



MY DISTRICT TODAY



Issue no. 43/ November 2018

CONTACT DETAILS OF THE GCIS PROVINCIAL OFFICES

For more information about similar programmes that are run across the country, contact one of the following provincial offices:

EASTERN CAPE

Ndlelantle Pinyana
043 722 2602 or 076 142 8606
ndlelantle@gcis.gov.za

FREE STATE

Lineo Sehlabaka
051 448 4504 or 082 773 9445
lineo@gcis.co.za

GAUTENG

Peter Gumede
011 331 0164 or 083 570 8080
peterg@gcis.gov.za

KWAZULU-NATAL

Ndala Mngadi
031 301 6787 or 082 877 9420
ndala@gcis.gov.za

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

Mama Sisulu's legacy honoured in Cofimvaba

By Lwando Helesi: GCIS, Eastern Cape



Minister Nomvula Mokonyane engaging with the Thethiwe and Sisulu families who gave an eulogy about Mama Sisulu.



Minister Mokonyane and various leaders engaging with patients receiving healthcare services at the Cofimvaba Hospital.



The nurses recommitted themselves to the values of humanity and serving with dignity in the profession.



Minister Mokonyane at the Ebhenezer 2 Home Community Based Care in Cofimvaba to commemorate the legacy of Mama Sisulu.

The Minister of Communications, Nomvula Mokonyane, has called on the nursing fraternity and all citizens to honour and live up to Mama Albertina Sisulu's legacy. Minister Mokonyane was speaking during her visit on 23 October 2018 to the Cofimvaba Hospital, under Intsika Yethu Local Municipality, which formed part of the Albertina Sisulu Centenary celebrations under the theme: "A Woman of Fortitude." Mama Sisulu would have turned 100 years old on 21 October 2018.

"Today we continue to count the milestones in the journey of celebrating the centenary of one of the outstanding leaders of the South African liberation struggle. It is relevant in this respect that we pay our highest respect to her spirit of activism and high moral standard as a heritage to many more generations to come," Minister Mokonyane said.



government communications

Department: Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



LIMPOPO

Thanyani Ravhura
015 291 4689 or 082 421 3461
thanyani@gcis.gov.za

MPUMALANGA

Jerry Nkosi
013 753 2397 or 082 316 5295
Jerry@gcis.gov.za

NORTH WEST

Boitumelo Mosadi
018 381 7071 or 073 245 0906
boitumelom@gcis.gov.za

NORTHERN CAPE

Marius Nagel
053 832 1378/9 or 083 778 9179
mariusn@gcis.gov.za

WESTERN CAPE

Geraldine Thopps
021 697 0145 or 081 281 2200
Geraldine@gcis.gov.za



She urged nurses to follow in the footsteps of Mama Sisulu, who was passionate about education and the nursing profession. “Mama Sisulu was a ‘rock’ to her family and contributed greatly to the nursing profession and to South Africa’s liberation. She should be immortalised for this and for society to emulate her in many ways,” said Minister Mokonyane.

A walkabout was conducted where the Minister, political leadership and hospital management engaged community members receiving healthcare services. Some challenges were identified, including the maintenance of the facility and non-availability of accommodation for clinical and nursing staff, which makes it difficult for recruitment processes and implementation of a retention strategy. The Department of Communications pledged to donate 30 television sets to both Cofimvaba and All Saints hospitals, as well as five cellphones and water coolers to Cofimvaba Hospital. The Chief Executive Officer of the Cofimvaba Hospital, Sicelo Msi, appreciated the visit and expressed hope that government would work on solving the challenges faced by the hospital. “This is the only hospital that serves the entire municipality. We welcome such interventions by government because they ensure that we operate at our optimal level to render services to our communities,” he said.

Minister Mokonyane concluded the visit at the Ebhenezer 2 Home Community Based Care, whose vision is to improve the quality of life to people living with HIV and AIDS, and provides comfort for children and elderly people. This is similar to work done by the Albertina Sisulu Foundation, which Mama Sisulu committed herself to throughout her life. “There is no doubt that Mama Sisulu infused her life with the beauty of caring for people – a gift that nurtured and guided healing to nourish humanity and to be part of the greater civilization, living together harmoniously,” said Minister Mokonyane.



Landile Ntetha said:

“The event was a success. As nurses, we need such events to remind us of why we are in this profession and the duties we need to fulfil as nurses, so that we can fix our attitudes and uplift our spirits to give our communities quality services. Most of the ‘young lions’ that are new to the nursing profession need these memorial lectures to keep reminding them about the importance of the nursing profession.”



Ntombesithathu Qotoyi said:

“Now that we have been visited by the Minister, we can attach ourselves to Mama Sisulu as the honourable nurse who had good values starting from leadership and ethics because she had the principles as we are taught in our ethics module. What I learnt today from Minister Mokonyane was that Mama Sisulu was a woman who was God-fearing, so she attached her principles to God. Starting from today, we have introduced, with our director, the Lord’s Prayer to be the continuation of the nurses’ pledge.”

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

Men pledge to end violence

By Sikelela Zokufa: GCIS, Western Cape



Attendees accessing information material at the dialogue.



Panel of stakeholders who took part in the discussions.



Some of the men who attended the dialogue.



Monde Soyizwaphi said:

“I am very happy that government is working with our organisations to fight gender-based violence. I have also declared my support and will never lay my hand on women because my responsibility is to protect them. I have pledged to educate other men to protect women. I have learnt a lot from this dialogue and we have to support one another going forward.”

Inspirational ideas and very insightful suggestions were shared at the men’s dialogue on gender-based violence (GBV) that was held at Endlovini Community Hall in Newcross Roads, Nyanga on 19 October 2018. Men gathered with the objective to address and come up with ideas that would ultimately eliminate GBV and the abuse of women and children.

The dialogue was hosted by the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) in partnership with Ilitha Labantu and Wola Nani organisations. Other governments which participated in the panel discussions led by the GCIS and Ilitha Labantu included the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), and the departments of Social Development and Community Safety. Officials from Wola Nani also provided voluntarily counselling and testing to the men at the venue.

In his opening address, ward councilor Luvuyo Zondani declared that the men’s dialogue was not a platform to just state what went wrong, but of coming up with what needs to be done by South African men to turn this societal issue around. “To be a man is not about being tough or rough to women but to be responsible, gentle, protect your family and community,” he said.

About 50 men from Nyanga and surrounding areas participated in the programme and raised their views on GBV. Some of the men directed questions to government on current issues. Lulamile Mzendana from the Neighborhood Watch said, “Why is our law very soft on the perpetrators more than the victims? What are the boundaries that limit the line of questioning to victims by the perpetrators’ lawyers?”, he asked the panel. He further told the NPA to play a stronger role in GBV cases.

At the end of the dialogue the men made a declaration to stop violence against women. Meanwhile, the GCIS is organising a provincial dialogue aimed at addressing and finding shared and sustainable solutions to key societal issues of concern to the citizens, including violence against women and children and students in the institutions of higher learning. This will be done through an integrated and multi-disciplinary approach that demonstrates government’s commitment to building safer communities by strengthening social compacts.

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

Unveiling the wall of emergency contact numbers

By Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



Unveiling of the wall of emergency contact numbers.



A wall with numbers for assistance regarding crime and service-delivery issues.



Drama performance addressing bullying, substance abuse and teenage pregnancy.



Elijah Sebastian said:

“Gender-based violence is when men hit women or women do that to men. It is the abuse of people by the opposite gender.”



Government officials distributing information material to pedestrians and motorists.

Mama Albertina Sisulu fought for a democratic, non-racist, non-sexist and free society where all people felt safe, equal and treated with dignity and respect regardless of their gender, race, age, etc. Gender-based violence (GBV) weakens our democracy and sense of freedom as it shows a lack of respect for basic human rights and dignity.

For this reason, an activation was held at the Whetstone Primary School in Phoenix on 24 October 2018 to create awareness of the resources available to victims of GBV and crime in general. The activation also served to educate the youth and community on the consequences of GBV and criminality. Other issues discussed were bullying, teenage pregnancy, substance abuse and violence in homes and community.

The emergency contact numbers were painted on the boundary wall of Whetstone Primary School, clearly visible to motorists, pedestrians and residents in the vicinity of the school. The “Wall of Contact Numbers” serves as a ready reference tool for the community and includes service delivery contact numbers for water, electricity, waste removal, etc.

A road information blitz was also done. Motorists and pedestrians stopped to engage with officials and accepted the information material being distributed. The principal and learners randomly selected three numbers from the wall to test for functionality and the promptness of response. The calls were all promptly answered, thus assuring the community that help is quickly available.

A drama performance by Amanguni Productions, commissioned by the Office of the Premier, addressed issues of substance abuse, bullying at school, cyber bullying and teenage pregnancy. It also featured a testimony from a former criminal about life in prison and the negative impact of criminality.



Letisia Bosman said:

“I am doing Grade 9, and now I already know where to put a lot of effort for the career I want to follow. This event addressed my information needs.”



Maxine van Standers said:

“I am currently in Grade 12. I suggest that the career expo should target Grade 7 learners, so that they know which subjects to choose for their careers of choice. It is too late now to change the subjects and follow the career that would address my future needs as presented today. If you want young people to take studies seriously, career expos should be regularly conducted. Government should keep up the good work.”

OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH.

Youth exposed to career and economic opportunities

By Thenjiwe Konono: GCIS, Northern Cape



Young people who attended the career expo.



Stakeholders addressing the learners.

A career expo was held in the Siyathemba Local Municipality at Colesberg on 11 October 2018. It was organised by Mulilo Sonnedix Solar Plant in collaboration with government departments. Joan Nel of Mulilo Sonnedix emphasised the role played by stakeholders in the exhibition, which was aimed at enriching and enlightening the youth of Siyathemba Local Municipality.

Unemployment, poverty and inequality are serious challenges in the Siyathemba Local Municipality and the programme seeks to empower community members, especially the youth, with information that will help them to transform the current situation. Learners from different schools engaged with exhibitors and accessed information on post-school training and employment options for the unemployed.

The Sol Plaatje University joined other tertiary institutions at the expo. The event provided the learners and the youth of Prieska with the opportunities to discover more about the diverse range of exciting courses that are available in South African institutions, and also the chance to enquire about bursaries and employment opportunities.



Youth accessing information material at the event.