




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Dialogue against gender-based violence

By Tinyiko Molefe: GCIS, Gauteng



Lerato Herimbi from the Department of Social Development leading a dialogue on GBV.



George Nyembe from Ekurhuleni Social Development presenting about the effects of GBV.

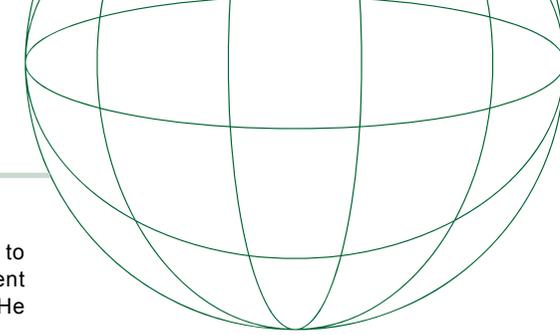
In responding to high incidents of violence and brutality against women and children in the country, government departments and non-governmental organisations hosted a community dialogue to raise awareness and educate the community about the negative effects and impact of gender-based violence (GBV). The event took place on 11 September 2017 in Primrose.



government
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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





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The dialogue also created a platform between the community and professionals dealing with GBV to share ideas and solutions in curbing violence. Themba Mokoena from Ekurhuleni Victim Empowerment Centre said, "It is important for the community to use available resources in curbing violence." He continued to encourage the community to speak out against GBV.

"As Social Development, we are committed to work hard towards a GBV free society, unfortunately GBV often happen behind closed doors in residential areas, without the community or the victim of abuse reporting the incident, it is difficult for us to intervene hence I urge you to report any form of abuse," said Lerato Herimbi.



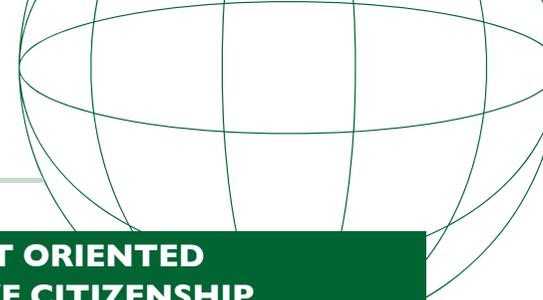
George Nyembe said:

"We are here to engage the community and to provide relevant information on curbing gender-based violence so that they know exactly where to go and what to do to assist victims and perpetrators of GBV."



Busi Zulu said:

"GBV affects us all, we need to work together with government towards preventing and stopping it."



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



Deputy Minister Tandi Mahambehlala, Umhlathuze Mayor and other government officials at the Department of Health stall.



Nelisiwe Mkhize said:

"I am currently doing Grade 10 at Qedani High School. I am here today to see the Deputy Minister who came to visit us. We do use the Thusong Service Centre, especially the library, when we have assignments."

Thusong Service Centre Week closing event

By Ziningi Maphanga: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Deputy Minister Tandi Mahambehlala speaking at the event.

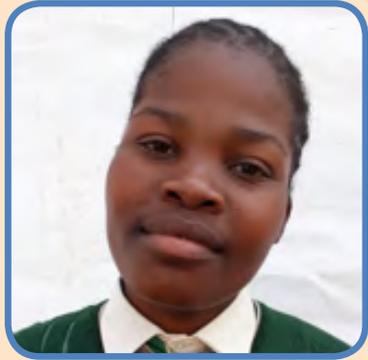
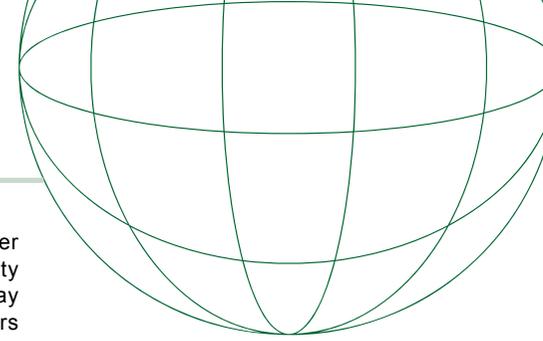


Deputy Minister and Umhlathuze Executive Mayor posing with Xolani Qwabe, a visual artist who drew the portrait the Mayor is holding.

The annual Thusong Service Centre Week was commemorated countrywide from 18 to 22 September 2017 in conjunction with Public Service Month, which reflected on *Batho Pele* principles and Heritage Month. During the period, government departments took their many services to the people through the Thusong Service Centres.

Government departments brought services to the Port Dunford Thusong Service Centre. This saw an increase in community members being assisted with much-needed services such as the South African Social Security Agency, departments of home affairs and health.

The closing event on 22 September 2017 was graced by Communications Deputy Minister Tandi Mahambehlala, accompanied by the uMhlathuze Executive Mayor, Mduzuzi Mhlongo, a ward councilor and GCIS Acting Deputy Director-General: Intergovernmental Coordination and Stakeholder Management, Michael Currin.



Bhekile Ngcobo said:

“I am 17 years old and doing Grade 10 at Qedani High School. I use the Thusong Service Centre a lot because I come here to play netball. We would like for our netball grounds to have light just like the soccer field to enable us to play games in the evening. Also, our library is too small and does not have enough books, especially Geography books.”



Mazwi Mtshali said:

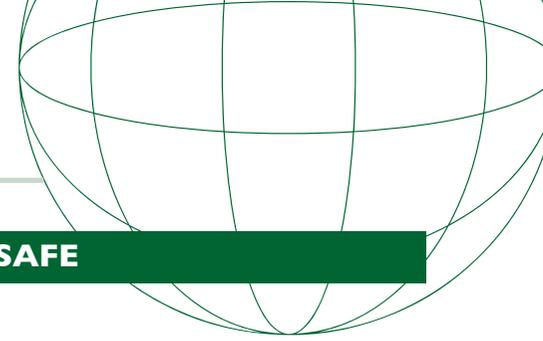
“I am unemployed. The Thusong Service Centre is operational and very helpful. I am very happy about the Deputy Minister’s visit today as it brought development and is assisting the community to know the right channels to follow when they need assistance with service delivery. Sometimes we are overlooked at Port Dunford, or get development later than other areas. So when we get visits like these, we get an opportunity to engage with leaders. We want local youth to get jobs as that gives hope and also encourages the youth to study because education is their only weapon to success.”

The Deputy Minister interacted with stakeholders who were exhibiting on the day before giving her keynote address where she emphasised the need for government, business, labour and civil society to work together to create the country that OR Tambo envisioned. “All South Africans have to play an active role in their communities in improving people’s lives and making sure their elected leaders deliver,” she said.

Mazwi Mtshali, an unemployed young man from the area, appreciated the visit by the Deputy Minister and the ward councillors.



GCIS Acting Deputy Director-General, Michael Currin, and a DoC official engaging with Port Dunford luncheon club ladies after purchasing craft work from them.



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

Government tackles gender-based violence

By Doctor Marebane: GCIS, Limpopo

Sexual orientation and gender identity are some of the most misunderstood concepts in the country. Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in consultation with Moletši Community Radio, the Department of Health, University of Limpopo as well as local lesbians, gays, bisexual, transgender and intersex (LGBTI) held a successful gender-based violence dialogue at the GCIS Limpopo Provincial Office.

During the dialogue, issues facing the LGBTI community such as stereotypical views, stigma, and discrimination, cultural, religious, political, societal and communication factors were broadly discussed. Some of the members of the LGBTI community said that they encounter discrimination from their respective communities. One of the participants, Boitumelo Kekana, said that some churches perceive LGBTIs as possessed or demonic people. He said there was a need to intensify training about LGBTI.

His views were shared by one of the Capricorn District peer educators identified only as Malome. She said she serve in gender forums, local AIDS council, LGBTI forum, Equality Court, Department of Health key population forum and she is also the chairperson of Capricorn Ignited LGBTI forum. The following issues were discussed:

On religion

The LGBTIs feels that they are being discriminated by certain religious institutions whose pastors refuse to honour gays and lesbian marriages, disapprove their dress code and are often referred to as demonic people.

On political environment

They agreed that government has put in place systems such as peer education programmes and HIV/AIDS awareness campaigns where issues that affect the LGBTIs are discussed, however, they feel a lot still need to be done in terms of employing gays and lesbians in government strategic positions. They feel that senior government officials who are also LGBTIs should come out of the closet and lead by example.

On societal issues

The LGBTIs feel that they are still discriminated in public facilities such as toilets. They said that public toilets are for either men or women and this creates confusion when LGBTIs want to use them. They said that they are also subjected to criticism when allocating responsibilities during funerals in the villages. They said that they are also targets of rapists who believe LGBTI can be corrected. They urged communities to stop killing and discriminating against them and also to stop the so-called 'corrective' rape.

On communication

Some of them raised concerns that they are often misrepresented in radio and television dramas. Some of those actors are not even LGBTIs and often overexaggerate their characters. Aksa Seabi from the Department of Health said that there is misconception, myths and beliefs about LGBTI. "These misunderstandings create high level of stigma and discrimination among the LGBTIs," she said. She also described:

- Bisexual as attraction to same and opposite sex.
- Asexual as lack of interest in sex.
- Intersex as ambiguous genitalia.
- Transgender as wide range of identities and experiences.
- Transversals as those who like to dress clothing of the opposite sex with no desire to change their bodies.
- Transsexual as people who emotionally and psychologically feel they belong to the opposite sex.
- Heterosexual as people attracted to the opposite sex.
- Homosexual as people attracted to people of the same sex.

During the dialogue, it was agreed that interventions to address rural communities about LGBTIs would follow, targeting traditional authorities, churches, local media houses and the community at large. The GCIS assured the LGBTIs that they will be supported and also promised to facilitate another dialogue in a bigger forum. Other structures that supported the dialogue included local churches, sex workers, Zisonke Movement, victim empowerment groups and members of the public.



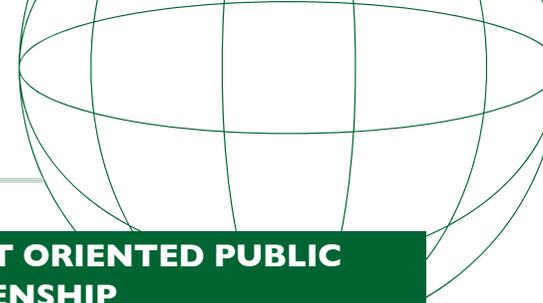
Askas Seabi from the Limpopo Department of Health with some of the LGBTIs during the communication dialogue.



Some of the members of the LGBTI community at the GCIS Limpopo boardroom.



Nthabi Vhuromu and Molefe Molepe at the LGBTI dialogue.



Raynee Loots said:

“Unemployment is a problem here. Some people still do not have houses. Most people cannot even afford to enrol their children at a crèche at a monthly fee of R50. There is nothing here. People here are suffering. Social grants are not enough. Our government should do more to better the lives of people.”



Petrus Solomon said:

“I am just crying about the unemployment rate in Platfontein alone, I am not talking about unemployment nationally. My children did go to school, but they cannot get jobs. They have to walk to Kimberley for information, there is no public transport here, even if there was, people would not afford taxi fares because they are jobless.”

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

Platfontein residents receive government services

By Masego Motshidisi: GCIS Northern Cape



Community members patiently waiting to receive services from SASSA.



Members of the community received information materials at the event.



Members of the community engaging government and community development workers about the core issues and challenges in the area that needed intervention.



The Northern Cape Drug Rehabilitation Centre sharing information with members of the public.

Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in partnership with community development workers from Kimberley, departments of social development and health, National Youth Development Agency, South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and others, facilitated a community dialogue as part of creating awareness about the annual Thusong Service Centre Week, observed from 18 to 22 September 2017.

The event was held in Platfontein on 21 September at the Department of Social Development's One Stop Centre. Various stakeholders engaged residents about their services, promoted and created awareness around entrepreneurship and small businesses.

Information on how to develop a business plan and starting a business was shared with residents, a presentation on how to complete Z83 forms was also done. Information on how to take care of children or senior citizens with disabilities was also presented and community members also learned about hygiene, good health and the importance of making their health a priority.

Residents showed a great deal of interest and also expressed their appreciation for the information received. They also raised some of the challenges that government could assist with.

Stakeholders committed to a follow-up programme to further assist community members. There was also a commitment that was made to implement similar joint programmes with service providers in the area.



Georgina Vos said:

“You can judge from the number of people that are here today that there is high rate of unemployment. The social grants are too little. We must provide shelter, feed, clothe and send our children to school, how? There is no work. Christmas is coming, there will be winter season again. As parents, we cannot afford the basic and essential necessities. We need work, permanent work.”