



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Community dialogue on gender-based violence

By Tshidi Mokoka: GCIS, Gauteng

On 11 September 2019, the Government Communication and Information System and the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs conducted a gender-based violence (GBV) dialogue at Bekkersdal Care of the Aged. The purpose of the dialogue was to address GBV, focusing on the elderly in the establishment, who are regarded as vulnerable and are usually targeted by criminals.

Stakeholders from organisations such as the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development and the South African Police Service engaged with participants on services they offer and how they can be accessed to help people in need. Men were also encouraged to be part of this fight against GBV and report crimes perpetrated against women and children.

Sergeant Linkie Lefakane, from the Bekkersdal Police Station, urged women to ensure that people close to them know about their whereabouts. "It is imperative that people close to you; and this means your friends, family and neighbours, always know where you are. Make sure that you have the police station sector number stored on your mobile phones as this will make it easier to quickly get in touch with the police," she said.

The NPA took participants through processes followed when applying for protection orders. Mr Paul Oosthuizen, from the NPA Westonia Magistrate Court, said one of the challenges they face is the dropping of cases by victims of abuse soon after the alleged abusers are arrested. "This has rendered us as incompetent in the eyes of communities because we, as the NPA, are seen as not wanting to jail abusers." He added that the victims always claim that the perpetrators are the only providers. "It is imperative that victims of abuse are informed that there are shelters such as Are Ageng in the Westrand that provide support to women in abusive relationships. As the NPA, we are also able to put a maintenance order that compels the abuser to continue to support his family financially," he concluded.



Mr Oosthuizen addressing participants.



Sergeant Lefakane addressing participants.



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Miriam Williams said:

"I was married to an abuser for 25 years and today I stand here knowing that I am a survivor of domestic abuse. I am strong today because of the help that I received from Are Ageng Shelter for Abused Women. They shared relevant information with me and provided me with skills to make sure that I have tools I am currently using to improve my life. I encourage people to stand up against abuse because domestic abuse destroys families, and children end up emulating what they see in the home to others outside. There are organisations that are put in place to help assist victims of abuse."



Rebecca Madimo said:

"As elderly women, we are vulnerable to being abused by those living around us. Perpetrators always learn and observe before they attack. It is important that we are aware of our surroundings and report incidents that we are not comfortable with to make sure we live a secure life in the space that we live in."



Pauline Tlou said:

"Women tend to live in situations that are detrimental to them and their children. As women we must support each other and learn not to turn the other way when we know that one of us is being abused. It is important that we share this information that we received today as it might help someone change their life for the better."

PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

GCIS assists students with NSFAS applications

By Kaone Lekgetho: GCIS, North West

As a contribution towards the Public Service Month, the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) officials in North West have been assisting the Information Resource Centre walk-in clients with the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) applications. This is due to the high demand of NSFAS information by citizens.

The department designed a poster to notify community members about documents required for NSFAS applications and further communicated messages from the NSFAS. More than 50 young people were assisted with their 2020 NSFAS applications.

Applications can be done online through the myNSFAS portal on: <https://my.nsfas.org.za/Application/selfservice.jsp> before 30 November 2019.



Emeleng Kelaotse said:

"I am very thankful for your help after so many years trying to apply for NSFAS."



Ronald Lethogonolo Matsheka said:

"I am happy with your services. I hope I will get funding"



Young people applying for NSFAS.

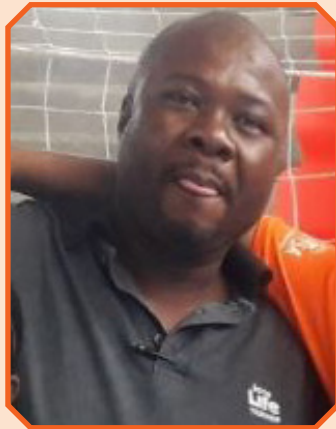
PRIORITY 5: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Sporting activities in honour of a public servant

By Ntombi Mhlambi and Selina Mojeisi Lekaota: GCIS, Free State

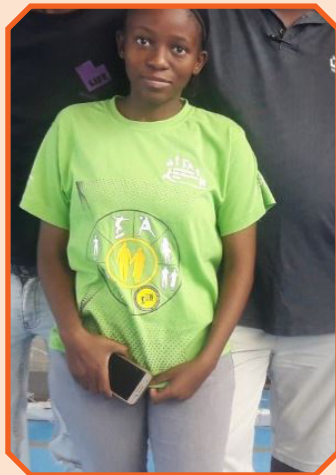
The National Recreation Day is celebrated every first Friday of October. On this day, community members are encouraged to take part in various sporting activities. On October 7 2019, the Love Life Youth Centre in Kutlwanong, in the Free State celebrated the day in memory of the late Warrant Officer Diseko Gopane at Sipho Mutsi Indoor Sports Centre. The late officer was working closely with the Community Policing Forum (CPF) to ensure that the youth stay away from criminal activities.

Community members, the late officer's family and former colleagues came together to honour his dedication and commitment to duty. Activities included, aerobics, soccer and netball. These were in line with the National Recreation Day key message of "keeping active". Sergeant Zolile November who works with the CPF gave a memorial speech to remind and inform community members of who the late Warrant Officer Gopane was and what he was known for. Participants received medals while winning teams walked away with trophies.



Sello Mathafeng said:

"This is a great initiative and we hope that next year we will honour Warrant Officer Gopane again and have the memorial event each year."



Matshediso Merabe said:

"It was great being a part of this event. I hope it grows bigger as the years go by."



community members listening to the memorial lecture.



Indoor Netball final match.

PRIORITY 5: SPATIAL INTEGRATION, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

New district-based model for development to improve service delivery

By Ndyabo Kopo: GCIS, Eastern Cape

On 17 September 2019, President Cyril Ramaphosa officially launched the Khawuleza District Coordination Service Delivery Model in Lusikisiki, OR Tambo District Municipality, in the Eastern Cape. The new district-based coordination model aims to address service delivery and economic development challenges through the synchronisation of planning across all spheres of government, working alongside social partners such as business and community.

The President said the new model will ensure transparency and increase community involvement in development issues, allowing them to hold government accountable. "We aim to change the economic future of this region. For this financial year, over R11 billion will be spent by all three spheres of government in over 648 projects," said the President.

President Ramaphosa made pronouncements of specific medium to long term infrastructure projects and service delivery programmes which various government departments would implement in the OR Tambo District Municipality under the new model. These include Umzimvubu Dam, the N2 Wild Coast Road, developing Port St Johns into a tourism hub, resuscitating the Lusikisiki College of Education as well as developing Ingwe TVET College and KSD College.

The OR Tambo District Municipality is among the three pilot sites identified for the model. Lusikisiki is one of the poorest areas of the Eastern Cape with a high rate of employment, lack of running water, poor sanitation, bad road infrastructure and high crime rates. The Khawuleza District Coordination Service Delivery Model is a beacon of hope for the people of Lusikisiki and OR Tambo District Municipality as it will address many service delivery challenges in the area.

The launch was attended by approximately 10 000 community members from all over OR Tambo District Municipality. The President is also expected to launch the model in KwaZulu-Natal on 18 October 2019.



Dignitaries and community members attending the launch.



President Cyril Ramaphosa addressing the community during the launch of the district-based model for development.