



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Women's health dialogue

By Thandinkosi Zulu: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

As the country celebrates Women's Month, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) led a successful women's health dialogue that targeted young female students of Majuba TVET College – Dundee Campus. The dialogue was held at the campus library on 7 August 2019 where more than 50 students participated under the theme: "25 Years of Democracy: Growing South Africa Together for Women's Emancipation".

The main aim of the dialogue was to empower young women at tertiary level, particularly Majuba TVET College students, about the importance of taking care of their lives. "By doing so, they will have healthy minds to further their studies and become successful individuals," said Thandinkosi Zulu from the GCIS. For the dialogue to be effective, the GCIS mobilised Dundee Hospital outreach team to talk to other women about issues affecting young women.

Doris Mkhize, a professional nurse, told young women that taking good care of their bodies would translate into successful careers. "Our visit here at the college was focusing largely on women and health, and we have the weekly clinic that is aimed at assisting students. We do not want to see these young students dropping out of school because of issues affecting their health. Ours is to support them and not to judge them, and we are a very good team that is dedicated and willing to meet the health needs of young people at school," she said. Mkhize also encouraged all women to self-examine for breast cancer, and those over the age of 35 to visit healthcare facilities to get screened and tested for cervical cancer by undergoing pap smear, which is free of charge.

Among other participants to note issues affecting young women at tertiary level was the Department of Corporate Governance and Traditional Affairs, and also community development workers: Ntombikayise Ntuli and Fisani Sibiya. The two believe that young people should not only be taught about abstinence from sex but the promotional and use of dual protection (female contraceptives and condoms) should be a way to go on government campaigns.



Doris Mkhize talking to women about their health.



The presentation of sanitary pads.



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Thembani Zondo said:

"We were happy today because our government was here to talk to us about the important truth concerning our health and our well-being as young female students."



Zibuyile Masango said:

"I feel very much empowered by today's session. I wish the whole college was present so that we can all take care of ourselves. We were told about the importance of using contraceptives to prevent unplanned pregnancy."



Nanazi Sthenjwa said:

"As young women I think the month of August gives us pride to be following our heroines who fought for our liberation. We are very happy to be joined by health professionals who gave us such an important information to improve our lives."



Faith Mtshweni said:

"I am happy today as we celebrate Women's Month because I learnt that as a woman you must love yourself and take care of yourself so that you become the woman you want to be."



Khanyisile Mothwa said:

"Today I learnt about women empowerment and how as young women, we can achieve our goals in education and also stand up against gender-based violence."

PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Nkangala TVET College celebrates Women's Month

By Livhuwani Todani: GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Nkangala TVET College, supported by the Government Communication and Information System, National Prosecution Authority (NPA), Love Life, Department of Health (DoH), Department of Social Development and Boss Lady Global, hosted a successful Women's Day celebration on 8 August 2019, focusing on women in education and gender-based violence.

The Middelburg TVET Campus manager, Thembi Magagula, said that the celebration aims to motivate young women on the importance of education. "We want women in all positions, and we can only accomplish this if young women study hard. We want women in business, working and owning mines," she said.

Cynthia Zulu from the NPA warned students about the dangers of going to clubs, as there are a lot of reported rape cases that take place at night clubs as a result of drink spiking and hitch-hiking. She also added that if students want to have fun it should be around the campus. The NPA has established the Thuthuzela Centre at Emalahleni Hospital that assists rape victims with counselling, opening cases with the police and also offers medical assistance.

People were encouraged to report cases of rape within 72 hours, to enable enough gathering of necessary information for a successful prosecution. Love Life and the DoH encouraged students to visit hospitals regularly for health screening. Government information products such as the Vuk'uzenzele newspapers were distributed to the audience.



Nkangala TVET College students at the event.



Middelburg TVET campus manager Thembi Magagula motivating young women.



Mmapula Mnisi said:

"I have been exposed to so many career choices. I am a bit confused. Thanks for bringing this information to us. We will make informed career choices."



Doreen Moumakwe (left) said:

"We learnt so much about careers we can follow but I wanted more information about this Fourth Industrial Revolution they talked about. We do not want to be unemployable graduates."

PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Career expo in Ekangala

By Robbie Senoelo: GCIS, Gauteng

The South African Police Service (SAPS) in conjunction with other local stakeholders conducted a career expo at Ekangala Community Hall, targeting learners from local high schools. The event took place on 2 August 2019 and was held under the theme: "My Education, My Key to a Great future". Ekangala is a semi-rural area, therefore, most learners come from disadvantaged backgrounds and their families depend on social grants.

This was the third annual career expo in the area aligned to the main intentions of bringing businesses, employers and prospective career development institutions under one roof in order to give them the platform to showcase career opportunities to the youth. The expo provided an opportunity for industry employers to introduce themselves to the youth, educated them about opportunities and also gave them the platform to network with employers, training institutions and development agencies.

Stakeholders at the event included the departments of Justice and Correctional Services, Basic Education, Trade and Industry, SAPS, Gauteng Department of Economic Development, National Youth Development Organisation (NYDO), Government Communication and Information System and the City of Tshwane.

Eunice Skosana from the NYDO urged pupils to focus on their studies. "You should be independent individuals. Stay away from crime and drugs, and listen to your parents or elders. Study hard and complete your studies in order to realise a dream of a better life and a better tomorrow," she said.



Learners from high schools in Ekangala listening to presentations.



Some of the learners who showed interest in pursuing careers in the communication field.



Siza Magangoe said:

“This Provincial Consultation is important because it grants women from all walks of life the opportunity to make contribute to the National Strategic Plan. It is imperative to keep the conversation going through various media platforms so that people become aware of the plan.”



Dr Lesley Ann Foster said:

“We are still struggling in terms of eradicating GBV and Femicide as too many women are being killed every day, which is why we felt it was important that we have the provincial consultation, to allow people the opportunity to have an input into the National Strategic Plan on GBV and Femicide.”



Nokuthula Tsawu said:

“As women with disabilities, we are delighted that we were also part of the provincial consultation because we are also affected by GBV and femicide, and when we look the current statistics on how many women and children are being killed every day, it is quite horrific. Therefore having this consultation was important and I hope that much will be implemented in the National Strategic Plan.”

PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Consultation on violence and femicide

By Zimkita Maqokolo: GCIS, Eastern Cape

The Masimanyane Women’s Support Centre held a Provincial Consultation Meeting in East London on 15 August 2019. The session focused on the declaration, which was produced at the National Summit Against Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. The event took place 2 November 2018 and produced a declaration, which brought about deliverables that would be taken forward and be implemented in dealing with the scourge of gender-based violence (GBV) and femicide.

A Department of Social Development official and member of the Presidential GBV and Femicide Interim Steering Committee, Siza Magangoe, said that she welcomed the campaign because government was working with civil society to come up with ways to eradicate GBV and femicide. “The provincial consultation is a process where government and all key role players are working together, unlike where government does a plan and the civil society feels excluded. There is also a plan to engage with those who feel excluded to ensure that we bring them on board. President Cyril Ramaphosa has been involved from the day of the summit and signing the declaration,” said Magangoe.

Masimanyane Women’s Rights International Executive Director and member of the Presidential Gender Based Violence and Femicide Interim Steering Committee, Dr Lesley Ann Foster, said, “I think we are really struggling to address GBV and femicide, so we are very excited as Masimanyane to have this provincial consultation because it gives people the opportunity to have an input into the National Strategic Plan on GBV and Femicide.” The attendees participated in the discussions, making an input on how to improve the National Strategic Plan. In attendance were representatives from various non-governmental organisations, Chapter Nine Institutions and government departments.



Attendants participating in discussions.



Government official Vuyokazi Dube exhibiting at the event.