




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

War against gender-based violence

By Jacob Molete: GCIS, Gauteng

The City of Ekurhuleni Community Services Women's Directorate unveiled the gender-based violence (GBV) report, which seeks to highlight the scourge, identify hotspots and bring the issue of gender-based violence and all its impact to the fore. The event took place on 1 August 2017.

Ekurhuleni Community Services MMC Dora Mlambo said, "The study was undertaken to highlight the scourge of gender based violence, identify hotspots and brings the issue of GBV and all its socio-economic impact to the fore. GBV is an enemy of development and equality," she said.

MMC Mlambo said the report was unveiled in August to mark Women's Month and also pay homage to the 1956 women's march to advocate for the promotion of women rights and gender equality. "It was 61 years ago in 1956 that women took to the street to march for the promotion of equality and mainstreaming of gender issues, we are unveiling this report this month as part to pay homage to women of 1956 and take the struggle of gender equality and rights forward," she continued.



MMC Dora Mlambo:

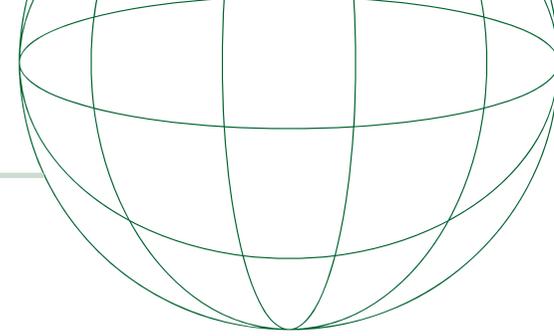
"The study was undertaken to highlight the scourge of GBV, identify hotspots and brings the issue of GBV and all its socio-economic impact to the fore because GBV is an enemy of development and equality."



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This year, South Africa commemorates Women’s Month under the theme: “The year of OR Tambo – Women united in moving South Africa”.

Sixty-one years since the women’s march for the promotion of women’s rights; gender based violence and inequality are still remain pertinent issues facing women today.

“Itumeleng Mafatshe said, “Stereotypes, historical inequality between and among genders has made it easy for GBV to prevail and thrive in our society.”

The report recommend for the multi-sectoral approach in the fight against gender based violence.

The report advocates for activism among community members though participation in grassroots community safety structures such as neighbourhood watch, street committees and community policing forums.

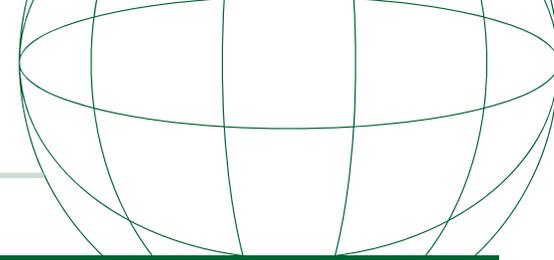
The report also reminds communities that it is in their power and within their means, even in the smallest of ways to contribute to the fight against the abuse of women and children. Every incident of abuse suffered by a child or woman reflects the community’s failure to respond to the cries of the most vulnerable groups. If communities come together and tackle abuse, the move will help break the culture of silence that accompanies violence and abuse that many women and children are exposed to.

Although there are legal instruments that government can use in fighting GBV, government alone can never win this battle. Recent incidents of abuse urge all sectors of society to play their part in creating conditions where GBC does not thrive.



Itumeleng Mafatshe:

“Many women, young and old today, still suffer the wrath of GBV and inequality prevalent in our communities because of our social construct, socialisation roles and responsibility based on gender.”



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

Event to support and honour artists

By Pakeng Matsetse: GCIS, Gauteng

The Deputy Minister in The Presidency and Chairperson of the Presidential Task Team on Creative Industries, Buti Manamela, convened musicians Indaba under the theme: “Ensuring Economic Emancipation for Performing Artists. The event took place on 11 August at the Soweto Theatre in Johannesburg. The Deputy Minister was accompanied by the Deputy Minister of Communications, Tandi Mahambehlala and Deputy Minister of Arts and Culture, Makhotso Sotyu.

In his opening remarks, Deputy Minister Manamela said, “We have today come directly to you to engage face to face, hear your specific issues and provide feedback on the work of the task team.”

The Presidential Task Team on Creative Industries include Deputy Ministers of the following government departments: police, trade industry, arts and culture, communications, finance, and higher education and training.

The team was tasked to champion support for performing artist and musicians on matters including piracy, copyright protection and infringement, local content and air play in broadcast media, social welfare and security, income tax awareness, unity and transformation of the industry, and skills transfer and development.

Deputy Minister Mahambehlala reminded the audience of Mandoza’s famous song: “Uzoyithola kanjani uhleli ekhoneni” and government’s programme of “Vuk’uzenzele”.

“Piracy contributes to poverty and it should be condemned. Those in possession of pirated material should face the full might of the law,” she said.



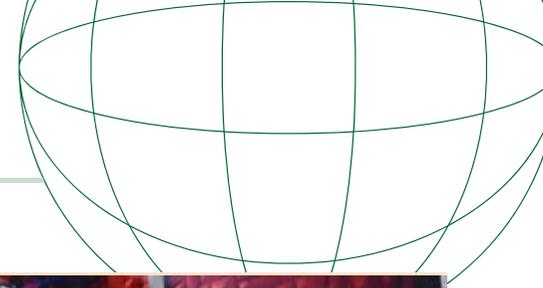
Mohau Radebe:

“I have learned a lot from this Indaba today. I was also made aware of the steps to follow in pursuing the organisation that owes me money.”



Radikgobe Moka:

“I am a music teacher with more than 30 years’ experience appreciate government’s effort of establishing the task team.”



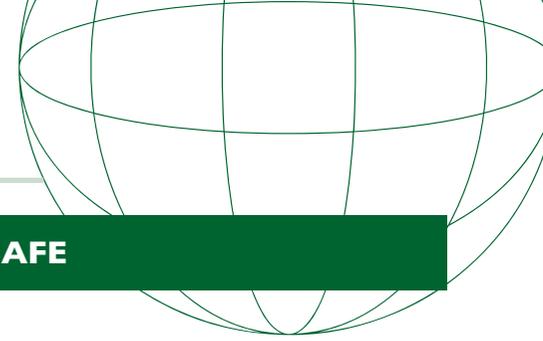
Deputy Minister Buti Manamela delivering his speech at the event.



Attendees observing a moment of silence in remembrance of musicians who have passed on.



Deputy Ministers Makhotso Sotyo, Tandi Mahambehlala and Buti Manamela during a walkabout at the event.



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

Ngwathe acts against women abuse

By Mojalefa Senokoatsane: GCIS, Northern Cape



Mosuwa Mofokeng said:

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



Ngwathe Local Municipality Executive Mayor Joey Mochela delivering a keynote address.

Just like the women of 1956, who fought against the injustices of the apartheid government, the women of today are also facing challenges even though they are different from those of women who marched to the Union Building in 1956. They are still experiencing discrimination from all sectors of society, especially gender-based violence (GBV).

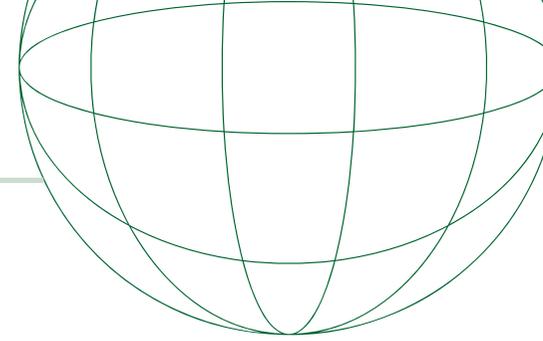
As part of celebrating Women’s Day 2017, women from all walks of life converged for a dialogue at the Phiritona Community Hall in Helbron on 9 August 2017. The event was observed under the theme: “Not in our Name”. The theme was aimed at motivating communities to come together and fight the scourge of violence,



Mosuwa Mofokeng, Manese Mofokeng and Rose Kgantse making their statement clear.

especially against the vulnerable sector of communities. During the dialogue, which was attended by various stakeholders such as the South African Police Service, community members were provided with information about various remedies that government had put in place for communities to use to fight the scourge of abuse within our communities.

During her keynote address, the Executive Mayor of Ngwathe, Joey Mochela, said that the municipality has partnered with other government structures to assist communities to fight the scourge of GBV. The fight against this scourge will require a collective effort and unity between government and communities.



Women converged at the Phiritona Hall for the Women's Day Dialogue.



OUTCOME 14: A DIVERSE, SOCIALLY COHESIVE SOCIETY WITH A COMMON NATIONAL IDENTITY

Breakfast dialogue to honour women

By Sikelela Zokufa: GCIS, Western Cape

About 2 000 women from Cape Town gathered in Langa Baptist Church on 9 August 2017 to celebrate Women's Day. The women were on jeans and white shirts, which was the attire of the day. Inspiration and joy were on their faces.

Nini Zondi, the leader of Langa Baptist Church women said, "We are celebrating this important day through empowering women to realise their purpose, power, potential and to affirm them. We give them a consecrated place and space to hear empowering stories of how other women have succeeded in business, career and in ministry."

At the event, men served breakfast to all women at the event while others were taking part in the entertainment centre to ensure that women are taken care of.

an organiser said; "Our goal is to empower women to take charge of their lives and to go out there and upskill themselves and be part of the country's economy. We host Women's Day every year because we believe in honouring our mothers and sisters," said Cikizwa, the event organiser.



The introduction of motivational speakers.

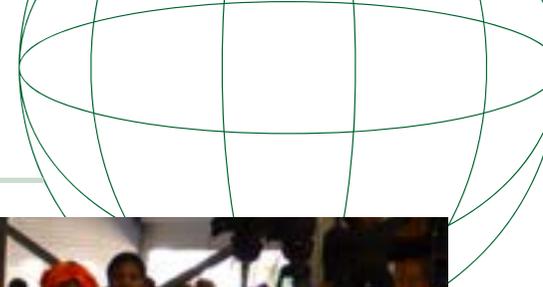


Women being served breakfast by men.

Government used the platform to share key government messages under the 2017 Women's Day theme: "The Year of OR Tambo: Women United in Moving South Africa Forward". Women were encouraged to be active participants in government programmes that are available to change their lives, more especially the entrepreneurship programmes. Women are highly acknowledged for their role in the Struggle. The Department of Women ensures that gender equality is implemented and women are taken care of.

Some of the speakers included successful women who shared their inspiring stories. There were information stalls for more information and also products that were developed/designed by women to inspire others.

Sanlam also advised people on the importance of financial consciousness, starting from retirement plan, investment and how to spend money wisely. Sanlam also rewarded 10 women with different valuable items as gifts on the day.



Women enjoying themselves at the Women's Day event in Langa.



Thembi Jonas:

"I am very happy to be part of this programme as I became empowered. It inspires myself and other women to be independent and face the world. I was not aware of government efforts and also its key messages for this month. I have learned that government does not support only political initiatives but also faith-based organisations."



Nosipho Bantom:

"I am very excited to be here today. This day signifies the importance of being a woman. The contribution of women to society, meaning that women have a special gift. I was happy to see there are also men who understand that women need special treatment."



Siphon Ngcobo:

"I am proud to be part of the men who are serving women today. I am serving them with pride because most of the time, women sacrifice their time serving men. This is to educate other men that women are important and have to be treated with love and respect."