Minister tackles violence and corruption
By Tabita Ngqunge: GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Government Communication and Information System in the Eastern Cape accompanied Minister of Justice and Constitutional Development, Michael Masutha, to the Izwi Lethemba community radio station in Buffalo City Metro Municipality during his visit to the Eastern Cape. The event took place on 15 October 2018.

During the radio programme, Minister Masutha shared some information on the mandate of his department and its role in the fight against gender-based violence (GBV) and their involvement in the anti-corruption campaign.

The radio programme touched on issues affecting the country at the moment, from human rights, corruption and GBV. Minister Masutha explained the difference between disciplining children and corporal punishment. He further advised victims of GBV to act. “One of the best things to do when facing an abuser is to reprimand them; this also applies to men, the fact that you have ‘muscles’ does not mean you are immune to abuse, if the signs are there then something should be done,” he said.

The Minister also emphasised how people who do not report abuse sometimes die. “They end up dead because, you think he or she will change, the first time it is a slap, the second time it is more brutal and the third time he or she strangles you to death,” he added.

Minister Masutha urged people not to take abuse as a joke. He firmly condemned corruption in the country, and further touched on what the department was doing to uproot fraud and corruption.

Minister Michael Masutha said:
“I am a father myself, there are many ways to discipline your children without being physical or violent. Human rights do not mean that parents should not discipline their children.”
In an effort to contribute towards creating decent employment through inclusive economic growth and as part of Transport Month activities, the Gauteng Department of Economic Development (GDED) in partnership with the Government Communication and Information System, and other stakeholders conducted an education and awareness roadshow to interact and disseminate information about economic, business and employment opportunities at Denlyn Mall in Mamelodi West on 8 October 2018. The purpose of the event was to create awareness, inform, educate and empower the community with information relating to these opportunities and afford others the opportunity to register as job seekers on Gauteng’s database.

The GDED brought their mobile bus called Siyeza, which is equipped with computers that enable Internet access, government information and online registration for job seekers. Other stakeholders who disseminated information at the event were the government and stakeholders share economic opportunities

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The activation coincided with Money Smart Week South Africa campaign, which took place from 8 to 12 October 2018, whose focus was to take financial education to the people. Yolande van Tonder from the Pension Fund Adjudicators said that it is important for people to learn more about their pension fund benefit statements. “People should also understand the importance of financial planning, especially those who are about to go on pension, lest they become destitute in their twilight years,” said van Tonder.

Bongani Madondo said:
“We have learned so much today and I wish my brother was here to learn about unclaimed pension and surplus benefits. But I will give him this pamphlet from the Pension Fund Adjudicators.”

Lucas Masanabo said:
“I appreciate all the information you brought here. I wish the issue of fuel increase should also receive attention. To me, fuel is the engine of the economy and the way things are, everything, especially food, will soon be unaffordable.”
To ensure that road safety is at its highest level within Endumeni, a multi-disciplinary team comprising the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Transport, road traffic inspectors, Dundee South African Police Service (SAPS) and Endumeni Traffic Department led a successful road block at R33 towards Dundee as part of the 2018 Transport Month. The event was held on 15 October 2018 and began with a briefing session by stakeholders at Stradford farm to increase compliance by drivers on Endumeni roads.

Mafika Nsibande from the Endumeni Traffic Department said that the province would ensure that law enforcement authorities are present on the roads to ensure compliance and safety. “We will do K78 road blocks that will include the SAPS to search vehicles on suspicions of illegal firearms and drugs distribution,” he said. The team managed to conduct stop checks to more than 40 vehicles, removed drivers’ permit from one taxi and issued about five traffic fines to motorists who did not comply with safety measures.

Dundee SAPS official Velabahleke Mbense said that road safety was everybody’s responsibility and more road blocks and safety checks would be conducted to ensure that the area and roads are safe. Road users are urged to obey all safety rules.
The Overberg District Municipality kickstarted the launch of the fire awareness campaign in Overstrand Local Municipality on 12 October 2018 at Hawston Thusong Service Centre. Many communities are affected by fire during the summer season and end up losing their homes and belongings. The aim of the campaign was to educate the communities about fire, escape plan and how communities can save lives and their properties when there is fire.

Talking on the importance of educating the communities about the risks of fire, Overstrand Deputy Mayor Elnora Gillion said, “Fire awareness is everyone’s responsibility. It is our own communities that are affected, that is why it is very important to become aware. We are very privileged to host the launch here in Overstrand.”

The General Manager of Working on Fire, Moses Manganye, shared information and overview of their mandate and the importance of community fire awareness campaigns in reducing fire risks. He said, “For this fire awareness campaign launch, we focus on fire awareness initiatives in schools and communities which has reached more than two million people over the past five years. The value of fire awareness and fire safe preparation around dwellings cannot be overemphasised. Think before you start a fire. It is good to educate learners about fire awareness while they are still young.”

Safety fire tips were shared with the community, which included: not starting fires particularly during dry days, removing unnecessary rubble which can pose fire risk on properties and that houses next to grasslands need to ensure there is sufficient fire breaks between their properties and these grasslands. People should also cut down overhanging tree branches next to their properties and also clean their gutters as these leaves can pose a fire risk. Community members were also advised to ensure that they have the contact details of their fire authorities at hand should there be an emergency.

Overberg District Deputy Mayor Archie Klaas spoke of the respect he has for firefighters. Community members who were in attendance received information materials.