



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS

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PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Opening of Abram Hlophe Primary School

By Jacob Molete: GCIS, Gauteng



Premier David Makhura, MEC Panyaza Lesufi and Jeremiah Hlophe at the unveiling of the school's plaque.



MEC Panyaza Lesufi and MEC Tasneem Motara handing over Abram Hlophe Primary School's certificate of completion and keys during the official opening of the school.

Gauteng Premier David Makhura, Education MEC Panyaza Lesufi, Infrastructure MEC Tasneem Motara, Ekurhuleni Executive Mayor Mzwandile Masina and Jeremiah Hlophe, officially opened the state-of-the-art Abram Hlophe Primary School in Katlehong, on 15 February 2021.

Abram Hlope Primary is one of the schools from the Gauteng Provincial Government's massive modernisation plan targeting old public school by converting them into smart schools. The school, which has 69 teachers and is expected to accommodate 1 900 pupils, is named after Abram Hlophe, a leader of the Congress of South African Students, who was shot and killed by the apartheid police in 1992 during riots in Katlehong.



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“Building and delivering quality, state-of-the-art infrastructure is what we do for the people of Gauteng. The community of Katlehong in Ekurhuleni will be proud owners of the R89 million Abram Hlophe Primary School”, said MEC Tasneem Motara.

According to the Gauteng Department of Infrastructure Development, 22 small businesses were commissioned to build the school and R41 million benefited small, medium and micro enterprises. Furthermore, around 520 Expanded Public Works Programme participants were provided with job opportunities during the construction of the school, all sourced from the local community.

“Building the school is not a favour but the development of the community,” said Premier Makhura.

“The opening of this school is a sheer determination from our provincial government to ensure that our children learn in a better environment, closer to home, than to travel far to access education. They must go to a beautiful school. We are proud as the Gauteng Provincial Government that by opening this school, we are changing the face of townships,” said MEC Lesufi.

Both Premier Makhura and MEC Lesufi pleaded with the Katlehong community to keep the new school safe as it is now handed to them as their asset and public property. “In education, our frontline workers are our teachers, we thank you for your persistence and urge you to continue to teach in this time of disruption due to COVID-19 pandemic,” concluded Premier Makhura.



Thokozile Khanye said:

“I am happy that we are finally into our new school, and no longer in fabricated mobile and temporary classrooms that were unbearable when cold. I love our new school.”



Mpho Kubheka (Chairperson School Governing Body) said:

“I am grateful and happy that the school is finally completed. Now our children will learn in an improved beautiful school. We appreciate this school infrastructure as parents and will safeguard and look after it because it is now a valuable asset to our community.”

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Nelson Mandela Bay COVID-19 awareness campaign

By Zukiswa Mqumbisa: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Government officials interacting with Colchester resident, Nomvuyo Kheta.



Ashton Skitter handing out vaccine posters to a resident.

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) continues to intensify its efforts to educate and encourage the public to take the COVID-19 vaccine. Communities were also urged to continue adhering to COVID-19 adjusted Level 3 regulations.

On 8 February 2021, the GCIS partnered with the Department of Health, Nelson Mandela Bay Municipality and Colchester Committee members for a loud-hailing campaign at Colchester. The residents of Colchester appreciated the initiative. Nomvuyo Kheta was especially pleased with the presence of the GCIS and the Department of Health. “We are trying to follow all the protocols set out for us, but we don’t have sanitizer in our homes, what must we do?” she said.

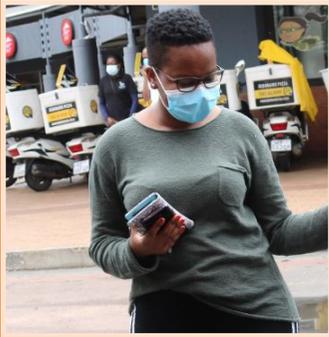
Officials interacted with the public educating them on the alternative ways of curbing the virus in their homes using resources that are available to them. The Department of Health official advised that soap and water work equally well. She explained that one needs to wash his or her hands for at least 20 seconds frequently.

Ward Committee member Ashton Skitter thanked the GCIS and the Department of Health for being present in their community and for educating the residents about COVID-19, the vaccine, and the State of the Nation Address.

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Tshwane COVID-19 campaign

By Robbie Senoelo: GCIS, Gauteng



Maureen Molefe said:
 “I really appreciate your presence and your effort to bring these free health services closer to where we live and work. It is always comforting to know one’s status.”



Mbali Masilela said:
 “I know COVID-19 is real and I was very nervous before I tested but now I feel relieved and I hope to receive negative results. I want to encourage young people to come and test because many of them think this is a joke.”



Government official George Moeketsi spreading the message on COVID-19 regulations at the Soshanguve Crossing Mall.



Government officials creating awareness about COVID-19 in Refilwe.

The City of Tshwane’s COVID-19 Ward-Based Outreach Campaign, which focuses on education, screening and testing, revisited some of the identified coronavirus hotspot areas in the city’s different regions such as Refilwe, Ga-Rankuwa and Soshanguve from 3 to 5 February 2021.

This followed the city’s continued analytical exercise that zooms into all its townships and suburbs to determine where the spike of COVID-19 is with a vision of instituting informed health programmes and awareness interventions.

The COVID-19 education drive was aimed at engaging the communities and spreading messages on the COVID-19 regulations compliance, symptoms, isolation and quarantine. The campaign, spearheaded by the city’s Command Council, was done in conjunction with stakeholders such as the Department of Health, Tshwane Metropolitan Police Department, Office of the Mayor, Office of the Speaker, Community and Social Development Services Department, City of Tshwane Metropolitan Municipality and external partners such as national and provincial government departments, taxi associations, malls and shopping centres.

The Government Communication and Information System, through its Tshwane Office, used the opportunity to step up COVID-19 awareness through loud-hailing and encouraged people to continue to wear their masks, wash their hands with water and soap or sanitise regularly, keep social distance in public spaces and observe any other protocols in line with the Disaster Management regulations.

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

Government assesses flood damages

By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Premier Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane and her entourage checking the bridge washed away by heavy rains between eNtokozweni and Tekwane South.

The Government Communication and Information System supported the Premier of Mpumalanga, Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane, on 8 February 2021, when she visited townships that were affected by heavy rains and floods in Mbombela. Roads, bridges, houses and government offices were damaged. Communities from Tekwane South and Kanyamazane were mostly affected as the bridge that links them to schools and places of work has been washed away.

Premier Mtsweni-Tsipane revealed that the estimated value needed to repair the damages is R425 million; however, national government will also conduct its own assessment. The Mpumalanga Provincial Government has intervened by relocating affected families to places of safety and also made provisions for alternative routes to try to ease the strain on the traffic. The Premier also applauded the Disaster Management team for sticking to the 15-minute turnaround time in attending to the affected families.

“We send our condolences to the families who lost their loved ones, and we urge communities to run to places of safety and those with safe houses to open them to accommodate the affected families,” she said.

The provincial government is also providing support to the families who are searching for missing persons. The place has been declared as disaster-stricken areas and the province will start with processes to refurbish and rebuild damaged structures. The Premier indicated that she cannot blame the damages to poor workmanship, but the cause maybe that some of the infrastructure is old and that the planning did not include much of proper drainage system.

Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs MEC Mandla Msibi, Ehlanzeni District Executive Mayor Councillor Jester Sidell, City of Mbombela Executive Mayor Councillor Sibusiso Mathonsi and Acting Deputy-General Peter Nyoni had accompanied Premier Mtsweni-Tsipane.