



**MY DISTRICT TODAY**



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

**A march against illegal abortions**

*By Mthunzi Mkhungo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal*

The MEC for Health, Dr Sibongiseni Dhlomo, led a march against illegal and unsafe abortion in Port Shepstone on 5 March 2019. MEC Dhlomo was joined by local leaders from government, civil society and religious groups. The march started at the District Department of Health offices through Mandela Drive up until to the main Port Shepstone taxi rank, where messages against illegal abortion and women abuse were uttered by both the MEC and local leaders.

“Government has programmes in place to make sure that people who do not want to fall pregnant are given proper medical treatment and those who are still young are encouraged to abstain in order to prevent unnecessary pregnancy,” MEC Dhlomo said.

He further encouraged men to support their partners during pregnancy so that they do not feel unnecessary pressure at times, which mostly results in illegal termination of pregnancy. The event saw a number of participants from different walks of life, who were saying that illegal abortion must, by all means possible, be a punishable offence.



MEC Sibongiseni Dhlomo leading the march against illegal abortion in Port Shepstone.



Stakeholders from government, business, religious and civil society voicing their concern on illegal abortion.



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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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**Precious Dube said:**

“People must use free government services, be it access to information, health services or any other services that are intended for the public. Within the Department of Health, people are educated every day about leading a healthy lifestyle and also about ways to protect them. Government has and is still taking care of its people. In cases of unplanned or unwanted pregnancy, people need to consult health practitioners for services that are free of charge and stop consulting illegal practitioners.”



**Allele Futter said:**

“Illegal abortion is inhuman and it must be dealt with by all possible ways. Government has gone an extra mile in passing laws that are biased towards residents, and I believe there is no country that accommodates its people like South Africa. In cases of unwanted pregnancy, people should consult their nearest health facilities within early days of pregnancy and seek free information.”



**Wynne Cele said:**

“Illegal abortion must be condemned. Government is spending more money for people to access health services without restrictions, so, I do not understand why we are not using such services. When unwanted or unplanned pregnancy occur, people need to seek professional advice from health institutions.”



**Hilda Black said:**

“I am here today to celebrate Human Rights Day. I do not have anything to complain about. I am satisfied with the freedom and the human rights that I have. I am very happy today.”



**Ben Seetelo said:**

“Today we are celebrating our rights. The Premier said a lot. Her message on the fight against women and child abuse was well received. I echo her views and support government’s efforts to fight gender-based violence. Unemployment remains the main challenge in the country, affecting all citizens and is an issue that government should prioritise.”



**Modiegi Keretsetse said:**

“I came to this event with one intention only, and that was to hear or learn about bursary information as most children out there cannot enrol or get admission at institutions of higher learning as a result of financial circumstances. I received information on learnership and internships.”

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

### Residents urged to uphold indigenous languages

*By Masego Mollo: GCIS, Northern Cape*

Northern Cape Premier Sylvia Lucas joined the Human Rights Day commemorative event at the Reitlamile Intermediate School in Pampierstand on 21 March 2019. She was accompanied by MECs Bongiwwe Mbinqo-Gigaba, Martha Bartlett, Mxolisi Sokhatsa and other provincial dignitaries.

Her message to the residents of Pampierstad drew attention around the use of indigenous languages and the deepening of a human rights culture. The Premier said it was every citizen’s duty to strengthen and protect indigenous languages as this would promote the culture of human rights and mutual respect. She further called on all residents to foster social cohesion.

During this event, Premier Lucas handed over sporting equipment and trophies to local teams that won competitions, which were held as part of build-up programmes towards the Human Rights Day celebrations.



The community of Pampierstand during the event.



Premier Sylvia Lucas awarding the winning teams of Human Rights competition.

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

**South Africa commemorates Human Rights Day**

*By Tinyiko Molefe: GCIS, Gauteng*



**Government official, Tinyiko Molefe, sharing human-rights information with community members.**



**Monimang Mafota said:**

“Human Rights Day basically reminds me of where we come from and where we are going as a country.”



**Vuyo Nombida said:**

“Human Rights Day has taught me a lot, especially the Struggle of people who suffered so that we can get our freedom and human rights.”

The 2019 Human Rights Month was commemorated under the theme: “The Year of Indigenous Languages: Promoting and Deepening a Human Rights Culture”. All South African citizens were urged to use the month to reach out to one another as the country continues to build a united and prosperous nation. During the official commemoration of the Human Rights Day in Sharpeville on 21 March 2019, President Cyril Ramaphosa laid a wreath at the Sharpeville memorial site in honour of the 69 Struggle heroes who lost their lives during the 1960 Sharpeville massacre.

The Premier of Gauteng, David Makhura, said, “We will always remember the sacrifices and contributions of those who died so that we can get freedom, as we commemorate the passing of the people of Sharpeville, we also need to remember that it is here in Sharpeville where we signed our Constitution as a basic guide of human rights.”

In addressing the citizens as part of Human Rights Day message, President Ramaphosa said, “To be able to speak one’s mother tongue, to have one’s children taught in their mother tongue, is the most fundamental of human rights. Language is an integral part of the identity of a people. It is at the heart of who they are, of their culture, of how they define themselves, and the most important legacy they pass to their children.”



**President Cyril Ramaphosa during the wreath-laying ceremony at the Sharpeville memorial site.**



**Community members who attended the Human Rights Day commemoration.**



**Maketle said:**

"I really appreciate what the university is doing in spreading humanity in our communities."



**Shabangu said:**

"It is amazing what democracy has done providing us with the right to go anywhere we want."



**Khwadi said:**

"I am happy that our community got such an opportunity. I am going to enjoy reading my Bible."

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

### Human Rights Month dialogue

*By Ntombi Mhlambi: GCIS, Free State*

The NG Church in Block 7 at Kutlwanong hosted the Theology Faculty of the University of North West on a culture sharing dialogue, on 26 March 2019 as part of commemorating Human Rights Month. This year's event is observed under the theme: "The Year of Indigenous Languages: Promoting and Deepening a Human Rights Culture".

The purpose of the dialogue was to share information on the origin of Christianity. Professor Van Der Walt from the university presented on the history of the establishment of the translation of the Bible to different languages. He also said that it was very important for communities to always invite God.

The university handed 150 copies of the Bible written in different languages in celebration of the existence of the theology school. Stakeholders such as the traffic department made a presentation on anti-corruption, advising communities to stop bribery, especially in the upcoming Easter Holidays season whereby there will be an increase in the number of road users.



Professor Van Der Walt from the University of North West addressing the community of Kutlwanong.



The presentation of the Bible to Pastor Mokoena.