



MYDISTRICTTODAY



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PRIORITY 4: BUILDING A CAPABLE, ETHICAL AND DEVELOPMENTAL STATE.

Presidential Imbizo roadshows

By Sandiswa Mdingi: GCIS, Eastern Cape

President Cyril Ramaphosa wrapped up his first round instalment of the District Development Model (DDM) Presidential Imbizo roadshows on 11 August 2023 at Tsomo, Intsika Yethu Local Municipality, under Chris Hani District in the Eastern Cape. Citizens came out in numbers and effusively contributed to the success of the event.

The objectives of the Presidential *izimbizo* were to bring government services closer to the people, in this case, the people of Tsomo and surrounding areas, assessing the availability of enabling infrastructure, evaluate levels of coordination across all spheres of government and interacting with the community over the challenges they face. At the end, expectations were met, none left out and no one was left behind.

Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs Minister Thembi Nkadineng said, "The ninth DDM Presidential Imbizo marked a significant milestone in pursuit of an active citizenry and leadership accountability. The ethos of a

participatory democracy were held in line with the principles of the DDM as an all of government and society approach towards a better life for all."

During the Imbizo, the President was with all Cabinet members, to ensure eloquent engagement with the community and stakeholders. Among issues raised by the community were water shortage, poor road infrastructure, lack of small town revitalisation projects, and high unemployment rate. The President addressed these issues and afforded Ministers an opportunity to respond and update the community on plans to resolve some of the issues.

President Ramaphosa expressed his gratitude to the people of the district who participated in the Imbizo and for the constructive manner in which they raised issues. He concluded by commending the people for their trust in government and commitment to work with all government structures to improve their livelihood.



Executive Mayor Wongama Gela addressing the audience.



President Ramaphosa together with Minister Nkadineng and Eastern Cape Premier Oscar Mabuyane at the Presidential Imbizo.



Members of Cabinet together with the community.



President Ramaphosa interacting with the public at the Imbizo.



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COVID-19 vaccine registration details for 12-year-olds and above:

Online at:
<https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/#/>
Send the word **REGISTER** to 0600 123 456 on WhatsApp.
Via SMS by dialling *134*832#.
Call the COVID-19 hotline 0800 029 999.

PRIORITY I: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Female farmers receive financial boost

By Netshikweta Doctrine: GCIS, Limpopo

The Vhembe District Municipality Women in Farming were over the moon and felt beholden when the district municipality gave them financial and material support. This was done to safeguard the agricultural sector, which is the backbone of the economy and food security in the country, thus promoting the involvement of women to ensure sustainability of the food production and economic participation. In South Africa, women were marginalised for a long period and prevented from participating in the agricultural sector.

On this note, Vhembe District Municipality is working tirelessly promoting women participating in the agriculture sector. On 25 August 2023, the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Vhembe District Municipality, Farm City and Standard hosted the Vhembe district female farmers of the year competition at Musodi Community Hall as part of women's day celebration. The event meant to capacitate and augment women contribution to the local economic development and food security across the country and the entire Southern African Development Community region.

The competition rewarded the following categories: Best Female Worker, Best Substance Producer, Top Entrepreneur Smallholder, Top Entrepreneur Commercial Producer and Top Entrepreneur Processing. From each category, the winner went home with R25 000, certificate and two bags of 50kg fertilisers, the second one went home with R 20 000, certificate and two bags of 50kg fertiliser followed by the third runner-up who also went home with R15 000, certificate and two bags of 50kg fertilizers.

All the participants beyond this bracket were compensated with an amount of R10 000 from Standard Bank. This was done to safeguard food security and local economic participation by the farmers. The National Youth Development Agency urged young female farmers to visit their offices for financial support and farming developmental programme available for the development of youth in farming.



Various leaders and winners at the event.



Some of the winners with their prizes.



Vhembe District Municipality Executive Mayor, Dowelani Nenguda said:

“Women are the majority of our population however, they are left behind in most of the development within the community. Therefore, as government we took an initiative to lobby for the support of women development and economic participation. That is why today together with Standard Bank and Farm City are joining hands empowering and supporting women already contributing to food security and local economic development. This is not all about to win but is a way of encouraging participation in the sector. All participants today will go home with full hand. We are working tirelessly in developing agricultural sector after noticing that Vhembe region is amongst the hub of agricultural products across the country. As district, we are urging women to venture to the production of avocados as the BRICS fifteen conference resolve to provide an international market for the product. Vhembe is amongst the area where avocados are produced in numbers.”



Muphulusi Khwareli said:

“Today I am so blissful. Government responded to my everlasting call about the source of money to fund my dream project. Hard work and dedication to my work are the reasons behind this success. Therefore, today I am hereby receiving award for what I have done. Do not be surprised to see me as the winner of the Top Substance Producer.”



Khosi Vho-Lambani said:

“Farming and water both fall under the category of source of life. A woman is a mother of the nation and there is a saying that goes: ‘Behind all successes there are women’. I wonder why women were undermined for such a long time and deprived access to land. Vhembe is good for agriculture; use land for economic development and job creation. Land is available and women will receive first preference.”



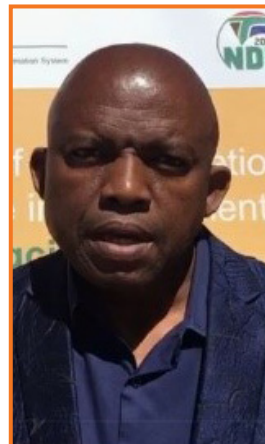
Chief Kgotlhame Motshwarakgole said:

“As communities, we must go back to working together to advance the spirit of Ubuntu and togetherness in communities. Tribal authorities must regain their positions in society.”



Dipuo Mokoding said:

“I appreciate this engagement and that more learners and the churches must be approached to spread the messages around fighting GBVF; and discouraging young children from engaging in sexual activities; and promoting good morals within communities.”



Reverend Mbuyiselo Mguzulwa said:

“We are happy as the Moral Regeneration Movement in the Office of the Premier, that we could take part in this dialogue to mobilise our communities behind the broader objectives of the movement and we will support all formations that seek to regenerate our communities.”

PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Dialogue tackles crime and teenage pregnancy

By *Tebogo Monyo: GCIS, Northern Cape*

The South African Police Service in collaboration with the John Taolo Gaetsewe, various government departments, civil society and the Baga Motshwarakgole Traditional Council hosted a successful community dialogue on 23 August 2023.

The session focused on moral regeneration, gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF), teenage pregnancy and how society can work with the government to address these challenges.

MMC Michael Kgosienewang said fighting crime should not be the sole responsibility of the police service but a societal issue. He encouraged communities to work with government for collective solutions that will bring positive change within communities.

The MMC lamented the high teenage pregnancy in the area, saying the fact that children were becoming parents, was a serious concern for government, and points to the moral decay in communities and the lack of care for children.

Parents, young people and learners attended the event from Motshwarakgole Intermediate and Dibotswa High Schools.

Chief Kgotlhame Motshwarakgole of the Baga Motshwarakgole Traditional Authority,

said children must respect elders and that elders must in turn respect children and stop engaging in unbecoming activities with them. He also expressed his wish for government to capacitate the Bothithong Police Station with more resources, including additional police members and vehicles, as it serviced many villages around Dithakong.

One of the learners from Motshwarakgole Intermediate School, Kutlwano Seganeno, said the dialogue was fruitful because sometimes parents do not create platforms for engagement with their children about sexual reproductive health and relied only on the role played by educators.

“It is important that children get the advantages of information shared with them by their parents as well so that children can empower themselves to withstand peer pressure,” he said.

The dialogue concluded with resolutions that will be taken forward by all represented government departments and the tribal council. These included follow-up engagements by stakeholders at different schools around Dithakong, and mobilising different congregants to join and work with the tribal council to spread the messages of moral regeneration and respect among the people.



Colonel Mojalefa Nkunika addressing attendees.



MMC Kgosienewang speaking at the event.



Focus group discussions that were hosted as part of the dialogue.



Moipone Griffis said:

“The dialogue was very much informational and wish that the law can be much strict towards the GBV that is happening.”



Remaketse Motaung said:

“Today’s programme informed us a lot on ways to fight GBV and I wish we can have activities for children and indigenous games such as *ditolobonya* and *diketo*, which will minimise the GBV that exists.”

PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

Women against GBV dialogue

By Cholo Mothibi: GCIS, Free State

The Government Communication and Information System in partnership with Barolong Boo Seleka Traditional Council and the Department of Social Development celebrated Women’s Month with the women from all wards of Thaba Nchu from 24 to 26 August 2023 at Barolong Community Hall in Thaba Nchu. The first day was all about prayer service for Gender-Based Violence (GBV), the second day was the discussion around GBV and the closure on the third day was on the march against women and child abuse. The main idea was to discuss the challenges caused by GBV and the possible solutions and to make sure that the services go to the people.

As the programme started, there was feedback from villages received such as lack of resources, consumption of alcohol and drugs, those selling drugs to children and dropping of cases by victims, which all led to the high rise of GBV. Later, there were also discussions where solutions came

out such as the protection of victims at victim empowerment centres and the revival of the Mmabana Cultural Centre where every member of the community would explore their talents, which would also decrease GBV.

The stakeholders were also given an opportunity to respond to the challenges mentioned Princess Moipone Moroka from the National Prosecution Authority (NPA) explained that the courts do not allow the dropping of cases anymore and they are treated at the High Court of law. She further explained that there is a Witness Protection Unit from the NPA for victims who are not feeling protected and urged women to stop protecting their husbands. Sibongile Tsoleli, MMC for Mangaung Metropolitan Municipality also encouraged the community to go back to basics and assist each other and women to report cases of abuse. She discouraged the invasion of public properties.



Stakeholders facilitating the event.



Women discussing various issues including GBV.