




# MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

### Call for communities to stand together in the fight against HIV

By: Jabulani Mkhonza and Ndala Mngadi: DoC, KwaZulu-Natal



KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Health Sibongiseni Dhlomo delivering his keynote address at the event.

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Health, Sibongiseni Dhlomo, has called on residents of Amajuba District to rally behind government's efforts aimed at reducing the scourge of HIV, saying the war against HIV and AIDS could only be won through collective effort. Dhlomo was speaking at two World AIDS Day events that were held on 1 December in Esididini Primary School in Madadeni and in Verdriet, Dannhauser respectively.

The purpose of the events was to raise awareness about the stigma that people who are HIV positive suffer in society, and how this stigma results in the marginalisation and spreading of the virus since those who are living with HIV default from taking antiretroviral (ARV) treatment in fear of discrimination. The theme for this year's event was "I cannot change my HIV status but you can change your attitude: Zero Stigma. Zero Discrimination."

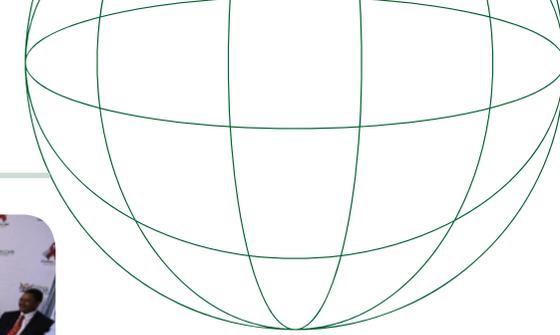
MEC Dhlomo called on leaders of traditional, religious, civil society and other organisations to partner with government in its fight against the pandemic. He also informed the audience that South Africa would host the World AIDS Conference in 2015. The MEC said this was because of the strides government has made in the fight against HIV. "Although the province has the highest infections in the country, there are signs that prevalence was stabilising and more patients are on ARV treatment," he said.



communications

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**DoC Provincial Director Ndala Mngadi with Amajuba District Mayor Jabu Khumalo and KwaZulu-Natal Health MEC Sibongiseni Dhlomo planting a tree.**



**The lighting of a candle in remembrance of those who have died of AIDS.**

He then urged people to get tested at least once a year and encouraged all males to undergo medical male circumcision. Amajuba District Mayor, Jabu Khumalo, praised the Men's Forum for the good work they are doing and the difference that their work is making in the community. She said that, ward 31 of Newcastle was one of the most deprived within the municipality. She also commended MEC Dhlomo's leadership as the province witnessed a steady decline in HIV infections.

Message of support was given by the deputy chairperson of the Women's Forum, Thandi Dlamini. She reminded people that the disease is still incurable but manageable, and this was because government is providing quality healthcare to the public. Dlamini encouraged people to use their nearest clinics for check-ups.

Xolani Kunene from the Men's Sector encouraged all men to get tested and to be circumcised. He said they are prepared to work towards the eradication of new infections. Testimonies were received from people living with HIV. Both events culminated with candles being lit, and the planting of trees in remembrance of those who died of the disease as well as those who are living with the virus.



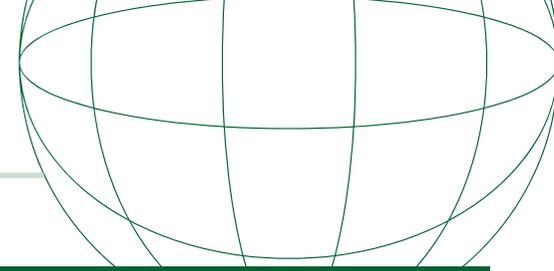
**Bongmusa Gwebu said:**

"I think the programme was good and seeing the MEC being part of us here, it clearly shows that government is serious in its fight against this dreadful disease. I have learnt not to discriminate against people living with HIV as I might not know my own status. The programme also encouraged me to get tested and I will definitely go for medical male circumcision."



**Hlela Madadeni said:**

"The programme was very good as it reminded us not to discriminate against people who are infected with the virus. I have witnessed people treating those who are infected in a distasteful way. I think if our society can learn to accept the disease like any other disease, then those who are infected will not feel ashamed to take their treatment as recommended by the doctors."



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

### Cederberg Municipality launches the 16 Days of Activism campaign with a roadblock

By: Peter Titus: DoC, Western Cape



Mayor Scheepers and William Abels leading the fight against the abuse of women and children in the Cederberg Municipality.

#### Mayor Lorna Scheepers said:

“Please stop the abuse of women and children in the Cederberg Municipality. We say “no” to the abuse of women and children in our community.”



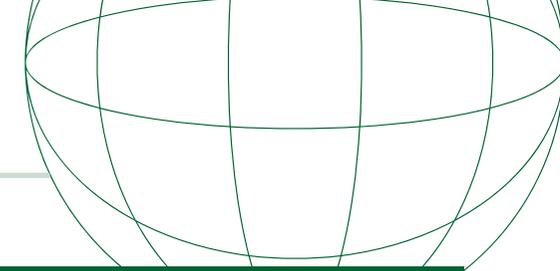
Mayor Scheepers recruiting a motorist to support the fight against the abuse of women and children.

On 26 November, the Mayor of the Cederberg Municipality, Lorna Scheepers, in partnership with the Department of Communications (DoC), the community development workers (CDWs), Clanwilliam South African Police Service (SAPS), the Western Cape Traffic Department and law-enforcement agencies, embarked on the Stop Abuse campaign, as part of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children.

Motorists entering Clanwilliam were stopped and provided with brochures containing information about the 16 Days of Activism. Business owners from Clanwilliam who also took part in the roadblock, showed their support for the initiative and requested information products to distribute around the area.



Various role players including the SAPS, the Provincial Traffic Services, CDWs and the DoC, conducting a roadblock in the fight against the abuse of women and children.



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

### Department of Social Development hosts the 16 Days of Activism campaign in the Free State

By: Mojalefa Senokoatsane: DoC, Free State



**Sibongile Radebe said:**

“We appreciate all the measures that government is taking to protect us and our kids. But we also want the death penalty to come back especially for those who are caught raping and killing.”



**Ntswaki Mokgele said:**

“The 16 Days of Activism is very important as it creates awareness about the abuse and protection of kids.”



From left: Madala Ntombela, Mafube LM Chief Whip, Cllr Mosia, Mafube LM Mayor Cllr Sigasa, Minister of Women, Susan Shabangu, Minister of Social Development, Bathabile Dlamini and MEC for Social Development, Sisi Ntombela and other dignitaries at the 16 Days of Activism even held in Frankfort.



MEC Ntombela, Minister Dlamini and Minister Shabangu opening the Nutritional Soup Kitchen.



Children marching through the streets of Frankfort to deliver their “Count Me In” memorandum.

On 3 December 2014, the national Department of Social Development partnered with the Free State Department of Social Development and the Department of Women to host the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children Abuse event. The event was held in Frankfort in Fezile Dabi District Municipality in the Free State.

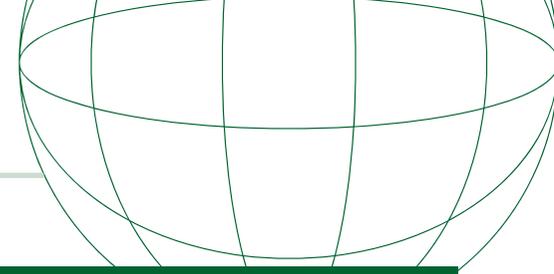
The event saw children within the five districts of the Free State marching to the Mafube Local Municipality to give their “Count us in” memorandum to show their displeasure about the abuse that they are exposed to, in the hands of those who are supposed to protect them. The memorandum was received and signed by the Minister of Social Development, Bathabile Dlamini and Minister of Women, Susan Shabangu.

On the day, Minister Dlamini officially opened the Safe Park, in which the children in Frankfort will play safely, since there will be people looking after them as they play. Minister Shabangu also officially opened the Nutritional Soup Kitchen that came as a result of a partnership between government and private donors. The kitchen will feed child-headed families as well as mothers and children without any source of income.

As the event was held during the International Day of Persons with Disabilities, two houses were handed over to two people with disabilities, who have been living in shacks for years.

Women who were once victims of abuse and have also been affected by the abuse of their children, gave accounts of how they had to ensure an end to abuse. During this session, a very emotional MEC for Social Development, Sisi Ntombela, made a plea to men to stand up and help fight this scourge that is tearing communities apart.

The day ended with the Isibindi Child and Youth Care Workers’ roll-out, where all the nine provinces were represented. The Isibindi Child and Youth Care Workers will be working with the Department of Social Development to ensure that children are protected at all costs.



**SEDA Provincial Manager, Ntokozo Majola, welcoming those who attended the event, and also presenting the purpose of the gathering.**



**Teresa Jardim making a presentation on the SEDA's Export Development Programme.**

## OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

### Business lessons for entrepreneurs in the Gert Sibande District

*By: Bongani Mazibuko: DoC, Mpumalanga*



**More than 200 entrepreneurs from different municipalities in the Gert Sibande District attended the informative and engagement session held at Ermelo Inn.**



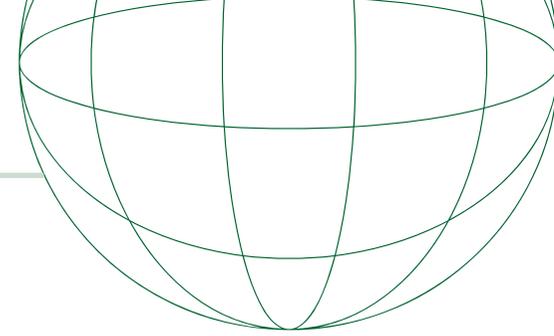
**Gosetseone Leketi making her presentation.**

In response to government's call to fight against unemployment through entrepreneurship, the office of the Small Enterprise Development Agency (SEDA) in the Gert Sibande District, along with various stakeholders held an informative session for entrepreneurs at Ermelo Inn on 28 November. The session was attended by upcoming entrepreneurs and those who are tried and tested in business. Among the stakeholders who attended the session were the Department of Energy (DoE), the Highveld Tourism and Ermelo Chamber of Business, the Industrial Development Corporation (IDC), and the South African Revenue Service (Sars).

The DoE Director, Gosetseone Leketi, who is responsible for the petroleum sector, made an informative and empowering presentation on the licensing process and transformation in the petroleum sector.

In her presentation, Leketi cautioned entrepreneurs who copy and paste other people's business plans that they are jeopardising the chances of their applications being successful. She stressed that they must refrain from such practices and submit genuine and researched business plans.

She also mentioned that there was progress made regarding the application for the establishment of a filling station for the people of Emzinoni in Bethal.



**Kgaugelo Taukobong from SEDA presenting on the SEDA Technology Programme.**

The CEO of the Ermelo Chamber of Business, Athol Stark, gave a motivational presentation. "If you want to be successful in life, do what other people are not prepared to do," he said. He stressed that a person's attitude is mostly the determining factor towards achieving some level of success and fighting every day's challenges or obstacles. "The only person who will make you succeed and rely on to make your business successful is you," said Stark. He also shared some identified business opportunities available for committed entrepreneurs in and around the Gert Sibande Region.



**Athol Stark motivating entrepreneurs at the event.**



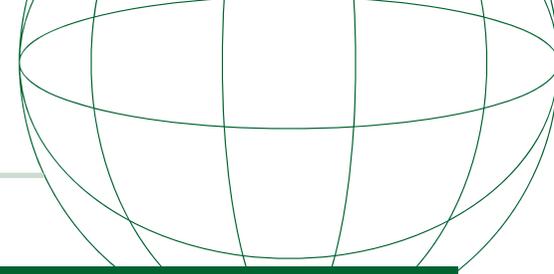
**Mashweu Matsiela speaking at the event.**



**Ms Mbhele from Sars making her presentation.**



**Entrepreneurs had the opportunity to ask questions on issues where they wanted clarity.**



**“SOCIAL COHESION, RECONCILIATION AND NATIONAL UNITY IN THE 20 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY”**



**RECONCILIATION DAY 2014**

SOCIAL COHESION, RECONCILIATION AND NATIONAL UNITY IN THE 20 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY  
#bridgingdivides

**RECONCILIATION DAY/  
USUKU LOKUBUYISANA COMMEMORATIONS:**

**Date: 15 – 16 December 2014**  
**Time: 9:00 Venue: Ncome Museum**  
16 December Keynote speaker: **President Jacob Zuma**

*Together we move South Africa forward*



This year's Day of Reconciliation (16 December) will see the official opening of the bridge that connects Ncome Museum and Blood River Monument as a sign of reconciliation and nation building since the day has been commemorated differently on each side of the river. The plan is to allow morning rituals or cultural activities to continue from both sides up until 11:00, where delegates from both sides of the river are expected to converge at the bridge for its official opening and unveiling of the Reconciliation Charter on both sides.