




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Harry Gwala Clinic celebrates Mandela Day

By Lehlohonolo Manoto and Lerato Setilo: GCIS, Free State

A dialogue was conducted at Harry Gwala Clinic N Section in Botshabelo on 18 July 2016 as part of Mandela Month with the intention to educate and encourage people to know their HIV and AIDS status. Botshabelo is ranked number two in the Free State as a town that has a high number of people who are living with HIV and AIDS. The Government Communication and Information System communicated the gains and success stories in the fight against HIV and AIDS since 1994, in line with Mandela Day celebration.

The dialogue mainly focused on HIV and AIDS, counselling and testing, pap smear, tuberculosis and cancer. "The reason I shared my story as a cancer survivor is because I want to advise women to continuously visit clinics and undergo pap smear tests as this can save their lives," said Leisie Sesedinyane.

Community members were informed and educated about HIV and AIDS, and also encouraged to practise safe sex always.



Selloane Hlalele from the Department of Health engaging with community members during a dialogue at Harry Gwala Clinic in Botshabelo.

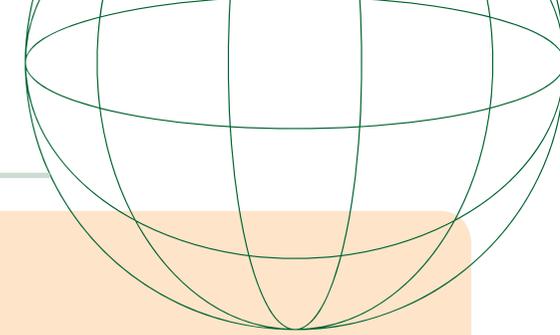


Lehlohonolo Manoto interacting with community members at the event.



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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Ncethiwe Mohobane said:

“Tuberculosis is a disease associated with HIV and AIDS and people are encouraged to also know their tuberculosis status. People must come to the clinic and we will conduct the necessary tests.”



Selloane Hlalele said:

“People are urged to undergo HIV tests every month and not wait for the three months period. Government is also doing more and now all people undergoing HIV treatment take one pill and no longer three.”



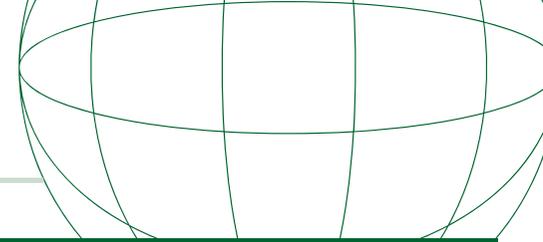
Leisie Sesedinyane said:

“It is important that women undergo pap smear tests to check their cancer status. I also had cancer but I received help from the Department of Health.”



Zoleka Mhlaba said:

“I appreciate the information I have received at Harry Gwala Clinic about different kinds of diseases, including HIV and AIDS.”



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

MEC unveils clinic to benefit communities

By Nompilo Mchunu: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Health, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, officially opened the R16 million Verdriet Clinic in Dannhauser, Amajuba District on 6 July 2016.

Verdriet Clinic is one of the 10 clinics at the Amajuba District that recently attained “Ideal Clinic” status, following assessments by the Office of Health Care Standards and Compliance.

An Ideal Clinic is defined as one that opens on time and may not close until all healthcare clients have been attended to; has good infrastructure; adequate staff; good staff attitudes; adequate medicine and supplies; and good administrative processes. It uses applicable clinical policies; protocols and guidelines; and it harnesses partner and stakeholder support.

MEC Dhlomo was accompanied by Dannhauser Deputy Mayor, Mgcini Ndaba and Health District Manager, Mamosa Tshabalala.

The MEC told the audience that government has built clinics throughout the province, to give communities an opportunity to stay healthy, prevent diseases and unwanted pregnancies and live longer. “Let this clinic not be a decoration. I call upon you to ensure that when you find time, make a stop at the clinic and ask nurses to give you a health screening. It becomes too expensive to treat people who are too sick. Because government has built this clinic and many others elsewhere, there is really no need for people to fall sick and one day find out that they are suffering from multiple diseases,” he said.

He further urged the public to take advantage of health facilities provided by government and also attend health-screening sessions at least once a year, because early detection of diseases makes it easier and cheaper to treat or manage.

The MEC advised parents to ensure that young children do not get involved in romantic relationships. “Those who cannot abstain from sex are urged to go to their nearest clinic, to get dual protection, which is the use of female contraceptive methods while using condoms during every episode of sexual contact. This ensures protection against both sexually transmitted infections, including HIV and unwanted pregnancies,” said Dhlomo.

MEC Dhlomo also warned healthcare workers about the dangers of admonishing young people when they seek healthcare services, adding that the department would work hard to ensure that more health facilities offer adolescent and youth-friendly health services. “Those children who come to the clinic are responsible enough to do something about their reproductive health. If we chase them away, they will come back a few months later pregnant,” he said.

Deputy Mayor Ndaba thanked the MEC and the health department for the clinic. “This facility will improve the lives of the people of Verdriet. We thank the health department for its contribution towards moving communities forward through accessible healthcare.”



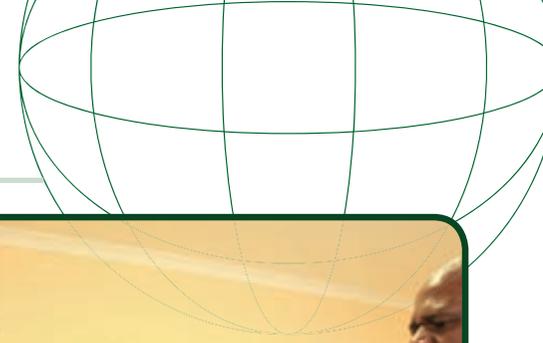
Mxolisi Sikhosana said:

“It has been a long wait for the community for the facility. Even though some sections of it have been working, now it will be fully operational and we will not need referral letters to other clinics to get further health attention as everything will be available here.”



Nkosonye Khumalo said:

“Elders have been travelling to areas such as KwaMdakane and Newcastle to collect medication. I think the clinic will definitely improve the lives and health of the people. It is within walking distance from our homes and has adequate facilities.”



Melusi Ngubane said:

“I wish government can continue building such facilities in all rural areas to benefit disadvantaged people. What I like about the clinic is that it is closer to the people. We will not have to travel long distances to get medical attention as we did previously.”



MEC Dhlomo, Deputy Mayor Ndaba and other dignitaries at the official opening of the Verdriet Clinic.



MEC Dhlomo inspecting the interior of the facility.



The Verdriet community filled the marquee to capacity during the address by MEC Dhlomo.



An elderly woman from Senotlelo talking about road safety for young children who cross the roads when going to school.

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

Project Mikondzo leaves visible footprints in deep rural areas

By Reki Skosana: GCIS, Mpumalanga

Project Mikondzo is a government initiative in partnership with the National Development Agency that seeks to address issues of social development in the communities. "Mikondzo" is a Xitsonga word for footprints.

The collaboration of stakeholders from different government departments yielded positive results during the Project Mikondzo event that was held on 5 July 2016. The event was conducted with the aim of engaging the community on the social issues that affect them. This has assisted government in addressing issues of concern and to improve its reputation so that the project can be steered towards the right direction. The event was graced by the MEC for Social Development, Nomsa Mtsweni, who had some engagements with community members in trying to dig deeper into issues they are experiencing in the area where they live. An elderly lady from Senotlelo said: "My plea is regarding primary school learners who are forced to cross the streets all by themselves, we appeal to our MEC to assist us because of the dangers involved in such circumstances."

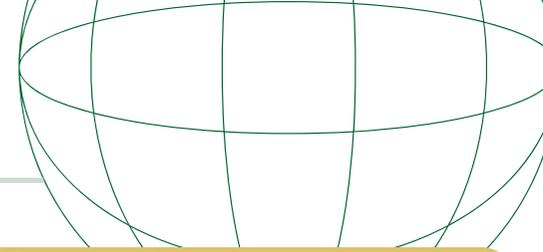
Among the issues raised were serious concerns about the misuse of social grants by the youth, issues of safety and under-resourced pension points and alarming incidents of substance abuse. Other issues were addressed on the spot while others had to be escalated to the relevant departments.



Community members attended the event.



MEC Mtsweni addressing the audience.

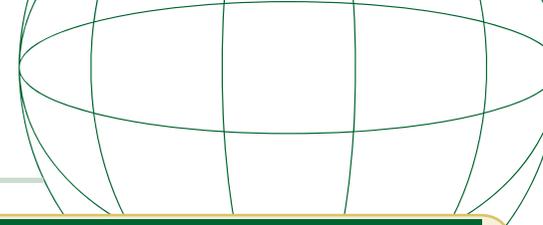


Community members accessed services from different stakeholders and also received social relief of distress in a form of food parcels, vanity packs for people living with albinism, wheelchairs, walking sticks, school uniform and blankets.



A community member said:

“I am from Ga-Maria in Ward 22. We thank SASSA for visiting our municipality to listen to our concerns. In Ga-Maria we are struggling during our pension pay-out days, there is no shelter there and during rainy seasons we get wet, including the money that we receive. We therefore appeal to the MEC to consider the provision of shelter at our pension points.”



Community members inside the community hall.

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

Minister celebrates Mandela Day with community members

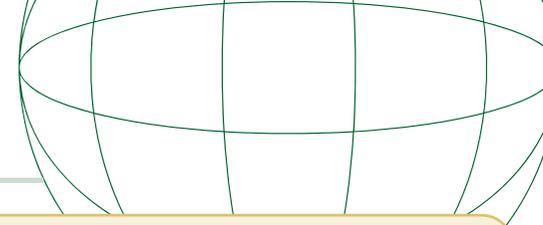
By Abigail Batala: GCIS, North West

The Minister of Energy, Tina Joemat-Pettersson celebrated the Nelson Mandela International Day at Tlhaping Early Learning Centre in Ganyesa, North West on 18 July 2016. The Minister was accompanied by the Executive Mayor of Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District Municipality, Councillor Elvis Tladinyane and the Mayor of Kagisano Molopo, Councillor Kesenkamang Kekesi. Minister Joemat-Pettersson played her part by heeding the Cabinet call in taking part on Mandela Day activities, which included painting, cleaning and presentation of gifts to Tlhaping Early Learning Centre and Kutlwano Service Club. Nelson Mandela International Day is a reminder to all people in the world to do their part to improve the lives of the less fortunate.

The Minister then moved to a community hall in Ganyesa where she interacted with community members through an Imbizo on issues of service delivery, with a focus on the electrification programme.



Mandela Day activities included painting, cleaning and presentation of gifts to Tlhaping Early Learning Centre.



Ketlaonayang Moreetsi said:

*“Retumelela dithuso tse re diboneng
gotswa go balehapha; ditla retswela
mosola gone renentse renale ditlhaelo
tsa di diriswa.”*

(I am happy that our centre was chosen to benefit from the 67 minutes by the Minister of Energy).



Sepelong Molapong said:

“Reitumeletse dimpho tse ditswang ko lephapheng.”
(We appreciate the gifts in honour of Nelson Mandela).



Ogone Pelaelo said:

*“Ke motlotlo mo letsatsing la gompiano; go bona se se diragalang.
Ao tata faokabo olebile buitumelo jwa rona; one otlala ipela.”*

(I am happy that the Minister has chosen us to be the beneficiaries of her 67 minutes).