



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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OUTCOME 3: ALL PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE AND FEEL SAFE.

Gauteng observes International Albinism Awareness Day

By Jacob Molete: GCIS, Gauteng

Every year on 13 June, the world commemorates the International Albinism Awareness Day wherein governments, non-governmental organisations and advocacy groups hold a series of activities to raise awareness and mobilise society against the stigma, discrimination, marginalisation and threats that people living with albinism encounters in our communities. International Albinism Awareness Day was adopted by the United Nations General Assembly on 18 December 2014. The 2019 event was commemorated under the theme: "Still standing strong".

Kwatsaduza Albinism Society Initiative, Ekurhuleni Metro Police Department, South African Police Service, Government Communication and Information System, Gauteng Department of Health and Social Development, and civil organisations such as Kwatsaduza Traditional Healers Organisation came together to pledge their support for the Albinism Awareness Day on 13 June 2019 at Kwa-Thema Community Hall. Joining millions around the country and the world to mobilise and encourage everyone to celebrate, care, protect, promote and uphold the human rights of people living with albinism. To mark the day the audience lit candles symbolising awareness on albinism.

"Lighting a candle represent hope, a commitment to engage, educate and empower everyone in order to heighten awareness on albinism to eradicate stigma, discrimination, marginalisation and threats that people living with albinism face in our communities," said Mandla Ginida from the Kwatsaduza Albinism Society Initiative.



People living with albinism and their families holding candles at the event.



Various stakeholders and community members who were in attendance.



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The physical appearance of persons with albinism is often the object of erroneous beliefs and myths influenced by superstition, which foster their marginalisation and social exclusion. This leads to various forms of stigma and discrimination in some communities. These beliefs and myths are centuries old and are present in cultural attitudes and practices around the world. Speaking on behalf of people living with albinism, Katlego Moremi encouraged and motivated those living with albinism to be proud of themselves and excel wherever they are and not look down on themselves. "Be proud of yourself. It starts with you," she said.



Gugu Ndlovu said:
"I am happy for this day earmarked to celebrate people living with albinism. To the community, let us embrace, love, care and protect one another."

Nthabiseng Tlatlapi and Marble Diadla said:
"We are grateful for this day. We plead with everyone not to discriminate and marginalise us. We are beautiful like you, love and respect us like everyone because we are all the same. Do not kill or kidnap people living with albinism to satisfy myths. Instead, love, care and protect us like everyone else, we are God's children too."

Jeanette Molatlhegi said::
"You cannot kill and heal at the same time. As members of the Traditional Healers' Association, we condemn anyone who in the name of being a traditional healer kills for body parts. We are professional healers, we use traditional medicines and plants to heal. We condemn anyone who use human body parts to heal, they are not traditional healers but criminals."

OUTCOME 5: A SKILLED AND CAPABLE WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT AN INCLUSIVE GROWTH PATH.

Eastern Cape leadership induction

By Dibandlela Nkume: GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) took part at the Eastern Cape Executive Council Induction Session that was held from 4 to 5 June 2019 at Dan's Country Lodge, a few kilometres outside Mthatha along the N2. The session was held as a result of the outcomes of the sixth democratic national and provincial government elections where a new Provincial Executive Council was elected, led by Premier Oscar Mabuyane.

The session was held over a period of two days and the GCIS attended the second one, where the Eastern Cape Provincial Director Ndlelantle Pinyana presented on how and why the newly elected leadership should consider exploiting opportunities in communication as a strategic tool to achieve development communication initiatives in the province. His presentation covered a vast range of disciplines including the use of social media, advancements towards the Fourth Industrial Revolution, past empirical research reports that could guide and assist how the executive council approach service delivery issues going forward, the general communication on how to handle the media, and other important issues.

There were also presentations on government policy, issues of the security for the Members of the Executive Council (MECs), the National Development Plan, the Provincial Development Plan, blueprints such as the Integrated Service Delivery Models, protocol support and others.

The session yielded positive results and all members of the newly elected executive council were present, supported by their Director-Generals, heads of departments and general managers. In his closing remarks, Premier Mabuyane appreciated the invaluable knowledge that was imparted by all facilitators, presenters and trainers. He urged the MECs to dedicate themselves on their work and use all the information that was shared to empower themselves towards excellent service delivery in the Eastern Cape.



GCIS Provincial Director Ndlelantle Pinyana addressing the audience.



Eastern Cape Police Commissioner General Liziwe Ntshinga addressing the audience.



Premier Oscar Mabuyane addressing the Provincial Executive Council.



Government leaders at the induction session.

OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP.

Presidential Reading Cycle

By Marianne Williams: GCIS, Western Cape

The Presidential Reading Cycle aims to create awareness about the important role that reading plays in our everyday life. This initiative seeks to get people to read and ensure that all South-African citizens develop the culture of reading. The Government Communication and Information System in collaboration with the Library and Information Services, hosted a reading initiative at the Leonsdale Library in Elsie's River on 6 June 2019.

The 30 children aged between five and 13 from the support group "Kids Rise Above Circumstances" was established by community member Elizabeth Horn. The children enjoyed four stories told by staff member Nazeem Nortje, and also engaged in question-and-answer sessions. Each of the children received a book, courtesy of Media 24's NB-Publishers.



Leonsdale Library officials presenting books to children.



Children posing with their books.



Phillimon Mafemo said:

“I am a qualified graphic designer from the Tshwane University of Technology. So I am running a small company that I want to take to the next level. The current challenge I am having is funding in the form of printing machines and other resources.”



Andre Hendricks said:

“The information was very useful. It gave me an idea on how to plan my future and also the steps I must take.”



Laurenzo August said:

“The experience and information we received was very uplifting and inspirational. It gives me direction on how I can pursue my career and dreams.”

OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP.

Career exhibition in Thaba Tshwane

By Valencia Rachuene and Johan Khoza: GCIS, Head Office

The year 2019 marks 43 years of the Soweto Youth Uprising. The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) celebrated Youth Month through a youth career expo at Thaba Tshwane Military Sports Ground in Tshwane on 14 June 2019. The event was organised by the South African Army in collaboration with various stakeholders.

The session comprised military performances, presentations by various stakeholders exhibiting in the event, walkabout by the youth visiting various exhibition stalls, youth interaction through participation in sports and cultural activities.

The GCIS, through its Information Resource Centre and the Gauteng Office exhibited at this event and marketed the services of the GCIS. The youths were not only informed about career opportunities that are available in the communication sector but other careers that are found in the GCIS. Some of the information and publication material that the GCIS distributed included *Vuk'uzenzele* newspapers, National Identity booklets, *Insession* magazines, current vacancies and internships available in some of the government departments and its entities. The youth were showered with GCIS carry bags.



Youth accessing information from GCIS information stall during the exhibition.



University of Pretoria official sharing information on various courses available at the institution.