

Media Advisory

1 July 2024

For Immediate Release

Open Government Partnership site visits to showcase Access to Justice in marginalised communities in the Free State province

As part of the Open Government Week, the Open Government Partnership (OGP) National Secretariat, in collaboration with the OGP Interim Steering Committee, will undertake visits to the legal advice Probono Helpdesk sites in the Free State Province.

The OGP, which draws the participation of over 50 countries worldwide, was established in 2011 to foster country-specific programmes for promoting transparency, accountability, and corruption prevention, including access to justice in marginalised communities.

During the Open Government Week, OGP stakeholders will visit the Community Advice Offices South Africa (CAOSA) Advice Desks, 1) the Botshabelo District Court and CAOSA Advice Desk on 3 July 2024, and 2) the Thaba Nchu Magistrate Court and Batho ba Lerato Advice Centre on 4 July 2024, to get first-hand experience of the paralegal Probono Helpdesks in the province.

First piloted in 2022 in the Gauteng province, the Free State Probono Helpdesks initiative is being spearheaded by CAOSA in partnership with the Legal Practice Council, the Free State Division of the High Court, the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development (Free State Regional Office) and the University of the Free State Law Clinic.

Details of the OGP site visits:

- *Botshabelo District Court and CAOSA Advice Desk*
Wednesday, 03 July 2024
12h00 - 16h00
- *Thaba Nchu Magistrate Court and Batho ba Lerato Advice Centre*
Thursday, 04 July 2024
09h00 - 14h00

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