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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:

EASTERN CAPE

Ndlelantle Pinyana
043 722 2602 or 076 142 8606
ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za

FREE STATE

Yolisa Blom
051 448 4506 or 072 130 9893
yolisa@gcis.gov.za

GAUTENG

Peter Gumede
011 331 0164 or 083 570 8080
peterg@gcis.gov.za

KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420
ndala@gcis.gov.za

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Career Open Day for the deaf

By Sikelela Zokufa: GCIS, Western Cape

The Deaf Federation of South Africa in the Western Cape hosted the first Deaf Career Open Day on 6 September 2022 to provide information on careers to deaf learners and deaf communities.

Held at the Sanlam Head Office in Bellville, Cape Town, the purpose of the session was to encourage deaf learners and deaf communities to explore various accessible career options they can follow.

Learners from six schools for the deaf in the province attended the event and received information on career pathing.

Some of the former learners who are currently furthering their education in Technical and Vocational Education and Training colleges attended the event to encourage the learners to take advantage of available career opportunities.

The 18 exhibitors from higher education and entrepreneurial sectors, assisted the learners to make informed decisions in their career paths, in the academic field or in pursuing entrepreneurship.

Stakeholders that exhibited at the event included the Boland College; College of Cape Town; Cape Peninsula University of Technology; Greenchild Project; International Hotel School; JOB-ABLED; Northlink College; South African Revenue Service; Small Enterprise Development Agency; Stellenbosch University; University of Cape Town; University of the Western Cape; Vodacom; West Coast College; Cook4Life; Brink Sure; Sanlam; GCIS and Department of Higher Education and Training.

The learners were happy to know that most colleges and universities have special arrangements for deaf people, such as disability units and sign language interpreters.



Deaf learners and deaf communities engaging with the stakeholders at the Deaf Career Open Day.



**government
communications**

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



LIMPOPO

Thanyani Ravhura
015 291 4689 or 082 421 3461
thanyani@gcis.gov.za

MPUMALANGA

Jerry Nkosi
013 753 2397 or 082 316 5295
Jerry@gcis.gov.za

NORTH WEST

Boitumelo Mosadi
018 381 7071 or 073 245 0906
boitumelom@gcis.gov.za

NORTHERN CAPE

Ofentse Moeti
053 832 1378/9 or 084 390 4330
Ofentse@gcis.gov.za

WESTERN CAPE

Geraldine Thopps
021 418 0533/2307 or 081 281 2200
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.



Godin Scots said:

"I am a learner in a deaf school. It was my first time learning that there are so many opportunities in the colleges and universities in the Western Cape that I am interested in. I am so happy with the information I got from this event. I have an open mind now to choose. I want to pursue my studies after Grade 12 and go for Information Technology and Management."

PRIORITY 5: SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Government takes services to rural communities

By Lecrecia Prins: GCIS, Northern Cape

The Augrabies Thusong Service Centre in the the Kai !Garib Municipality under the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality in the Northern Cape, observed the Annual Thusong Service Centre Week on 14 September 2022.

Government departments and state-owned entities from across the Northern Cape exhibited their products and rendered services to the rural community of Augrabies.

In her keynote address, the Executive Mayor of the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality, Maryna Basson, said it was important for government to take services to the people.

“We are obliged to deliver services that are timely, accurate and accessible. As government we want to do everything in our power to improve the lives of our people,” she said.

The Mayor of the Kai !Garib Municipality, Marshall Matthys, said the Thusong programme was very important as it brought services to the doorsteps of the people. He further said government wished to deliver services to every person in the country.

The Annual Thusong Service Centre Week activities were also used as an opportunity for communities to engage with their political leaders about issues relating to service delivery.

Residents expressed their appreciation for the event, saying it allowed them to benefit from services they would normally not access regularly due to geographical challenges.

Elizabeth Januarie, one of the residents, said: “Having a Thusong Service Centre in the community is a privilege for many people as it helps, among others, learners with research for their school work, thanks to the telecentres available at this centre.”



Executive Mayor Maryna Basson visiting one of the exhibition stalls at the centre.



Community members receiving information and services at the event.



Gloria Moleko said:

"I learnt a lot of things about GBVF such as men being at risk of GBVF as well. I learnt that GBVF can take place in small ways like when a person says negative things to you and you become affected mentally and emotionally."



Bonolo Motaung said:

"What I learnt from this session is that if you experience GBVF consider reporting immediately so that you can get medical assistance. I also learnt that if you witness a GBVF anywhere even if you are not sure it is taking place, just report it."

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Dialogue tackles violence and femicide

By Pulane Motsitsi: GCIS, Free State

The GCIS, in partnership with various stakeholders in the Thabo Mofutsanyana District Municipality, held a dialogue on gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) at the Mamafubedu Library in the Free State on 27 September 2022. The dialogue targeted learners from Zakheni and Kwetlisong secondary schools, respectively.

The dialogue aimed to make the learners aware of the seriousness of GBVF while also providing the platform to express their own opinions and understand GBVF better. The learners had the opportunity to present possible solutions, and they also discussed bullying and substance abuse.

Stakeholders such as the South African Police Service (SAPS), Childline, Free State Department of Education, Community Policing Forum and community development workers addressed the learners.

Childline informed the learners about the different types of GBVF and advised them that rape survivors must report the crime soon to the police before taking a bath. They must also bring along the clothes they were wearing at the time of the rape to enable police to link suspects to the crime.

The learners were also informed about the different medical tools and medication provided to rape survivors such as pre-exposure prophylaxis, the morning-after pill and post-exposure prophylaxis that help prevent pregnancy, HIV and AIDS. These tools have different requirements and usage instructions.

The SAPS encouraged the learners to report GBVF as quickly as possible to be able to receive counselling because this form of violence – especially rape, sexual assault or physical abuse in the household – can have a lasting psychological and emotional effect on them.

Furthermore, the SAPS informed the learners about statutory rape and its negative impact on both the victim and culprit. They were advised to rather focus on their studies instead of engaging in love relationships while still in high school.

The learners were urged to inform other people in their communities about GBVF and its consequences, so that more people can report such cases to the police.



Zakheni and Kwetlisong learners listening to presentations.



Doctor Motloun addressing the learners.

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Women encouraged to embrace opportunities

By Sinoxolo Gqala: GCIS, Eastern Cape

The GCIS, in collaboration with the Mquma Local Municipality in the Amathole District Municipality in the Eastern Cape, held an empowerment seminar targeting the women of Centane in Gobe Location on 26 August 2022.

The seminar aimed to capacitate and empower the women on socio-economic issues, opportunities, and gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF).

During the recent crime situational analysis by the South African Police Service (SAPS), Centane was flagged as a hotspot for GBVF and various other crimes within the Mquma Local Municipality.

Women from across wards 31 and 32 were empowered with information and services on various economic opportunities that government and other entities provide. The Centane area also faces a lack of opportunities and developmental programmes for women.

The Executive Mayor of Mquma Local Municipality, Tunyiswa Manxila-Nkamisa, encouraged women to develop their areas through government-supported initiatives such as the Siyazondla Programme, which capacitates women with training on household enterprises to small-scale farming. It provides seedlings, implements and start-up products such as egg-laying chickens, broilers, feed and medication to women in rural areas to start their own enterprises.

The Executive Mayor also added that the municipality has various desks established to ensure women development and empowerment. Lamenting the rising cases of GBVF, AmaXhosa Queen Nonzuzo Sigcau, encouraged families and community members to report criminal elements in their areas to the police.

She emphasised the raising of children, especially young boys and girls, in value-grounded families and communities to ensure that they become good men and women, and good leaders, of tomorrow.

Provincial departments such as Rural Development and Agrarian Reform (DRDAR), Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, and Human Settlements, together with the Special Programmes units, provided information on their various opportunities for women, while the SAPS, National Prosecuting Authority, Thuthuzela Care Centre and other non-governmental organisations empowered women on reporting crime and GBVF cases.

Luleka Ngamntwini from Xhobani welcomed the empowerment programme, saying that it had enlightened her on many opportunities they could take up as women to develop themselves. She added that she would apply for funding provided by the DRDAR for various initiatives.

Phelokazi Jali from the DRDAR said the department had invited individuals, cooperatives and companies to apply for funding for various agricultural production programmes.



Some of the women who attended the seminar at Gobe Location.



Nomakhaya Barnes addressing the attendees.