



MYDISTRICTTODAY



Issue no. 36: September 2024

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PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Madibong villagers brave the cold to close off Women’s Month

By Nkopodi Mokgoma; GCIS, Limpopo

On 31 August 2024, the community of Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality gathered at Madibong Village to celebrate the conclusion of Women’s Month.

In her keynote address, the Mayor of Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality, Cllr Merah Mahlase, said that she was grateful for the opportunity to celebrate the end of Women’s Month with women and the elderly in particular, especially as it coincided with her birthday.

The Acting Sekhukhune District Executive Mayor, Cllr Orginia Mafefe, who was also in attendance, thanked the women for braving the cold weather to honour the invitation.

Kgoshigadi Kgoloko, the host traditional leader of the Madibong community, thanked the leadership of Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality for selecting her village to celebrate Women’s Month. She appealed to the community to unite in order to get the necessary support from the municipality. “If we are not united, we will be unable to receive government services, as we won’t be accessible,” she said.

All the attendees received donations in the form of blankets.



Mayor Mahlase addressing the attendees.



Cllr Mafefe giving remarks at the engagement.



Community members in attendance.



government communications

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Ms Sinah Nchabeleng said:
“We really appreciate this initiative by the Mayor of Makhuduthamaga to come and spend her limited time with us as women. We also appreciate the blankets donated to us.”



Kgoshigadi Kgoloko said:
“I am very happy and thank the municipality for choosing my village to come and celebrate Women’s Month as well as the Mayor’s birthday.”

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Ventersdorp community mulls over solutions to tackle GBVF

By Rapelang Motlagomang; GCIS, North West

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in partnership with the North West Department of Community Safety and Transport Management, the JB Marks Local Municipality, the South African Police Service and the Department of Social Development hosted a GBVF awareness campaign on 22 August 2024 in Tshing, North West.

The aim of the awareness campaign was to create a dialogue among community members and to raise awareness about the dire need to change the GBVF status quo by taking urgent action. The Ikageng Police Station in the JB Marks Local Municipality is among the top 20 stations with the highest GBVF case prevalence in the country, which necessitated a campaign of this sort be brought to the municipality.

In his welcoming remarks, the Chairperson of the Ventersdorp Community Policing Forum (CPF), Mr Chris Klassen said that GBVF would only come to an end through concerted efforts by community

members. He said that the CPF was there to assist the community fight GBVF, and that they should never shy away from approaching them.

Mr Bushy Lethape from Potchefstroom, a parolee for a GBVF-related case, encouraged young men and women to avoid situations that could trigger them to harm their partners. “Don’t be like me; I do not want you to go through what I am going through. I am encouraging you to protect one another in all circumstances, you should love each other genuinely,” said Lethape.

The community members received the GBVF community dialogue well and appreciated the responses to their questions by representatives from the respective government departments.



Community members listen attentively to the Chairperson of the CPF, Mr Klaasen.



An official from the Department of Correctional Services addressing the community about the dangers and effects of GBVF.



SAPS official engaging with community members on GBVF-related matters.



A parolee, Mr Bushy Lethape sharing his experiences as a GBVF offender.

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Magareng Local Municipality hosts women economic empowerment dialogue

By Mpho More; GCIS, Northern Cape

As Women’s Month concluded on 31 August 2024, the Mayor of the Magareng Local Municipality, Cllr Neo Mase, collaborated with the South African Police Service (SAPS) to celebrate with all the women within the municipality at Ikhutseng Stadium on 29 August 2024, under the theme: “30 Years of Democracy Towards Developing Women.”

Discussions held at the gathering focused on the challenges facing women, including gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF) and a lack of business opportunities within the municipality. Owners of small, medium and micro enterprises (SMMEs) had an opportunity to reflect on their businesses and encouraged those who wanted to become entrepreneurs, to start with the little they had while waiting for government assistance. They were urged to start small gardens in their backyards instead of buying vegetables from retail shops, in order to save money.

Addressing the audience, Cllr Mase, appealed to the women to support each other in all aspects, such as growing their businesses, crime-related matters and their wellbeing. She assured the SMMEs that the Local Economic Development office including hers, were always willing and ready to assist whenever possible.

Sergeant Papu Tau, Social Crime Prevention Officer from Warrenton SAPS, used the platform to sensitise the audience about GBVF and other crimes affecting them. He appealed to the audience to refrain from withdrawing GBVF cases to protect the perpetrators. Community members were encouraged to join the community patrollers to assist, more especially during weekends and peak hours. Sergeant Tau further pleaded with the audience to refrain from accommodating drug lords in their yards and to come forward with any information to assist curb crime in their areas.



Cllr Mase engaging with community members.



Ladies in attendance at the Women’s Month event.



Community members engaging with government officials.



Ms Kefilwe Williams said:
“I run a soup kitchen in Majeng Village, and I am happy that it alleviates hunger in my community. I am an event organiser, doing catering and décor. I really appreciate the support from my community and the government.”



Ms Gloria Pilane said:
“I sell food in town and I will be glad if the government can assist me with equipment to grow my business. I really appreciate the support from my community, because I can now look after my family.”



Mr Mirriam Rampho said:
“My business is growing because I am not robbing old people by taking their SASSA cards, people must stop keeping old people’s cards to enrich themselves.”

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Government departments visit the Adam Masebe Secondary School

By Boipelo Sefoka; GCIS, Head Office



Lebo Maseko, Grade 12 learner said:
 “We face a challenge of bullying in all the grades and come from challenging backgrounds, but here at school, it is where we find hope and comfort to do better. Some can’t study at home peacefully, but we are thankful that here at school, they provide extra classes and we are able to catch up with our work and study.”

On Wednesday, 18 September 2024, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) through its Information Resource Centre (IRC), partnered with the departments of Social Development, Basic Education and Home Affairs to conduct a learner engagement at the Adam Masebe Secondary School located in Temba, Gauteng.

Stakeholders engaged with learners on government services available to them such as public libraries and distributed information material related to gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), basic rights as entrenched in the Constitution and other services rendered by the departments present there.

A representative from the Department of Basic Education, Ms Palesa Molefe, informed the learners about the Fundza Lushaka bursaries available to matriculants who would like to further their studies at public universities, and another programme offered by the department for learners who could not finish their matric, to go back to school and complete their Gr 12 Senior Certificate.

The Department of Social Development unpacked programmes available for the students on how to handle bullying, fight substance abuse and GBVF.

They also advised the learners on where they can go to report these social challenges and to find support.

The Department of Home Affairs held an exhibition and provided the learners with information on how to apply for identification documents and check their application statuses.

The learners were afforded an opportunity to deliberate on Tourism Month and the importance of engaging in local tourism activities to boost the economy. They also spoke about 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy, emphasising the importance of celebrating this milestone and to acknowledge the role played by activists and young people in ensuring that the country achieved democracy and equal rights for all.

The principal of the school, Ms Pauline Molekoa, thanked the team from the GCIS and expressed gratitude for the engagement. She praised the government’s efforts in sharing credible information. “This dialogue will have a positive impact on the learners, as they got a better understanding about the GCIS and how the government operates and the services it offers,” she concluded.



Learners from the Adam Masebe High School during the dialogue.



Learners posing with Ms Molefe from the Department of Education.



Mr Nsizwa Nkosi from the GCIS delivering the purpose of the dialogue.



GCIS officials exhibiting government information and engaging with the learners.