



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Women tackle substance abuse

By Tshidi Mokoka: GCIS, Gauteng



Women from the Interdenominational Prayer Women's League marching against substance abuse.

The Westonaria Interdenominational Prayer Women's League in partnership with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, community development workers and other local stakeholders embarked on a peaceful march against substance abuse in Bekkersdal on 8 August 2018. This was in response to the community's concerns on increasing use of substance abuse in the area and how young people are being abused by those selling drugs to them. The aim of the campaign was to raise awareness about the impact of drugs and to ensure that drug peddlers face the law.



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Rehab Mataboge from the Interdenominational Prayer Women's League said, "We have gathered as women because we know how this affects families. Families are fragmented because young people have fallen victims of drugs. Nyaope is the bane of us as parents who live in fear of children who smoke this drug." She also said that they have realised that drug sellers are known in the communities but people are afraid to report to the police. She encouraged people to report drug dealers to the police.

The march, which started from Uptown taxi rank ended up at the Bekkersdal Police Station where a memorandum was handed over to the station commander, represented by Captain Boitumelo Sigwili. Police were given 21 days to address issues stated on the memorandum.



A memorandum is handed over to Captain Boitumelo Sigwili.



Veronica Mvuga said:

"We are crying as a community and we really want the police to work hard in rooting out those selling drugs to our children. We hope that there will be a positive response from the demands that we made in our memorandum."



Shirley Jwaga said:

"As women from different churches, we saw it fit that we hold this march to ensure that communities act against substance abuse. With our partnership with our police station, I think we will go a long way in fighting this monster that is destroying our children."

OUTCOME 7: VIBRANT, EQUITABLE AND SUSTAINABLE RURAL COMMUNITIES AND FOOD SECURITY FOR ALL.

Farmer changes lives in his community

By Fatima Modise: GCIS, North West



Enayamang said:

"I am happy to be working with Christopher Melamu. I started working here in 2015 and I have a feeling that we still have a long way to go together."



William Tshupane said:

"I am one of the five employees in this farm and I am not just an employee, I have also benefited a lot from his mentorship. I do not just regard him as an employer only, I also regard him as a kind neighbour."



Christopher Melamu and two of his employees.



Some of the Bonsmara bulls from the farm.

The village of Dithakwaneng in Naledi Local Municipality is blessed by an emerging talented and ambitious farmer, Christopher Melamu. The Government Communication and Information System visited Christopher on 25 July 2018 to profile his work. Christopher grew up in the environment of farming and started his own farm in 2004.

He started by buying five cattle as a start-up and approached the Land Bank in 2009 for funds and increased his livestock. He discovered a group of 13 cattle farmers who did not have running water and the health of their livestock was not good at all.

He then started specialising in breeding Bonsmara bulls and lent it to them to produce a new breed of cattle. He also provided his farmers with water and assisted them with farm management. The farmers have good quality cattle and soon they will be able to stand on their own. Christopher will take another group under his wing and help them become successful farmers.



Sinesipho Ntlanga said:

“It is due to the contribution made by Mama Albertina Sisulu that we are in school today and if it was not for her and many others, we would not be here today.”



Siphenkosi Mzinyana said:

“I am thankful and also appreciate what Mama Sisulu and Tata Nelson Mandela have done for us. As we celebrate them, as young people, we should not forget their contribution.”

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

Young people honour Mama Albertina Sisulu

By Ndyebo Kopo: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Cedarville Public School learners during the Women's Month activation.



Ntlangla said:

“I have hope that the freedom we enjoy today, brought about by the sacrifices of Mama Albertina Sisulu and Tata Nelson Mandela, will have more better results in the future.”

Learners in Cedarville Public School honoured Mama Albertina Sisulu on 07 August 2018, for her contribution made in the Struggle for freedom in South Africa, which has brought about free education for them, among other things. The event took place on 7 August 2018.

The school hosted the Women's Month activation to highlight women's struggles in South Africa and also pay tribute to those whose efforts laid the foundation for women's rights and democracy. The session was conducted in partnership with the Matatiele Local Municipality, Alfred Nzo District Municipality and ward committee members within the context of celebrating the Mama Sisulu's centenary.

The learners expressed their appreciation for the role played by freedom fighters such as Mama Sisulu and many others.

The stakeholders also took the opportunity to share with the learners, information regarding bursaries offered by both the Alfred Nzo District Municipality and Matatiele Local Municipality.



Thandiwe Jama said:

“The programme has been a big part of my life as it has provided me with an opportunity to improve my results so that I am able to go to university next year.”



Anele Mthethwa said:

“It is good to see government making efforts to ensure that we have a better future.”

OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION.

Minister monitors Second Chance Programme

By Ntombi Mhlambi: GCIS, Free State



Minister of Basic Education Angie Motshekga addressing the community of Thabong at the event.



Community members at the event.

Basic Education Minister Angie Motshekga visited the Free State on 12 August 2018 as part of her outreach programme to monitor the Second Chances Programme. This is one of the department's initiative to provide Grade 12 learners who did not pass their examinations, to repeat the subjects they failed in their first attempt.

The department has recognised that most learners fail to repeat their Grade 12 due to various reasons hence the second-opportunity programme was created to enable them realise their dreams. Minister Motshekga said the Free State Provincial Government has perfected the programme as it has allocated resources to it. She said it was very critical for the youth to have a qualification as it is a minimum requirement almost everywhere.

The Minister also reflected on how the department could improve the programme by adding vocational courses, which will provide skills to the youth. Tshapo-Themba Secondary School principal said one of the main challenges was not having a permanent venue to give support to these learners.