



# MYDISTRICTTODAY



# STAY SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

Issue no.28: August 2022

## 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](mailto:ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za)

### FREE STATE

Yolisa Blom  
051 448 4506 or 072 130 9893  
[yolisa@gcis.gov.za](mailto:yolisa@gcis.gov.za)

### GAUTENG

Peter Gumede  
011 331 0164 or 083 570 8080  
[peterg@gcis.gov.za](mailto:peterg@gcis.gov.za)

### KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi  
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420  
[ndala@gcis.gov.za](mailto:ndala@gcis.gov.za)

## PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

### TB awareness campaign in Makhasa

By Jacob Mkhize: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The Civil Society Network together with government hosted the tuberculosis (TB) awareness programme at Makhasa Hall under Big 5 Hlabisa, on 1 July 2022.

Civil society dealing with programmes on social ills educated people on TB symptoms and encouraged everyone to conduct health screenings.

Community members received information on myths and misconceptions about TB and, HIV and AIDS, and the importance of early detection so one can receive the necessary treatment.

Screening and referrals were conducted on site.

The Umkhanyakude District Health representatives echoed the same sentiments as civil society, encouraging individuals to access healthcare services at an early stage.

The Department of Health, in partnership with civil society has been visiting various areas in Umkhanyakude District to screen and educate people about TB.

To upscale the health drive on the TB campaign, the department and the district collaborated with the TB & HIV Investigative Network organisation using a mobile TB body scanner. The scanner provides results on site, and where the infection is noted and the individuals are then given referral letters for further consultation.

The TB awareness campaign will continue to ensure that people are not left behind when it comes to knowing their health status in relation to TB and other illnesses.



Community members during the information sharing session at Makhasa Hall.



Community members accessing services from the Department of Health.



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](mailto:thanyani@gcis.gov.za)

**MPUMALANGA**

Jerry Nkosi  
013 753 2397 or 082 316 5295  
[Jerry@gcis.gov.za](mailto:Jerry@gcis.gov.za)

**NORTH WEST**

Boitumelo Mosadi  
018 381 7071 or 073 245 0906  
[boitumelom@gcis.gov.za](mailto:boitumelom@gcis.gov.za)

**NORTHERN CAPE**

Ofentse Moeti  
053 832 1378/9 or 084 390 4330  
[Ofentse@gcis.gov.za](mailto:Ofentse@gcis.gov.za)

**WESTERN CAPE**

Geraldine Thopps  
021 418 0533/2307 or 081 281 2200  
[Geraldine@gcis.gov.za](mailto: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.

**PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.**

**Aliwal North community activation**

*By Aphinda Langa: GCIS, Eastern Cape*

The Government Communication and Information System in Joe Gqabi District, in partnership with the provincial Department of Public Works and Independent Electoral Commission (IEC), held a community activation on 10 June 2022, in Aliwal North taxi rank.

With the youth of South Africa being the most affected by social ills such as unemployment, poverty, substance abuse, crime and unequal opportunities in education, this activation was an opportunity for the government and stakeholders to communicate youth-related programmes to combat such social ills.

The Eastern Cape Department of Public Works outlined the skills development programmes and employment opportunities the department offers.

“We are here to give back to the youth and hear from you what you want from us as government. Department of Public Works has a programme called Accelerated Trade Professional Competency Programme which takes 3

years to complete. Anyone from ages 18 to 35 can apply,” said Sicelo Moses from the Innovation and Empowerment Unit in the department.

He further stated that the department also caters for those who do not have NQF qualifications.

“There is another programme called National Youth Services for those applicants with a minimum of Grade 10. Our goal is to help every young person obtain a trade certificate to either find a job or start a business. The certificates range from plumbing, painting, bricklaying, carpentry and electrical. These skills help you so that in return you help others in your communities,” he added.

Representatives from the IEC educated attendees about the importance of voting and also assisted them with registering on the voters’ roll for the upcoming 2024 elections.



Stakeholders sharing information with the youth during a community activation.



**Regina Mashego said:**

“I came here today after I heard yesterday afternoon, the Ward Councillor loud hailing that we were going to have visitors who will render health services including eye testing, vaccination, vaccination booster. I would like to see an optometrist because I now have vision impair on my left eye.”



**Makatu Siwela said:**

“I am here today to get COVID-19 vaccination and to conduct tuberculosis screening. I wish this programme can always come here as the service is fast compared to when we visit the local community healthcare centre.”

## PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

### Vaccination drive benefits communities

*By Andile Mpila and Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga*

The Government Communication and Information System worked in collaboration with the Right to Care, Department of Health and United Nations Children’s Fund to bring healthcare services to the communities of Ehlanzeni District Municipality in Mpumalanga.

The vaccination drive started at Thaba Chweu Local Municipality on 11 July 2022 and covered the City of Mbombela Local Municipality.

As vaccines are regarded as the most critical tool to fight the deadly COVID-19 pandemic, this drive was aimed at assisting the communities that are not yet vaccinated.

According to the World Health Organization, an unvaccinated person is more at risk of dying from COVID-19 than a vaccinated one.

On 15 July 2022, which was the last day of the campaign, the vaccination truck was stationed at Stimela Mall in Barberton, where not only free vaccination was offered but also basic healthcare services were accessed at the doorstep by communities.

Some of the services offered were HIV and AIDS screening, blood pressure and sugar level testing and others had an opportunity to register for free circumcision.

The healthcare service drive also served as part of engaging with the community enabling them to raise their concerns regarding the COVID-19 vaccines.

Questions and concerns were raised by the public and they were publicly addressed and clarifications were made on the grounds.

A platform was also availed for a dialogue, with men and women sharing information and getting their sentiments on gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) issues.

During the session, one of the participants raised a concern that as men they still find it difficult to go to police stations and report cases of gender-based violence as they are also victims, they then prefer to keep it to themselves hence it kills them emotionally.

Abused men were also encouraged to report the matter to the police. GBVF and Vuk’uzenzele newspapers were distributed to community members, among other materials.



**Community members accessing health services during the vaccination drive in Barberton.**



**Patrick Mashego from Maphelo Non-Profit Organisation engaging men on GBVF.**



**Andrew Segano said:**

“We [Rainbow Farmers Union] are in support of the amendment, but we must also talk about allocation of land to black farmers, to expand their businesses and contribute meaningfully to the economy of the country.”



**Solomon Batshameki said:**

“I am happy to be here before Parliament and my plea is for government to help us by employing veld rangers that assist farmers, because some people are deliberately setting our farms and grazing lands on fire, and stealing our fences and livestock.”

## PRIORITY 1: BUILDING A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

### Parliament hosts public hearings

*By Tebogo Monyo: GCIS, Northern Cape*

The South African Parliament’s Portfolio Committee on Environment, Forestry and Fisheries hosted public hearings in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District on 11 June 2022.

Hosted at the Thabo Moorosi Multi-Purpose Centre, in the Gasegonyana Local Municipality, the public hearings sought inputs from the public on the National Veld and Forest Fire Amendment Bill.

The well-attended public hearing was chaired by the Portfolio Committee Chairperson, Faith Muthambi, who explained that public participation was a democratic process that ensured that lawmakers listened to the voices of the people when they are making laws.

During the oral submissions, the Mayor of the Joe Morolong Local Municipality, Councillor Dineo Leutlwetse-Tshabalala, said the municipality which is mostly rural, often battled with veld fires that destroy agricultural land and small farmers end up losing their stock.

She said the municipality had a team of young people who were on a fire-fighting learnership for the fire season and that government must consider a grant to local municipalities, to enable them to absorb these learners as part of the permanent structure of the municipality.

Public inputs made by among others, local fire fighters, organised formations, farmers and civil rights organisations, ranged from the need to capacitate local municipalities to fight veld fires, legislation that will compel all municipalities to have enough fire-fighting trucks and personnel, and the need for more land to be allocated to upcoming black farmers to avoid overcrowding in allocated camps.

At the end of the hearings, Muthambi said the committee would consider all public inputs for Parliament to pass the Bill.

She said the Bill will then be referred to the National Council of Provinces for further deliberations and concurrence, and will subsequently be sent to President Cyril Ramaphosa for assent and signing into law.



**Members of the Portfolio Committee with Khoisan Traditional Leaders who made oral submissions.**



**Some of the community members who attended the public hearings.**