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PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Government undertakes monitoring visits

By Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Deputy Minister Thembi Siweya during a walkabout at the factory of Stanger Textile Industries.



A visit to Road Traffic Inspectorate Offices in KwaDukuza.

The Deputy Minister in The Presidency, Thembi Siweya, visited Stanger Textile Industries in KwaDukuza Local Municipality on 9 October 2020 as part of government's stakeholder engagements in respect of post COVID-19 socio-economic recovery. The purpose of the visit was to mobilise participation of all sectors of society towards the country's socio-economic recovery, and to assess the impact of COVID-19 on businesses, individuals, communities and government services. The latter relating specifically to the department's frontline monitoring and evaluation programme of government services.

Many businesses were negatively impacted by COVID-19 and people were left stranded without jobs. Large-scale retrenchments continue, placing more people on the database of the Department of Employment and Labour's Unemployment Insurance Fund, and the South African Social Security Agency's COVID-19 social relief of distress grants.

The Deputy Minister, accompanied by the Mayor of Ilembe District Municipality, Councillor Siduduzo Gumede, and KwaDukuza Local Municipality Mayor Councillor Dolly Govender, were warmly welcomed at Stanger Textile Industry by both the owners and local media.



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The engagement highlighted the challenges experienced in the textile industry with specific reference to small, medium and micro enterprises.

The Deputy Minister also visited the Road Traffic Inspectorate Office in KwaDukuza to assess functionality, adherence to COVID-19 regulations and service delivery. She enquired about the long queue outside the office and was informed that as per the COVID-19 regulations, a limited number of people were allowed into the enclosed offices. The offices were very small, resulting in more people being outside.



Thanersan Reddy said:

"We welcome the Deputy Minister's visit and appreciate the interest shown in the textile industry, especially the small businesses and the effect of COVID-19 on them in general. This gave us an opportunity to highlight to government, the challenges experienced in the textile industry, which were made worse by COVID-19. The textile industry in South Africa is a very old industry but, over the years, we have lost a lot of manufacturing jobs to India and China. We hope this engagement will highlight our challenges and allow government to revive and grow the industry. We believe the textile industry will contribute significantly to South Africa's economic growth."



Public Works, Roads and Transport MEC Gillion Mashego engaging with the media.

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Shaping the future of the taxi industry

By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Solomon Sibambo of the South African National Taxi Council raising concerns during the Taxi Lekgotla.



Transport Deputy Minister Dikeledi Magadzi being interviewed by the media.

Mpumalanga has set the tone for the National Taxi Lekgotla. The industry leaders converged in the City of Mbombela on 13 October 2020, to engage on various issues concerning the future of the taxi industry. The Deputy Minister of Transport, Dikeledi Magadzi, together with the MEC for Public Works, Roads and Transport, Gillion Mashego, hosted the proceedings which were characterised by robust debates.

The discussions focused on unity and leadership, industry regulations, Business Empowerment Model, professionalisation of the industry and customer service. These issues were unpacked and repackaged by various commissions who presented their recommendations to the collective. Resolutions taken during the engagements will be consolidated and presented to the National Taxi Lekgotla on 29 and 30 October 2020.

Deputy Minister Magadzi acknowledged that there were outstanding issues that still need to be resolved within the taxi industry as per the resolutions that were taken in 2001 during similar engagements.

"Our view is that we need to resuscitate those resolutions but with a clear implementation plan working together with the taxi industry. One of our priorities is the taxi industry subsidy, which we intend to implement as from the next financial year. Of course, there have been challenges but we are eager to work together towards an amicable resolution," she said

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Continue to adhere to COVID-19 regulations

By Phiwokuhle Zokufa: GCIS, Eastern Cape



A government official creating awareness about COVID-19 at Qokolweni village.



Stakeholders placing posters to create awareness about COVID-19.

Ongoing efforts to appeal to communities to comply with the lockdown regulations continue, as the Government Communication and Information System in the OR Tambo District in partnership with ward councillors, community development workers, and King Sabatha Dalindyebo Local Municipality conducted an awareness campaign in Qokolweni village Ward 35 on 18 September 2020.

The initiative was part of the District Ward Based Strategy to fight COVID-19, through strengthening partnerships that facilitate awareness campaigns at local level. The approach targets wards that are largely affected by COVID-19. These initiatives also seek to promote behavioural change from communities, as the fight against COVID-19 also depends on them.

King Sabatha Dalindyebo Local Municipality was one of the identified hotspot in OR Tambo District, with Qokolweni village being the epicentre of COVID-19. Communities were encouraged to work with government to fight the coronavirus.

One of the community members, Zamekile Vinjwa, stated that he was very grateful for the awareness campaign, which shows that government is doing something and hope that people will listen and start to take COVID-19 seriously.

During the alert Level 1 of the lockdown, the country is open for business but the fight against the coronavirus is still not over, therefore, people still need to adhere to the rules and regulations of COVID-19, and also embrace health safety protocols.

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Young women discuss gender-based violence

By Monique Warden: GCIS, Western Cape



An attendee sharing her experiences when it comes to accessing assistance from law-enforcement agencies.



Young women who attended the Gender-Based Violence Workshop.



Lebogang Godzwana from the Department of Social Development addressing the audience.



Madeleine Hayneke from BADISA talking about childhood trauma.

The Government Communication and Information System in partnership with the South African Police Service (SAPS), Department of Social Development (DSD), BADISA and Partners in Sexual Health held an interactive talk on gender-based violence (GBV) with young women, in particular domestic violence, childhood trauma and victim empowerment. This interactive discussion was held on 10 September 2020, at Beaufort West Thusong Service Centre, as the place was identified as one of the GBV hotspots in the country.

The Family Violence Unit of the SAPS discussed the reporting system for victims and also noted the challenges the unit experiences with victims refusing to report and follow through on cases. The women got the opportunity to engage with the officers and share their frustration as victims and as victims. BADISA engaged the women on childhood trauma.

The DSD and Partners in Sexual Health both interacted with the women on victim empowerment programmes that they run for men, women and children who have had first-hand trauma as survivors or as family units.

The interactive talk ensured that young women under the age of 35 were given the tools and information to make informed choices so that they can empower others.

Community members are encouraged to report GBV by calling the 24-hour Command Centre toll-free number: 0800 428 428. Callers can also request a social worker from the centre to contact them by dialling *120*7867# (free) from any cellphone.