



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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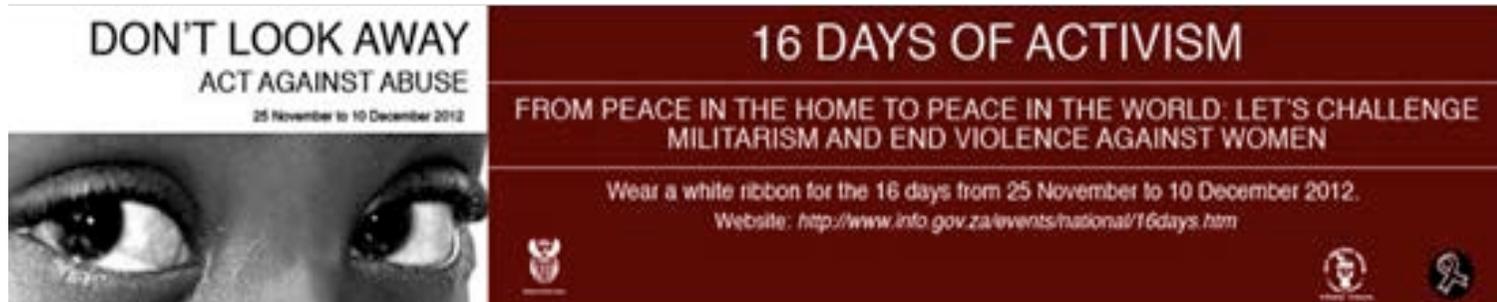
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Outcome 3: All people in South Africa are and feel safe

Dialogue discusses gender-based violence, HIV and AIDS

Cholo Mothibi, GCIS Free State



The 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children is an annual United Nations campaign that takes place from 25 November (International Day of No Violence Against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day).

Since 1999, the South African Government has been ensuring that the campaign includes issues relating to violence against children. The 16 Days of Activism Campaign focuses primarily on generating an increased awareness of the negative impact of violence on women and children, as well as society as a whole.

As part of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign, the Department of Social Development – in partnership with the GCIS and other departments and parastatals – held a dialogue in Intabazwe Hall near Harrismith in the Free State, on 29 November. Harrismith is frequented by many passing tourists on their way to either Durban

or Johannesburg. This encourages commercial sex workers to ply their trade in the town. The main purpose of the dialogue was to make youngsters aware of the dangers and implications of being a sex worker, including the risks of contracting HIV and AIDS.

The dialogue was followed by a prayer session led by pastors from different faith-based organisations, who gave the sex workers spiritual advice. They also prayed for an end to the abuse of youngsters.

Some of the sex workers explained that they were forced into the trade by poverty and unemployment. Arguing that they only did it for the survival of their families. Others admitted that it was a dangerous job as they were being mugged and robbed, and they pleaded with the police for protection.



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Outcome 7: Vibrant, equitable and sustainable rural communities with food security for all

Community receives update on land claims

Cholo Mothibi, GCIS Free State

The Department of Rural Development and Land Reform held a public participation session at Makwane, QwaQwa on 10 December 2012. The session, which focused on rural development as one of government's five key priorities, aimed to give feedback on progress regarding the status of land claims in the Makwane and Ha-Rankopane areas. A follow-up visit was expected to take place in the Xhariep district on 12 December 2012.

The Deputy Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform, Mr Lechesa Tsenoli, attended the session together with the Acting District Mayor of Thabo Mofutsanyana, members of the municipal council, councillors, tribal chiefs and provincial government representatives.

The local Chief welcomed all attendees and remarked that it was a privilege for the communities of Makwane and Ha-Rankopane to have a chance to interact with the department regarding their land claims. The Deputy Minister mentioned that the deadline for land restitution could be extended because some claimants did not get the chance to claim on time and others got the information late.

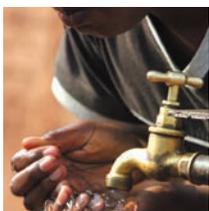
Mr Moloi, a community member, said "I'm happy the department came to our area to give people information regarding their claims on land. My concern is that we as the elderly need to be informed on how to access land-restitution claims as we could not do the application on time."



A Community member makes use of the opportunity to voice his opinion.



The Deputy Minister of Rural Development and Land Reform, Mr Lechesa Tsenoli, addresses the public participation session at Makwane.



Outcome 12 (b): An empowered, fair and inclusive citizenship



Eastern Cape counts down to Orange Afcon 2013

Sithembele Sakati: GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Orange Africa Cup of Nations (Afcon), which is organised by the Confederation of African Football, is the biggest sporting event on the African continent. South Africa will host the 29th Afcon from 19 January to 10 February 2013.

On 3 May 2012, Cabinet approved the hosting of Orange Afcon 2013 and the 2014 African Nations Championships.

In a bid to create hype ahead of the Orange Afcon, the Eastern Cape marked the 50-days countdown to the prestigious football tournament at the Nelson Mandela Bay Metro in Port Elizabeth.

Six Group-B matches involving Ghana, the Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC), Mali and Niger, as well as the quarter-final match and the playoff for third and fourth places, will be played at the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium.

The Orange Afcon 2013 is regarded as a crucial portal for exposure and an opportunity to raise South Africa's public relations bar a notch higher.

"It is an opportunity for all of us to increase our awareness of the magnitude of what South Africa and the Nelson Mandela Bay in particular have to offer the world. At the same time it will instil confidence and build positive images of our magnificent city to the world at large," said

Nelson Mandela Bay Executive Mayor, Zanoxolo Wayile.

Local Organising Committee Chairperson, Adv Chief Mwelolo Nonkonyana, urged those in charge of organising the tournament to visit all parts of the province and invite all soccer fans to come out in their numbers and fill up the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium to capacity.

"I am hopeful that on 20 January Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium will be packed to capacity as we witness the first Group-B matches involving Ghana versus the DRC at 17:00, followed by Mali versus Niger. Let us all march to the stadium not because Bafana Bafana is playing, but because it will be the greatest football tournament on African soil," he said.

The day also saw a blitz tour and activations with TAKUMA (the official 2013 Orange Afcon mascot),



Orange Afcon 50-days countdown live activation at Daku Spar in Kwa-Zakhele.

accompanied by disk dancers, competition and AFCON pamphlet/flyer distribution at the KwaZakhele/Daku Super Spar; Motherwell Shopping Centre; Cleary Park Shopping Centre and New Brighton Sheya Kulati Drive.

Eight out of the 32 games will be played at the Nelson Mandela Bay Stadium in. Tickets are available at Super Spar shops nationwide or by calling 087 980 3000.



Orange Afcon 50-days countdown event media briefing and unveiling of the countdown clock.



Outcome 3: All people in South Africa are and feel safe

Men as partners, Klipfontein View

Robbie Senoelo, GCIS Gauteng

“Why are men treated as providers and not as partners in the upbringing of their children?”, shouted Mr Jabulani Masango during the Men’s Programme at the Klipfontein View Multi-purpose Centre.

The roundtable discussion, which formed part of the 16 Days of Activism Campaign on No Violence Against Women and Children, was organised by Government Communications (GCIS) in conjunction with the Department of Social Development in Region E of the City of Johannesburg and Ward 32 community development workers.

The programme aims to create and heighten awareness about gender-based violence and child abuse and to educate and encourage men to change their mindset about all forms of domestic violence and become positive agents for change, as well as to empower them with relevant parenting skills to deal with modern-day societal challenges.

Sonke Gender Justice, a non-governmental organisation dealing with HIV and AIDS, gender

equality and human rights issues, educated the participants about sexual-reproductive health, the importance and benefits of male medical circumcision and preventing HIV and AIDS preventive methods, as well as the prevention of mother-to-child transmission initiative.

Mr Thapelo Ratlhogo from Agisanang Domestic Abuse Prevention and Treatment (ADAPT) tackled issues relating to gender-based stereotypes and myths like ‘boys do not cry’, ‘girls/women are the weaker sex’, ‘men are the providers’, ‘the place of women is in the kitchen’, etc. He defied these stereotypes and myths by referring to certain chapters of the Constitution and the Bible, to illustrate and reinforce his argument.

He also encouraged them to be part of the solution in tackling issues relating to women and children abuse.

Mr Nkosana Dywati from Sonke Gender Justice asked why men were not seen as parents but as providers and why men were not part of their children’s lives. Responses included blaming the



Mr Thapelo Ratlhogo from ADAPT talks to the participants about issues relating to gender-based stereotypes and myths.



Mr Nkosana Dywati from Sonke Gender Justice discusses gender-based violence during the Men’s Programme at Klipfontein View.

migrant labour system, pregnancy due to infidelity and one-night-stands due to alcohol abuse.

The project’s main success was the commitment to establish a Men’s Forum to ensure that men become partners in finding solutions and eradicating all forms of abuse.

“Now I know what domestic abuse is and know what to do if I see anyone being abused”, said Ms Thobejane, one of the participants. “I urge everyone not to look away but act against any form of abuse.”



Some of the participants at the roundtable discussion.