



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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PRIORITY 4: SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

Eastern Cape embraces digital communication through local partnership

By Ndlelantle Pinyana; GCIS, Eastern Cape

As part of enhancing development communication to empower citizens, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in the Eastern Cape entered into a unique communication partnership with the Keith Ngesi Media Group (KNMG), a vibrant digital media organisation with a global footprint based in East London that offers online radio, digital TV and podcast services.

partnership. The collaborative programme will enable municipalities across the province to better profile and amplify their service delivery programmes, initiatives and successes through these digital platforms. Furthermore, “Talk to your Mayor” will go a long way in closing the existing information gaps, which in turn will enhance government’s programmes, promote public participation, and improve transparency and accountability.

On 7 November 2024, the GCIS and KNMG launched a new weekly programme called “Talk to your Mayor: Local Government Thursdays” to underpin the



The GCIS Eastern Cape team at the KNMG’s digital studio.



The GCIS Eastern Cape Provincial Director, Mr Ndlelantle Pinyana, presents a certificate of appreciation to the owner of KNMG, Mr Keith Ngesi.



Engagement taking place at the newly refurbished KNMG television studio.



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PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Silent walk promotes sign language

By Motseki Ngubenj; GCIS, Free State

On 4 November 2024, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), the Free State departments of Education and Agriculture and Rural Development held a silent walk with learners of the Bartimea School for the Deaf and Blind in Thaba Nchu. The silent walk aimed to raise awareness on the challenges facing the deaf community, to promote the use of South African Sign Language (SASL) and to amplify the voices of the school's current and former learners, who now hold different qualifications and work for the Free State Provincial Government.

“It is important that community members understand SASL as it is also an official language in our country,” said Mr Pitso Morake, the Free State

Provincial Coordinator of the Safer South Africa Foundation. He emphasised that members of the hearing community should be able to have a decent conversation with the deaf community and be aware of their day-to-day challenges. Ms Winnie Ngobeni, a teacher at Bartimea School for the Deaf and Blind, expressed her gratitude to all the stakeholders and appealed to them to continue hosting such events.

Other stakeholders included the Commission for Gender Equity (CGE), South African Human Rights Commission, Kgolagano Community Radio Station, as well as the Free State Department of Community Safety, Roads and Transport.



Stakeholders at the walk: Ms Cholo Mothibi (GCIS), Mr Mereko (Safer South Africa), Ms Boitumelo Zwane (CGE), Ms Ngobeni (Bartimea School) and Mr Thapelo Mareka (Kgolagano FM).



Different stakeholders including former and current learners, and community members participated in the walk.

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Ugu District Municipality celebrates Disability Rights Awareness Month

By Khanyiso Seyisi; GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

On 18 November 2024, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), together with other stakeholders under the Ugu District Municipality's Operation Sukuma Sakhe, converged at the Scola Moris Special School in Umzinto for a Disability Rights Awareness Month (DRAM) campaign. The learners at the school received information about their rights and were encouraged to report any incidents of abuse. They were also given information on food-borne diseases, how to prevent them and the hygienic handling of food.

The GCIS invited the following stakeholders to the event: Ugu District Municipality's Special Programmes Office represented by Ms Dudu Khowa accompanied by officers, Ms Lerato Sihlali and Ms Thofi Khumalo; Ugu District Disability Forum represented by Mr Sandile Mnganga; Lifeline Durban

represented by Ms Nonkululeko Ntaka and Ms Asiphe Sosibo; and Ms Londiwe Mnguni from the Thanda Organisation.

All the speakers gave motivational messages and emphasised how learners' rights should be protected. The programme was also attended by South African Sign Language interpreter, Ms Thobeka Cele, who ensured that the government messages shared on the day reached everyone. The celebrations included fun items such as Ballroom and Zulu dance items performed by the learners.

Subsequent to the presentations, Ugu District Municipality's representative, Ms Khowa made closing remarks, and the school's principal, Ms Nokuthula Gumede, concluded the session.



Learners from the Scola Amoris Special School listen attentively during the DRAM campaign hosted for their school at the Umzinto Town Hall.



GCIS Assistant Director: Digital Communication, Content and Knowledge Management, Ms Vuyo Gwala, shared information on disability rights awareness, prevention of food-borne diseases and the hygienic handling of food.



Ms Mnguni from the Thanda Organisation and the principal of Scola Moris Special School, Ms Gumede addressed the learners during the DRAM campaign.

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Alexandra stakeholders participate in the 16 Days of Activism campaign

By Robbie Senoelo; GCIS, Gauteng

On 5 November 2024, various organisations in Alexandra conducted awareness around the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign at the 3rd Avenue Library in Alexandra.

The campaign is a United Nations (UN) initiative that takes place annually from 25 November (International Day of No Violence Against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day); and was designated by the UN General Assembly to raise awareness on gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF).

As the campaign enters its 26th year in South Africa, it has evolved to include issues relating to violence against children, youth, the LGBTQIA+ community and persons with disabilities, particularly women and children. The period is an opportunity for society to reflect on violence and abuse experienced by women pushed to the periphery of society such as women migrant workers, foreign nationals and sex workers.

The Government Communication and Information System was joined by the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Community Development Workers' unit; City of Johannesburg Health department; National Department of Health; United States Agency for International Development; Alexandra Men's Forum; Anova Health Institute; South African Police Service (SAPS), GBV Brigade; Independent Electoral Commission, and Khulisa Social Solutions to advocate and educate community members about the social ills facing them.

Stakeholders interacted with the community through exhibitions, presentations, face-to-face and distributed information products. There were mobile services where people could undergo screening and testing for conditions such as HIV and AIDS, diabetes, high blood pressure, tuberculosis and the distribution of male and female condoms. The messages and information products were well received by the community.



Mr Charles Mphhephu from Alexandra Men's Forum speaks to community members about GBVF.



Life coach, Mr Lebohang Mailula from Anova Health Institute, presenting to community members during the campaign.



Sergeant Maluleka from the SAPS Alexandra engages participants who attended the campaign.



Community members listen to presentations during the 16 Days of Activism campaign in Alexandra.



Mr Bonginkosi Mfeka said:
“I heard a lot about gender-based violence and I am proud to say, *Not in my name*. I do not understand those who perpetrate GBVF and I urge perpetrators to stop, rethink and pledge to be real men who love, care for, and protect women and children.”



Ms Lolo Mampuru said:
“I am glad that society is beginning to classify GBVF as a pandemic. Our sisters, mothers and aunts have endured various forms of abuse, some in silence and it is good that they are speaking out. Big up to those men and boys who are pledging to stand up against abuse. I would love to see them walking the talk.”