



MYDISTRICTTODAY



STAY SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

Issue no.41: November 2023

CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

For more information about similar programmes that are run across the country, contact one of the following provincial offices:

EASTERN CAPE

Ndlelantle Pinyana
043 722 2602 or 076 142 8606
ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za

FREE STATE

Yolisa Blom
051 448 4506 or 072 130 9893
yolisa@gcis.gov.za

GAUTENG

Peter Gumede
011 331 0164 or 083 570 8080
peterg@gcis.gov.za

KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420
ndala@gcis.gov.za

PRIORITY 6: CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Revenue service reaches out to community members

By Jacob Mkhize: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

The Thusong Centre Programme is one of the vehicles that ensures that people in rural areas have access to services and information which were never available during the apartheid regime. Accessing critical services has been made simple through the Mbazwana Thusong Service Centre. From 5 to 6 October 2023, a team of 12 South African revenue Service (SARS) officials visited Mbazwana Thusong Service Centre to assist citizens to submit individual tax returns. This service was welcomed by different stakeholders as it made accessing SARS services simpler and faster.

SARS services from 2020 were withdrawn from being offered through mobile outreach activations due to the COVID-19 pandemic. The institution then implemented a process whereby an individual had to send an SMS booking prior to securing an appointment date. To some people, this became an inconvenience due to the long waiting period. Further to that, people had to register through e-filing before they could be helped, a system that a lot of the taxpayers were not familiar with. All these initiatives created problems for rural people and resulted in them not submitting tax returns from 2021.

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) at uMkhanyakude, through stakeholder relation network liaised with SARS and requested their services be offered at Mbazwana Thusong Service Centre. This was well received and SARS committed to coming to Mbazwana and spend two days during the current tax filing season to offer services to members of the public. Stakeholders that benefitted from SARS were: educators, Department of Health, Department of Social Development, Ezemvelo KZN Wildlife, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and the Environment, South African Police Service, local business employees and retired individuals.

More than 300 people were reached and submitted individual tax returns. It was, however, noted that there were still more people who required assistance but due limited time, missed the opportunity. Nonetheless, those who were able to access the service applauded the initiative by the GCIS to facilitate bringing services closer to them. It was recommended that in future, SARS should at least come to Mbazwana for three days to offer this critical service.



SARS consultants assisting clients in submitting tax returns.

Some of the taxpayers who were assisted to submit their tax returns.



government communications

Department: Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



LIMPOPO

Thanyani Ravhura
015 291 4689 or 082 421 3461
thanyani@gcis.gov.za

MPUMALANGA

Jerry Nkosi
013 753 2397 or 082 316 5295
Jerry@gcis.gov.za

NORTH WEST

Boitumelo Mosadi
018 381 7071 or 073 245 0906
boitumelom@gcis.gov.za

NORTHERN CAPE

Ofentse Moeti
053 832 1378/9 or 084 390 4330
Ofentse@gcis.gov.za

WESTERN CAPE

Geraldine Thopps
021 418 0533/2307 or 081 281 2200
Geraldine@gcis.gov.za

PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Government tackles human trafficking

By Sibusiso Chauke: GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Government Communication and Information System in partnership with the Department of Social Development conducted Trafficking in Persons Awareness Campaign on 20 October 2023 in Emalahleni Local Municipality.

Human trafficking involves the use of force, fraud or coercion to obtain some type of labour or commercial sex act against the will of the person trafficked. Traffickers may use violence, manipulation, or false promises of well-paying jobs or romantic relationships to lure victims into being trafficked. Trafficking victims include men, women, and children of all ages, races, and nationalities.

The awareness campaign was conducted with the purpose of educating the public to have knowledge about this type of crime and how to avert it. The initiative was implemented as a build-up programme of the provincial campaign that was scheduled to take place in Klarinet on 26 October 2023. Various departments came together and engaged with members of the public at the Witbank Taxi Rank.

Jabulile Kubheka, a social worker from the Department of Social Development encouraged members of the public to report suspicious activities in the society.

“Please ensure you know your neighbourhood. Please safeguard your children, know where they play and children they play with. When you come across job adverts especially on social media, please make proper research because many people are trafficked through fake job adverts. People are trafficked for the removal of organs and body parts, sex work and forced labour. We are appealing to the community members to work with authorities to ensure safety in the society,” she said.

The National Prosecution Authority, Department of Correctional Services, Emalahleni Local Municipality, Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, the Foundation for Victims of Crime, NICRO and SANCA were also part of the campaign. Government information materials were also distributed at the event.



Community members accessing information from various stakeholders.



Grace Mamba said:

“We are happy with the information we received from government. Human trafficking is a serious challenge because as people we become more naïve when we are desperate.”

PRIORITY 1: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Border Management Authority (BMA) launch in Musina

By Doctrine Netshikweta: GCIS, Limpopo

The establishment of the BMA is a noteworthy step towards safer communities, better law enforcement and the growth of the economy through greater trade with neighbouring countries. This was said by President Cyril Ramaphosa on 5 October 2023 in Musina after officially launching the BMA.

“As a democratic government, we call upon different stakeholders to witness the contemporary history of our country where our country progressively reform the border management and migration regime, not just in the interests of economic growth and development, but also so that these reforms should reflect the broader values of the new state which includes uphold the right of citizens to freedom of movement and residence, as well as the rights of refugees and asylum-seekers under international conventions” said President Ramaphosa.

The President of Zimbabwe, Emmerson Mnangagwa, supported the sentiments when he vastly welcomed the South African initiative of bringing an integration system which he indicated, it will enable both South African and Zimbabweans communities to be safer.

“Today, I am here to witness the new history made between South Africa and Zimbabwe where our people will move freely on our borders without any harm, as long as they are having and can produce the required documents. We are aware about our relationship as brothers and sisters, we share surnames, this is a true reflection that we are from the same pot,” said President Mnangagwa.

President Ramaphosa urged everyone to support government in its fight against illegal migration. “Like any sovereign nation, we have the right to guarantee the integrity of our borders and provide that all who reside in our borders have a legal right to be here. Those who have sought refuge in South Africa or wish to live and work here are subject to immigration regulations and must adhere to the country’s laws,” said President Ramaphosa.

He further indicated that the BMA is tasked with ensuring that the country’s immigration laws are enforced, and that the borders are well-protected and ports of entry are well-managed.



President Ramaphosa during the official launch of the BMA in Musina.



President Ramaphosa and President Mnangagwa in Musina port of entry.



President Ramaphosa engaging with a BMA member.



Lehlohonolo Masoga said:

“Today, I believe I can fly after the President launched the BMA. From now on, it will be easy and simple to ensure that the realisation of regional economic integration in the Southern African Development Communities region be tangible while facilitating the realisation of African Continental Free Trade Area.”



Commissioner Mike Masipto said:

“The BMA is a law-enforcement authority, which became the third armed service in South Africa.”



Thovhele Vho-Manenzhe said:

“We are so happy today witnessing the new beginning of our history. As traditional authority, we will be happy when the deployed employees maintain the sovereignty of our country with dignity and respect. We are rallying behind the mandate of government’s aim to promote the integrity and dignity of everyone.”

PRIORITY 6: CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Celebrating cultural diversity

By Sandiswa Mdingi: GCIS, Eastern Cape

As part of celebrating the Heritage Month, which took place under the theme: “Celebrating our cultural diversity in a democratic South Africa”, the Eastern Cape Provincial Government dedicated this year’s heritage day to the 140th Anniversary of Lesseyton Methodist Theological Training Centre and historically significant events associated with the landmark. The training centre forms part of the Eastern Cape’s Resistance and Liberation Heritage Route that incorporates other significant sites within the broader Chris Hani Liberation Heritage Route on 24 September 2023.

The Heritage Site Precinct is at Komani in the Enoch Mgijima Municipality. Premier Oscar Mabuyane opened the event by handing over a brand new tractor, ploughing equipment and water tanks to a local non-profit organisation to help revive agricultural projects in the heritage site and around the village. During his handover, Premier Mabuyane said the site has been

fence and the land must feed the community and contribute in local economic growth. He alluded that the government is fighting moral decay by trying to activate moral regeneration through these kind of community outreaches. This initiative will eradicate poverty in the area and the provincial government has plans to restore the site and use it for provision of services that would benefit the nearby communities.

South Africa has made good progress in ensuring social cohesion and uniting our people. The government encouraged citizens in all provinces to host cultural carnivals with music, dance, poetry, and food from different cultural groups who reside within the Chris Hani District.



Tractor donated to the people of Lesseyton by the provincial government.



Premier Mabuyane delivering his Heritage Day speech at Lesseyton, Enoch Mgijima Municipality.



Premier Mabuyane during media interviews.



King Buyelekhaya Dalindyebo delivering his address at Lesseyton.



Cultural performance at the event.