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

Campaign to tackle drug abuse
By Robbie Senoelo: GCIS, Gauteng

The fight against the scourge of drugs and substance abuse received a huge boost when the Tshwane Concerned Liquor Traders Organisation (CTLO) in conjunction with the Mamelodi Stakeholders Forum hosted Say No to Nyaope campaign at the Solomon Mahlangu Freedom Square on 21 February 2018. The campaign was held under the theme: “Drugs Awareness, Say No to Nyaope”. The aim of the campaign was to create awareness and highlight the negative impact of drugs through presentations, motivational talks, face-to-face interactions, exhibitions and distribution of relevant information products.
Oupa Mthombeni, the president of CTLTO said the organisation partnered with a number of stakeholders to work together to minimise the challenges of drug addicts within the community. “We are committed to making sure that those who are selling drugs are arrested and also that we save the lives of our children,” he said.

A number of drug addicts attended the event. Former user and rehabilitated addict, Jabu Masombuka, urged users to quit.

Pretty Sebotsane said:
“I invite all people in Mamelodi to play their part in fighting drugs and substance abuse. We urge the community to work with the police so that we can get to the root of drug problem.”

Oupa Mthombeni said:
“We need to stand up against these people who are destroying the lives of our children. We should make sure that the police are doing the right thing. Instead of calling drug users names, we should support and listen to them.”

Jabu Masombuka said:
“Drugs are not good for us but for you to quit, you need to be brave. I can assure you, the path to the top of the mountain can be steep and long but the view from the top is awesome.”
Government Communication and Information System Mpumalanga Provincial Office supported the Mpumalanga Legislature during the State of the Province Address, which was held on 23 February 2018 in Mbombela. Four events were held within the province. The main event was held at Government Complex and was attended by dignitaries from all over the country, political parties, media houses, government officials and members of the public. Three satellite venues were organised, with big screen viewing for the three district municipalities. For Ehlanzeni, it was held at Thaba Chweu, for Gert Sibande it was at Msukaligwa and at Emalahleni for Nkangala District.

Premier David Mabuza said, “It is a great honour for me to deliver this State of the Province Address at a time of great hope, renewal and aspirations for unity of the people of our country.”
OUTCOME 5: A SKILLED AND CAPABLE WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT AN INCLUSIVE GROWTH PATH

Government takes services to the people
By William Phalane: GCIS, Head Office

The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) Head Office’s Marketing and Distribution Directorate, in partnership with the Information Resource Centre, conducted an activation event at Silverton Train Station in Pretoria on 23 February 2018. The GCIS officials conducted the activation to market and promote services and products offered by various government departments. The public received information materials and publications, and also engaged with GCIS officials on various issues.

Leetie Masombuka said:
"Unlike during the times of apartheid, we are now able to run our own businesses as ordinary people even though we are sometimes lazy to follow certain procedures such as getting legal business operational licences."

Nape Kgaphola said:
"As an unemployed youth, I am trying to make a living by collecting plastic and bottles on the streets and rubbish bins, anything recyclable in exchange for some cash. My plea to government is to create more job opportunities especially for young people."

Community members accessing information products at the event.
During the State of the Province Address (SOPA), which was held on 23 February 2018, in Marikana, North West Premier Supra Mahumapelo said the provincial government has developed strategic measures to address unemployment, inequality and poverty. The Premier said he was optimistic because the provincial government has adopted an economic growth strategy anchored on agriculture, culture and tourism, the three industries with an unlimited lifespan.

Premier Mahumapelo added that as part of the Special Economic Zone initiative, the province intends to bolster manufacturing capacity, particularly in the platinum sector to strengthen the role of mining as a strategic economic tributary. He said the demand for platinum globally would shoot up as China has decided to explore its use to clean its environment. The Premier mentioned that R110 million has been secured for the establishment of the Special Economic Development Zone. He further said the project is estimated to attract investment to the value of R4 billion.

The SoPA was held in Marikana to bring hope to the mining community.