



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Prioritising the fight against women and child abuse

By Tshidi Mokoka: GCIS, Gauteng

Child Protection Week was observed between 28 May and 4 June 2017 to raise awareness about the rights of children. The campaign is aimed at influencing all stakeholders to work together to provide a safe haven for children. In an effort to create awareness about the campaign, the GCIS in partnership with Wedela Library and community development workers held a child-protection dialogue on 26 May 2017, targeting women in the area.

Rosina Aphone, the head librarian at Wedela, said that the idea of involving women in the activation was to emphasise the role of mothers in the care of children. "Today we want to give women information and safety tips on what to look for in keeping children safe. We are gathered here as women so that we can motivate each other and come up with ways to educate our children and create awareness in programmes to empower us as women," she said.

This message was emphasised by Zandile Kwinong from the Department of Social Development, who implored mothers and caregivers to always be on alert when it comes to the safety of children. "With all the abuses, killings and rapes perpetrated against our children and women, we must work with the community to fight against these attacks. Let us not turn a blind eye when we know of a person or people who are determined to abuse children and women. It is in our hands to root out this evil in our community," she said.

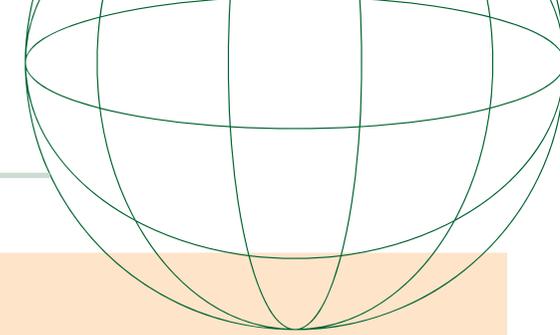
During the event, women were also encouraged to empower themselves with literature that speaks to their rights and the steps to take when they find themselves as victims of abuse. Angela Kunene, one of the people who attended the event said, that it is sad when they encounter cases of abuses during their house visits to the community of Wedela.



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Lisbeth Khatha said:

“It is important that we meet as women and learn from each other ways on how to protect our children. There are so many cases of children and also women who are abused so we need to work as a community in partnership with the police and social workers to prevent this.”



Cebisile Zikalala said:

“There are so many cases that we encounter when we conduct our home visits of families in crisis. In most cases it is children who are either neglected or abused. The partnership that we have with relevant stakeholders works well for us because it makes it easier to refer such cases to them.”



Angela Kunene said:

“I work as a nurse and I am also a team leader at Wedela Clinic. Working in partnership with stakeholders such as the Department of Social Development and the police, works well for us as it makes it easier to quickly refer such cases to them so they can act to assist victims.”



Head Librarian Rosina Aphane addressing women at the event.



Zandile Kwinong speaking to women about safety measures they should take to protect children.



OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Chatsworth Career Expo empowers and motivates youth

By Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

Following the call for radical economic transformation by government, the Nelson Mandela Youth Centre held a career expo supported by approximately 80 service providers including Durban University of Technology, KwaZulu-Natal Department of Public Works, Department of Labour, Skyy Aviation, University of KwaZulu-Natal, Transnet Careers, International Hotel School, Oval College, SAPS Career Centre, Damelin and the University of South Africa. The event took place on 20 May 2017. An estimated 3 000 people attended the expo. An interview with the Central Applications Office broadcast live on Lotus FM to provide information and points of clarity on access to funding and enrolments at tertiary institutions.

Feedback from attendees was mainly positive. Youth were impressed by the variety of service providers present and the encouragement, advice and information provided by all the stakeholders, which served to broaden their knowledge and expose them to new career paths and choices.



Damelin and South African Navy stalls.



Interview with the Central Applications Office broadcast live on Lotus FM.



Young people at the South African Police Service stall.



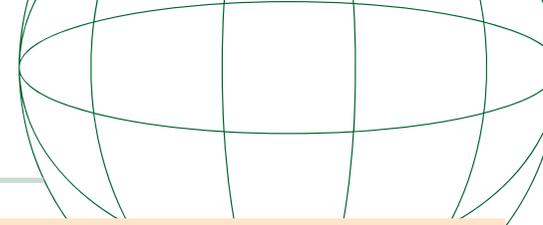
Community members accessing services at the event.



A stall promoting careers in the arts.



People accessing information from the University of South Africa and Transnet stalls.



Suhail Ganchi said:

"I did not pass matric. Everywhere I went this morning, people were giving me words of encouragement but I am interested in the chef field. The SA Navy gave me words of encouragement and also when I can apply again and how I can even use my supplementary results to apply."



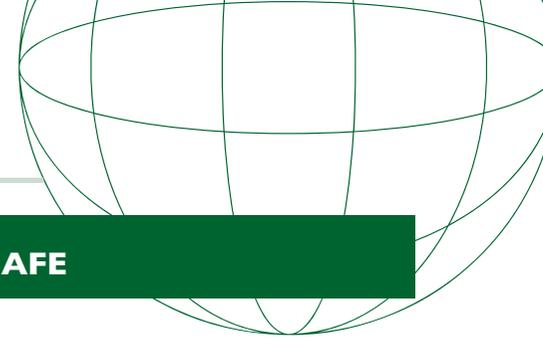
Mushaina Adam said:

"What I liked about the expo is that there were a lot of people giving detailed information. We had questions and they were able to answer our questions. We got a lot of information. The best person there was the lady from the Department of Human Settlements. She explained everything thoroughly and the guy from Harambee also provided detailed information, he was very good."



Abdul Mohamed said:

"I have nothing to complain about. I found the information at the Human Settlements stall interesting. I am interested in Geography."



Members of the community during the event.



An official from the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development sharing information with community members.

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

Government continues to put children first

By Masego Motshidisi: GCIS, Northern Cape

Community members of Pescodia welcomed the discussion around the issues facing children during the commemoration of Child Protection Week 27 May to 4 June 2017.

The dialogue, held at the Manne Dipico Thusong Service Centre on 30 May 2017, unpacked subjects relating to child abuse and children's rights.

Partners in the private and public sector, including non-governmental organisations (NGOs) from nearby, came out in numbers to vow for the safety of all children.

Present at the event were departments home affairs, health, social development and justice and constitutional development, and the South Africa Social Security Agency.

ChildLine and Child Welfare South Africa, NGOs working to protect children from violence and abuse, urged mothers to put the safety and needs of their children first over that of their lovers. ChildLine's 24-hour national telephone counselling for children and adults, allows for matters concerning children to be raised.

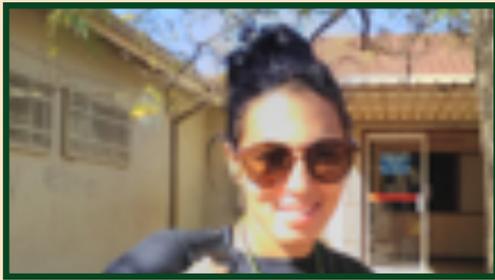
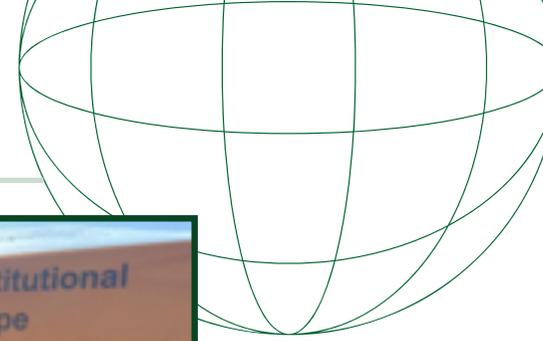
Mothers were advised to register their children at hospitals within 30 days to ensure that their identity and citizenship is protected. They were also reminded about the importance of birth certificates for primary health access, education and social grants.

The Department of Justice and Constitutional Development encouraged parents to report cases of sexual offences and to familiarise themselves with the Child Justice Act, 2008 (Act 75 of 2008) establishing a criminal justice system for children in conflict with the law and are accused of committing a crime.

Information material containing child protection services were shared with residents.



The Department of Health conducted basic health screening.



Luzaan Skeffers said:

“I have learned everything, but I am not a mother. I will definitely intervene if my friend or neighbour’s child is in danger or abused in some way.”



The Road Accident Fund rendered services at the event.



Residents receiving information products.



Grace Riet said:

“This was a good programme. I would really appreciate it if a special programme can be organized to address basic education issues. Our children do not want to go to school.”



Queenie Buffel said:

“The message was well received. I actually wanted to share some of my experiences in between the speeches. Everything said by the presenters today was true. It is critical to intervene where abuse is noticeable.”



Police Minister Mbalula speaking at the event.

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

Presidential anti-crime Imbizo in Elsie's River

By Sikelela Zokufa: GCIS, Western Cape

Elsie's River residents welcomed President Jacob Zuma's return to the community to address crime. The President was accompanied by the Ministers and Deputy Ministers to respond to the issues affecting the community and surrounding areas. The event took place on 30 May 2017.

Senior government officials visited the area following a mass shooting believed to be gang related and the rape and murder of three-year-old Courtney Pieters earlier in May.

The Adriaanse Community Hall was packed with residents eagerly engaging with President Zuma and Police Minister Fikile Mbalula, on their concerns relating to violent crime.

During his first visit, President Zuma promised residents he would return to bolster crime-fighting efforts.

Community members said the President's presence was a step in the right direction. "President Zuma you have promised to come back and you are here today."

Human Settlements Minister Lindiwe Sisulu and Social Development Minister Bathabile Dlamini also joined President Zuma and Minister Mbalula at the anti-crime Imbizo. Deputy Minister of Police, Bongani Mkhongi, was the programme director. There were also Deputy Ministers of Sport and Recreation, Communications and Human Settlements.

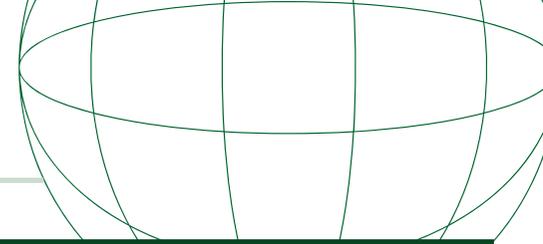
Residents highlighted an array of socio-economic issues that contributed to crime, while the President urged residents to support government's crime-fighting efforts.

"It will happen to your neighbour but one day it will happen to you. We must say 'an injury to my neighbour is an injury to me'. Let us prevent it before it happens," said President Zuma.

Minister Mbalula also handed over a mobile police station to the community of Adriaanse, which is located next to the Shoprite centre.



Community members at the event.



President Zuma speaking at the event.



Andrew Waiker said:

“I am very happy that government has responded to the high crime in Elsie’s River, we are hoping that things will be better. I am thankful for the mobile police station, which we have received to assist community members not to go far to report cases meaning that the police will be closer to the people, where they are needed. We will ensure that we work with the police to root out crime and support our caring government to safer communities.”



Africa Botes said:

“I am gaining confidence and hope in our government because the President had said he would come back, today he is here with his Ministers to engage community members on crime issues. We have raised that we need a police station. Minister Mbalula responded immediately and brought a mobile police station as a temporary response to our needs. I am glad to be part of this Imbizo. Thank you President Zuma!”