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

March against women and child abuse

By Nompho Mchunu: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

Mayor Musa Ngubane and learners raising awareness against women and child abuse.

Learners marching against abuse.

Amajuba District Municipality Mayor Musa Ngubane and learners from the area led stakeholders in a 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children awareness march in Dannhauser, KwaMdakane on 23 November 2017.
Nathi Shenge said:
"I think men should stand together and say ‘enough is enough’. We should take our role in society as protectors by ensuring that women and children are safe."

Sinothando Dladla said:
"The campaign is a good way to encourage children to speak about abuse and to teach them about the different forms of abuse. I think the campaign should take place every day because many children suffer from abuse."

Luthando Duma said:
"At school we are taught about abuse and where we should report it. We can tell our parents, teachers or go to the police station."

The march, which was followed by a taxi-rank activation, was part of the district’s build-up activities to the campaign. The 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children campaign is held annually from 25 November to 10 December. This year marks the 19th anniversary of the campaign which was held under the theme, “Count Me In: Moving a Non-Violent South Africa Forward”.

Eighty Grade 5 learners from Iphunguphungu, Annieville and Caca primary schools interacted and engaged with pedestrians and taxi operators about the campaign and the effects of abuse on children. The learners had placards displaying messages condemning abuse such as “Stop Child and Women Abuse”, “Protect Victims of Abuse”, “Break the Silence and Report Abuse”, “Stand United to Fight Abuse and Violence”, “Society United against Abuse” and “Men United against Abuse.”

Mayor Ngubane and officials from Government Communication and Information System, KwaMdakane Thusong Service Centre, departments of health and community safety and liaison presented leaflets that contained information about the campaign, including contact details for abuse victims and various institutions.

The Mayor said, “This is an everyday commitment that government and other stakeholder organisations have made to protect the vulnerable group and fight abuse and gender-based violence.”

He added that men have the power to end abuse. “Men are mostly the perpetrators of crimes such as rape and assault. Only they can put a stop to it by changing their abusive behaviour to that of a caring and protective one. If you witness another man being abusive towards women and children, reprimand him, seek help for him or isolate him from social circles until he gets the message that abuse is a crime and a human rights violation,” continued the Mayor.

Siyanda Ndawonde from the Department of Community Safety and Liaison pleaded with women and children to report abuse. “Report all cases of rape, sexual assault or any form of violence to the police. No one will tell you to go and resolve the matter at home, no one will laugh at you. You will receive the necessary help. The police and courts are empowered to arrest, prosecute and convict perpetrators of violence,” said Ndawonde.
The Minister of Communications, Mmamoloko Kubayi-Ngubane, took the Broadcast Digital Migration public awareness campaign to the community of Metsimaholo Local Municipality in the Fezile Dabi District on 26 November 2017. The Minister visited various homes of deserving recipients of set-top boxes (STBs), including old people, child-headed homes and persons with disabilities.

The Minister also attended a church service at the City of Love and Restoration Church in Zamdela, Sasolburg. Minister Kubayi-Ngubane was given a platform to engage with the congregants. She outlined the importance of communities registering for the STBs and the processes involved. The Minister also explained the benefits of having STBs and how government has invested in advancing the lives of communities through this new technology. She concluded her address by educating the congregants about the role that churches play in protecting women, children and vulnerable people within communities.
The John Taolo Gaetsewe District launched the safe holidays campaign on 1 December 2017. The campaign is aimed at tackling all criminal activities and all forms of violence and abuse.

The South African Police Service (SAPS) announced that there would be concerted programmes and increased police visibility to enforce road safety measures and deal with aggravated robberies, border security, illegal firearms, liquor and any illegal activities. They said focus would be directed towards crimes against women, children, persons with disabilities and the elderly.

A call was made to all people to work together to reduce crime. Police officials were also urged to embrace the principles of Batho Pele.
Community members receive social grants

By Joy Themba: GCIS, Mpumalanga

Social grants beneficiaries in Schoemansdal village continued to receive their social grants without any problems at the Schoemansdal Community Hall on 28 November 2017. The paypoint was full as most community members from other villages travelled to collect their grants.

The South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) officials ensured that beneficiaries did not encounter any problems. There were no incidents that were reported at the event. This was followed by an announcement concerning changes that are made to the card, which will be communicated by ward councillors and community development workers. The changes will also be announced on radio and television.

The Government Communication and Information System distributed copies of Vuk’uzenzele at the community hall.

Grace Mokoena said:
“I received all my grant money and was told that I will continue to use the card without any problems.”

Khulile Dlamini said:
“I received the disability grant on behalf of my brother. I thought he would not receive anything because the card has expired. I am pleased that my brother will be able to buy food and also pay his other expenses.”