




MY DISTRICT TODAY



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

Minister of Water and Sanitation honour women

By: Ephraim Malema: GCIS, North West

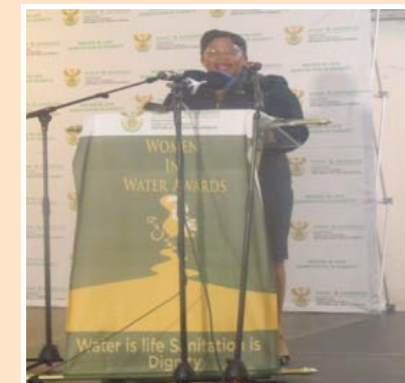
During the Women in Water Awards in Rustenburg on 22 August 2014, the Minister of Water and Sanitation, Nomvula Mokonyane, honoured women who preserve water in North West. The event was part of the celebration of Women's Month. The Minister said the Government should provide water to vulnerable communities, especially women living in rural areas.

Women were honoured in various categories, including community development and the Adopt-a-River category, which encourages the community not to pollute rivers. Mosadi Tshwene Project Centre from Tlaskgameng walked away with R100 000. They cleaned the dam in their village to make sure that it is not polluted. Kraipan Eco Garden received R50 000 for their participation in water preservation.

Mokonyane warned corrupt officials from some municipalities who are involved in water tenders. "Water tenders at municipalities are held by men, and some of them are corrupt. This must come to an end. If these water tenders were held by women, members of the community would be getting clean water without any problems because women care for each other," she said.



The winners receive their prize from the Minister.



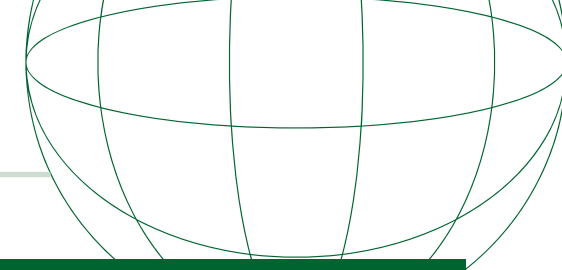
Minister of Water and Sanitation said, "Corrupt officials who run water tenders in some municipalities will find themselves in trouble."



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OUTCOME 4: DECENT EMPLOYMENT THROUGH INCLUSIVE ECONOMIC GROWTH

Women in leadership

By: Marcia Nekhumbe: GCIS, Mpumalanga

On 14 August 2014, the Ehlanzeni District Municipality together with the Executive Mayor Letta Shongwe hosted an event in Nelspruit at Nutting House, which was aimed at empowering women in leadership while at the same time celebrating Women’s Month. In celebrating 20 Years of Freedom, local women paid tribute to the women of 1956 who marched to the Union Buildings, for women’s rights. “A woman of today must have vision and direction,” said Pastor Nomfundo, a motivational speaker who also encouraged women to have a winning and overcoming mentality together with life coaching. “You have to have the spirit of excellence as a woman and have an impact on someone because if you haven’t done that you are not a leader,” she continued. She urged women to love one another instead of pulling each other down.

Among the speakers were beauty and fashion experts Gugu Dlamini and Nozipho Zee, who gave women beauty and fashion tips. “Beauty starts on the inside and it is from God but that does not mean you do not have to take care of yourself,” said Nozipho. She emphasised that women should know their body types and know how to dress and be stylish, calling it the “wow effect.”

Annatjie le Roux from Absa gave advice on finances. She advised women to save and plan and know their rights when it comes to marriage. Ms Mojapelo spoke about the aspect of women in leadership, paying tribute to Lillian Ngoyi, Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, Helen Suzman and many others who fought for freedom. She said the battle must continue and women should stop linking their minds to attitude and perception that they cannot lead. “You have to set goals, empower yourself and focus on things that will build wealth instead of depending on men,” she said.

The event was a success just by seeing the number of women who attended and how much they enjoyed their day. They empowered each other by learning and discovering more about themselves. Cllr T Mabuza in closing the event said: “Don’t just be a listener but go out there and be a self-controlled woman. Use what you have learned and make a difference. Indeed you strike a woman, you strike a rock.”



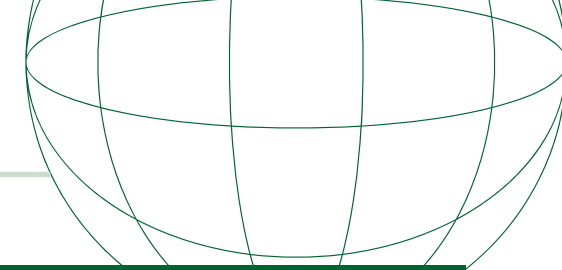
Ehlanzeni executive mayor addressing women.



Women attending the event.



Sannie Sithole said: “As a young woman from Elandshoek, I am very happy to have attended this dialogue. For me it was a learning curve because I have always thought only men were born to lead but after today I know nothing is impossible if you work hard as a woman. And women, just like men can be leaders too.”



OUTCOME 1: IMPROVED QUALITY OF BASIC EDUCATION

New technological mobile library for Sinthumule High School

By: Doctrine Netshikweta: GCIS, Limpopo

Chief Thovhele Vho-Rudzani Sinthumule and the Department of Education (DoE) praised Vodacom for the spirit of ubuntu they showed to the Kutama-Sinthumule communities when they handed over a technological library to the Sinthumule Secondary School in the Vhembe District, Limpopo on 25 July 2014. Learners were also given food parcels at the occasion.

Sinthumule Secondary School is known for producing good matric results. Last year the school produced a 92% pass rate. During his address, Thovhele Vho-Rudzani Sinthumule encouraged educators to take their work seriously. "As part of honouring Mandela, let's join hands and work hard, moving South Africa forward. I know that Sinthumule educators are among the best but please work harder than before to break the matric pass record and have something tangible to honour our international icon, Tata Madiba," he said.

Vhembe District Senior Manager, Dr Gerson Rambiyana from the DoE acknowledged the support from Vodacom and the Nelson Mandela Foundation. "As the department we are ready to break the past record as Vho-Thovhele has requested. The technological library has access to the Internet, 800 books, DVDs and six computers. The school will use these resources to conduct research, enhance learners' vocabulary and encourage reading habits. I am only worried about the report I got from the school principal about the state of readiness to break the current record. The principal told me that the school is ready but he complained about one learner who is not cooperating well and believes that one learner could go against the process of breaking the pass record," said Rambiyana.

But this was disputed by a Grade 12 learner, Maphala Refelwe who said all the Grade 12 learners were working as a team. "This technological library is a motivator to us as matriculants. We are going to register the Sinthumule matric class of 2014 in the national record books. This year we do not have any reason to fail. The library will help us to obtain good results," said Maphala.

The occasion was blessed by the presence of the Nelson Mandela Foundation's, Alta Brown, who praised the school for their good results regardless of poor infrastructure and shortage of resources. "We are happy that Vodacom gave support to the school that takes education seriously. Our focus is to improve life in rural communities and enhance the knowledge of the people. At Sinthumule Secondary School, the department chose a school where the seed is falling on fertile soil. Take care for this library, for it is here to change your lives. Let us all have the spirit of Nelson Mandela," said Brown.



Chief Sinthumule handing over Vodacom food parcels with Vhembe district Senior Manager Dr Rambiyana.

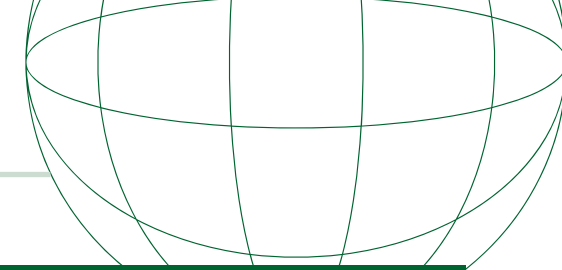


Maphala Refelwe said: "Nothing will stop us to pass matric this year. The library will make it easier and possible for us to do our school work."



Badugela Khathutshelo said: "I am very happy that we have received support in the form of a technological library. This resource will help us obtain a 100% matric pass rate."

Chief Sinthumule and Dr Rambiyana (seated) after the Nelson Mandela Foundation and Vodacom officials handed over the technological library.



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

Justice crime prevention sector (JCPS) cluster Imbizo (Women’s Month)

By: Sikelela Zokufa: GCIS, Western Cape

JCPS Imbizo and service delivery Women’s Month Celebration, under the theme: “Celebrating 60th Anniversary of Women’s Charter and 20 Years of Freedom: Together Moving a non-racial, non-sexist South Africa forward!”

The JCPS cluster is continuing to empower communities on issues related to violence against women, rape and crimes against women and children through community izimbizo. This is part of a month-long provincial programme to celebrate Women’s Month.

About 300 women in Mitchell’s Plain were addressed by the JCPS cluster on 21 August 2014, at the Mitchell’s Plain Indoor Centre. At the same time community members were accessing information and services at the venue. The services included those of the departments of justice and constitutional development, home affairs and correctional services, the South African Police Service (SAPS), the National Protection Authority, Legal Aid South Africa, the Public Protector and the Mitchell’s Plain Community Advice and Development Projects.

The women were encouraged by Adv. Hishaam Mohamed, the regional head of the Department of Justice in the Western Cape and the Chairperson of the Development Committee of the JCPS cluster, to report court officials who were involved in corruption directly to him, as that type of behaviour would not be tolerated. This Imbizo was not only for giving information and services to the community, but also to listen to issues pertaining to women and the communities at large.

Catrol Mentor, Chairperson of the Mitchell’s Plain Community Policing Sector Forum, was among the residents who raised questions and concerns on justice processes. She said the police worked day and night investigating and arresting criminals but the court released them, resulting in more criminal offences being committed. The bail process was then explained to the community.

Brigadier Ndantyi of the Mitchell’s Plain Police Station urged the community to report any wrongdoing by police officials to the management of the station. He promised the community that the SAPS will take action against all police officials who do not uphold the constitutional rights of victims of crime. The women were encouraged to reclaim their communities and work together to protect each other in reporting crime. Other stakeholders that were present addressed women on bail procedures, domestic violence and the rehabilitation of offenders into the community.



Lynn Philipps said: “I was also concerned about drugs, which are mainly the cause of abuse. I would like to thank the JCPS cluster for bringing this information as it was critically needed by the community. The police should ask drug users who their suppliers are, and immediately arrest the dealers. The community will also forward the information about drug dealers and we expect the police to take action.”



Deidre Petersen said: “I am glad that the JCPS cluster considered Mitchell’s Plain because there is a lot of dissatisfaction with justice processes involving the SAPS and courts. I have learned that even the SAPS is not above the law, if they don’t treat me well I have a right to report them to the Department of Justice. Also, we have a Public Protector to protect us against government, something that some of us were not aware of. I will not be wronged or even ignored by police officers because I know my rights as a South African woman. From today I will also assist other women.”