

Did you know?



"Working together we can do more"

Working together towards the 20 years of Freedom – as of March 2009, more than 10 million households (77%) had access to sanitation compared to about five million (50%) in 1994.

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MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Stakeholders call for more empowerment for women

By Ndyabo Kopo: GCIS Eastern Cape

For Women's Month, stakeholders in the Alfred Nzo District Municipality, in the Eastern Cape, converged at the Alfred Nzo Conference Centre for a panel discussion about the road travelled since 1994 in empowering women locally and in South Africa in general.

The panel discussion was the first of its kind in the area. It was broadcast live on both local radio stations in the region, Alfred Nzo Community Radio and Nkonjane FM.

The discussion sought to provide a platform for panellists and stakeholders to reflect on South Africa's progress in empowering women.

The discussion started with a five-minute-long documentary, which illustrated the success of women in the government and social sectors within the Alfred Nzo District. It also highlighted the challenges of poverty, underdevelopment, unemployment and a lack of skills that women in the district still face.

The panel included experts in different fields and some of the successful women in the Alfred Nzo District. They were portfolio councillor in the district municipality Ms Tobo, who stood in for the Executive Mayor Diko, Ms Nodada, a member



Stakeholders and panellists during the panel discussion.

of the provincial legislature who is also from the area, Ms Winnie Khumalo of the Commission for Gender Equality, and Ms Pangwa, the Mayor of Umzimvubu Local Municipality who is also from the district.

The panel also included Mr Gxarhisa, a chief magistrate in the area and Dr Somadoda Fikeni, a well-known independent analyst and also originally from the district. All of them shared

their views on what has been achieved thus far in empowering women and, equally so, what more needs to be done.

"There is much that has been done in empowering women in South Africa if you look at the Constitution of our country, and the fair representation of women in Parliament but rape, poverty, unemployment and underdevelopment still affect women more than any other sector in our society," said Fikeni.

The live broadcast panel discussion was co-anchored by well-known local radio presenter, Ncedi Ndzingwe, of Alfred Nzo Community Radio, the District Head of Communication, Ndabuko Masumpa, and another well-known local presenter, Andisiwe Maqutywa of Nkonjane FM.

The discussion was the first of many to come that will focus on five key priorities of government in line with the 20 years of democracy.



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Did you know?



Working together for a health life for all – the under-5 mortality rate decreased from 56 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2009 to 42 deaths per 1 000 live births in 2011.

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

Polokwane women enjoy health walk

By Reneilwe Moringi: GCIS Limpopo



The participants doing warm-up exercises before their walk.



Women from sector departments participating in the health walk.

It was a sunny Friday morning during Women's Month when women from various government departments in Limpopo took to the streets of Polokwane for a walk aimed at encouraging women to adopt a healthy lifestyle.

The participants did a set of warm-ups before starting their walk from SABC Park to Olympic Towers in Biccard Street, home to the offices of Limpopo's Department of Sport, Arts and Culture.

Members of Executive Council (MEC) Rosina Semanya, of the Department of Agriculture, and Merriam Ramadwa of the Department of Sport, Art and Culture, participated in the walk.

Ramadwa said it was good to see so many women coming together to take part in an event that not only celebrated women but also was good for their health.

Did you know?



Working together to protect the environment – 95% of households now have access to running water.



The Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Rejoice Mabudafhasi, delivers her speech during the Women in Water Awards ceremony.



The winner in the Adopt-a-River Category, Sizabantu Youth Farming Project, received R100 000.



The winner in the Community Development Category, Phaphamang Environmental Organisation, received R100 000 in prize money.

OUTCOME 10: ENVIRONMENTAL ASSETS AND NATURAL RESOURCES THAT ARE WELL PROTECTED AND CONTINUALLY ENHANCED

Women in Water Awards 2013

By Collins Ndlovu, Odas Ngobeni and Eunice Nkuna: GCIS Limpopo



The winner in the Water Conservation Category, Xikukwane Community Primary Cooperative Project from Limpopo, received R100 000.

The Women in Water Awards 2013 is an annual event celebrated during Women's Month to appreciate and recognise women who have made their mark in the water sector.

Mzilele village in the Greater Giyani Municipality, in Limpopo, hosted the 10th awards ceremony on 23 August 2013.

"This year we celebrate this milestone under the theme *A Centenary of Working Together towards Sustainable Women Empowerment and Gender Equality*," said the Deputy Minister of Water and Environmental Affairs, Rejoice Mabudafhasi.

Ms Mabudafhasi acknowledged the presence of First Lady, Sizakhale Makhumalo Zuma, and highlighted achievements, which include job creation, attained since the inception of the competition 10 years ago. The Deputy Minister

invited all water-related community projects to register with the Department of Water Affairs to become active participants in and to benefit from the Women in Water Programme.

Deputy Minister Mabudafhasi congratulated the winners and all the participants in the programme before presenting the prizes.

There was great excitement when the members of the Xikukwane Community Primary Cooperative Project from Limpopo went up on stage to receive the first prize in the Water Conservation Category and R100 000. When the names of the members of the winning organisation were called out, the winners were very enthusiastic. "We are very happy about this great award and we dedicate it to all women of Limpopo," said Mamaila Sarah Nhlaysi from Xikukwane Community Primary Cooperative Project.

The winners who each received prize money of R100 000 were:

- Sizabantu Youth Farming Project from Mpumalanga in the Adopt-a-River Category
- Bomme ke Nako from the Northern Cape in the Education and Awareness Category
- Xikukwane Community Primary Cooperative Project from Limpopo in the Water Conservation Category
- Phaphamang Environmental Organisation from Gauteng in the Community Development Category.

Did you know?



Workings together to ensure all people are safe – there are 176 family violence child protection and sexual offences units nationwide attached to all police clusters in the South African Police Service.



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

Anti-abuse views

By Sabelo Kakaza: GCIS Eastern Cape

The GCIS took to the streets of Mthatha to get stakeholders' views on the scourge of abuse of women and children. This was done during a street march led by the GCIS in partnership with churches and civil society organisations. This is what stakeholders had to say:



Sithembiso Mqhayi – Men for change

This is a very sad time in our country where our mothers and sisters are just getting raped and killed. This must come to an end now. The unemployment is contributing a lot to this because people are spending the whole day doing nothing and abusing drugs. My message to males is that let us fight this and say, "not in our name."



Nkayiya Nozwelitsha – Women's League

Drugs play a huge part in the abuse of women and children. If government implements all the laws there are to fight drugs in societies, things could be better. Also, if the people who are selling drugs in our communities can be dealt with by the communities that would save our children. Our neighbours are often the drug dealers. All the criminals must be kept in jail.



Coceka Mabongela – Women in Christ

Criminals must not be allowed to come back to the communities after they are found guilty because they do not stop raping and killing. Parents must not protect their children when they are found to be involved in any of these crimes. We have sleepless nights feeling unprotected because women are killed every day in our communities. **It is enough now!**

Did you know?



Working together to create decent employment – the 2011 Census shows that while the average household income increased by 113% over the last 10 years, well above the rate to stay ahead of inflation.



Some of the women who attended the seminar.



Yvonne Marule from Marule Property Developers Holdings showing off her singing and dancing skills during her motivational speech.

OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH.

Business development opportunities in Zululand

By Nonhlanhla Sithole: GCIS KwaZulu-Natal



Young rural female entrepreneurs were honoured during a glittering function held recently in Tafelkop, Sekhukhune in Elias Motsoaledi Local Municipality.

Elias Motsoaledi's mayor, Wendy Matemane, one of the youngest female mayors in the country, rewarded the young and aspiring businesswomen for their good work in their respective communities.

The event was held, not only to celebrate Women's Month, but also to empower and motivate young local women. It was organised by Lucia and Thembi Events Management Company in partnership with Spar Moratiwa and the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS).

Walking into the sizeable and beautiful hall one could not believe that the decoration and professional atmosphere had been handled by young local women. Guests were given red-carpet treatment and seated at beautifully decorated round tables. Visitors were entertained by a local gospel band, which also ushered in the well-dressed young entrepreneurs as they entered the hall.

"We wanted to give our young women in deep remote rural areas the opportunity to hear from

the horse's mouth what other people are doing out there," said Lucia, one of the organisers.

Tshidiso Lennin Marule from Marule Property Developers Holdings spoke about where he had come from, where he is today and where he wants to see himself in future. He said that he is passionate about his work. "I want to see young people, especially women, climbing up the business ladder and making millions to benefit their communities. It will make me happy when I walk down the street, to a meet millionaire who I groomed," he said. He urged the participants to not associate themselves with bad people and to adhere to appropriate work ethics.

Women were also encouraged to take their jobs seriously and were also reminded that responsibility goes hand-in-hand with accountability. The motivational speaker, Yvonne Marule, encouraged women to believe in themselves. She said women can do everything and anything by themselves.

"Women can hold full-time jobs and raise children without the assistance of men. It is common knowledge that a child raised by single woman is better-off than the one raised by a single

man. Marriage should not be the goal," she said to loud applause.

Her speech was as good as her moves on the dance floor and kept everyone on their feet throughout the day.

Patience Maipushe, who started her own business after she was inspired by the organisers during one of their events in 2012, was named the Young Entrepreneur. "Immediately after that event I did not sit and do nothing.

I searched for a small business idea and found a business focusing on entertaining children and named it 'Just for Kids.' My journey into business was never easy," she said. In her shy voice she urged women to start their own businesses so that their lives could improve.

Did you know?



Working together to ensure safety for all – 2000 forensic social workers were appointed to deal with crimes against children and to provide expert evidence in court. In 2012/13, 248 022 cases were finalised.



Faith-based organisations and civil society take centre stage in partnership with government.

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

King Sabata Dalindyebo (KSD) Women's March against abuse of women and children

By Sabelo Kakaza: GCIS Eastern Cape

Public education about sexual violence involving women and children needs to be intensified to transform men's thinking, whether they are involved in this crime or not.



St John's band during the Women's March through the streets of Mthatha.



The increased problem of rape and abuse of women, elderly people and children has moved the community of the KSD local municipality and that of OR Tambo to take to the streets of Mthatha to voice their concern and lobby for anti-abuse partnerships and appropriate punishment for offenders.

The South African Constitution recognises the rights of the women and children.

What prompted women and civil society structures to march to the Magistrates' Court in

Mthatha and submit a petition were the 26 reported cases of rape and killing of women and children.

The main concern is the handling of cases involving senior citizens and minors who have been raped.

The victims of these crimes feel that their cases have not been justly and constitutionally addressed. They are dissatisfied because the perpetrators are still living in the communities they have tormented.

Speaking on behalf of the women who submitted the petition, Mrs Mvanyashe, chairperson of the women's caucus and deputy chairperson of the ANC Women's League in the OR Tambo region said, "The South African Police Service must implement the laws against sexual abuse of the elderly, women and children, and train female police officers who will be sympathetic to the victims. They face the same challenges in their homes and working environment."