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PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

March against domestic violence

By Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



The women of Ndwedwe marching against gender-based violence.



Community members who attended the session.

The Department of Social Development (DSD) in partnership with Lethokuhle Women's Organisation, FAMSA, Legal Aid South Africa, KwaZulu-Natal Department of Economic Development, Ndwedwe Local Municipality hosted an information-sharing session on 21 August 2019 on domestic violence and other issues affecting women.

Before the session, a march was held against women abuse, which was supported by stakeholders and community members. Women who participated held posters with messages condemning women abuse and also sang thus attracting the attention of onlookers, pedestrians and motorists, some of which joined the march, which proceeded from the DSD offices to the United Congregational Churches of South Africa.

The event focused on various issues including marriage contracts, the rights of children in divorce proceedings, the rights of women in marriages, child maintenance and protection orders. Support for small, medium and micro enterprise and cooperatives was discussed. There was a request from community members for this kind of programmes to be held in the community.



government
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Slindele Msomi said:

"I am from Ward 15 Empungeni area. I work at Ndwedwe Clinic. We are happy about today's programme. We had speakers from the DSD, FAMSA to tell about domestic violence and family feuds and how they can help families. They also spoke about the abuse of children. The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development shared information that they assist with divorce issues and family problems. They also shared that children have the right to choose the parent they want to stay with during the divorce process. We also learned about the different types of marriages and a protection order. We have benefitted as the community of Ndwedwe and hope these awareness programmes continue."



Theresa Ndlovu said:

"I am from Nhlabamkhosi. The march was a success. The programme taught us about divorce and types of abuse and also ways to get help. We also learnt about divorce and the rights you have as a woman and also the husband. We learnt a lot and wish to have another programme like this."



Busi Ntuli said:

"I have learnt from this workshop that before you get married, you must know about the different types of marriages and then choose the best one that suits you. This is because many people choose the wrong option and only realise it when they are in the process of divorce. So it is important to be aware. I have learnt a lot and women are important."



Masego Raboikanyo said:

"I have been an entrepreneur since the age of eight, selling sweets. I started with a catering business, then I went into security. I kept changing businesses as it was not easy. To date, I am the first black woman doing pest control in the Northern Cape. I can say that I found my passion and I am currently doing well. I did a lot of research, I network a lot and I am not afraid to make myself known. I do not sit back and wait, I approach potential investors and market myself."



Disebo Timla said:

"I am offering catering and cleaning services. My business has been operational since 2015. The Small Enterprise Development Agency assisted me with branding and marketing. I attended a lot of training conducted by the National Youth Development Agency. The support has turned my business into what it is today. A business requires training, perseverance and dedication. You cannot get rich overnight, one has to persevere."



Kedisaletse Williams said:

"Young people should grab the opportunities presented to them. Not everyone is trained to earn a salary, some people are meant to pay salaries. Business training and management is crucial if one's business is to succeed."

PRIORITY 1: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.

Women discuss economic opportunities

By Masego Mollo: GCIS, Northern Cape



National Youth Development Agency board member Khomotjo Maimela motivating entrepreneurs.



Stakeholders and beneficiaries who were in attendance.

The National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) in the Northern Cape hosted a networking breakfast session for female beneficiaries of its programmes in Kimberley on 23 August 2019, with the aim of affording them the opportunity to network and engage concerning the status of their businesses.

NYDA board member Khomotjo Maimela spoke about the significant role that women play in growing the economy. She also highlighted the NYDA's new strategy and way forward in achieving its goals, in line with its 10-year anniversary celebration.

Northern Cape MEC for Health Galerekwe Manopole encouraged the female entrepreneurs to tap into the health economy as the demand is very high.

Stakeholders such as the Wholesale and Retail Sector Education and Training Authority, Small Enterprise Development Agency, Industrial Development Corporation and others presented their services and funding models. Beneficiaries gave testimonies on the type of support they received from the NYDA and other funding institutions. About 100 people were reached.

PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Taxi rank activation on tackling violence

By Selloane Mokoena: GCIS, Free State

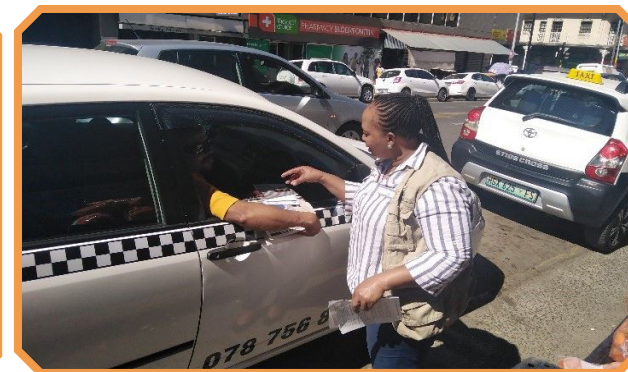


A government official engaging with women on gender-based violence.



Dimakatso Mofolutsi said:

"It is very exciting to know that government also considers us and engages us on these issues."



Government officials distributing information materials and engaging with the public.

The Government Communication and Information System conducted a taxi-rank activation in Bloemfontein on 27 August 2019 focusing on gender-based violence (GBV). This is a phenomenon deeply rooted in gender inequality and continues to be one of the most notable human rights violations within all societies.

The purpose of the activation was to alert the public about GBV and also inform them about the importance of reporting cases and speaking out against acts of violence. Information materials were also shared with members of the public as some of them had indicated that they were not aware of where to



Department of Labour official Richard Mokoena presenting on the rights of women in the workplace.



Dodo Masango said:

"I thank and appreciate this information on gender-based violence. Knowledge is power, it is important that you come here often because issues of abuse and violence are also prevalent in this village."

PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Gender based violence information sharing session

By Bongani Mazibuko: GCIS, Mpumalanga



A police officer presenting on the SAPS's role in cases of crime and abuse.



Community members who were in attendance.

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) organised an information-sharing session on gender-based violence in Mayflower Gate, Mpumalanga on 20 August 2019. A GCIS official led and directed the programme in which various stakeholders such as the Department of Labour, South African Police Service (SAPS), Department of Social Development and Pastors' Forum made empowering and informative presentations on GBV.

The session aimed to maximise efforts in fighting against GBV and creating awareness around the scourge of abuse and femicide in communities. A social worker presented about the different forms of abuse: physical, emotional, economical/financial and others.

A police officer from the Mayflower SAPS, also encouraged community members to stop the abuse of women and also report crime and abuse. "As police, we ensure that if you are a woman who is a victim of abuse, a female police attends to your case in a private room where you have the freedom to tell everything that will assist the police to arrest the perpetrator. We also work with other stakeholders such as doctors and social workers to ensure that you receive the services and support you deserve," said the official.

Richard Mokoena from the Department of Labour presented on the rights of women in the workplace, such as the right to take maternity leave and also other benefits. A pastor from the Pastors' Forum also presented encouraging community members to live by the good moral values of respect and caring for others. Ward Councillor, Thulani Mnisi, was also afforded the opportunity to present about the Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality services and gave a short report of developments in the ward.