




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

District hosts an AIDS2016 men's dialogue

By Karen Foutie: GCIS, Northern Cape



Mpho Lekgetho, District AIDS Council Chairperson, accompanied by traditional leadership, Masegela and Milton Gaotsenwe, lighting the candles and explained the symbolism.



Community members at the event.



Kgosi Setlhodi addressing the audience.

The International AIDS Conference, commonly known as AIDS2016, held from 18 to 22 July 2016 in Durban, was the catalyst for government, civil society, traditional leaders and men to raise awareness and communicate achievements on HIV and AIDS in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District.

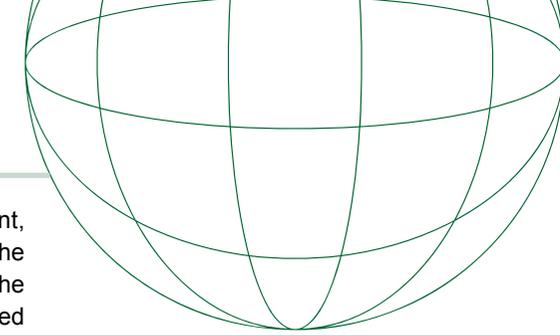
The dialogue, planned by the District AIDS Council, various coordinators, government and civil society was intended at changing perceptions and responses to the HIV and AIDS statistics in the region.

Over 100 residents, including men and women attended the event in support of educating people about the disease.



government
communications

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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One of the five commissions having a discussion.

One of the speakers at the event, Clement Mojaki of Amogelang Botlhe Hospice in Maruping, touched on the relationship that they have developed with government in fighting the disease. “We have seen many achievements in our lifetime such as receiving antiretrovirals in our communities. We need more dialogues like this one to make men and women understand the disease and stand together to fight it,” he said.

He further said that while clinics were doing more to reach the public, many people were still too shy to access the services that are already available to them.

The event was also attended by officials from the departments of social development and health, and the United Manganese Wellness Centre, who presented an overview of all the available support services of HIV and AIDS programmes in the area.

Issues raised during the dialogue ranged from the need for further education and training, family counselling, the release of available HIV and AIDS statistics as well as regular communication projects at taverns and other hotspots.

The event was preceded and closed with a candlelight ceremony in remembrance of those living and affected by HIV as well as those who lost their lives to due to the disease.



Kedibone Polelo said:

“This event has been very special to me. Not only did I learn a lot, I also got information and had a chance to speak about AIDS because it is a disease that affects everyone.”



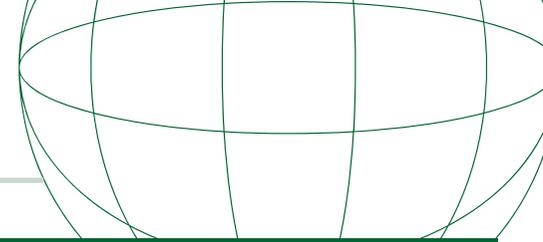
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Doreen Maholoeng said:

“I learned about safety and protection issues in connection with HIV and AIDS. I am also very appreciative of government for coming to Seeding and have this dialogue here. It was good that I was able to hear that I also need to be supportive, help government and be part of the solution.”



Norah Dlamini said:

“My husband worked in a mine for 30 years but we did not get even a cent. I was told that he was not registered. I have eight children to feed and educate. I was very happy when this opportunity to help ex-mineworkers was opened for us. Finally, government will investigate what happened to the money we were supposed to receive after my husband passed on. Even his younger brother was hit by a mine bus at the mine and nothing was provided to compensate his family.”

OUTCOME 12: AN EFFICIENT, EFFECTIVE AND DEVELOPMENT ORIENTED PUBLIC SERVICE AND AN EMPOWERED, FAIR AND INCLUSIVE CITIZENSHIP.

Government steps in to assist former miners

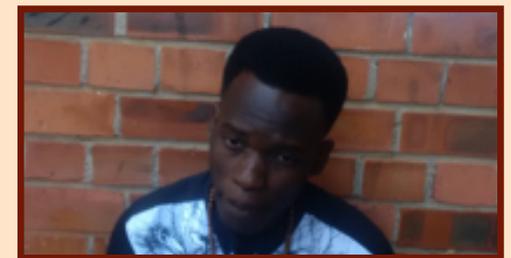
By Nonhlanhla Sithole: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal



MEC Sihle Zikalala speaking at the event.



Community members attended the Imbizo.



Dumisani Mtshali said:

“I want to express my gratitude to government for opening up this opportunity to investigate on our behalf. I worked in a granite mine. I was retrenched. I am not satisfied with the little that was given as a package. I think now we will be able to get help that we were waiting for all these years.”

Minister of Labour, Mildred Oliphant, and the Deputy Minister of Mineral Resources, Godfrey Oliphant, hosted an Imbizo with ex-mineworkers in Pongola, KwaZulu-Natal on 26 July 2016.

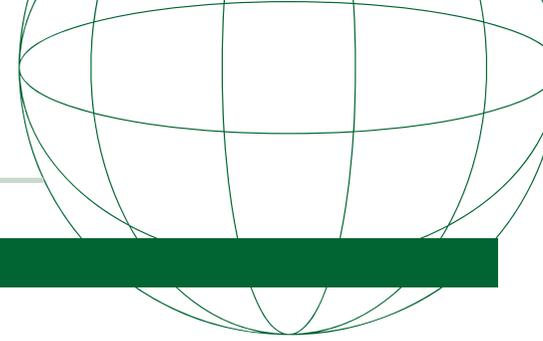
The Imbizo provided a platform for the Ministers and the ex-mineworkers to engage in robust discussions with the view of working together to address, among others, the issue of compensation for the former workers, as well as socio-economic challenges.

Minister Oliphant stressed the importance of workers’ rights and how the Department of Labour is ensuring that workers are not exploited. She briefly explained that government is implementing laws that must be respected by all employers. The Minister further mentioned how the department has revised fines compelling employers to comply. She said the department will embark on massive training programmes that will benefit both workers and employers including the courts. Responding to issues raised by ex-mineworkers, the Minister referred people with issues to the complaints desk where they would be assisted. She concluded her speech with information on a comprehensive government programme to collectively address issues of compensation and socio-economic challenges.

Deputy Minister Oliphant, further warned the workers and ex-mineworkers about third parties who are robbing people, promising to claim compensation on their behalf. He said government has established interventions to ensure that unpaid monies reach people. The Deputy Minister mentioned that the department is working hard to stop illegal mining. He invited interested people who can be assisted where legal mining opportunities are available, to access funding. He also explained that government is taking care of ex-mineworkers through medical examination benefits and that there are programmes to train them in agriculture, which are subsidised by government in partnership with the private sector

MEC for Economic Development, Tourism and Environmental Affairs, Sihle Zikalala encouraged retrenched miners to explore other business opportunities after explaining the department’s programmes aimed at developing businesses cooperatives.

Minister Oliphant responded to numerous issues that were raised by workers and ex-mineworkers that are still challenging them to help move the workers forward.



Tyrese Budaloo said:

“I always wanted to enrol for automotive repairs and maintenance but I did not have information about institutions that offer the course. Today I am grateful that I was able to get all that information.”



Ncobile Mtshali said:

“The expo was helpful as a young person I intend to become a social worker. Due to my financial circumstances I thought I could not afford to do so but now I know that government is making strides in providing greater access to funding for learners like me.”

OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION.

Career expo to popularise career choices

By Tinyiko Molefe: GCIS, Gauteng



Nthabiseng Matiye from Alok Telecenter giving career advice to learners.

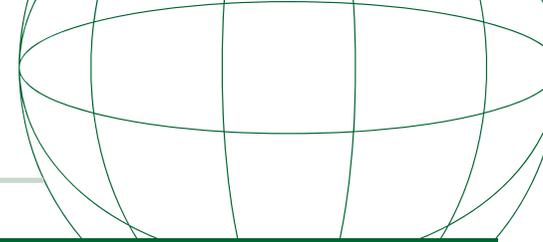


Nomsa Nhlapho from SCAW Metals sharing available career opportunities within her organisation.

Government Communication and Information System in partnership with Ekupholeni and Alok Telecenter hosted a career expo to advise learners about career choices and providing information concerning the application processes of various institutions of higher learning and also available financial assistance options.

The expo gave learners the opportunity to interact with professionals from different organisations to get information on different career choices they can pursue. Learners were encouraged to apply early for enrollment and also to choose career with high employment opportunities and to also apply for vocational and apprenticeship programmes.

“It is high time we encourage learners not to give up on pursuing their careers due to low points for entering universities, however, we encourage them to study further through vocational training as it is also one of the study programmes with high employment opportunities,” said Themba Mokoena from Ekupholeni.



Dikonelo Motseki said:

“I am so excited by this opportunity that government is giving to enable us to compete with our work.”



Joyce Mabele said:

“I am grateful that I was able to enter this competition. I wish other women can be motivated to work hard.”

OUTCOME 5: A SKILLED AND CAPABLE WORKFORCE TO SUPPORT AN INCLUSIVE GROWTH PATH.

Free State hosts awards to honour women farmers

By Ntombi Mhlambi: GCIS, Free State



Acting Premier Kopung Ralikontsane, Dikonelo Motseki, MEC Khoabane, Joyce Mabele, Motsheoa Pholo and Lejweleputswa District Mayor Wilson Speelman at the event.



Free State government leaders with the overall winner, Rosemead Farming.



Dancers entertaining the audience at the awards.

As part of commemorating Women’s Month in South Africa, the Free State Department of Agriculture and Rural Development hosted the annual Provincial Female Farmers Awards in Welkom on 5 August 2016. This year’s event was observed under the theme: “Reaffirming the Commitment towards Women Empowerment in Agriculture, Forestry and Fishery Sector”. The awards are aimed at acknowledging the role that women play in the agricultural sector and also how female farmers contribute in improving food security, creating job opportunities and participating in economic growth and poverty alleviation initiatives. Winners competed from eight different categories at provincial level.

“The department has a long-term ambition of leveraging women entrepreneurs from being subsistence and smallholder producers to commercial entrepreneurs,” said MEC for Agriculture and Rural Development, Oupa Khoabane.



Motsheoa Pholo said:

“What a tough competition, I will definitely enter again next year. It is so fulfilling to receive such an acknowledgement.”