate tool for liberation. Through the provision of opportunities such as the annual mayoral bursary scheme and the municipal internship programme, in addition to the Youth Career Expo, our youth is afforded access to opportunities and resources that will allow them to imagine endless possibilities for future generations." said Mayor Dube.

The Mayor further hinted that the astounding success of the pilot Youth Career Expo led to its adoption as an annual initiative targeted towards improving youth education and skills development.



Newcastle Local Municipality Career Expo at Farmers Hall.