



MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Community tackles violence and substance abuse

By Reki Skosana: GCIS, Mpumalanga

The Government Communication and Information System partnered with Dr JS Moroka Local Municipality, Department of Correctional Services, South African Police Service, Independent Communications Authority of South Africa, Independent Electoral Commission, Department of Social Development and community-based organisations to conduct an information-sharing session to address issues of drug and substance abuse, bullying, cybercrime, human trafficking and other forms of violence that are prevalent in local schools. The session was held at Silindile Secondary School on 15 May 2019.

Learners were happy to have representatives from government departments and engaged freely with them. Those who are victims of violence were afforded an opportunity to have one-on-one sessions with relevant stakeholders and their cases were registered for further investigation, after the campaign.



Learners who attended the session.



Government officials engaging with learners during the session.

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Alex Mthimunye said:
“Government departments visited our school and shared a lot of information that I think is going to assist us in dealing with issues of drug and substance abuse.”



Mbalenhle Ntuli said:
“I understood all the information that was shared with us. I now know some government departments that I did not know of before.”



Goodwill Mtsweni said:
“The information that was shared with us today will be helpful, for example, the information on human trafficking. It was explained how it might happen and that was something I did not know.”

OUTCOME 14: A DIVERSE, SOCIALLY COHESIVE SOCIETY WITH A COMMON NATIONAL IDENTITY.

Presidential Inauguration and Africa Day celebrations

By Valencia Rachuene: GCIS, Head Office

South Africans celebrated the sixth Presidential Inauguration, which coincided with Africa Day celebration on 25 May 2019. President Cyril Ramaphosa was inaugurated at the Loftus Versfeld Stadium where members of the public witnessed and celebrated with him. The Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) coordinated various live viewing sites across all provinces. One of these events was at Filadelfia Secondary School in Soshanguve. The school caters for about 450 learners with special needs.

The learners gathered in their school hall on the day to collectively watch the inauguration and celebrate Africa Day. Some of them entertained the audience with performances of gumboots, dance, singing and poetry. They were also motivated by the school's former learners who are doing well in their careers.

GCIS official Moepeng Tshwane and Chris Budeli from the South African National Council for the Blind also addressed the learners. Lydia Makhubela, a teacher at the school, said the school appreciates the efforts by government for having brought live viewing to their school. The learners were also given information materials and other goodies, which were provided by the GCIS.



Kabelo Maleri said:

"I am happy today. I never knew anything about the Presidential Inauguration before."



Boitumelo Mainganya said:

"You must ensure that you pass and have access to study at the universities. Everything is achievable and you need good marks to enter universities, so, study hard."



GCIS official Moepeng Tshwane addressing the learners.



Filadelfia Secondary School learners watching the Presidential Inauguration.

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

Workers' Month activation

By Tinyiko Molefe: GCIS, Gauteng



Dumisani Dlamini said:

"Workers' Day is important to me because it is a milestone for the workers who fought for fair labour practices."



Thabo Twala said:

"I am empowered today with workers' rights information including the national minimum wage. I will also share the information to assist others."



Different stakeholders rendering service at the event.



Natasha Monakhisi from Rostec TVET College engaging the youth.

Workers' Day is celebrated annually on 1 May. This year's campaign was observed under the theme: "Know your rights and responsibilities as a means to promote greater compliance." As part of Workers' Month activities, the Government Communication and Information System in partnership with the Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (CoGTA) hosted an activation to raise awareness about workers' rights and also highlight government achievements in protecting the rights of workers.

The event was held at Evaton on 11 May 2019 and comprised other stakeholders. Community members were empowered with information concerning workers' rights such as the national minimum wage.

"It is important for workers to understand their rights while taking into consideration their responsibilities," said Teddy Martin, from CoGTA.

The activation also addressed the issue of job creation and skills development. Stakeholders shared information on available skills development opportunities and also advised the public on how to access them. "I appreciate the information that I received today. Now I know where to go to enhance my skills so that I can be employable," said Neo Molaba.



Lwazi Ndlela said:

“There were non-governmental organisations and government officials educating and enlighten us about the problems that we face in our communities. We see that there has been a lot of mischief happening in our communities and children are mistreated. So, there are people here to educate us on how to prevent things such as abuse and illnesses that children face. We come from a small rural village and to see that there are people here who care about us, the mischief that happens in our communities and the children that are abused there and how we operate is very enlightening and makes us feel cared for. I thank them for conducting this initiative.”



Andiswa Mabaso said:

“I am from Bamshela. I am a student, doing a Bachelor of Education. I am also a worker at Child and Youth Care at the Isibindi organisation. Today’s event was beneficial to us because we learnt more about how to deal with children who are abused. It is also beneficial to our communities, because officials advised them on how to report cases of abuse.”

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

Community outreach on child protection

By Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

Stakeholders at the Bamshela Thusong Service Centre acted quickly by coordinating a child protection outreach on 10 May 2019, following the recent incident of child rape in the area. The outreach commenced with an information blitz at the Bamshela taxi rank, where various stakeholders engaged with pedestrians, taxi commuters, light motor vehicle, taxi and truck drivers. Information was handed out about child protection and resources available at the Bamshela Thusong Service Centre. Traditional leaders engaged with community members informing them about child abuse and re-instilling cultural values about the responsibility of the community in protecting children.

The outreach resulted in an information-sharing session held in the vacant plot next to the Bamshela Thusong Service Centre. Stakeholders from the National Prosecuting Authority, South African Police Service, Department of Social Development, ChildLine, Legal Aid and Mzamo Youth Support Programme engaged the community about child protection, reporting child abuse, what constitutes abuse, consequences of child abuse, especially that of sexual violence against children.

In addition, to ensure maximum distribution of the information and messages, Siyathuthuka FM, a community radio with a listenership of approximately 8 300 did live crossings, including an interview with the social worker of Childline, Hlengiwe Dube and site coordinator from the Stanger Thuthuzela Care Centre, Mzwandile Ndlovu. Information presented during the interview included the mandate of both organisations, their child-friendly services and support to children in terms of rights, counselling, health screenings and preparation for testifying in court. Community members were urged to act proactively in protecting children, reporting cases of child abuse and sexual violence. Children were urged to ask for help from teachers, social workers, parents and community members about their concerns and abuse.



Community members who attended the session.



A government official engaging with commuters during the outreach.