



MYDISTRICTTODAY



STAY SAFE

VACCINATE TO SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT CORONAVIRUS

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PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Session tackles substance abuse

By Mpho More: GCIS, Northern Cape

The Northern Cape Department of Social Development in partnership with the Department of Health, embarked on an anti-substance abuse awareness campaign in Pampierstad on 19 November 2021, aimed at educating residents about Foetal Alcohol Syndrome (FAS).

The event targeted middle aged and older persons, as they are the main guardians of children in most communities.

The departments raised concerns about the children born with FAS, as a result of young mothers consuming alcohol during pregnancy. FAS causes brain damage and growth problems to children.

The Department of Health encouraged parents to monitor what pregnant young women eat or drink.

The programme also educated the residents about the long-term effects of drugs, especially those that were created from harmful chemicals.

Parents were encouraged by government to search their children's books and schoolbags, as some children consume and sell drugs at schools, which results in them engaging in violent activities.

According to the Department of Social Development, drug dealers also use children to sell drugs in communities, therefore, members of the public have the responsibility to report these activities.



Stakeholders who engaged with the community members in Pampierstad.



Community members engaging with stakeholders and seeking advice on some of their own challenges.



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COVID-19 vaccine registration details for 12-year-olds and above:

Online at:
<https://vaccine.enroll.health.gov.za/#/>
Send the word **REGISTER** to 0600 123 456 on WhatsApp.
Via SMS by dialling *134*832#.
Call the COVID-19 hotline 0800 029 999.



Keabetswe Gabaake said:

“The Department of Social Development called us today, to educate us about drugs, and that we must look out for in our children, especially girls who are drinking while pregnant. From now on, we will visit their offices frequently because our grandchildren are very problematic at home.”



John Dikandloma said:

“This programme was meant for the elderly, but I decided to come. I learnt a lot about the impact of drug and alcohol abuse on the lives of people, and have decided not to consume any of it anymore. I now know that I am not gaining anything from this, but putting my life at risk.”



Tuelo Matlawe said:

“I thank government for educating us about drugs, and that we must not allow drug dealers to rent in our yards, instead we must report them.”



Usius Oosthuizen said:

“We encourage men to also report gender-based violence. We are aware that men are also affected by this scourge and are mostly ashamed to report such crimes.”



Nathaniel Petersen said:

“We are very concerned about the effect and influence of the ongoing incidents of gender-based violence in our youth. We realise that there is a big need for positive influence among our youth, especially our young men to take care of their sisters and to also ensure that everyone has the right to live a free and safe environment. We therefore support the fight against gender-based violence, and encourage all men to take up the responsibility by being accountable in ensuring that all women are free and safe.”

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Department hosts victim-offender dialogue

By Jethro Grootboom: GCIS, Western Cape

On 25 November 2021, the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) convened a Victim-Offender-Dialogue (VOD) in George, involving an offender and family members of a victim of gender-based violence (GBV).

The DCS hosted this VOD as part of its 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign and a broader safer festive season awareness campaign.

The VOD came as the department sets out a series of events in the Southern Cape, aimed at highlighting the plight of GBV victims and the role of the DCS in the rehabilitation of offenders.

VODs are based on a theory of justice that considers crime and wrongdoing, to be an offence against an individual, or community, rather than just the State.

Restorative justice, which fosters dialogue between victim and offender, shows the highest rates of victim satisfaction and offender accountability, and further places the victim at the centre of the rehabilitation process.

The department’s programme continued in Knysna on 1 December 2021 at Hornlee Sports Field, where community members were invited to attend a Security Imbizo, which was hosted in partnership with the South African Police Service (SAPS) and various community-based organisations.

The Security Imbizo gave community members an opportunity to engage both the DCS and SAPS on matters of crime, corrections and parole.



The community of George taking a stand against gender-based violence.



The community of Knysna and stakeholders engaging on issues of crime, corrections and parole.

PRIORITY 6: SOCIAL COHESION AND SAFE COMMUNITIES.

Mogale City acts against violence

By Tshidi Mokoka: GCIS, Gauteng

The 16 Days of Activism of No Violence Against Women And Children is an annual campaign which seeks to raise awareness on violence perpetrated against women and children.

The initiative has since been adopted into a yearlong campaign where government collaborates with the civil society to encourage communities to stand up together to protect women and children.

In an effort to create awareness about this campaign, the Mogale City Local Municipality in partnership with local stakeholders conducted an activation on 25 November 2021 at Project Hope in Munsieville, Gauteng, creating awareness about gender-based violence and femicide.

The purpose of the activation was to ensure communities receive information on matters relating to the different type of abuses that are usually perpetrated on women and children.

This is to ensure that they become knowledgeable and are better equipped to seek for assistance in their time of need.

David Sehahle, a Social Worker from Mogale City Local Municipality said that in their line of work when rehabilitating communities, there are many incidents that are not reported because people believe that there is no hope for them.

“Many women stay in abusive relationships because the perpetrator is the breadwinner of the home and the victim truly believes that nothing can be done to help her. We are here to inform people of the help that is available to them to survive abuses they endure,” Sehahle said.

He further encouraged people who are neighbours or friends to not look away when they know that abuse is happening near them, but to encourage the victim to seek help.

Stakeholders from the Krugersdorp Magistrate’s Court were on hand to share information with the community on services they render to assist victims of domestic abuse.

Mashudu Nehuleni, an official from the court who raised awareness on the importance of reporting and opening criminal cases against their perpetrators said, “It is sad when we read of cases of victims who die at the hands of those they trusted to take care of them. As a court we encourage women to come and apply for protection orders and to ask to be taken to a shelter especially when they know their life is in danger.”

She concluded by encouraging people not to rescind when cases of abuse are opened and already at the courts but ensure that they allow the law to take its course.

Other stakeholders who participated in this sessions included Department of Social Development, Krugersdorp Child Welfare, Women Against Women and Children Abuse, Teddy Bear Clinic and many more, whose function is to assist and/or empower victims of abuse.



Itumeleng Ditshego from the Teddy Bear Clinic sharing information on domestic violence and bullying.



Sharon Tsatsi distributing information to the community in Munsieville.



Baxolile Ncobo said:

"I truly believe that the information that was shared today will help us as a community to start reporting domestic violence that we know is happening in our community. In most cases, people do not report such cases because they have no information on how to go about doing that."



Lucky Booï said:

"Our intention as an organisation that assist women and children who are abused, is to inform them about the shelter that we have to house them. Many people believe that there is nowhere to go so we are here hoping that they will call us in their times of need."

PRIORITY 3: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

World AIDS Day and march against gender-based violence

By Ephraim Malema: GCIS, North West

The North West Provincial Government in partnership with the Government Communication and Information System commemorated World AIDS Day and 16 Days of Activism for No Violence against Women and Children at Klipgat in Moretele Local Municipality on 1 December 2021.

The chairperson of the North West House of Traditional Leaders, Kgosi Mushi Mabe and the Provincial Health MEC Madoda Sambatha led the commemoration accompanied by Mayors, leaders of civil society, Provincial AIDS Council members and other key stakeholders.

When giving the keynote address, Kgosi Mushi Mabe spoke on the fact that HIV remains a major public health issue that affects millions of people in the country.

“The World AIDS Day is important as it reminds the public that HIV has not gone away and that collectively, there is the need to increase awareness, fight prejudice and improve education to maintain and achieve the aims and objectives of the country. Furthermore it is important to protect yourself and loved ones against HIV and AIDS by taking precautionary measures using protection and regularly testing,” said Kgosi Mabe.

Later on the day about 300 women and men marched against gender-based violence, from Klipgat Tax Rank to Klipgat Sports Ground.

Civil society organisations such as Treatment Action Campaign, Love Life and Men Against Gender-Based Violence took part in the march, which also formed part of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Child Abuse campaign.

Department of Social Development urged the community of Klipgat to protect children and women against gender-based violence, and encouraged victims to come fourth and report perpetrators and have faith in the justice system.



The commemoration of World AIDS Day in Klipgat.



Klipgat community members march against gender-based violence.