



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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PRIORITY I: A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Government at work in Khutsong during Public Service Week

By Tshidi Mokoka; GCIS, Gauteng

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in partnership with the Gauteng Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta), conducted a Public Service Week Programme targeting the area of Khutsong in the Merafong Local Municipality. The programme, attended by various government departments and civil organisations, was held on 20 September 2024 at the Batswaneng Taxi Rank. The aim of the programme was to provide additional services and information on programmes and services offered by the government to improve the lives of citizens.

The event coincided with Thusong Service Centre Week, which brings government services closer to communities to ensure they do not travel long distances. Mr Thokozani Mbatha from the Gauteng Department of Cogta said, "It is important as public servants that we avail ourselves to

communities to share plans, programmes and opportunities that are in place to make their lives easier." He said that showing up as public servants gave people the impetus to come out, engage and share issues that affect them, especially regarding service delivery.

As part of the programme, two mobile trucks from the Department of Home Affairs were available to provide immediate services. Khutsong residents braved the cold weather to make sure that they used the opportunity to apply for smart identification (ID) cards and various other documents provided by the department. Other stakeholders present on the day included the Merafong Health Sub-District, Khutsong Police Station (Social Crime Unit), South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), the Department of Employment and Labour, Gauteng Office of Consumer Affairs and the Merafong City Local Municipality.



Ms Stella Pharumele from the SASSA explaining processes and Mr Morapedi Machakela from the Gauteng Office of Consumer Affairs engaging with a resident.



Members of the Merafong community braved the cold weather to apply for smart ID cards.



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Mr Tshepo Motshaba said:

“It is so good to see so many government departments here today providing services to us. I received information from the Department of Employment and Labour and now know how to use their online system to apply for jobs.”



Ms Mary Kgathane said:

“I am glad that we have the Department of Home Affairs here to provide us with mobile services. I have a child who is in matric now and we are both here to make sure she applies for a smart ID card. This will enable her to write her matric exams.”



Ms Bathabile Mnisi said:

“This event made things easier for us, for example the offices of the Department of Home Affairs are always full, so during events like this, they just call us to come and collect our completed legal documents and it becomes quick and hassle free.”



Mr Martins Gagara said:

“The Steve Tshwete Local Municipality made things easy for us by bringing government offices closer to us, as they are located far from this area and it is not always possible to reach them, I wish they could consider doing this more often, we are grateful.”

PRIORITY 4: CONSOLIDATING THE SOCIAL WAGE THROUGH RELIABLE AND QUALITY BASIC SERVICES.

Steve Tshwete Local Municipality commemorates Public Service Month

By Reki Skosana; GCIS, Mpumalanga

On 19 September, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in collaboration with the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality (STLM), the departments of Social Development, Employment and Labour, Health, Mpumalanga Culture, Sport and Recreation (DCSR), Home Affairs, South African Police Service (SAPS), South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and Emalahleni FM, commemorated Public Service Month in Rockdale, together with other neighbouring villages.

The event was attended by community members who came to access government services and information. The various government departments present there provided much-needed services such as primary healthcare, advice on domestic and social issues, applications and issuing of smart identity cards and birth registrations. SASSA afforded the community an opportunity to apply for Social Relief of Distress grants while the SAPS issued

out leaflets, assisted with affidavits and certification of legal documents. The Department of Employment and Labour (DEL) assisted job seekers to register on the government’s jobs database, while the STLM provided services such as registration of indigents on the municipal database. The community members were also encouraged to pay for municipal services to allow the municipality to prosper and serve them accordingly.

Emalahleni FM, a community radio station, brought their Outside Broadcast van to mobilise and encourage communities to come in numbers to attend the event, while the DCSR availed a mobile library for the community to access the information they needed. Government information material was distributed to the community members, who were pleased to receive services and information at their doorstep.



Government services brought to the community of Rockdale during Public Service Month.

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality ready to turn waste into electricity

By Rapelang Motlagomang; GCIS, North West

The Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality in the North West signed a memorandum of understanding (MoU) with the Zurich-based company, Hitachi Zosen Inova, to construct a waste-to-energy plant in the district. The announcement was made during an auspicious event attended by local municipalities and provincial departments on 12 September 2024 in Klerksdorp.

It is envisaged that once operational, the waste-to-energy plant will generate 53 megawatts of electricity by burning waste using environmentally friendly processes. The plant will process about 500 000 tonnes of waste per year, which will be sourced from all the local municipalities within the district and other municipalities from the neighbouring districts.

In her keynote address, the Executive Mayor of Dr Kenneth Kaunda District Municipality, Cllr Nikiwe Num said, “This was a response to the constitutional requirement of protecting the environment and creating a safe space for the people. This is one of the flagship projects of the District One Plan that

must be fulfilled to stimulate the economy in the district.” She further said that the heaps of waste that were not disposed of permanently were harmful to the environment. “We have seen that there are people who have created small businesses from recycling waste; we have to ensure that throughout the processes they are included in the broader plan. There is still a lot to be done for this project to kick-start, many agreements are to follow after this one,” she added.

The construction of the plant is envisaged to take three to five years to complete, creating about 850 jobs and once in operation, about 200 permanent jobs. The plant will be the first of its kind in Africa, after Asia and Europe.

Hitachi Zosen Inova is a global integrated clean technology company that develops economic solutions for waste management. The company has over 85 years experience in the field and more than 850 reference projects worldwide.



Cllr Num and other local municipality mayors with representatives from the Embassy of Switzerland during the signing ceremony.



Delegates visiting the landfill site in Klerksdorp.



Representatives from the North West Provincial Government and Hitachi Zosen Inova at the MoU signing.

PRIORITY 1: CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Vredesvallei community enjoys Thusong Service Centre Day

Lecrecia Prins; GCIS, Northern Cape

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) and the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality led the 2024 Thusong Service Centre Day in Vredesvallei on 17 September 2024.

During the event, different stakeholders including the South African Social Security Agency, Legal Aid South Africa, the South African Police Service and the Department of Employment and Labour rendered services to residents of the remote area.

Mr Steve Vass, a resident of Vredesvallei, said that he appreciated the services delivered that day, especially because they were brought to their doorsteps.

“Residents used to get a calendar indicating which department would be rendering services to this community but that stopped, making it hard for residents to access government services. Residents are sometimes forced to travel either to Kakamas or Upington for certain government services,” he said.

Ms Eunice Stockholm also expressed her happiness for the services she could access on the day.

The Thusong Service Centre Day forms part of Thusong Service Centre Week, which coincides with Heritage Month during September. Mr Petrus Malgas, another resident of Vredesvallei, said that celebrating Heritage Month was important to him, and that he encourages the younger generation to know about their cultures in order to preserve them.

The 2024 Thusong Service Centre Week took place from 16 to 20 September. The focus this year is still on community gardening and cleaning campaigns incorporated into the 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy campaign.



Media attaché mobilising residents ahead of the Thusong Service Centre Day.



A GCIS official and media attaché putting up posters in the community of Vredesvallei.



The Department of Employment and Labour rendering services to community members.



An official from the GCIS distributing information leaflets.



Legal Aid South Africa giving legal advice and promoting their free services to residents.