



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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PRIORITY 5: SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Jagersfontein community receives new homes

By Yanga Ngcukana; GCIS, Free State

The Premier of the Free State, Ms MaQueen Letsoha-Mathai, visited Jagersfontein on 14 August 2024 to officially hand over newly built and renovated homes to the residents that were affected by the mudslide disaster that struck on 11 September 2022. The handover ceremony marked a major step towards rebuilding and restoring hope to the victims of the disaster, whose properties were destroyed. The community was provided with relief and support.

The community was filled with hope and renewal as Free State Premier Letsoha-Mathai officiated at the ceremony to hand over houses to families affected by the mudslide disaster. Cllr Irene Mehloakulu, the Executive Mayor of the Xhariep District Municipality; Ms Mando Shasha, Speaker of the Xhariep District Municipality; Cllr Xolani Tseletsele, Mayor of Kopanong

Local Municipality; and Cllr Bonolo Mocwaledi, Mayor of Letsemeng Local Municipal, attended the event.

About 106 families received their long-awaited homes rebuilt or renovated by the mine, and over 40 families have opted to pursue legal action to secure compensation for their destroyed properties.

A beaming beneficiary, Ms Xoliswa Mtyingizane, expressed her heartfelt gratitude. She said: "I am so happy and thankful to have a roof over my head again, thanks to government's intervention in restoring our dignity." Through government's intervention, families have been given a second chance to lead a dignified life. Jagersfontein's story is not only of tragedy, but also of triumph against adversity.



Premier Letsoha-Mathai addressing the community of Jagersfontein and thanking them for their patience.



Some of the community members who attended the official handover of rebuilt and renovated houses in Jagersfontein.



The Premier thanking one of the beneficiaries for her patience while her damaged house was being rebuilt.



government communications

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Ms Mahlape Seisametsing, a beneficiary, said:

“I am one of the victims of the mudslide disaster which affected my life in a way that I cannot express. Today I am emotional and at the same time excited, because I will now sleep in the comfort of my bed.”



Mr Moetsasane Sefudi, a beneficiary, said:

“This is totally beyond my expectations; I am very grateful that today we will be receiving keys to our houses. I am grateful to the mine and government for the intervention.”

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Radio Dialogue discusses 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy

By Sinxolo Gqala; GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 26 July 2024, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in the Amathole District facilitated a community radio dialogue on thought leadership in the 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy at Ngqushwa FM. The dialogue formed part of the programmes aimed at unpacking the gains and transformation of various sectors and institutions including traditional leadership, governance politics and labour formations.

The Chairperson of the Amathole Local House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders, Nkosi Xhanti Sigcawu, outlined their role in the development of South Africa compared to 30 years before democracy. He applauded the writers of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996 for recognising traditional leadership in the country.

He added that the recognition paved the way for the role and participation of traditional leaders in the governance and development of the country, including in municipal councils, Parliament and

legislatures. He urged government to strengthen the support to established structures in the local, provincial and national houses of traditional and Khoisan leaders to ensure a meaningful impact.

Dr Bongani Nyoka, Senior Lecturer in the Department of Political and International Studies at the Rhodes University in Makhanda, provided an analysis of the 30 Years of Democracy, citing key gains in the socio-economic front and the transformation in the academia in terms of new generation of academics, access to opportunities in the higher education space and leadership.

Mr Riaan Vosloo, the Acting Provincial Manager of the Public Servants Association (PSA) in Gqeberha, provided the overall role of labour unions in the development of inclusive laws in the labour sector and the leadership qualities needed to create the development that was envisaged in the advent of freedom and democracy. Mr Vosloo added that former President Nelson Mandela's leadership traits and patriotism should drive labour in both government and private sector.



A GCIS official outlining the purpose of the radio dialogue on 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy at Ngqushwa FM.



Nkosi Sigcawu, the Chairperson of the Amathole Local House of Traditional and Khoisan Leaders.



Dr Nyoka talking about the transformation of the academia in the 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy during the radio dialogue.



Mr Vosloo, from the PSA, represented labour formations during the dialogue.

PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Mpumalanga Provincial Government celebrates Women's Day at Fernie

By Bongani Mazibuko; GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) joined other government stakeholders in exhibiting and providing onsite services during the Provincial Women's Day celebration held at Fernie on 9 August 2024.

The stakeholders included the Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality (CALM), Gert Sibande District Municipality (GSDM); Mpumalanga Tourism and Parks Agency; Mpumalanga Economic Regulator; South African Police Service; and the provincial departments of Culture, Sport and Recreation; Economic Development and Tourism; Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs (DARDLEA); Health; Education, and Human Settlements.

During the proceedings, the Executive Mayor of the CALM, Cllr Mbuso Magubane, welcomed everyone present at the Women's Day celebration and appreciated the role played by women in various spheres

towards nation-building. The Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Education, Ms Catherine Dlamini, addressed thousands of community members attending the Provincial Women's Day celebration. She outlined the purpose of the 2024 Women's Day event under the theme: "Celebrating 30 Years of Democracy towards Women's Development."

Various stakeholders delivered messages of support to the over 5 000 attendees and the Gift of the Givers Foundation donated over 400 food parcels to women. The GCIS branded the exhibition stalls with gender-based violence and femicide banners and distributed various information leaflets. SABC TV News and SABC Ligwalagwala FM Radio News covered the event.



The MEC for Health, Ms Sasekani Manzini, Executive Mayor of the CALM, Executive Mayor of the GSDM, Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders, iNkosi Themba Yende, attended the Women's Day celebration at Fernie.



GCIS distributing government-related information during the Women's Day event.



Officials from the DARDLEA exhibited agricultural information and the agriculture cooperatives marketed and sold their products to community members, mainly spinaches and cabbages.



The political principals, together with the Gift of the Givers Foundation, handed over 400 food parcels to women on Women's Day.



Ms Ayanda Nkosi said:
“I am from eNkhaba Village here in the CALM. I make beadwork for traditional attire. I call upon everyone to support my business.”



Ms Sibongile Nkosi said:
“I do hand work; I make picnic baskets using different forms of grass. I just need support from the community to buy my products and help my business to grow.”



Ms Sarah Sithole, from the Johannesburg-branch of the Gift of the Givers Foundation, said:
“We are here to support women as it is Women’s Month. We brought them food parcels, mainly maize meal, detergents and other items.”

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.



Alpha Mdau said:
"Men need to learn to stand with the women of Marikana against GBV&F."

GCIS celebrates Women's Month with the women of Marikana

By Lilly Mohlosana; GCIS, North West

On 20 August 2024, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) – in partnership with The Defenders of Environment and Human Rights Violations in Africa, Women in Mining organisation from Tharisa, and the departments of Social Development (DSD) and Home Affairs (DHA) – celebrated Women's Month with the women of Marikana. The women of Marikana and GCIS officials marched from the entrance of Marikana to the local community hall whilst singing Struggle songs and displaying posters against gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF).

Ms Idah Maloka from the Film and Publication Board (FPB) cautioned the women on the dangers of posting pictures of their children on social media and stated that it could lead to child abductions. She pleaded with the women not to share their nude pictures with their partners, as they can post them on

social media, known as revenge porn, without their consent, especially when they break up. Ms Maloka urged the women to look for signs of their children joining cults online, which can affect their mental health.

Ms Ipeleng Mogatosi, from the DHA, encouraged the women to register their children for birth certificates as soon as they were born. She urged them to apply for their identity documents when they turned 16 to reduce the risk of identity theft. Ms Mpho Tlhong and Ms Evelyn Mondlane from the DSD highlighted the high rate of GBVF in Marikana. They encouraged the women not to withdraw charges laid against perpetrators as this does not help to end the scourge of GBVF in Marikana. Ms Reginah Zarale, from Women in Mining, encouraged the women to learn skills that will make them more self-reliant and not stay in abusive relationships for economic reasons.



Ms Mogatosi from Home Affairs giving a presentation during the information-sharing session.



Ms Tlhong, from the DSD, talking about mental health.



Ms Maloka, from the FPB, outlining the dangers of posting pictures of children on social media.



Ms Zarale, from the Women in Mining, encouraged women to learn skills and become self-reliant.