



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Galeshewe community commemorates 72nd anniversary of the Mayibuye Uprising

By Kgomotso Sentso; GCIS, Northern Cape

On Friday, 8 November 2024, citizens of the Sol Plaatje Local Municipality were invited by the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture (DSAC) to commemorate the 72nd anniversary of the Mayibuye Uprising, held at the Bantu Hall in Galeshewe, Kimberly.

The commemoration event began with a wreath-laying ceremony at the Mayibuye Uprising Monument to honour the heroes and heroines who sacrificed their lives for the attainment of freedom. The proceedings were led by Acting Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Social Development and Sports, Arts and Culture, Mr Maruping Lekwene who was accompanied by surviving family members of the Northern Cape's freedom matyrs. The preservation project is part of an ongoing initiative by the DSAC to identify, promote and preserve the heritage of the Northern Cape.

During the memorial lecture, MEC Lekwene said, "Our commemoration today is more than just a ceremony; it is a commitment to our broader heritage preservation efforts in the province. Along with the Mayibuye Uprising Monument, we also honour significant sites like the Langeberg War and Uppington 26 monuments. Together, they form part of the Resistance and Liberation Route, linking our struggles and triumphs across history."

On 8 November 1952, a mass protest was initiated by anti-apartheid activists to oppose the oppressive and racially discriminatory laws of the National Party government. Between 7 and 8 November of that year, 13 people were killed and 78 others wounded. The Mayibuye Uprising is marked as a historic event in South Africa's struggle against apartheid. The day concluded with attendees reflecting on the historic event in South Africa's journey towards a democratic and inclusive society.



Wreath-laying ceremony led by MEC Lekwene.



Survivors and family members paying their respects at the gravesites of the heroes and heroines of the Mayibuye Uprising.



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MEC Lekwene delivering the memorial lecture.



Family representatives and community members attending the ceremony.



Ms Tumelano Gaabatlholehe said:

"What I took away from today was more about history and how we should take care of our country and not let apartheid come back."



Ms Sophia Besi said:

"I learnt a lot from this event because I was born in 1952. My mother used to relate stories about what happened on that day because that was when she was pregnant with me. She would tell me how violent the streets were at that time. It is something I have always carried with me because it was my birthyear. I am grateful that I came and heard from the veterans that are still alive today to tell us about the events of that day."



Ms Kopano Mpolokeng said:

"Today I learnt about the Mayibuye Uprising, which I did not know about. I learnt about the people who lost their lives for our freedom. I am glad I attended this event."



Mr Mawande Mpendla said:

"My advice to the youth is that they must go out there and look for opportunities and not be choosy when looking for jobs. The bigger picture is not the money but work experience, which will help you in the future when you apply for a permanent post."

PRIORITY 5: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

National Youth Service continues to upskill young people

By Ndyebo Kopo; GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 30 October 2024, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) observed Transport Month by hosting a community radio programme focusing on opportunities within the transport sector. Mr Mawande Mpendla, a young person employed as an administrative clerk at the Department of Transport (DoT) based in eMaXesibeni, Alfred Nzo District, was part of a panel during the programme, where he shared his experience about different government programmes that assist young people to find learnership and job opportunities.

Mawande was born in Mbizana and studied at the Ingwe Technical Vocational Education and Training College, where he successfully completed an N6 qualification. After graduating, he applied to the National Youth Service Programme (NYSP), a government initiative aimed at engaging South African youth in community service activities to strengthen service delivery, build patriotism, promote nation-building, foster social cohesion and assist

the youth to acquire necessary occupational skills to access sustainable livelihood opportunities.

During the 24 months he worked under the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP), Mawande had to relocate 85 kilometres away from his home to be closer to work. It was under the programme that he acquired some experience and upskilled himself. According to him, he persevered through challenges as he always had a bigger goal of transforming his life for the better. When an opportunity for permanent employment arose prior to the expiration of his EPWP contract, he went through the recruitment process and was employed permanently as an administrative clerk in the DoT. His is a story similar to that of many young people in South Africa, whose lives have been transformed for the better by the different programmes offered by government.



Mr Ndyebo Kopo from the GCIS and Mr Mawande Mpendla, a beneficiary of the NYSP, participating in a radio programme at the Alfred Nzo Community Radio Station.



Ms Reamoetswe Ramotse said:
 "Shout out to the class of 2024. I wish them all the best during their exams."

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Hope for learners facing anxiety and depression during the examination season

By Lilly Mohlosana; GCIS, North West

During examination season, learners face anxiety and depression caused by external and interpersonal factors, leading them to experience mental blockages, which can later lead to other mental health issues.

On 18 October 2024, as part of celebrating Mental Health Month and 30 Years of Mental Freedom in South Africa, the Government Communication and Information System partnered with the South African Depression and Anxiety Group (SADAG), the departments of Basic Education, Social Development (DSD), Health (DoH) and the Small Enterprise Development and Financing Agency (SE DFA), to provide mental health awareness to the class of 2024 at the Batleng High School in Tlhatlanyane Village, Moses Kotane Local Municipality.

Ms Sepati Phogojane, a clinical psychologist from the Moses Kotane Hospital, gave a presentation on the management of stress and anxiety during examinations. She advised the grade 12 learners to be kind to themselves during this time, as matric comes with a lot of uncertainty that may lead to anxiety and depression. She encouraged the class of 2024 to eat healthy

food and lead an active lifestyle, as eating junk food may lead to fatigue and a drop in concentration. Ms Phogojane also informed the learners on the importance of taking breaks, as this was good for the body. In concluding her presentation, she practised breathing exercises with the learners and advised them to do the exercises when they felt overwhelmed, to help them refocus.

Ms Kagiso Mashinini, a social worker from the DSD, encouraged the learners to never give up as they had come this far. She related her story of overcoming her own personal struggles after she broke her leg whilst studying to become a social worker. She told them that she realised that if she did not find a solution, she would not have come as far as she has. Ms Mashinini also encouraged the learners not to succumb to suicidal thoughts during or after their exams, as they still had a lot to contribute to society. She asked the learners to speak to their school social workers during and after exams, as this would help them overcome any mental health issues they might be facing.

SADAG can be reached on its 24-hour toll-free number: 0800 456 789.



Grade 12 learners from the Batleng High School receiving information packs from SADAG and SEDFA.



Ms Phogojane from the DoH, Moses Kotane Sub-District, sharing information on mental health with learners.



Ms Mashinini from the DSD sharing the importance of talking to someone when feeling depressed and demystifying the myths around suicide.

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Western Cape law enforcement agencies launch festive season campaign

By Peter Titus; GCIS, Western Cape

As part of opening remarks at the launch of the Cape Winelands Safer Festive Season campaign, Lieutenant General (Lt Gen) Thembisile Patekile shared the South African Police Service (SAPS)'s integrated approach towards fighting crime and the great success achieved through the strategy in reducing crime across the Western Cape.

The Cape Winelands launch began with a march through the Worcester Central Business District (CBD) within the Breede Valley Local Municipality on 30 October 2024. The march was attended by members of the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster which includes the SAPS, provincial and local traffic police, law enforcement officials, as well as private security agencies. This parade demonstrated the results of integration and unity in fighting crime.

The formal proceedings were opened by the Deputy Executive Mayor of the Cape Winelands District Municipality, Ald. Margaret Sampson. In her welcoming remarks, she emphasised that by working together they could achieve a better district.

During a briefing, Lt Gen Patekile highlighted that on the morning of the launch, 96 arrests were made across the district, which included serious crimes such as attempted murder, organised crime, driving under the influence of alcohol, abuse of liquor, drugs, crimes linked to gangsterism, as well as extortion. He said that community participation in fighting crime was pivotal to arresting perpetrators and keeping communities safe.

He highlighted that as the country moved into the holiday season, the prevalence of gender-based violence and child abuse was on the rise, and that communities should work together to keep children safe and in school.

The SAPS Deputy Provincial Commissioner, Major General (Maj Gen) Mnaci said, "To all perpetrators of violence, we want to lock you up and request all prosecutors to go on leave for the December holidays, so that you can only appear in court in January 2025."

The Community Policing Forum (CPF) Cluster Chairperson, Mr Sebastian Abrahams, pleaded with community members to form part of community safety structures and join forces with law enforcement agencies to stand as a united front against crime.

In conclusion, the Deputy Mayor of the Breede Valley District Municipality, Cllr Juben von Willingh, said that the municipality must have a planned approach to fighting crime and follow their community safety plans to ensure greater success.

The proceedings of the day concluded with a demonstration from the integrated team of crime fighters on how they effect arrests.



March through Worcester CBD by law enforcement officials.



Law enforcement officials standing at attention to receive Lt Gen Patekile at Boland Park, Worcester.



Maj Gen Mnaci hands over the District Operational Plan for the festive season to Lt Gen Patekile.



CPF Cluster Chairperson, Mr Abrahams motivated the community to support the fight against gangsterism, drug abuse and crime.