



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Deputy Minister hosts dialogue against violence

By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga



Deputy Minister Pinky Kekana addressing the female students.



Female students who attended the dialogue.

As part of celebrating the Mama Sisulu Centenary, the Deputy Minister of Communications, Pinky Kekana, hosted a women's dialogue with the students of the Tshwane University of Technology (TUT), Mbombela Campus on 22 October 2018. The main objective of the dialogue was to create awareness, educate and inform female students about issues affecting women.

The day began with the Deputy Minister engaging with stakeholders working closely with gender-based violence (GBV) issues at the City of Mbombela Executive Mayor's boardroom. This was followed by a visit to the Greater Rape Intervention Project (GRIP) to get more information on how the institution works with GBV cases. The Deputy Minister then visited the Home of Hope Centre where victims are placed. One of the brave survivors went on Kasi FM to tell her story, thus creating awareness and urging other victims to come out.

Deputy Minister Kekana then headed to the main event, where she engaged with TUT female students to raise awareness on the negative impact that violence and abuse has on them and children. She also suggested ways in which this scourge could be dealt with.



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Colonel Xaba engaging the male students visiting the exhibition stall.

“Women and children are subjected to GBV around the places they stay in, that is why today we are here to get female students’ views and concerns on this matter,” said the Deputy Minister.

These violations occur in different ways including rape, physical violence, stalking, sexual harassment, coerced sex-for-grades and emotional abuse. This violation of human rights perpetuates gender discrimination and has far-reaching physical, psychological and educational consequences.

Some female students raised concerns that some of their peers saw them smiling, whereas they were hurt on the inside as a result of violence and abuse experienced where they were studying. Students stated that they could not come out on what they went through because they feared that they could be victimised. Students also stated that there was an under reporting of GBV-related issues as most reported cases were sometimes postponed and it took years before justice was served. The perpetrator would be on the loose and this emotionally drains the victim.

Deputy Minister Kekana said that all stakeholders must work together and find a way to improve the court system to be sensitive to women who end up suffering secondary trauma as a result of harsh interrogations.

Exhibition, engagement and dissemination of information at TUT was conducted by the Government Communication and Information System; GRIP; Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison; South African Police Service; National Prosecuting Authority and the Hawks. The success was that five cases were reported on site and dockets opened while some would be referred to the nearest police stations such as the Kanyamazane Police Station.



Female students displaying the placards against violence.

Vusimuzi Masina said:

“I am currently doing Marketing 1 here at TUT. I have already gathered a lot of information from these exhibition stalls. I will read the pamphlets later. Thanks for choosing to visit our campus.”



Arthur Madonsela said:

“I am a DJ in my spare time. The official from the Independent Electoral Commission of South Africa has explained to us about how we can establish a radio station here on our campus. Now we need to sell the idea to the student representative council and other stakeholders. We appreciate this information.”



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

Minister takes digital migration to Thabong

By Ntombi Mhlambi: GCIS, Free State



Selesaneng Sehaole said:

“I am very happy as I have received a free decoder from government. It works perfectly.”



Christina Tlaetse said:

“I was not able to register to receive a decoder due to taking care of my child with disabilities and I am also not well. I am grateful for the opportunity that the Minister has afforded me and my children. For the first time they are going to watch television as I did not have any.”



Communications Minister Nomvula Mokonyane addressing the community of Thabong.



Community members who were in attendance.

The Minister of Communications, Nomvula Mokonyane, conducted a digital migration campaign in ward 17 at Thabong, Welkom on 28 October 2018. Minister Mokonyane mobilised the community to register for subsidised decoders and also explained the switching off of transmitters in the Free State from 31 December 2018 to enable the migration from analogue to digital broadcasting.

The event also addressed issues of those who were not able to go to their nearest South African Post Office for registration, as the Minister went on a door-to-door campaign to register them. Minister Mokonyane pleaded with those who received the decoders to use them responsibly as government spent a lot of money to purchase them. Government will subsidise households that depend on social grants and those with a monthly income of less than R3 200.

OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH.

Employment and career opportunities information for youth

By Nkopodi Mokgoma: GCIS, Limpopo



Johla Comfee said:

"I was informed about a lot of job opportunities that are available in various institutions and how to get employment."



Tsela Kgashilo said:

"I am a Grade 12 learner from Rekhuditse Secondary School. The information I received today has motivated me so much that I am encouraged to study hard so that I can pass my final exams."



Acting Mayor Cllr Motsepe Makoma addressing the youth.

An official from the Department of Transport presenting to the youth.



Attendees collecting information at the exhibition stalls.

The community of Maklerekeng Village near Marble Hall in Limpopo, benefited from an information-sharing session on employment opportunities and careers from tertiary institutions. The event was held on 18 October 2018 at the local community hall. Government departments, parastatals and institutions of higher learning gathered to share information on jobs and careers with the young people of the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality.

Approximately 500 youths had the opportunity to interact with officials from various institutions, gathering information that would help to transform their lives. Some of the stakeholders at the event were: National Youth Development Agency; Independent Electoral Commission; South African Social Security Agency; Limpopo Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism; National Home Builders Registration Council; Construction Education and Training Authority; Department of Transport; Department of Public Works; Nkangala TVET College; Sekhukhune TVET College, Rosebank College and University of Mpumalanga.

The Acting Mayor of the Ephraim Mogale Local Municipality, Cllr Motsepe Makoma, indicated that the event sought to prepare the youths for their future. "If you dream of being a doctor, an engineer or any other profession, start today", she said. She also thanked the Youth Officer in the municipality for ensuring that the important event took place. The majority of the young people who attended the event was pleased by the information shared.

**OUTCOME 9: RESPONSIVE, ACCOUNTABLE, EFFECTIVE
AND EFFICIENT LOCAL GOVERNMENT SYSTEM.**

Local Communicators' Forum launch

By Fatima Modise: GCIS, North West



Two of the attendees of the Local Communicators' Forum said:

“We are totally against any form of violence and abuse. We plead with the community to join the fight against violence.”



Communicators who attended the launch.

The Communication Policy, which was recently approved by Cabinet, opened the eyes of communicators in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District. On 19 October 2018, the Greater Taung Local Municipality launched the Local Communicators' Forum at Taung Hotel School, which mainly focused on the importance of the Communication Policy. The Head of Communication in the municipality, Ricky Oliphant, outlined that they had been waiting for the policy to be approved and now communicators should implement it.

The Head of Communication in the province, Brian Setswambung, highlighted the importance of the Communication Policy as a guideline for communicators. He urged communicators to be careful about what they write on social media. The Mayor of Greater Taung, Chief Nyoko Motlhabane, said, “Communicators should stop seeing the media as their enemies, but should create relationships with them for balanced reporting. I wish this forum the strength and credibility.”

The Government Communication and Information System in the district used the platform to popularise messages against gender-based violence (GBV). The communicators were urged to continue with the campaign against GBV and encourage the public to report all cases of abuse to law-enforcement agencies.