



# MYDISTRICTTODAY



Issue no. 18: May 2024

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## PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

### Learners applaud government during 30 Years of Democracy awareness campaign

By Khanyiso Seyisi: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

During a 30 Years of Democracy awareness campaign held at the Phathwa High School at Gcilima, under the Ray Nkonyeni Municipality, on 12 April 2024, the learners commended government for offering them the curriculum, nutrition and extra-mural activities.

Government departments – including the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS); Ugu District Municipality’s Disaster Unit; Department of Social Development; Department of Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs; Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and South African Police Service (SAPS) – participated in the awareness campaign focusing on the 30 Years of Democracy.

The learners also highlighted challenges such as poor infrastructure; poor roads, water shortages and load-shedding, which affect their learning programme.

The SAPS Margate Cluster member, Sergeant (Sgt) Nomonde Moni, encouraged the learners to proudly embrace the 30 Years of Democracy campaign. She also advised them to speak out against any form of abuse.

Phathwa High School Principal, Ms Nomusa Ndlela, emphasised the commitment of the school management team to supporting this campaign and expressed appreciation for the work that government is doing broadly.

During the event, the learners were given the opportunity to reflect on 30 Years of Democracy and to ask clarifying questions about various issues.



Sgt Moni creating awareness about gender-based violence and femicide matters during the 30 Years of Democracy awareness campaign.



A Department of Basic Education official addressing the school learners during the 30 Years of Democracy awareness campaign.



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**PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.**

**Taxi Rank Activation forms part of celebrating 30 Years of Freedom**

*By Sinxolo Gqala: GCIS, Eastern Cape*

On 8 April 2024, Dutywa in the Eastern Cape was alive with activity as the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), in partnership with the Mbashe Local Municipality and Electoral Commission of South Africa (IEC), launched Freedom Month.

Freedom Month is celebrated in April annually in South Africa to honour the heroes and heroines who fought against the apartheid regime in order to achieve freedom and pave the way for an equal, representative and non-racial democracy.

The theme for this year's Freedom Month was: "30 Years of Democracy, Partnership and Growth". As part of celebrating Freedom Month, the public was asked to reflect on the progress made during the democratic journey thus far and explore how democracy could be strengthened further.

As the country prepares for the 7th democratic elections on Wednesday, 29 May 2024, the Council Speaker for the Mbashe Local Municipality, Cllr Babalwa Majavu, and IEC officials, provided civic education on various basic human rights consistent with freedom, such as the right to vote and participation in government programmes.

Cllr Majavu advised the community to exercise their right to vote in the upcoming elections. She added that voting was one of the first rights granted to the majority that ushered in democracy and freedom in the country.

Attendees received various publications with key information on government programmes and services, 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy campaign, the upcoming elections, and municipal service delivery issues.



Mbashe Local Municipality Council Speaker, Cllr Majavu, engages community members and conducts civic education on Freedom Month, 30 Years of Freedom, and the upcoming National and Provincial Elections during the Taxi Rank Activation on 8 April 2024 at Dutywa.



Mr Mthethunzima Stinga from the IEC engages a community member on the application for special votes during the Taxi Rank Activation.



IEC official, Ms Tozama Radana, responds to enquiries from prospective voters on the upcoming elections.



IEC officials explain election-related matters.



Cllr Majavu engages young voters by reflecting on the 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy.

## PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

### Youth urged to access opportunities offered by government

By Eunice Nkuna: GCIS, Limpopo

On 27 April 2024, communities in Limpopo jovially participated in the celebration of Freedom Day under the theme: “30 Years of Democracy, Partnership and Growth”. This year’s event, which marked 30 years since South Africa attained freedom and democracy, was held at the Calais Sports Ground in Sekororo. This year’s celebration was historically significant as it also marked the 28th anniversary of the enactment of the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996 as the supreme law of the country.

The purpose of this year’s Freedom Day and Freedom Month celebrations, among others, was to enhance an understanding of our nation’s history and development, and reflect on the achievements so far. “In 1994 when democracy was achieved, less than 30 percent of rural households had access to electricity. Today we have electrified at least 94.6 percent of rural households in Limpopo, making a significant improvement in access to electricity,” said Limpopo Premier Stanley Mathabatha, during his keynote address.

In his remarks, Kgoshi Sekororo Matshengoane Shane urged youth to access opportunities provided by government, and honour those who fought and died for this democracy. He encouraged youth to use all resources and privileges to better their lives.

The cultural diversity embedded in Limpopo was showcased through different attire, dance, food and music. The entourage was also treated to Marula traditional beer tasting ahead of the annual Marula Festival, which took place on 4 May 2024. The Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development organised farmers who brought various farm produce to sell to communities.

In his concluding remarks, Premier Mathabatha said: “The best act to celebrate the sacrifices made is to work in partnership to strive for the betterment of the lives of our people by championing service delivery.”



Limpopo Premier, Mr Mathabatha, delivering his keynote address on the Freedom Day celebration held at the Calais Sports Ground in Sekororo.



A Marula traditional beer tasting station.



Limpopo Department of Agriculture and Rural Development stalls with farmers displaying their fresh produce.



Premier Mathabatha aiming to take a sip of Marula traditional beer, flanked by onlookers, including the Mayor of the Mopani District Municipality, Cllr Pule Shayi (in a red and blue shirt).

## PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

### Wedela stakeholders address social ills within their area

By Keoagile Rakgang and Tshidi Mokoka: GCIS, Gauteng

On 12 April 2024, Tshepo ya Bana, a non-profit organisation, in collaboration with numerous stakeholders, launched the Needle and Syringe Programme at the Wedela Community Hall, marking a significant step forward in the fight against substance abuse. The initiative represents a pivotal moment in the townships' attempts to combat drug addiction and its associated harms such as gender-based violence and femicide.

The event aimed to introduce the community of Wedela with the Tshepo ya Bana and the Local Drug Action Committee (LDAC), and their shared mission to address the pressing issue of drug addiction within the community. Tshepo ya Bana is dedicated to supporting youth and families affected by substance abuse by empowering individuals to overcome addiction and build brighter futures for themselves and their families. The LDAC is a collaborative effort involving community leaders, healthcare professionals, law-enforcement agencies and representatives from civil-society organisations who have formed a united front against drug abuse, working together to develop effective strategies and interventions tailored to the needs of the Wedela community.

Ms Mpho Maake, an Advocacy Officer for Tshepo ya Bana, described their programmes such as the Needle and Syringe Programme, which provides sterile needles and syringes, education and access to healthcare services. It also aims to build a safer, healthier and a more resilient community for all.

Ms Lebo Makgethe, a social worker from the Department of Correctional Services responsible for overseeing the rehabilitation and reintegration of parolees and probationers, emphasised the importance of working with community organisations. She also outlined the critical role that parents and caregivers play in supporting their children and monitoring their behaviour, particularly in relation to substance abuse.

The Department of Social Development also explained to the community of Wedela about substance abuse prevention, treatment and rehabilitation programmes. Other stakeholders included the Wedela Clinic, Department of Health, Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs' community development workers, Wedela Police Youth Desk and Mponeng Mine.



GCIS officials, Ms Keoagile Rakgang and Ms Tshidi Mokoka, distribute material to members of the community.



Department of Correctional Services's Acting Head of the Carletonville Prison, Mr Patela Mashiloane, addressing the community on services rendered for rehabilitated parolees who are reintegrated to communities.



**Ms Keitumetsi Oliphant said:**

“This is the information that we needed here in Wedela. As part of the Wedela Police Youth Desk and a member of the community policing forum, there are so many cases that we see of substance abuse and the consequences thereof. People get assaulted and sometimes they feel that the police are not doing enough to combat this. It is important that as stakeholders who are part of the LDAC, it will give us a chance to work as a team in finding solutions.”



**Mr Archibald Makgene said:**

“As a member of the community I really appreciate the information that stakeholders shared with us. This is the information that we needed because families are fighting this drug and alcohol abuse that has infiltrated their families. We now know the role that each stakeholder plays in assisting those that are affected.”