



# MYDISTRICTTODAY



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## PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

### Active lifestyles promote strong mental health in older persons

By Moloko Segale; GCIS, Gauteng

The Government Communication and Information System, together with the City of Johannesburg (CoJ) Social Development department, the South African National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence (SANCA) and the South African Police Service (SAPS) Youth Desk, conducted an information-sharing session on 17 October 2024 at the Cosmo City Multi-Purpose Centre A-Team Gym. The elderly persons in attendance were mostly members of the Cosmo City Grannies Boxing Team.

The purpose of the session was to promote awareness on the rights of older persons, as October is Social Development Month and an opportunity to elevate issues regarding the protection of older persons against abuse and violence, and to recognise their impact in nation-building through their life experiences and expertise.

During the session, discussions with the elderly were held on various social factors and experiences that impact their daily lives such as a healthy

lifestyle, mental health, drugs and illegal substances affecting their families, abuse and violence.

Ms Nkhensani Mashele from SANCA gave a brief presentation on the types and use of drugs and illegal substances in schools that parents should be aware of. In her presentation, she also emphasised on the various services offered by SANCA such as testing, counselling and rehabilitation. Mr Matome Mogoboya, a social worker from the CoJ Social Development department, encouraged attendees to visit his office for intervention regarding social challenges.

The SAPS Youth Desk spoke on their collaboration with the police in fighting the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide, and other social-related crimes. They encouraged attendees to use the available services to address crime in the community.



Ms Mashele from SANCA and Mr Mogoboya from the CoJ Social Development department engaging with participants.



Some of the attendees who participated in the session.



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**Mr Lesiba Seloma said:**  
“I use the gym facility here at Cosmo City Multi-Purpose Centre with the Boxing Grannies Team. Thank you for visiting us today. I have learnt a lot from the information I received that promotes a healthy lifestyle. I started this journey in 2022. I have lost weight, and I must say I feel healthier and more active now than ever before. I am now able to walk long distances without needing to rest. Thank you to our trainers, Mthunzi and Thandi for their patience.”



**Ms Ntswaki Letsoko said:**  
“I come here for physical exercises every week on Tuesdays and Thursdays. Thank you for bringing SANCA today. I learned a lot about the disadvantages of using drugs. The information I got is important and will assist me in helping not only my children, but others in our neighbourhood.”

## PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

### The GCIS activates Breast Cancer Awareness Month in Bloemfontein

By Gomolemo Meje; GCIS, Free State

October is Breast Cancer Awareness Month and for the 2024 commemoration, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) hosted an activation on 16 October 2024 in Bloemfontein. The aim of the activation was to provide the public with information on different types of cancers and other health issues.

This is in line with the mandate of the GCIS derived from Section 195(1)(g) of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996, which stipulates that the public should be provided with information that is timely, accurate and accessible.

Various stakeholders such as the Bon Hotel, Key Pop Hub which is a distinctive healthcare service provider and the Black Women Arise Woman's Health Foundation, a non-governmental organisation which promotes sexual reproductive health and advocates for the rights of disadvantaged women and girls, were part of the activation.

Cancer is a disease in which some of the cells grow uncontrollably and spread to other parts of the body. Early detection of the condition can lead to effective treatment and a positive prognosis. About 90% of patients survive for many years after diagnosis, if breast cancer is detected during the early stages.



Black Women Arise Foundation conducting health screening as part of the activation.



GCIS officials sharing government and health information with Bloemfontein citizens.

## PRIORITY 6: A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

### Prince Albert Municipality and the Western Cape Master's Office collaborate for National Wills Week

By Monique Warden; GCIS, Western Cape

The Government Communication and Information System, Independent Electoral Commission and the Prince Albert Local Municipality, in collaboration with the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, held Wills Week from 17 to 19 September 2024.

The week kicked off on 17 September 2024 in Leeu Gamka, followed by Prince Albert and ended off in Klaarstroom. During the three days, 315 community members were assisted to draft wills and register deceased estates. Sadly, many people do not register estates, and in small towns, this leads to families being unable to ensure a legal claim on assets and family homes. Having a will allows an individual to decide who the beneficiaries of their estates should be in case of their death, and who will administer the estate.

Other stakeholders included the South African Police Service, Department of Home Affairs, the Western Cape Master's Office, the Department of Employment and Labour and National Parliament, which joined the outreach to share information on Parliament processes. Local attorneys and law firms in the Central Karoo District also joined in to assist community members draft wills and answer late estate questions.

The Western Cape Master, Ms Zureena Agulhus, shared the importance of having a will to secure one's assets for their loved ones. She listened to enquiries and took immediate action to support community members who were struggling with an ongoing dispute of being unable to receive title deeds from a local Prince Albert attorney. The local municipality welcomed her intervention, as some community members had been waiting decades to be issued with title deeds.

Community members were delighted to get assistance in drafting their wills where they lived and at no cost to them. A 90-year-old great grandmother from Klaarstroom who has never had a will before, appreciated the opportunity to put her wishes in writing.

National Wills Week is observed annually from 16 to 20 September.



Ms Agulhus in Prince Albert assisting community members to register deceased estates.



Prince Albert Executive Mayor, Cllr Linda Jaquet and her team, addressing issues of title deeds and housing.



Attorneys and legal professionals assisting the community to draft wills.



Community members in Leeu Gamka listen attentively to stakeholders outlining their roles.



A Department of Justice and Constitutional Development official answering questions on maintenance and other judicial issues.



The Western Cape Office of the Family Advocate engaging with community members about their services.



Community members in Klaarstroom registering deceased estates.



**Gogo Maria Mashabane said:**

“I thank the government and the police for all the food parcels. Christmas came early for me and I hope the food will last me until the end of December 2024.”

## PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

### Mpumalanga launches Safer Festive Season Operation

By Joy Themba; GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Mpumalanga Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) Cluster launched the Safer Festive Season Operation in Mangweni, Nkomazi Local Municipality, on 19 October 2024 under the theme: “Combating crime through decisive police action and robust community involvement”.

Dignitaries included the Mpumalanga Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Security, Community Safety and Liaison, Mr Jackie Macie; Acting Mpumalanga Police Commissioner, Major General (Dr) Zeph Mkhwanazi; Ehlanzeni District Executive Mayor, Cllr Terrence Shabangu; Nkomazi Local Municipal Mayor, Ms Phindile Magagula; and Mpumalanga House of Traditional Leaders Deputy Chairperson, Inkosi SH Mkhathshwa-Ndlemane II.

Following a donation ceremony at the Silindokuhle School for Special Needs sponsored by Gift of the Givers Foundation, SANParks, Spar, Kudu Farm and Lebombo Taxi Association, the delegation proceeded to Mangweni Stadium.

The operational plan focuses on combating gender-based violence and femicide, trio crimes (carjackings, house and business robberies), border security, liquor trading and critical infrastructure protection. MEC Macie emphasised that they would deploy traffic officers and resources to ensure road safety, prioritise routes with high accident rates and implement flexible shifts for traffic law enforcement officials. The province will maintain a zero tolerance to crime by deploying 300 police officers to the operation.



MEC Macie and Major General (Dr) Mkhwanazi joined by dignitaries to hand over donations to pupils at the Silindokuhle School for Special Needs.



JCPS members leading a drill and the singing of the National Anthem.



Major General (Dr) Mkhwanazi, receiving the operational plan for the 2024/25 Safer Festive Season Operation and handing it to MEC Macie.



Gift of the Givers Foundation donated food parcels to families from Mangweni.