



# MYDISTRICTTODAY



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## PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

### Freedom Month commemoration reflects on the 30 Years of Freedom

By Tinyiko Molefe: GCIS, Gauteng

As part of commemorating Freedom Month in April, under the theme: "30 Years of Democracy, Partnership and Growth," the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), Department of Cooperative Governance and the Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC), supported by the Gauteng Provincial Legislature, hosted a Freedom and Democracy workshop in Johannesburg on 19 April 2024.

The workshop aimed to highlight the milestones the country has achieved during the past 30 years and encourage citizens to be part of this exciting celebration to reflect on the journey as a nation.

Participants were encouraged to actively participate in issues of freedom and democracy, and to also ensure that they understand the provisions of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996, as the supreme law of the country which protects the rights of the people.

Ms Katleho Sebotha from the IEC explained their role in ensuring free and fair General Elections on Wednesday, 29 May 2024.



Mr Zicelo Nkosi (Ward Committee), Mr Phil Gomes (Sedibeng Caucus) and Mr Prince Kubeka (Gauteng Provincial Legislature) presenting during the Freedom Month workshop.



Ms Sebotha from the IEC presenting during the Freedom Month workshop.



Community members listening to presentations by various stakeholders.



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**Motaung Mokhele said:**

"I learned a lot, the outstanding part about this workshop was that our elderly and people with disabilities were taught about the voting process."



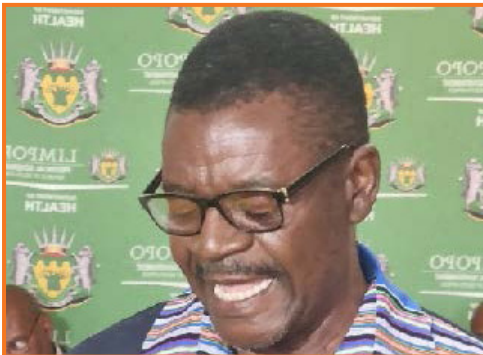
**Gordon Molelekoa said:**

"It was good information; such workshops must happen frequently so that we can be empowered as a community."



**Tumelo Madonsela said:**

"I appreciate government for coming out to empower us with information."



**Pastor Nkhangweleni Nenzhelele, Chairperson of the Clinic Committee, said:**

“Today, government indeed responded to the community by donating to us this state-of-the-art clinic that will help us to access healthcare services which are rendered by the specialised clinic. The facility belongs to us, not to government. I urge all members of the community to take care of this clinic.”



**Mutanuni Portia Nethengwe said:**

“Our government makes us proud; we will no longer travel long distances when we want to give birth as the facility has the contemporary resources. This facility is our lifesaver as it will operate 24 hours. Indeed, this government is caring.”

## PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, HEALTH AND SKILLS.

### Government opens state-of-the-art clinic at Thengwe village

*By Doctrine Netshikweta: GCIS, Limpopo*

On 15 April 2024, the Department of Health officially opened a state-of-the-art clinic in Thengwe Thondoni, in the Mutale area, under the Thulamela Municipality. The new clinic replaced the old one that was built by missionaries in the 1940s and was no longer suitable for use.

Thovhele Vho Nethengwe, speaking on behalf of traditional leaders, praised government’s efforts. “As traditional leaders, we are custodians of the communities we live in; that is why it was so painful to us seeing communities accessing health services in a dilapidated structure that was posing a risk to both patients and medical practitioners,” said Thovhele Vho Nethengwe.

He said: “Today we feel respected and honoured when the provincial government, on behalf of the national government, officially opens and

hands over the clinic in the remote area. This ceremony truly displays the accurate direction in place for the government to implement the National Health Insurance within the deep rural community without any stumbling blocks.”

Speaking at the event, Limpopo Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Health, Dr Phophi Ramathuba, said government was working tirelessly to provide quality healthcare to everyone. “We are no longer just building facilities; we make sure the buildings maintain the dignity of the people. The state-of-the-art clinic will provide quality health services.”

Nurses and doctors working at the clinic, which operates 24/7, were urged to continue treating patients with respect and dignity.



**Limpopo MEC for Health, Dr Ramathuba, officially handing over the key for the new clinic to Thovhele Vho Nethengwe.**



**Traditional leaders and government officials joined the community of Thengwe village to celebrate the official opening of the state-of-the-art clinic.**



**MEC Shiba said:**

“It is envisaged that once all planned phases are completed, activities at the Agri-Park will include Cannabis and Hemp production, fresh produce park house, fertiliser blending, aquaponics, vegetable tunnels, peach production and a pipe manufacturing plant.”

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

### Public-private sector partnership empowers emerging farmers

By Vuyisile Cindi: GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) supported Mpumalanga Premier, Ms Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane, during the official handover of the completed first phase of the Mpumalanga Agricultural Park (Agri-Park) to Esperanza and Zimisele Junior7704 cooperatives in Sasol Kraal Farm in Secunda on 2 May 2024. The Premier was joined at the event by senior government officials, including Mpumalanga Member of the Council (MEC) for Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs, Ms Busisiwe Shiba, farmers, Sasol, Buhle Farmers’ Academy and African Farmers Association of South Africa.

The 300-hectare (ha) Agri-Park was donated by SASOL and the first phase developed by the Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA). Some 130 ha will be used for refurbishing

plantation farms, and piggeries and chicken brawlers were handed over to two beneficiaries. Esperanza and Zimisele cooperatives also benefited from refurbished poultry houses, two of which have been stocked with 2 500 chickens and 22 piggeries. The DARDLEA also constructed a piggery house, stocked with 20 sows and two boars.

One of the beneficiaries, Ms Margareth Nkosi, Chairperson of Esperanza Cooperative, said: “I started in 2009 and it was not easy but the DARDLEA helped us; today we have 2 500 chickens and 22 piggeries.”



GCIS Regional Communication Coordinator, Mr Vuyisile Cindi, providing information to community members. He also distributed calendars and leaflets with contacts details to report gender-based violence.



Community members hungry for government information at the GCIS stall.



The 300-ha Agri-Park being developed on land donated by SASOL to the DARDLEA.

## PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

### Relebogile Primary School opened on Workers' Day

By Ephraim Malema: GCIS, North West

On Workers' Day, 1 May 2024, the North West Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Education, Ms Viola Motsumi, officially handed over the newly constructed Relebogile Primary School to the community of Swartdam village in Moretele Local Municipality. The Executive Mayor of Moretele Local Municipality, Mr George Manyike, also attended the event.

The new Relebogile Primary School boasts modern amenities, including an administration building, two Grade R classrooms, playgrounds, Grades 1-7 classrooms, a library, a media centre, a science laboratory and a kitchen with a nutritional centre.

MEC Motsumi emphasised the importance of safeguarding the school and urged the community of Swartdam village to keep it safe from vandalism. "As we celebrate Workers' Day, let us also reflect on the significance of education in shaping the future for our nation. As the school is for learning purposes, it is also a sanctuary for the workforce. Teachers also deserve better working conditions and that is why we are opening this school on Workers' Day," she said.



MEC Motsumi and Executive Mayor Manyike during the official opening of Relebogile Primary School.



The new Relebogile Primary School in Swartdam village.