




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Premier urges young people to work hard

By Jacob Mkhize: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Premier Willies Mchunu and his team visiting exhibitions stalls to witness services that were offered to young people.

In honouring the youth of 1976 who took part in the Soweto Uprising against apartheid, KwaZulu-Natal Premier Willies Mchunu took the Provincial Cabinet to celebrate this historic day on June 2016. Premier Mchunu informed the youth that the freedom that they are experiencing and enjoying today was not handed over on a silver platter and should not be taken for granted.

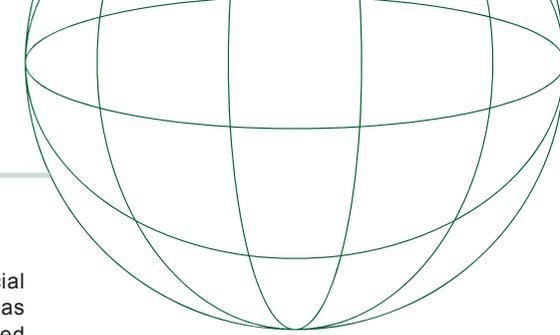
The community of Umkhanyakude was hosted this prestigious occasion. The event took place at Nordale township and also provide young people with the opportunity to access different services made available by government. The Youth Month was celebrated under the theme: "The Year of OR Tambo: Advancing Youth Economic Empowerment". Government service providers on career guidance exhibited their services to ensure that young people are assisted to make a career choice from an informed position.



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Siyabonga Makhanya, a second-year pilot student at the Durban Aviation Centre, thanked the Provincial Government for providing them with a wonderful opportunity. He said the Office of the Premier has provided a full scholarship for him and fellow colleagues to pursue their dreams. He also encouraged other young people to pursue education and embrace maths and science as the subjects open many doors. "My fellow mates and I are a true and a living testimony of government promises," he said.



Learners accessing information at the exhibitions stalls.



Learners at the event.



Siyabonga Makhanya said:
"I am a living testimony of government's success story because the Office of the Premier offered me a full scholarship to pursue a career as a pilot at the Durban Aviation Centre. I wish that our young brothers and sisters can use the opportunity and their knowledge to develop themselves."



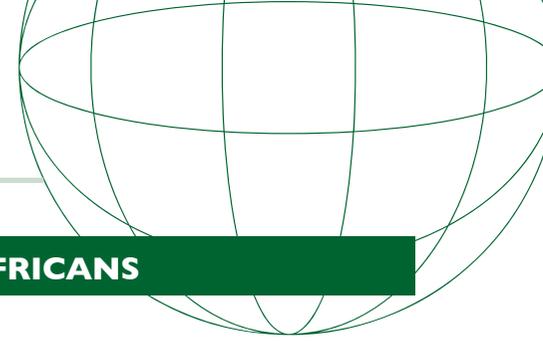
Alwande Mtshali said:
"I have learned that there are a number of careers in the South African National Defence Force beyond carrying a gun. I can be a nurse, doctor, pharmacist, social worker while working there. There are even more careers from other exhibition stands that I have gone through."



Zenile Zikode said:
"The Durban Aviation Centre offers different curriculums and pilot is among them. This programme is done under two years, but if you finish your modules quicker, you can complete earlier. I love what I am doing and I am thankful for the opportunity provided by government."



Wonder Ndlovu said:
"I love doing this job to protect the country. Thanks to the South African National Defence Force as they brought in a real rifle so that we could learn how it is operated. When I grow up I would love to be a soldier."



Siphokazi Nkonki said:

“This programme made me see the importance of women and children in this community and the whole world. There are many organisations that I did not know which are supporting women and children, such as the Soul Buddyz. This initiative opened my eyes about a lot of stuff that is happening in the same community image.”



Ariel Smith said:

“Today has taught me more about women and young girls. It has taught me about things I did not know. I am glad to hear and see different organisations taking part in this day and how to develop our community. I feel that as young girls, do not have to be scared to go to places such as the clinic to seek help anymore. I have really enjoyed today and learned a lot.”

OUTCOME 2: A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS

MEC empowers women and young girls

By Portia Mlisa: GCS, Western Cape



Deputy Mayor Zukiswa Tonisi directing the programme.



Community members at the event.



Overberg Deputy Mayor Archie Klaas, Cape Agulhas Mayor Paul Swart, Western Cape MEC for Health, Dr Nomafrrench Mbombo, Overberg District Mayor Sakkie Franken and the Cape Agalhus Deputy Mayor Zukiswa Tonisi at the event.

The MEC for Health in the Western Cape, Dr Nomafrrench Mbombo, conducted an Imbizo to empower women and young girls. The event took place on 20 June 2017 in Bredasdorp, Cape Agulhas. The Imbizo was staged after numerous cases of abuse and killing of women. The purpose of the Imbizo was for the MEC to empower women and girls and also to motivate them to stand on their own.

MEC Mbombo said during her address, “We cannot rely on government alone to bring change as perpetrators are people that we know. Single mothers are raising boys without role models and the drug lords take over.”

“When unemployed, the only weapon that is used is violence. Rape is not sex, it is a form of violence used to hurt women. This is because sometimes nobody can see rape,” she continued.

The MEC further encouraged all people to have confidence in themselves, emphasising that councillors should have a budget to strengthen these programmes and also pleading that lesbians, gays, bisexual, transgender and intersex people should not be forgotten as they fall within the vulnerable groups of people who are raped.



Sune Jameson said:

“This meeting was very insightful and helpful. I feel more equipped and free to contact orspeak to the municipality about queries and also issues regarding our health, etc.”



Veronica Mohale said:

“Public members need to know that the LGBTI community are people too. This is how we feel. People understand when few features of an opposite sex are visible to a certain female of male but do not want to understand us because they cannot see features that are internal and our feelings. It is about time people stop being ignorant and accept us for who we are as we have done so too.”



Thabo Ntlwana said:

“I am pleased with the march. We spoke and explained ourselves to the public and who we are and that we will never change because you do not understand us and as a result you hate us. Thank you to all who marched with us and to the members of the public who care and accept us for who we are.”

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

March against violence

By Thembi Matjokana: GCIS, Gauteng



MEC Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane leading the march.



Community members at the march.



Stakeholders rendering services at their respective stalls.

Gauteng Community Safety MEC Sizakele Nkosi-Malobane, led a march against the killing of lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex (LGBTI) people in Sedibeng Region in partnership with the Sedibeng Community Safety, Government Communication and Information System, and various stakeholders. The LGBTI march was attended by more than 400 lesbians, gay, bisexual, transgender and intersex and young women from Sedibeng and around Gauteng. The march was aimed at raising awareness on the impact of violence against people based on their sexuality. The event took place 23 June 2017.

The activity ended at Saul Tsetetsi with dialogue on discrimination, abuse and killing of LGBTI community. The dialogue provided an opportunity for LGBTI community and public members to share their views on how the public and government can assist to end discrimination, abuse and killing of vulnerable LGBTI, women and children.

South Africa has a complex and diverse history regarding the human rights of LGBTI people. The legal and social status of between 400 000. Over two million lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, intersex and gender non-conforming South Africans have been influenced by a combination of traditional South African myths, colonialism and other factors that disregard their existence. South Africa’s Constitution outlaws discrimination based on sexual orientation. The country acknowledges same-sex marriage. Same-sex couples can also adopt children jointly, and also arrange for in vitro fertilisation and surrogacy treatments. However, the LGBTI community continues to face considerable challenges such as social stigma, homophobic violence (particularly corrective rape) and high rates of HIV and AIDS infection.

“We need to mobilise Gauteng citizens to protect the LGBTI community following the scourge of rape and murder cases affecting this community. Together, we must address the challenges, stigma and the killing of members of the LGBTI community. Let us stand up and respect their sexual orientation,” said MEC Nkosi-Malobane.

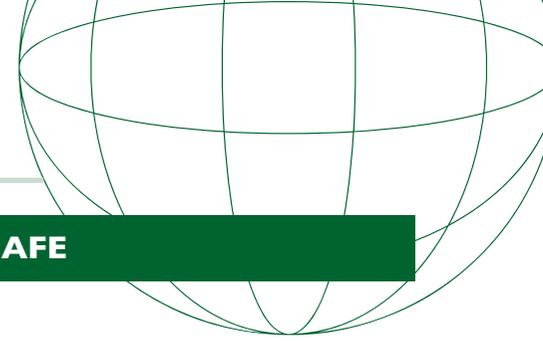


Community members at the event.



Lesego Mathe said:

“I am here to support the LGBTI community because they are our sisters and brothers. I do not understand why most people hate and kill them because of their sexual orientation. We need to understand and accept that every person has the right to safety and no one must be discriminated against.”



Ilse Hendricks said:

“We need to come together as a community, both men and women, young and old to end abuse.”



Oupa Mokone said:

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



Laurell Khumalo said:

“It feels good to be part of this programme. Our people should know that gender-based violence is real and it needs to be stopped it. We must always report abuse.”

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

Community stands up against abuse

By Masego Motshidisi: GCIS, Northern Cape



Information was shared with residents at the shopping centre.



Young people received information flyers.



Different stakeholders engaged with residents during the door-to-door campaign.

Kimberley residents were urged to act against abuse during an information sharing session held in Homevale on 30 June 2017.

The community engagement was a partnership between local stakeholders who agreed to tackle abuse. They engaged residents about the worrying issues of gender-based violence.

Government, religious leaders and non-governmental organisations (NGOs) joined hands to bring awareness, to share information and to unpack ways to end the scourge of abuse. Participants also embarked on a door-to-door campaign in the neighbouring area, seeking support to plan a march to fight violence against women and children in the near future.

The South African Police Service together with NGOs such as the Northern Cape Drug Rehabilitation Centre, Crime Prevention Squadron, Operation Wanya Tsotsi vowed to continue working together to tackle abuse against women and children.

Residents were urged to report abuse. Information leaflets were distributed at the event and an estimated 400 people were reached.



Community members appreciated the information products shared with them.