



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

GCIS and stakeholders commemorate Mandela Day with Marikana community

By Lilly Mohlosana: GCIS, North West

On 18 July 2024, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS), in partnership with the Defenders for Environment and Human Rights Violations in Africa (DEHRVA) and the local Tharisa Mine, commemorated Mandela Day at the Marikana Community Hall with the local community.

The Mandela Day theme: "It is in our hands to combat poverty and inequality," inspired the GCIS and its stakeholders to donate sanitary towels to help restore the dignity of young women of Marikana. Ms Hellen Thankeng, the Chairperson of the Bokamoso Home Based Care, shared medical tips on

how to care for an older person living with HIV and AIDS. She encouraged community members to welcome volunteers from Bokamoso Home Based Care into their homes to provide medical services to the most vulnerable in the community of Marikana.

DEHRVA and Tharisa Mine encouraged community members to keep the area around the community hall clean and safe for its users. The day ended with a clean-up of the community hall. The GCIS later donated sanitary towels to thankful Grade 7 learners of the Marikana II Primary School.



Ms Christianah Mdau from DEHRVA introducing the different stakeholders present.



Ms Thankeng providing information on the services they provide.



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GCIS officials Kagisho Meremetsi and Lilly Mohlosana speaking on the importance on 67 Minutes for Mandela Day.



Community members receiving sanitary bags from the GCIS.



Young girls from Marikana II Primary School said:
"We thank you GCIS."



Nosipho said:
"GCIS has truly blessed us with sanitary towels on Mandela Day and they should come back again."



Linda Mbele said:
"I work here at the Marikana Community Hall; I am very grateful for the GCIS donating sanitary towels to women of Marikana."



Edlyne Pekeur, a Grade 11 learner at the Albertina High School, said:
 “Today I have learned that it is important to have at least two options when choosing a field of study; and also apply to more educational institutions to further our studies.”



Ewert Petersen, a Grade 11 learner at the Gerrit Du Plessis Secondary School, said:
 “We have learned a lot from the career day. I personally learned that to work with your hands is not a bad option. One of the panelists spoke about a young person who only completed his Grade 9 and was able to study for a solar energy technician course for 18 months and is earning R30 000 per month, which is an eye opener for all of us.”

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESSION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Young people commemorate Nelson Mandela International Day

By Jethro Grootboom: GCIS, Western Cape

On 18 and 19 July 2024, the Garden Route Skills Mecca commemorated the Nelson Mandela International Day by hosting a two-day career day event in the Hessequa Local Municipality. The career day aimed to provide high school learners with information to make informed choices regarding various study and career opportunities. Panel discussions comprising representatives from business, schools and institutions provided in-depth information on various training institutions and relevant skills.

The Garden Route District Municipality established the Garden Route Skills Mecca in 2017, following the 2017 Knysna Fires, which left many residents in the hospitality sector jobless. The Garden Route Skills Mecca is a vehicle that creates platforms for young people to receive relevant training needed within the district and puts unemployed people in a better position to find employment.

The Mayor of the Hessequa Local Municipality, Mr Grant Riddles, opened the event by giving a brief overview of former President Nelson Mandela’s legacy, stating that one of Madiba’s quotations will always stay with him. Mr Riddles also said that when he did his Mayoral budget for the financial year, he told the council that this year, he would be prioritising young people in the Hessequa Local Municipality area. The budget will primarily empower young people through skills development and entrepreneurship initiatives.

On the first day (18 July 2024), the Garden Route Skills Mecca hosted more than 300 Grade 10 and 11 learners from seven high schools within the municipal area to expose them to courses and career choices before leaving school. The learners received much-needed information to enable them to make the correct choices for subjects, and help them to make informed study and career decisions.

Exhibitors included universities, universities of technology, further education and training colleges, private colleges and private providers of education and career training. The various sector education and training authorities participating included those responsible for Media, Information and Communication Technologies; Local Government; Energy and Water; Health and Welfare; Wholesale and Retail; and Education, Training and Development.

On the second day (19 July 2024), more than 400 unemployed youth were taught how to write a comprehensive and compact Curriculum Vitae, how to prepare for an interview and basic workplace etiquette. The young people also received information from the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) and the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) on opportunities and assistance to start their own businesses. The career event unlocked diverse opportunities for the young people to succeed in the business world.



Learners from different schools and community members attending the career day event.



Learners visiting the exhibition stalls to obtain information.



Shalesse Manou, a Grade 9 learner at the Melkhoutfontein Primary School, said:

“I have learned that education is the key to success and that you will be able to make the world a better place for yourself and those around you.”



Nathan Demongo, a Grade 11 learner at the Langenhoven High School, said:

“I have learned that as young people we should never give up on our dreams; that we should follow our dreams. Also, to love what you are doing.”



Elrisa Jantjies, from Heidelberg, said:

“Today I have learned about training and how to start your own business. It was beneficial, since I am operating a small business. Now I know where to go to for help, I can go to SEDA and NYDA to get trained and also to apply for funding.”



Suzette Huizimmer, from Riversdale, said:

“Today I have learned how to better yourself and to believe in yourself; that anything is possible if you work hard for it and you are motivated.”

PRIORITY 2: JOB CREATION AND ECONOMIC OPPORTUNITIES.

Women economic empowerment workshop a success

By Lececia Prins: GCIS, Northern Cape

The Presidency, in collaboration with the ZF Mgcawu District, the Northern Cape Provincial Government, the National Empowerment Fund and other stakeholders, hosted the Presidential Women Economic Empowerment workshop at the Tol Speelman Community Hall, Upington on 17 July 2024.

The workshop was designed exclusively for women-owned enterprises, with the aim of empowering them with knowledge on how to get funding, mentorship and coaching programmes. Mr Isak de Waal, the Director of Planning and Development at the ZF Mgcawu District Municipality, officially opened the workshop by welcoming all stakeholders and business owners, and thanking them for their attendance.

He said women are leaders who ensure things happen in households and communities. He called on the entrepreneurs to grab the opportunity that would be provided to develop and grow their businesses.

Ms Mamsy Maake, from The Presidency, provided the background, history and rationale for the project as well as the expected impact on women-owned businesses. She mentioned that government aimed to increase the support given to women-owned enterprises so that they could thrive economically through mentorship and coaching programmes. She said, "You empower a woman, you empower her family, neighbours and the entire community."

Information about applications for funding, company registration and compliance as well as how to do business with government was provided to attendees. About 150 women attended the workshop.



Ms Maake providing the background, history and rationale behind the project as well as the expected impact on women-owned businesses.



Business owners listening attentively to presentations at the workshop.



Mr de Waal giving a word of encouragement to the audience.



Stakeholders giving presentations about their programmes.

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Men's Month coincides with Nelson Mandela Day in KwaZulu-Natal

By Jacob Mkhize: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

This year's Nelson Mandela International Day on 18 July, under the theme: "It's still in our hands to combat poverty and inequality", was commemorated at the Ntabayengwe area, also known as Ingwavuma, under the Jozini Local Municipality. In KwaZulu-Natal, Nelson Mandela Month normally coincides with Men's Month, when men are encouraged to fight the scourge of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF).

In the Umkhanyakude District Municipality, Men's Month was celebrated through a dialogue held at the Ntabayengwe Community Hall in Ingwavuma. The ambassador of men's health (*Isibaya samadoda* and male circumcision) programme in KwaZulu-Natal, Prince Nhlanganiso-Zulu kaZwelithini, also attended the event.

Organisations which participated in the dialogue included the departments of Health, Justice and Constitutional Development, Social Development, Correctional Services; Government Communications (GCIS), and the uMkhanyakude District Municipality, various local municipalities; Zisize Trust and Men's forums and representation from different traditional authorities within the district.

Some of the topics tackled during the dialogues were the qualities and character of a good man; challenges faced by men; grooming young men and boys to be future leaders in society, and how young boys are affected by the absence of father figures in their lives.

Prince Nhlanganiso-Zulu encouraged men to form men's forums in their communities to discuss issues affecting them. He added that the forums should be inclusive of both old and young men to enable for exchange of ideas, knowledge, skills and wisdom in order to eliminate cases of GBVF. He encouraged men to take care of their health, emphasising the importance of visiting a health institution.

All participants agreed that men should be protectors and act responsibly, and must be trustworthy to their partners and always be honest. It was noted that poverty, unemployment and failure to provide for their the families often caused some men to lose self-esteem, increased their stress levels and made them abusive.



Some of the men attending the dialogue, with Mr Xolani Tembe (holding the microphone) making his contribution.



Prince Nhlanganiso-Zulu engaging with Amakhosi present in the dialogue and delivering an educational health awareness talk.



Prince Nhlnganiso-Zulu kaZwelithini said:

“It is very important for men to take full responsibility to protect those they are in a relationship with to ensure that they restore family values and dignity, and are exemplary. A good man should also take good care of his health, even if it means visiting a clinic to get assistance. As *Isibaya samadoda*, we are in talks with the Department of Health to ensure that in every clinic there is a male nurse to attend to men’s health issues.”



Thami Nxumalo said:

“A good man must be honest to those around him and speak the truth at all times. A good man must not abuse drugs because it leads to change of behaviour and they become irresponsible.”



Mongezi Mthombo said:

“As young men growing in families with absent fathers, we face challenges when it comes to manhood education. Even though mothers provide for the family and do home chores, they are not equipped for issues young men experience when they pass the puberty stage.”