




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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Special Edition: Fighting women and child abuse.

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

Seminar to tackle women abuse

By Pakeng Matsetse: GCIS, Gauteng



Communications Minister Ayanda Dlodlo addressing attendants.



Attendees listening to speakers at the event.



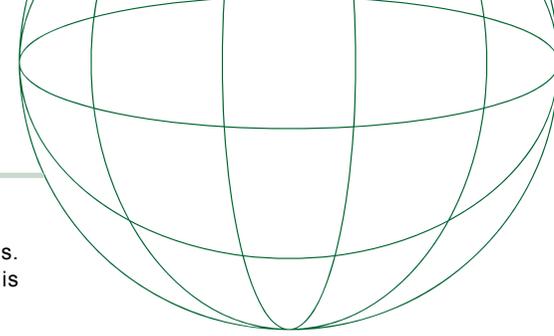
Sbu Mkhize and Petrus Moloi distributing information materials at the event.

Minister of Communications, Ayanda Dlodlo, joined the Sedibeng District Municipality to celebrate phenomenal women. This happened during the Women's Month Phenomenal Women Seminar on 25 August 2017 at the Vereeniging Civic Centre.

"As women of South Africa, we have come a long way to be where we are today. I am humbled to be among the women of Sedibeng today sharing the story of my life as a woman," said Minister Dlodlo during her keynote address.

The inaugural event was organised by the Executive Mayor of Sedibeng District Municipality, Busisiwe Modisakeng under the theme: "Domestic Violence Violates Human Rights".

The year 2017 has been declared the year of OR Tambo, who is one of the founding fathers of the country's democracy. Speaking of OR Tambo, Minister Dlodlo said, "OR was an illustrious leader South Africa has ever produced, he always ensured that even in exile women were given opportunities to lead."



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She concluded her address by encouraging all women in abusive relationships to end those relationships. "Walk away from an abusive relationship. Do it for your children so that they grow up knowing that it is not acceptable," concluded the Minister.

The event was graced by a number of phenomenal women in the society whom also shared their experiences with the audience at the seminar. Actress and singer, Mara Louw, also shared her 11 years' experience of abusive marriage and encouraged women to leave these toxic relationships. "The best decision I have ever made in my life was to leave my abusive husband," she said.



Mara Louw:

"To young girls I say, follow your dreams and do not be discouraged because you are the master of your own destiny. I was once in an emotionally and physically abusive relationship. Should I have not left, I do not think I would still be alive."



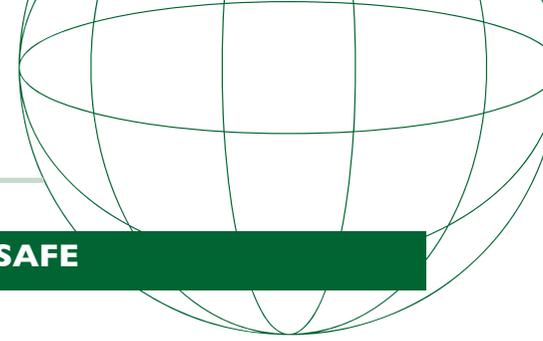
Lonla Vavane:

"I am very happy for having been given the internship opportunity by the Minister. I will build a better future and also work to support my parents. I am speechless but I thank God. Just last week I was crying but today God has heard and answered my prayers."



Melinda Gomba:

"These kind of events are organised to ensure that the women of this country and of Sedibeng District in particular are informed, transformed and know about the institutions that protect them advise women to stay strong to defend and protect their children."



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

Radio Zibonele celebrates Khayelitsha women

By Gerzell Mathey: GCIS, Western Cape



Florence Nebu:

"I have been the breadwinner of my family for many years. I have raised my own children and grandchildren. My family has many issues but coming here today has given me a healing. I feel blessed."



Nontsikelelo:

"We had a nice time with Radio Zibonele. The fact that it was all about God and gospel music is good. Women's status in our community was at the centre of today's proceedings."



Deputy Minister Tandi Mahambehlala addressing the women of Khayelitsha.



Local gospel singer entertaining the crowd.



Deputy Minister Tandi Mahambehlala and Radio Zibonele Corporate Services Director Mawande Jara.

Radio Zibonele set the stage for a gospel celebration to motivate and encourage the women of Khayelitsha. The event took place on 24 August 2017 at the Khayelitsha Thusong Service Centre. The centre hosted over 300 women from the community of Khayelitsha, treating them to lunch. There were performances by traditional gospel musicians and dance by local artists.

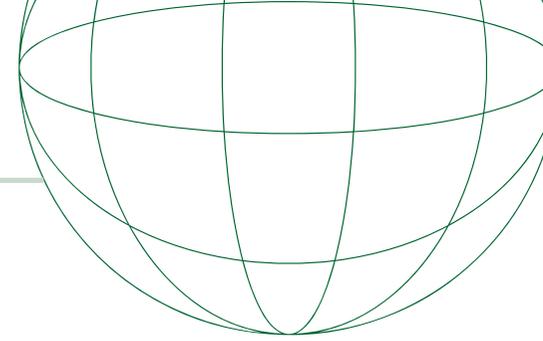
Deputy Minister of Communications, Tandi Mahambehlala, delivered the keynote address. Her message to the women of Khayelitsha was one of inspiration; drawing on the words of Oliver Tambo: "The work of women is not only in the kitchen,". She also encouraged women to become leaders of their communities.

Radio Zibonele has constantly been giving women a platform to express themselves. Some women took the opportunity to unburden themselves by sharing their struggles. Most of them said they needed help with their children who are unemployed and involved in drugs.

The role of government, specifically the Department of Communications, has been instrumental in the success of community radio stations such as Zibonele. By ensuring their success, government has been able to channel its messaging and ensure that the community stays informed.

Deputy Minister Mahambehlala said government must do more for women, as they remain the most disadvantaged group, more especially those residing in rural areas. She mentioned that there are cooperative programmes and funding that is available to all disadvantage communities.

The Deputy Minister informed the women that it was their role to bring back the spirit of Ubuntu in their communities. She also said it was time for women to lead, in their homes and communities.



Bulelwa Smbizwala:

“This day is good for us as women. We carry many burdens and today is a day of healing through the word of God. Being able to share one’s struggle with other women was great.”



Nomvuyo Hlehlisa:

“Today I am motivated, I am learning something about my life, and I enjoyed the address by the Deputy Minister as I now believe anything is possible.”



Women enjoying themselves at the event.



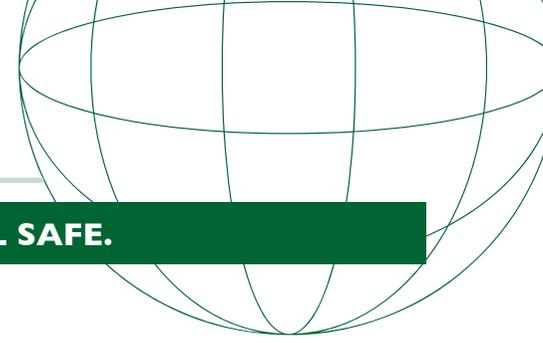
Some of the women were interested in government information products.



A woman preaching to the attendees.



Kholeka August welcoming attendees at the event.



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

Gender-based violence dialogue and crime-prevention awareness (Mpumalanga)

Josia Nkosi:

"I thank the organisers of this meeting. The information opened our eyes. The various government departments present here today must keep on coming and empower us with information."

Gender-based violence awareness campaign (Gauteng)

Angelina Sebego:

"I believe that men who abuse women and children must be arrested and given long sentences. I have realised that when these men are given bail they usually come back and continue to harass and abuse the women again. Government has to assist in this matter and educate men on how to stop abuse."

Tiisetso Van Wyk:

"I think it is time that we as men stand up to report these abusers. Sometimes women are afraid to report because they feel threatened, so if we as men, who are against abuse, can get together to make sure that relevant stakeholders such as the police and local non-governmental organisations are involved to assist women and children who find themselves as victims of abuse."

Different faces, same voice.

Child Protection Week campaign (KwaZulu-Natal)

Ayabonga Hlatshwayo:

"I did not know about the Child Protection Week campaign. Now I know a lot. I will go home and tell my siblings and parents about it."

Sphumelele Dlangamandla:

"I think older people should stop abusing children because they cannot defend themselves. Their duty is to protect us and keep us safe."

Luthando Dlamini:

"If I am abused or know anyone who is being abused, I will report it to the teachers or call the toll-free number."

Mfundo Khumalo:

"I am man enough not to abuse women and children. I give them protection."

Nkanyiso Ndlela:

"Women and children deserve our protection all the time. So I say 'Not in my name'."

Nomcebo Mkhwanazi:

"There are good things I see that other children have, but I feel left out. I therefore feel like crying. I long to feel the freedom as a child and living a healthy life. I am therefore pleading to all monsters out there to stop child abuse since we are not happy about it."

Sister Mnguni:

"Every child has the right to a healthy life, the right to medication and to get immunisation on time. Children should have access to healthy food to nourish their growing body. As the health institution, we ensure that every child accesses child birth cards to be used to apply for birth certificates and a child can then access all form of social assistance and grants."

Activations to create awareness on gender-based violence (Free State)

Maleshoane Gaxa:

"Today's information made me so grateful. I learned that as parents we should report our children when they abuse us."

Themba Moloi:

"I am happy to have gained much information and also agree to the issue of saying 'no' to women and child abuse."



Nozipho Mbele:

"We appreciate that government is able to come to such a place and be able to talk to taxi people and passengers as this area has high rate of gender-based violence incidents."

Dialogue on gender-based violence (Free State)

Mosuwa Mofokeng, Pastor Moyepi and Mahloko Rapuleng:

"As men we are making a declaration that: Not in our name shall women and children be abused within our community."

Child protection awareness (Gauteng)

AYanga Plaatjie, Kamohelo Motloun and Katlego Motaung:

"We are adding our voice and pledge to protect women and children, we urge everyone to be the promoter and protector of children's rights."

Kamogelo Selepe:

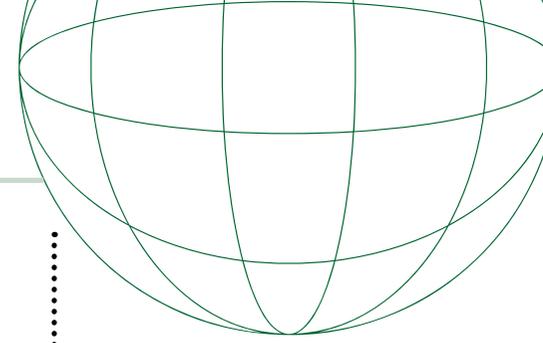
"Stop killing us, we condemn child and women abuse. Let us all take part to ensure women and children's safety in our community. Police must investigate and prosecute those guilty of offence against women and children."

Ayanda Dladla:

"No means no, child abuse is not in anyone's nature, people must learn to control themselves and see each other as equals."

Film and Publication Board raising awareness on Child Protection Week (Eastern Cape)

"Government needs to do more to protect us children by coming up with strict laws and prosecution of perpetrators that kill us."



Fight against gender-based violence activations (Free State)



Lerato Pooho:

“The thing is, if we do not come together as government and community, we will continue to see high increase of abuse of women and children.”

Gender-based violence awareness activations (Western Cape)

Gedult:

“My wife is using drugs and steals our pots and groceries to sell for drugs. I do not know what to do anymore, please help.”

Lucas, Van Rooyen and Jansen:

“Thank you sergeant, for informing us about Conville South African Police Service Mandela Day clothing drive. We will definitely visit the police station on Mandela Day, with our children to receive some of the clothes.”

Community Dialogue in Kimberley (Northern Cape)

Luzaan Skeffers:

“I learned everything, but I am not a mother. I will definitely intervene if my friend or neighbour’s child is in danger or abused in some way.”

Queenie Buffel:

“The message was well received. I actually wanted to share some of my experiences in between the speeches. Everything said by the presenters today was true. It is critical to intervene where abuse is noticeable.”

Grace Riet:

“This was a good programme. I will really appreciate it if a special programme can be organised addressing basic education issues. Our children do not want to go to school.”

March against gender-based violence (Gauteng)

Thobeka Ngubeni:

“No one has the right to abuse me. I have the right to be protected from abuse.”

Amogelang Motlokwa:

“Education and awareness is key in preventing and stopping gender-based violence. The community will know what to do and where to go in assisting victims or if they themselves are abused.”

Information-sharing session on gender-based violence (Northern Cape)

Laurell Khumalo:

“It feels good to be part of such a programme. Our people should know that gender-based violence is real and that only we can stop it. We have to report abuse, no matter what.”

Oupa Mokone:

“I say “no” to abuse. Violence is a crime. Men should love their children, their partners and respect them. This is a societal issue, we all need to stand together if we want to stop the violence. The message was well received today. Thank you.”

Community dialogues on gender-based violence (Free State)

Maria Mohajane:

“I am happy that today’s event emphasised that we should report abuse that is happening to us because there are still those who keep quiet.”

Anna Ntlathi:

“I thank God for the wonderful day where we received information on how we should report abuse.”

Gender-based violence radio dialogues (Free State)

Moho Kgotle:

“It is high time that all the people, including government, come together and fight abuse of women and children.”

March against gender-based violence (KwaZulu-Natal)

Zulu:

“Real men do not rape and do not force their partners when they are not ready. We as men have to accept that there are things we want, which may not be accepted by our partners sometimes. Our role is to protect the vulnerable group as real men.”

Representative from the Society for the Blind:

“We are very grateful for events like these where government expresses concern and acts against the abuse of women and children. We request the same gesture to be extended to people living with disabilities. People must be informed about our needs as we are also targets of rape.”