



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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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

FREE STATE

Yolisa Blom
051 448 4506 or 072 130 9893
yolisa@gcis.gov.za

GAUTENG

Peter Gumede
011 331 0164 or 083 570 8080
peterg@gcis.gov.za

KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420
ndala@gcis.gov.za

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Matjhabeng hosts its first annual Youth Indaba

By Ntombi Mhlambi: GCIS; Free State

The Matjhabeng Local Municipality hosted its first annual Youth Indaba at the Ferdi Meyer Hall in Welkom on 25 July 2024. The event, held as part of celebrating Mandela Month by promoting youth entrepreneurship, aimed to support small business owners in Matjhabeng. It also provided a platform for youth to discuss challenges they encounter in their businesses with the municipality.

Various stakeholders, including the National Youth Development Agency, presented the services they provide to small youth-owned businesses. The event allowed the youth to display and sell their products. Ms Tshidi Maleka, a manager in the Free State Department of Economic, Small Business Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs (DESTEA), said she hoped to see more youth working on their business ideas. She mentioned that most of them are concerned with how much government can fund them.



Ms Maleka, from DESTEA, addressing the youth of Matjhabeng about business-related issues. Matjhabeng youth who attended the Youth Indaba.



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

MPUMALANGA

Poppy Maluka (Acting)
013 753 2397 or 071 606 3998
poppy@gcis.gov.za

NORTH WEST

Boitumelo Mosadi
018 381 7071 or 073 245 0906
boitumelom@gcis.gov.za

NORTHERN CAPE

Ofentse Moeti
053 832 1378/9 or 084 390 4330
Ofentse@gcis.gov.za

WESTERN CAPE

Geraldine Thoppis
021 418 0533/2307 or 081 281 2200
Geraldine@gcis.gov.za

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Government partners with stakeholders to combat veld fires

By Lindokuhle Chiliza: GCIS; KwaZulu-Natal

In response to the recent raging veld fires in KwaZulu-Natal, which have tragically killed livestock and damaged homes, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) partnered with the Ubuhlebezwe Fire and Rescue, KwaZulu-Natal Transport, traditional leadership and the local Ward 10 War Room to conduct a veld fire awareness drive for the community of the Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality on 12 July 2024.

This initiative aimed to empower the community with vital knowledge and skills to minimise the dangers associated with veld fires including their causes,

risks, early warning signs, fire prevention strategies and the appropriate authorities to contact in cases of emergencies.

The community learnt the value of implementing proactive measures such as creating firebreaks, remaining vigilant during high-risk periods and promptly reporting fire incidents to relevant authorities. The programme also emphasised the need for collaboration between communities and local authorities to ensure a swift response during veld fires. The GCIS distributed flyers on veld fires.



A KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport official presenting on how to keep livestock safe from road users.



A KwaZulu-Natal Department of Health official presenting on how to treat different fire wounds.



Ubuhlebezwe fire and rescue team presenting on fire safety.

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Door-to-door campaign shares health-related information

By Monique Warden: GCIS; Western Cape

On 16 July 2024, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) – in partnership with the Western Cape Provincial Thusong Programme, Laingsburg Thusong Service Centre and the Flourish programme – embarked on a door-to-door campaign to encourage the community of Bergsig in Laingsburg to catch the Opening of Parliament Address (OPA) on 18 July 2024 live on radio, television (TV) or social media.

During the door-to-door activation, the GCIS shared information on health issues and gender-based violence (GBV). It also informed the community about the official launch of the Flourish programme in Laingsburg and Matjiesfontein in the Central Karoo District Municipality on 26 July 2024. Flourish is a national network of antenatal and postnatal classes that supports, celebrates and empowers mothers throughout the critical first 1 000 days of a child’s life. The programme supports parents to provide responsive caregiving to their children.



Mr Stanford Charles, from the Provincial Thusong Programme, engaging youth about the OPA and the importance of watching it as first-time voters.



Ms Kay Mokgobo engaging a local young woman from Bergsig on GBV and various ways women, men and children can get assistance in the community.



Ms Elmien Hoon, from Flourish, informing a young woman about their programme while also encouraging her to follow the OPA on radio, TV or social media.

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Accelerating gender equality and socio-economic empowerment

By Noluvuyo Mangweni and Khoboso Lebenya: GCIS; Eastern Cape

The Eastern Cape Government, led by Premier Lubabalo Mabuyane, celebrated Women's Day at a small town of Misgund in the Koukamma Local Municipality under the Sarah Baartman District. The district was named after an African woman who was enslaved and taken to Europe, where her body was put on display for paying audiences.

The event was celebrated under the theme: "Count Her In: Accelerating Gender Equality through Economic Empowerment," which aimed to prioritise women's agenda in government programmes.

Delivering his keynote address, Premier Mabuyane stated that "the provincial government is dedicated to accelerating opportunities and maximising the impact of available resources to benefit the most vulnerable women in the Eastern Cape, especially from small towns such as Misgund." He explained that the goal is to ensure that their contributions and potential are fully recognised and supported.

The provincial government, through the Department of Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, handed over sewing machines to women-led projects, and also provided financial support to some of the projects.

The Department of Rural Development and Agrarian Reform handed over six tractors to women-owned agricultural projects and the Department of Transport provided bicycles to learners to access distant schools.

The provincial Women's Day celebrations highlighted the unwavering commitment to advance the socio-economic empowerment of all women, including those in rural areas, the lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer (or sometimes questioning), intersex, asexual and others community, and persons with disabilities.

Communities were able to receive integrated government products and services from a variety of stalls operated by government departments, state-owned entities, Chapter 9 institutions and the private sector.

One of the young women attending the event, Ms Zozo Tshaka, who sells cannabis-based products, said: "I would like to encourage young women to consider venturing into the cannabis industry as there are plenty of opportunities." She thanked the Eastern Cape Government for recently affording her the opportunity to attend a business conference abroad.



Premier Mabuyane and the Member of the Executive Council for Economic Development, Environmental Affairs and Tourism, Ms Nonkqubela Pieters, hand over a cheque worth R749 000 to Ocean Hustlers during the Women's Day celebrations.



The Eastern Cape Government also donated tractors and sewing machines to women-led projects.



Some of the bicycles the Department of Transport has donated to learners.



Premier Mabuyane encourages communities to report acts of gender-based-violence and femicide.



The Premier visited the GCIS stall and interacted with the Regional Communication Coordinator responsible for the Sarah Baartman District, Ms Nolutvuyo Mangweni.



Ms Tshaka said:
"I encourage young women to consider venturing into the cannabis industry as there are plenty of opportunities."