



# MYDISTRICTTODAY



Issue no. 34: September 2024

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## PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.

### Information-sharing session tackles sexual abuse

By Peter Titus; GCIS, Western Cape

On 14 August 2024, the Langerug Combined School in Worcester, Western Cape invited the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) to capacitate teachers and learners on key aspects of gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF). The learners were informed about the legal system and the function of Thuthuzela Care Centres (TCCs), as well as bullying.

Adv Cindy Abdol from the NPA, shared information on key legislation and Schedule 2 (slightly serious) and Schedule 3 (very serious) offences such as rape and murder in relation to the Child Protection Act, 2005 (Act 38 of 2005). She also shared information on the various child youth care centres and places where children and young people are sent to respond to abuse and bullying.

“As young women, do not be by-standers of abuse but rather up-standers against abuse. If you are a victim of any type of abuse, you can stop it by reporting it,” Adv Abdol said. The advocate informed the learners that sexual behaviour or any sexual act forced upon a woman, man or child without their

consent, including inappropriate touching of a male or female’s private parts amounted to sexual abuse.

The NPA collaborated with Mosaic, an organisation which focuses on developing support systems for victims of abuse, and empowers women and girl survivors of domestic violence. They shared information about the TCCs, which also provide post-exposure prophylaxis after a case of sexual abuse to prevent the spread of infections or diseases such as HIV.

The teachers received information on legislation applicable to domestic violence and amendments to the Domestic Violence Act, 1998 (Act 116 of 1998); processes to be followed when engaging with a TCC and the suggested roles of parents versus teachers in cases of abuse and rape.

The information session was highly appreciated especially by the teachers, as it assisted them to understand the Domestic Violence Act of 1998 better.



Adv Abdol training teachers from the Langerug Combined School on the Domestic Violence Act of 1998.



Adv Abdol speaking to learners from the Langeberg Combined school about bullying.



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**PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFER COMMUNITIES.**

**Fezile Dabi District Municipality hosts Women’s Month dialogue**

*By Morena Motloung; GCIS, Free State*

The community of Namahadi, Mafube Local Municipality in the Fezile Dabi District, held a Women’s Month dialogue at the Falesizwe Secondary School on 27 August 2024 to discuss government’s role in the fight against gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF).

The Mafube Local Stakeholder Forum led by the Department of Social Development (DSD)’s Victim Empowerment Programme (VEP), Free State Provincial Community Policing Forum, Department of Correctional Services, Mafube Local Municipality and the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) gathered to deliberate on, among other issues, the causes of GBVF, government’s role in fighting GBVF, as well as community and civil society involvement in government initiatives aimed at fighting the scourge. The dialogue was preceded by a march aimed at creating awareness for the community to stand up and speak out against gender-based crimes.

Namahadi was identified to host the event after it was flagged by the South African Police Service and the DSD as one of the hotspots for domestic violence and gender-based crimes. Respective government departments presented their plans and measures currently in place to combat ongoing crimes against women and children, while represented civil society organisations identified certain gaps and shortcomings of those measures. They also raised awareness regarding poor understanding of GBVF by victims, poor monitoring and evaluation of liquor licensing compliance by authorities, sluggish suspect tracing, minimal to poor police visibility due to lack of police vehicles and poor administration of protection orders by the responsible government departments.



March by the communities of Namahadi and Frankfort against GBVF led by local stakeholders.

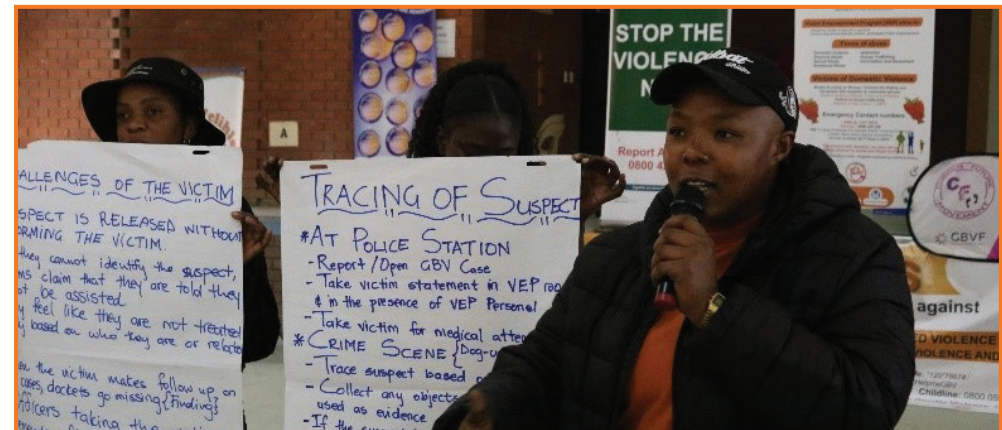


Community dialogue in session at the Falesizwe Secondary School hall.





Speaker of the Mafube Local Municipality, Cllr Matsatsi Mofokeng presenting government's messages on the fight against GBVF as guided by the GCIS.



Ms Thenjwe Zapi, a community activist, engaging on society's role to support government GBVF initiatives.



**Mr Tsekiso Molelekoa said:**  
 "I appreciate what is being done here to acknowledge the role of women in the fight against GBVF, because I think that government has done more than enough to acknowledge women. It is about time government went back to balancing the equation with men as well, because we feel side-lined due to the long standing need for women empowerment. The dialogue did enough to teach us about the different ways in which it has and continues to empower women since 30 years of freedom."



**Cllr Tlhoare Motsoeneng (Mafube Local Municipal Mayor) said:**  
 "I respect the stakeholders for pulling out a massive programme in honour of women in our locality. I am happy to see what can be achieved by government working together with civil society to communicate and popularise the available programmes in the interest of community development and empowerment.  
 Indeed, unity is power and this experience helps us to solidify our public participation efforts as the local municipality and pick up where this initiative has left off."



**Mr Maswime, Chairperson of the Cookhouse Trust Board and Cennergi Economic Development Manager said:**

“We are thrilled to support this groundbreaking project which aligns with our ethos of championing economic development. We want to see this radio reaching the communities of Adelaide, Bedford and Somerset East. We are aiming for the three pillars that this project will be strong on, which are education, information for job seekers, agriculture and general economic development.”

**PRIORITY 2: ECONOMIC TRANSFORMATION AND JOB CREATION.**

**Community radio station Ikhala FM launched in the Karoo**

*By Noluvuyo Mangweni; GCIS, Eastern Cape*

Ikhala FM, which operates at a frequency of 95.7 MHz, officially started broadcasting in July 2024, after being granted a community broadcasting licence by the Independent Communications Authority of South Africa on 11 August 2023. The radio station serves as an essential tool for community empowerment and development.

Thanks to a R1,9 million financial injection from the Amakhala Emoyeni Cookhouse Community Trust, Ikhala FM has made great progress in setting up its operations which include acquiring a building, broadcasting studio and transmitter. This support has been crucial in fulfilling the station’s goal of offering community-focused talent and programming.

The Station Manager, Mr George Meko, expressed immense gratitude to the Blue Crane Route Municipality community and the Amakhala Emoyeni Community Trust for their unwavering support in establishing Ikhala FM.

With a proficient team of 17 presenters from diverse areas such as Cookhouse, Somerset East, Adelaide and Bedford, Ikhala FM is well-positioned to engage, inform, educate and entertain its audience. The presenters will get a monthly stipend sponsored by the Amakhala Emoyeni Wind Farm.

The Programme Manager, Ms Yanga Hoko, underscored the station’s commitment to covering a diverse range of topics including employment, education, skills development, agriculture, community issues and family-oriented content.

Mr Takalani Maswime, the Chairperson of the Cookhouse Trust Board and Cennergi’s Economic Development Manager, emphasised the significance of Ikhala FM as a symbol of community-driven progress. He expressed the organisation’s support for the radio project which aims to benefit communities in Adelaide, Bedford and Somerset East through education, job information, agriculture and economic development.



**Cllr Manxoweni and the Principal of Msobomvu Primary School, Ms Thobela Gxoyiya during the ribbon cutting at Ikhala FM.**



**Station Manager, Mr Meko at Ikhala FM during the launch.**



**Cllr Manxoweni at the Ikhala FM studios.**



## PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

### Nkomazi Local Municipality receives state of the art library

By Ms Joy Themba; GCIS, Mpumalanga

Member of the Executive Council (MEC) for Culture, Sport and Recreation in Mpumalanga, Fidel Mlombo, accompanied by the Acting Head of Department, Sibongile Nkosi; the Nkomazi Local Municipality Chief Whip, Cllr Philo Mziako and the Matsamo Traditional Council representatives graced the long-awaited official opening and handover of the Matsamo Public Library at Schoemansdal on 13 August 2024.

“Government has committed to bringing services closer to the people, hence today we are opening and handing over a library to the community. Libraries are a source of wisdom, let us preserve them. This is for the community to utilise fully in order to arm themselves with relevant knowledge that will advance their quest to improve their living conditions. Opening this library will ensure that learning will be open to all and that the community of Schoemansdal will have access to the right information through the library,” said MEC Mlombo. The library is well-equipped with the latest technology and offers a wide variety of books for reading and learning to cater for both young and old.

MEC Mlombo reminded attendees that since the dawn of freedom and democracy, government had put in place various initiatives geared towards promoting various rights for all citizens – in particular children, women and people with disabilities, hence the advanced technology installed in the library, which also caters for visually impaired users.

Cllr Philo Mziako applauded the provincial department, reiterating that the opening of the library was a good story to tell.

“The local municipality working closely with the traditional council during integrated development planning and the allocation of stands for development assists a lot. Today we are witnessing the rolling out of services to the community. This library should serve as a source of information to all, as government wants to contribute towards eradicating illiteracy in the community. This will encourage us to include libraries in the municipal integrated development plans, when we see our people fully utilising them and becoming agents of education, which without a doubt plays a pivotal role in human development by offering skills,” he said.

Delivering his message of support, the Matsamo Traditional Council representative, Mr Bheki Shongwe pleaded with the community of Schoemansdal not to vandalise the library and to refrain from destroying government infrastructure, as it also belonged to them. He lamented that when communities protested, they often burnt down libraries, clinics and police stations, forgetting that they would suffer from walking long distances to access important government services.

“This kind of behaviour needs to be condemned in the strongest possible terms and be uprooted,” he concluded.



MEC Mlombo addressing the community of Schoemansdal.



Mr Shongwe from the Matsamo Traditional Council delivering a message of support.



Learners and parents who attended the opening of the library learn more about the establishment of Matsamo Friends of the Library.



MEC Mlombo with government officials and members of the traditional council officially opening the Matsamo Public Library.



Matsamo Public Library.