




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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SPECIAL EDITION: WOMEN MOVING SOUTH AFRICA FORWARD

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OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP

President Zuma celebrates Women's Month in the Free State

By Mojalefa Senokoatsane: GCIS, Free State



One of the beneficiaries opening his house after it was handed over by President Jacob Zuma, with Deputy President Ramaphosa looking on.

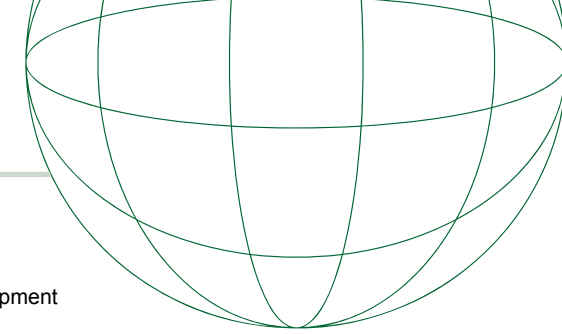


President Zuma, Deputy President Ramaphosa, Premier Magashule and other dignitaries with one of the beneficiaries of the houses.

President Jacob Zuma celebrated the National Women's Day in Sasolburg on 9 August 2015. The event was celebrated under the theme: "Women Moving South Africa Forward".

Over 21 000 women converged at the Harry Gwala Multipurpose Community Centre in Zamdela to be part of the event.

The commemoration began with President Zuma opening houses for the citizens of the new housing development in the Nick Ferreira suburb. Some of the lucky recipients included Gimina Motloung, who was shedding tears of joy for getting a home for her family. She told the President of her struggles in trying to create a home for her kids for many years.



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The celebrations continued with an inspection visit of another housing project, where President Zuma, Deputy President Cyril Ramaphosa and Free State Premier Ace Magashule visited the infrastructure development campaign that is meant to provide the citizens of Zamdela with shelter.



Some of the people who attended the event.

President Zuma told the masses about the progress that had been made in the past 21 years in ensuring that women were capacitated through various legislations and programmes. The President said that even though government had done more to ensure that women were empowered, there was still a room for improvement. He informed the house that in order for the country to grow, women had a role to play in the economy and it is government's responsibility to ensure that economic emancipation of women is achieved. He reminded the attendees about the women of 1956, who took their fight against apartheid to the steps of the Union Buildings.

Those who graced the event were provided with an opportunity to visit the information stalls, where they were able to interact with different stakeholders and acquired information to empower themselves, especially when it comes to economic emancipation and skills development.



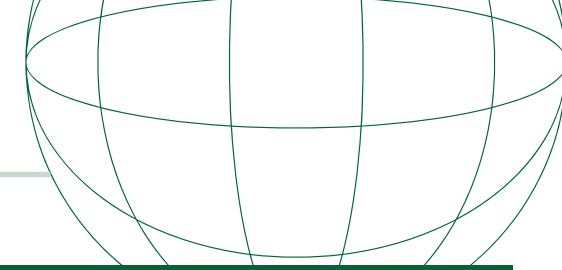
Gemina Motloung said:

"I am very happy that my family and I finally have a place we can proudly call our own. I would like to thank government for making it possible."



Bafedile Mocheko said:

"I came here to listen to President Jacob Zuma. I am happy that women are celebrated as we had struggled a lot especially during the apartheid regime where we had no rights."



OUTCOME 3: ALL PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE AND FEEL SAFE

Dialogue to empower women

By Robbie Senoelo: GCIS, Gauteng



Community members listening to MEC Nkosi-Malobane.



St Michael and All Angels Anglican Church celebrating Women's Day at the event.



Spartz Motlhamme singing in honour of all women.



Queen Letsoalo reciting a poem at the event.



MEC Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane delivering a keynote address at the event.



The St. Michael Youth Choir delivering key messages through music.



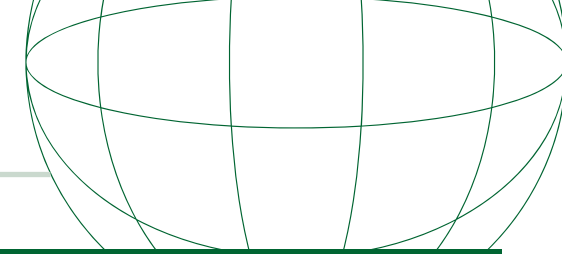
Some of the attendees at the event.

The Government Communication and Information System's Gauteng Office, in conjunction with St. Michael Community Centre Church hosted a safety and security dialogue on 9 August 2015 in Alexandra. The MEC for Community Safety in Gauteng, Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane, delivered a keynote address. The aim of the campaign was to raise awareness about the challenges faced by girls and women and also to promote their rights. The dialogue centered on justice services that are available for women such as how to obtain court interdicts and protection orders, victim support and empowerment programmes, green-doors programme, maintenance defaulters and the role of women in reporting and combating crime.

The MEC told the congregation to celebrate Women's Month without feeling any guilt. She said that the women of 1956 fearlessly marched against the apartheid government's unjust laws. "We are celebrating the efforts of those heroines and I am proud to be a woman. Women can run companies, institutions, organisations and government departments just like men. The majority of us here were brought up by single mothers, indicating that women are strong," she said

MEC Nkosi-Malobane called on parents to treat their children equally, irrespective of their gender. "Boys and girls are equally important to us, treat them fairly and equally because in the eyes of God we are all human and are equal. Let us celebrate Women's Day every day and build our community and country together, without leaving others behind," she concluded.

Sheila Moerane said that women must be treated like men in the workplace. "Some companies do not trust women in leadership positions. They must believe in us because we are capable. In some companies, men still earn more money than women despite doing the same job," she said.



Bonisile Joseph Mdiya said:

“I appreciate the opportunity that we were given to sit down with people from government and discuss our own challenges. From now on, we will know where to go when we have challenges and I am grateful for the opportunity.”



Thulisile Mngwembe said:

“We have learned that women should be protected at all times and if they experience any form of abuse, they have the right to report it to the police.”



Some of the attendees at the event.

OUTCOME 3: ALL PEOPLE IN SOUTH AFRICA ARE AND FEEL SAFE

Women encouraged to stand up for their rights

By Ndyebo Kopo: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Community members at the Women's Month Dialogue.

The community of KwaMbenya, mainly women, gathered at the Mbenya Senior Primary School hall for the Women's Month Dialogue on 26 August 2015. The dialogue was aimed at creating awareness and sharing information about laws, rights of women, programmes and other government and non-governmental interventions meant to deal with violence against women.

KwaMbenya is one of the troubled areas in Mbizana, affected by serious crimes of violence against women. The most recent tragic incident was the murder of a woman by her husband. The KwaMbenya ward councillor stated that the high crime rate in the area was due to unregulated taverns that operate for 24 hours a day, high rate of drug abuse and high-school drop out. These are the reasons why the area was chosen to host the dialogue as part of Women's Month.

The awareness programme was organised by Government Communication and Information System in partnership with Mbizana Local Municipality and Mbizana Community Development Workers.

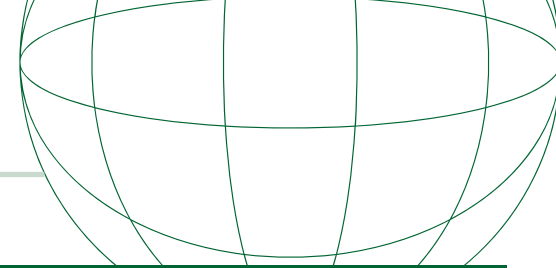
Stakeholders such as departments of justice and constitutional development, correctional services, rural development and land reform, the South African Police Service, Mbizana non-governmental organisations (NGO) Coalition and Mbizana SPU, presented their programmes.

“In an effort to deal with poverty alleviation, we will engage the municipality to mobilise support for community projects,” said Jackson Mabena from the Mbizana NGO Coalition.



Nomatempile Mafuya said:

“The programme has enlightened us on how to deal with challenges that we often encounter. The most outstanding issue for me was that as women, we need to stand up and fight gender-based violence and also help one another. We have also learned that there are men who are abused by women, which is another challenge that we need to overcome.”



OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP

Workshop to educate and empower women

By Abigail Batala: GCIS, North West



Tsholofelo Muthupi said:

“Thank you for the information provided today; especially on contracts we need to sign before marriage. I will share it with others so that we are able to make informed decisions.”



Mamotsikeng Mothupi said:

“I have learned that as women, united we stand and divided we fall. We must unite to conquer all challenges that we are faced with.”



Some of the women who attended the women empowerment event.

Captain Ramokala advising women on domestic violence.

The GCIS North West Office collaborated with community development workers; departments of health and social development, the South African Police Service (SAPS) and the Commission of Gender to empower women with information to assist them to better their lives. The event took place on 28 August 2015 at Ramatlabama 600 village hall. The purpose of the workshop was to unite to move women empowerment forward.

Different stakeholders encouraged women to take a stand and instil good morals in their society with the hope of moving South Africa forward. One of the women speakers said women of 1956 fought against discriminatory pass laws and that the women of today are faced with poverty, unemployment and single parenting. She said if women unite, they could beat all these challenges. Captain Ramokala from the SAPS encouraged women to be brave and stand for the truth in defeating social challenges such as abuse. Advocate Mamohapi Johnson-Diseko from the Commission of Gender also encouraged women to be empowered with information on entering into contracts pertaining marriage. Tshidi Mafojane gave information on non-profit organisations and how they may assist women in improving their lives.