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PRIORITY 7: BETTER AFRICA AND THE WORLD.

Cosmo City community made aware of the Presidential Inauguration

By Moloko Segale: GCIS, Gauteng

On 18 June 2024, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) – in collaboration with the Johannesburg Metro Police Department, South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence and the City of Johannesburg Health Department – held a road intersection activation to inform the community of Cosmo City about the Presidential Inauguration scheduled for 19 June 2024. The theme of the Presidential Inauguration: “Together Celebrating Democracy: Renewal and Growth for a Better South Africa”, emphasised the role citizens play in building a brighter tomorrow, and fighting the triple challenge of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

The event followed the free, fair and peaceful General Elections of 29 May 2024, which proved that South Africa’s democracy has the strength and ability to bring drastic changes to economic growth, justice and equality. Attended by distinguished international leaders, among others, the Presidential Inauguration also signified the triumph of justice, peace and human dignity.

In his inaugural speech, President Ramaphosa outlined his vision and plans for his five-year term of office.



Government communicators engaging with the public ahead of the Presidential Inauguration.



One of the stalls used to provide information on the Presidential Inauguration to the community of Cosmo City.

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Mongezi Gumedede said:

"I am originally from KwaZulu-Natal and came to Cosmo City to look for opportunities. I am a storyteller and a writer. I would like the new government to consider empowering youth to upgrade their skills through workshops".



Linah Matsaung said:

"I need the new government to focus on empowering youth through education and skills for the betterment of the South African economy."

PRIORITY 7: A BETTER AFRICA AND WORLD.

GCIS hosts live viewing of Presidential Inauguration

By Ntombi Mhlambi: GCIS, Free State

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) hosted the residents of Thrashing Disability Centre in Phomolong, Hennenman for the 'big screen' live viewing of the Presidential Inauguration on 19 June 2024.

The event aimed to make the community, particularly the elderly and youth, to feel that they were part of the main event, which was taking place at the Union Buildings in Pretoria. The Free State Provincial Director, Ms Yolisa Blom, explained the purpose of the event by highlighting the significance of the 30 Years of Freedom and the Seventh Administration.

The guest speaker, Ms Paballo Padi, from the National Youth Development Agency, outlined the services offered by the organisation. She encouraged the youth to start their own businesses and acquire new skills to boost their chances of employment.

Following the live viewing of the Presidential Inauguration, an upcoming artist Tshepo Sabata, also known by his stage name 'Tsepedi', rendered a musical item which delighted the enthusiastic audience.



Phafogang Botipe said:

"I'm happy with the chosen President and believe the new government will create jobs."



Wilfred Masibe said:

"I am excited that the President will be serving another term."

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

A dialogue on 30 Years of Democracy and Freedom celebration

By Maria Ramoshaba: GCIS, Limpopo

South African is this year commemorating 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy. On 3 May 2024, the Mookgophong community gathered at the local community hall to reflect on life before and after democracy. The elderly and the so-called 'born-frees' had the opportunity to discuss their respective bad and good experiences. Stakeholders at the event included the Acting Mayor of the Modimolle-Mookgophong Local Municipality, Councillor (Cllr) Anna Mboweni; ward councillors; Independent Communications Authority of South Africa; Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC), Department of Health; South African Police Service, and learners from various high schools in the area.

Mr Johannes Mashishi described how they fought hard to resist their forced relocation from then Naboomspruit (now Mookgophong) to Steilloop, because they were not permitted to reside near white people at the time. Despite being beaten and even jailed, he continued to resist until they succeeded. He appreciated that things had improved and we could now live together harmoniously, and even stay in town. "Even today we have whites in the hall attending the event; things have changed," he said.

Ms Sarah Legodi encouraged learners to take technology and their studies seriously, saying things were quite tough previously, "but now we have access to houses, free schooling and social grants."

Ms Thapelo Manaka, a 'born-free' teacher from Mokhari Secondary School, discussed how they benefited from democracy through the Funza Lushaka bursary scheme, which paid their accommodation and tuition fees, and even provided an allowance. "I encourage learners to work hard and access the opportunities created by democracy to further their studies," she said.

A 'born-free' farmer, Ms Lethabo Seko, encouraged unemployed youth to take advantage of the economic opportunities provided by government. She owns a 16-hectare farm bought through the Limpopo Department of Agriculture Rural Development, and the Small Enterprise Development Agency helped her with the production process and marketing. The IEC's District Coordinator, Ms Lettie Sithole, explained the voting process for the 2024 General Elections and the Acting Mayor, Cllr Mboweni, commended the event organisers for allowing the community to reflect on the bad experiences during apartheid and the positive aspects of democracy.



The GCIS Provincial Director Mr Thanyani Ravhura outlines the importance of celebrating 30 years of freedom and democracy.



Attendees listen to reflections of how life was before and after democracy.



Mr Johannes Mashishi, who experienced apartheid, said:

"I am happy that I still live to enjoy the benefits of what we fought for."



Mr Jack van der Walt, an educator at Hoërskool Hans Strijdom, said:

"I appreciate that we now live together as a nation. Learners must work hard to access the bursaries created by democracy. If you get a bursary and do not study hard then, it will be stopped."



Ms Thapelo Manaka said:

"I benefited from democracy by getting a bursary that was not possible during apartheid. Things are now accessible."



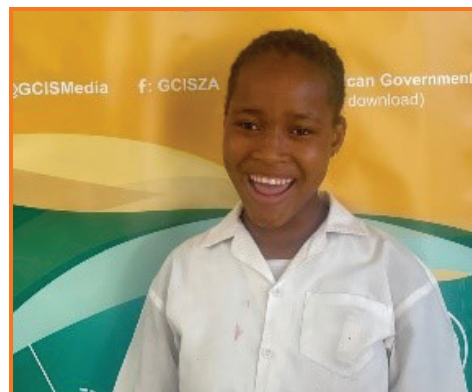
Ms Sarah Mokibelo said:

"I am unemployed and happy that I receive a social grant to assist me with my children."



Victor Sethosa said:

"Life was very difficult for our parents but now things have changed. I encourage the youths to grab opportunities created by the government to better their lives" and stop usage of substances."



Lethabo Legodi said:

"I am happy that I was born during democracy. I have a freedom of movement and able to access things like bursaries that my parents did not have."



Elizabeth Grootboom said:

"It is important for me as a South African to watch the Presidential Inauguration because we have voted and would like to know the future plans for the country."



Esther Shaw said:

"After the President's inaugural speech, as South African youth we are hoping for good opportunities."

PRIORITY 7: BETTER AFRICA AND THE WORLD.

Louisvale Dorp community appreciates live viewing of the Presidential Inauguration

By Lecrecia Prins: GCIS, Northern Cape

The community of Louisvale Dorp, about 10 kilometres outside Upington, together with the South African Police Service (SAPS), Department of Social Development and Independent Communications Authority of South Africa (ICASA), joined the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) on 19 June 2024 for the live viewing of the Presidential Inauguration at the VGK Church.

Residents eagerly awaited the seventh democratically elected President Cyril Ramaphosa to take the Oath of Office. The live viewing of the Presidential Inauguration was also organised to encourage the Louisvale Dorp community to participate in the democratic process of the country.

Before the inauguration ceremony, the SAPS encouraged the residents to report crime and protect children. ICASA outlined its various services and

role over the past 30 years of democracy in regulating telecommunications, broadcasting and postal industries. Some residents highlighted challenges such as poor transmission signals and lack of postal services in their areas.

One of the residents, Ms Elizabeth Grootboom, said it was important for her as a South African to watch the Presidential Inauguration because as voters they wanted to know the President's plans for the next five years. Some of the young people expressed hope that the Seventh Administration would prioritise job creation, particularly in rural and remote areas.

The Presidential Inauguration at the Union Buildings in Pretoria under the theme: "Together Celebrating Democracy: Renewal and Growth for a Better South Africa", followed the first sitting of the National Assembly held in Cape Town on 14 June 2024.



GCIS Provincial Director, Mr Ofentse Moeti, outlining the purpose and significance of the Presidential Inauguration.



Residents observing the National Anthem ahead of the live viewing of the Presidential Inauguration.



A SAPS officer encouraging the residents to report crime and protect children.