



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Government launches sexual offences court

By Lehlohonolo Manoto: GCIS, Free State

The community of Botshabelo has experienced the most horrific incidents of sexual offences in the past. The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, through its efforts of rooting out gender-based violence and sexual offences, responded to the challenge through the opening of a special Sexual Offences Court in Mangaung Metro.

The court was officially opened by the Minister Michael Masutha at Botshabelo on 24 November 2018. The Minister expressed gratitude for launching the 76th Sexual Offences Court in the country and emphasised the importance of stakeholder involvement toward realising the objectives of the court. Among others, the court is aimed at fast-tracking and concluding sexual offences cases in the shortest period of time. The Minister further encouraged community members to be involved by speaking out against criminal activities unconditionally. "We encourage victims of rape to report incidents as soon possible and not to bath immediately as this will tamper with the evidence," said Minister Masutha.

"In this court, government will ensure that there is enough support to sexual offences victims. This is done through protecting victims and affording them an opportunity to testify in private," said Advocate Praise Kambula.



Exhibitors at the event.

The Department of Social Development, South African Police Service, National Prosecuting Authority, The Department of Correctional Services, Legal Aid South Africa and the judiciary delivered messages of support. The launch coincided with government's Imbizo Focus Week, which took place from 12 to 24 November 2018. The community was granted the opportunity to engage with the representatives of government departments and other stakeholders.



Jacob Nkunzi said:

"Ward and clinic committees must be empowered with information to further communicate it to community members."



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Mosa Nkosi said:
“I am under correctional supervision. My plea is that the correctional officers should not wear uniform when they visit the workplace of inmates who are under correctional supervision.”



Community members who were in attendance.



Minister Michael Masutha
at the launch of the Sexual Offences Court.



Belinah Phahla said:
“We request a speedy finalisation of child-maintenance claims.”



The Disability Forum sharing their concerns at the event.



Nomasondo Futhezwa said:
"I'm just happy I got this opportunity."



Sphamandla Skhakhane said:
"As much as we are involved in sporting activities at Endumeni, we believe that we can be employed somewhere."

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

Disability Summit in Endumeni

By Thandinkosi Zulu: GCS, KwaZulu-Natal



Xolani Nkabinde said:

"The summit was very good and we welcome the support by most government departments within Endumeni and we hope and pray that the 3-December event will yield the desired results."

The Endumeni Local Municipality hosted a successful Disability Summit in Dundee on 21 November 2018 as part of the National Disability Rights Awareness Month in preparations for the Disability Parliament that was hosted on 3 December 2018. This year's theme: "A Disability Inclusive, Barrie-Free South Africa by 2030 – Be the Legacy," responds to the agenda of the disability society.

It was the first time for Endumeni to host the Disability Summit and it was aimed at creating awareness and further engage on issues of disability right as enshrined in the Constitution. Thokozani Mkhize from the Albinism Society explained disability as the consequence of an impairment that may be physical, cognitive, mental, sensory, emotional, developmental or some combination of these.



People who attended the Disability Summit.

Among other things that were presented by the summit was that government must afford people living with disability business and employment opportunities. "This is the precious opportunity for us as people living with disabilities to be understood by our caring government. We need employment opportunities," said Nelisiwe Kunene.

While government departments and the municipality's leadership acknowledged and responded to the challenges faced by people with disabilities, the team of stakeholders was resolute to note some challenges for urgent intervention and escalation to the right platforms to be addressed properly. Endumeni also afforded one person with disability to represent it at the International Disability Parliament that was held on 3 December 2018.

OUTCOME 2: A LONG AND HEALTHY LIFE FOR ALL SOUTH AFRICANS.

Awareness session on HIV and AIDS

By Reki Skosana: GCIS, Mpumalanga

Due to the high number of people living with HIV and AIDS in Delmas, the Government Communication and Information System partnered with the Department of Health, Victor Khanye Local Municipality, Department of Social Development, home-based care centres and other stakeholders to create awareness on HIV and AIDS through an information-sharing session on 23 November 2018.

The event created a platform for community members to be afforded an opportunity to get tested and know their health status for better living. The issue of exercising and healthy eating was emphasised during the presentations made and young men were encouraged to undergo male circumcision, which is offered for free at local government health centres and other privately owned entities.

Community members were happy to receive all the information brought to their attention and most of them realised the importance of living healthy and testing for various illnesses, and also take precautionary measures.



Confidence Mahlangu said:
“This event assisted me regarding the information on losing weight and also healthy eating habits.”



Queen Vilakazi said:
“We have acquired a lot of knowledge today in terms of healthy living.”



Lawrence Adams said:
“I am very much thankful for this event. Many people are lazy to exercise and everyone was encouraged to do it so that they could live healthy.”



Community members who attended the event.



Community members accessing government health services and information.

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

Anti-corruption stakeholder engagement

By Masego Mollo: GCIS, Northern Cape



People who attended the anti-corruption dialogue.



Provincial head of the Commission for Gender Equality Tshepo Nosi raising the issue of protection for whistleblowers.



Elizabeth Manong said:

“Political principals and senior managers have to set the tone and manage consequences. There needs to be accountability for wrongdoing or any corrupt act.”

The Government Communication and Information System facilitated a provincial dialogue on anti-corruption at the Sol Plaatje University on 21 November 2018. The dialogue was attended by faith-based organisations, public servants and community-based organisation, business sectors and Chapter 9 institutions of the Frances Baard District in Kimberley, Northern Cape.

The dialogue was aimed at mobilising all sectors in the country, including communities, to join the fight against corruption through individual and collective pledging. The Premier of the Northern Cape, Sylvia Lucas, delivered the keynote address and committed to establish a provincial Anti-Corruption Forum



Ina Lightfoot said:

“It starts with the individual. People have to be faithful with what they have. We have to treat our official resources responsibly.”

intended to fight the scourge of corruption. Sol Plaatje University Vice Chancellor, Professor Yunus Ballim, reminded the audience about the role of the media and society in combating corruption. He said people conduct fraudulent or illicit activities simply because they feel entitled to certain things.

The level of influence, lack of consequence management and the issue of entitlement emanated during discussions as some of the causes of corruption. Attendees appealed for exemplary leadership and expressed that senior officials need to enforce accountability where officials were found to be corrupt. They also indicated that whistleblowers and their families need strict protection as they are exposed to attack once they reveal acts of corruption.