




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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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:

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GAUTENG

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

Raising awareness on children's rights and their need to be protected

By Vuyisile Cindi: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Learners from Turbinate Primary School reading *Vuk'uzenzele* newspaper.

During Child Protection Week being held from 28 May to 4 June, various government departments visited Turbinate Primary School to educate learners about their rights as children. The departments involved in this initiative were Social Development, Social Services, Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs and the GCIS.

The school principal, Mpumelelo Nkosi said, "It is a rare opportunity to receive officials in our school. Farm schools are also affected by the scourge of child abuse."

The main objective of Child Protection Week was to communicate and raise awareness on the high rate of cases of child abuse in the area. The learners were asked to report any form of abuse.

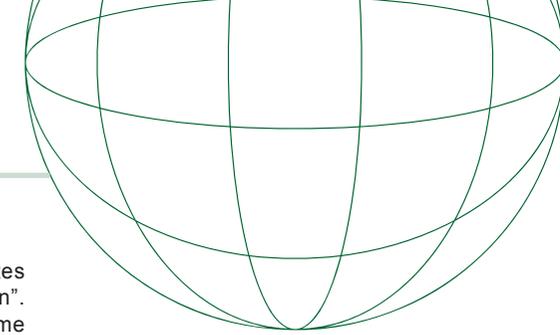
The different government departments presented their roles and responsibilities in relation to the Children's Act, 2005 (Act 38 of 2005), which outlines the principles relating to the care and protection of children, and defines the related parental responsibilities and rights.



government
communications

Department:
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





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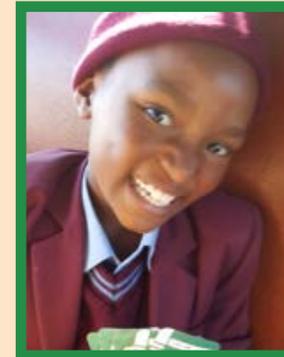
The Bill of Rights in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa of 1996 specifically states that: "every child has the right to be protected from maltreatment, neglect, abuse or degradation". Regardless of this constitutional right, every day, thousands of children around the country become victims and/or witnesses to physical, sexual and emotional violence.

Together with the police, communities and courts can ensure that those who hurt, exploit and abuse children are arrested and convicted.

During the activation, government information products such as the Constitution were distributed to members of the community. This was done to



Thulani Masango:
"The future is in our hands. Protect us, protect the future."



Nombizodwa Maseko:
"Society has a responsibility to prevent neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation of children."



Jabulani Phakathi:
"I want to become a police officer so that I can take care of women and children, and protect them from abuse."



Mpumi Nkosi:

“As an unemployed young person we appreciate opportunities such as these wherein institutions come to display and offer us information on training and development programmes.”



Precious Tsheoga and Didi Cele:

“We visited the Ekurhuleni Jewellery Project stall and have learnt about opportunities in design and jewellery making, and we are grateful for the information that can assist us to start our own small business.”

OUTCOME 5: A SKILLED AND CAPABLE WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT AN INCLUSIVE GROWTH PATH

Ekurhuleni Career Expo exposes youth to skills and training programmes

By Jacob Molete: GCIS, Gauteng



Lulaway and Harambee registering youth on their respective databases to link them with job opportunities, learnerships and internships.



Youth at the expo gathering information on different career opportunities.

Education and skills are key requirements to enter the labour force and as a result the City of Ekurhuleni and its partners hosted a career expo for the fifth year running. The expo was meant to bridge the gap between unemployed youth, graduates and industries to ensure a skilled and capable workforce to support inclusive growth.

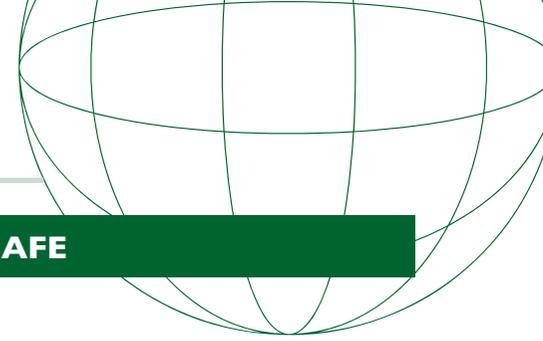
“The career expo once more brings the youth, civil society, institutions of training and development, business leaders and academics together to share training and development information, which are important to address the challenges of unemployment and skills shortage that the youth of the city are facing”, said Colin Ramogale from the Ekurhuleni Department of Economic Development.

The two-day interactive programme provided the youth with an opportunity to interact with various institutions of higher education and training, industry sector education and training authorities (SETAs), Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) colleges, businesses and youth development organisations which exhibited at the expo.

The SETAs present included the Transport Education and Training Authority, Insurance SETA, Chemical Industries Education and Training Authority, Local Government SETA and Wholesale and Retail SETA. Other partners at the event included Ekurhuleni Metro, Emperors Palace’s Peermont Education Trust, Business Place, Ekurhuleni Jewellery Project, iCollege, Ekurhuleni West TVET College, Richfield College, Nedbank, SAPS and youth development organisations such as Lulaway, Harambee, Dial-a-Student and Future Forward SA.

The youth and graduates had an opportunity to register their CVs on the Ekurhuleni, Lulaway and Harambee unemployed youth database. Lulaway and Harambee are agents for the Gauteng Provincial Government’s Tshepo 500 000 programme.

The data collected is used by the metro, provincial government and private sector to assist unemployed youth and graduates by placing them in Youth Work Readiness Placement programmes and other skills development and entrepreneurship development programmes.



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

Child Protection Week celebration in full swing

By Maria Ramoshaba: GCIS, Limpopo



Learners present at the talk show during Child Protection Week.



A teacher present at the talk show during Child Protection Week.



Officers present at the talk show during Child Protection Week.

The GCIS, in partnership with members of the South African Police Service (SAPS) in Mahwelereng and Mokopane, held a talk show at the Mokopane Community Radio Station during Child Protection Week, which is taking place from 28 May to 4 June 2017. Learners from Nomalemo Primary school and their educator participated in the talk show.

The Child Protection Week Campaign calls for government to reflect on the strides made in fulfilling the provisions of the Children's Act, 2005 (Act 38 of 2005) and its relevant policies. It also calls for all South Africans to play their part in building a protective environment for children to thrive. The event was celebrated under the theme: "Let us all protect children to move South Africa forward."

According to learners Karabo Seabe and Koka Shela, children are affected badly by emotional, physical and financial abuse. Some parents neglect children due to alcohol abuse and leave them vulnerable to abuse.

They indicated that some children who are abused by close family relatives are afraid to report the matter to the police. They become withdrawn at school following the abuse. The learners pleaded with parents to provide a secure environment for children so that they could grow up to be responsible adults in future.

They also urged children to always inform their parents of their whereabouts, and to be open with them and their educators at all times.

They acknowledged the prevalence of bullying at the school and said other children end up absconding, as they are afraid to tell their teachers. Learners should know that bullying is a criminal offence and should be stopped. Children should not be pressured by their peers to do things they do not want to do.

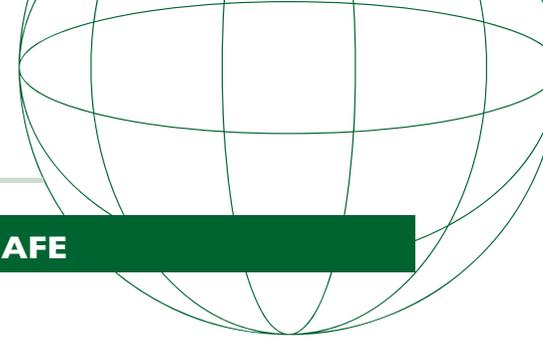
One of the teachers from the school, Grace Mantsie, indicated that they work with the SAPS and social workers to deal with abuse cases at the school. They have Life Orientation and skills subjects to educate learners about abuse and how to prevent it.

A caller, Mr Molepo, expressed concern about learners at school and urged the SAPS to patrol around schools to keep learners safe.

Another caller, Kholo, said that there should be supervision over learners who are dropped early at schools.

Warrant Officer Chokoe and Sergeant Masingi indicated that they would intensify safer school programmes and visit all schools regularly. They urged parents to ensure that children attend crèches and school as they were most vulnerable to abuse at home without trusted supervision.

Parents were also urged to check their children's cellphone activities to make sure that they were safe. It is also important for children to know the 10111 number to report any case to the SAPS at all times.



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

Child Protection Week

By Lehlohonolo Manoto: GCIS, Free State



Kananelo Sekhele:

“Ke ikutlwa ke thabile haholo ha ntate atllile sekolong sa rona hore hlokomedisa le hore tsibisa ka tsa botjha ba rona MaAfrika. Re lebohela tlhaiso leseding ka ditokelo tsa bana le tthekefetso ya social media baneng.”

“I am filled with joy that you are here at our school to teach us about youth matters as Africans. We are grateful for the information regarding the rights of children and abuse of children through social media.”



Mpho Macholo:

“We appreciate the visit by the GCIS, especially for reminding the learners about their rights and the different criminal activities that are happening. Not all Africans from other African countries are bad. People must stop calling other people names and stop discrimination. Xenophobia is inhumane.”



Dialogues educate learners on their rights

On 25 May 2017, the GCIS conducted two dialogues at Qowaneng and Masaleng primary schools in Mqheleng, Ficksburg. The purpose of these dialogues was to educate learners on their rights and they were also encouraged to blow the whistle on all acts of abuse.

The dialogues focused on human trafficking due to the proximity of learners to the borders as they could easily fall victim. The learners were also educated on the dangers of cybercrime and how they could be lured by criminals without suspecting anything malicious.

An activation took place in the community to raise awareness on children’s rights and the importance of protecting them. Everyone was encouraged to report any form of abuse towards children through the Child Protection Line on 0800 055 555.



Thabo Malebo:

“What I have learnt today is as a child I have rights and my rights must be respected. I will report abuse.”



Thato Rachel Sethonyane:

“Today I have learnt that we are all unique but all the same in the world, and I say no to discrimination and abuse.”



Sibongile Shoba:

“Africa is a beautiful continent and we must love one another for the sake of generations to come. God bless Africa and protect our children.”



Kananelo Makae:

“I was pleased to learn about Children’s Rights and we were warned against people that we don’t know who will promise us money. As children we have the right to be protected.”



Selloane Selemela:

“Ke fumana tlhaiso leseding eo bana ba e fumaneng ho tswa ho GCIS e le bohlokwa haholo. E tla tswela bana molemo le ho ba hopotsa ditokelo tsa bona.”

“I find information from the GCIS to be very useful for our children. It will be very useful for them and will also remind them of their rights.”