



DSD NEWS

NOVEMBER EDITION



Working Together to End
Inequalities, AIDS, TB
and COVID-19

Building a Caring Society. Together.

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social development

Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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EDITOR'S NOTE

November is a busy month in the Government calendar as we commemorate different campaigns that are important to the greater population.

November is Disability Rights Awareness Month (DRAM) and it is also within DRAM that we observe the most important campaign of raising awareness on violence against women and children. Because these two campaigns are both important, the Deputy Minister had a dialogue with short statured people to speak about their right to reproductive health. True to these dialogues, the attendees were honest and transparent about all issues affecting them, including how they are treated by health workers and their good and bad experiences with romantic relationships. We have included some of their feedback in this edition.

After spending time with short statured people, we moved to the Free State to engage with young boys for their Boys Assembly. The boys assemblies are a mechanism to engage boys on a range of issues in a safe space in order for the country to win the fight against Gender-Based Violence.

As the DSD family, we were also fortunate to host a delegation from the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire to look into how our social protection systems assisted poor and vulnerable South Africans during a pandemic. Good lessons were shared and diplomatic relations were strengthened.

While we had a busy month of November, a new Covid-19 variant, Omicron was detected. This variant has been described by the World Health Organisation (WHO) as a variant of concern. This calls for more vigilant and responsible behaviour to reduce the spread of the virus. The President has called for all of us to vaccinate to prevent the country from being hit by a forth wave. Please read everything you need to know about the variant and how to protect yourself and your loved ones. We are all urged to continue to wear our masks, wash or sanitise our hands and keep a safe following distance.

Lumka Oliphant



— FROM THE DESK OF —
THE PRESIDENT



Dear Fellow South African,

In my inauguration address, which I delivered on Africa Day two years ago, I said South Africa is determined to work with all the countries on our continent towards a future of growth, opportunity and shared prosperity.

I said that our fortunes as a country are inextricably tied to those of our neighbouring countries.

Since the outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic last year, which coincided with our term as African Union Chair, our focus has been on responding to the impact of the pandemic on human health, society and economies.

South Africa was, for example, instrumental in the establishment of the Africa Medical Supplies Platform to enable countries to procure personal protective equipment and medical supplies, as well as the African Vaccine Acquisition Task Team, which has secured millions of vaccines for the continent.

As the AU Champion for the COVID-19

Response, we continue to play an active role within AU structures to support continental effort against the pandemic. As we continue to combat the virus, our focus is also on sustainable economic recovery.

As part of our economic diplomacy efforts, we are giving renewed attention to promoting trade and investment with countries on our continent. That is why this week I will be undertaking visits to four African countries: Nigeria, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal.

These are countries with which we have strategic partnerships and are markets in which a number of South African businesses operate. In addition to government Ministers and officials, I will be accompanied by a delegation of business people representing sectors such as manufacturing, agriculture, construction, consumer goods, renewable energy, healthcare and pharmaceuticals.

At the beginning of this year, one of the most significant milestones in the quest for African economic integration was reached when trade officially commenced under the African Continental Free trade (AfCFTA). This presents immense opportunities for export of South African

goods and services into the continent. The United Nations estimates that the market created under the AfCFTA is around 1.3 billion people with a combined gross domestic product of \$3.4 trillion.

The successful hosting of the Intra-Trade Fair in Durban earlier this month was part of the effort to promote greater trade between our country and others on the continent and help realise the promise of AfCFTA. It is estimated that around \$36 billion in deals were concluded at the Intra-African Trade Fair, in which more than 80 South African companies participated.

During my visits to Nigeria, Ghana, Côte d'Ivoire and Senegal over the next week, we will look at how to leverage the opportunities presented by the AfCFTA to expand the footprint of South African companies into the continent and how we can better support those businesses already operating in other countries. We will also be looking at how companies from those countries can find trade and investment opportunities here in South Africa.

The state visit to Nigeria will coincide with the 10th Season of our Bi-National Commission and will reflect on the

“Restoring and rebuilding our respective economies is as important as the fight against the health effects of COVID.”

financing mass infrastructure upgrades and railway line construction.

South African businesses also have a strong presence in Côte d'Ivoire. MTN, Standard Bank, Multichoice, Sanlam, Investec and Development Bank of Southern Africa are some of the companies with significant investments in the country.

I will be participating in an Economic Forum with South African and Ivorian business representatives, where we will be discussing opportunities in existing and emerging sectors such as renewable energy.

progress made in advancing trade and investment between two countries. We will be looking in particular at how to support business expansion and job creation in both countries.

Ghana is another key strategic partner for South Africa and there are currently over 200 South African companies doing business there. Over the past decade these companies have engaged in large scale projects in Ghana representing over \$1 billion in capital investment. Two South African banks, Investec and Rand Merchant Bank, have been involved in

In Senegal, we will discuss how to facilitate greater trade and investment between our two countries. Currently there are South African countries operating in the energy and wildlife tourism sectors among others, and a number of South African companies have expressed interest in entering the infrastructure construction space.

In these visits, we will be looking to build trade and investment relationships that benefit growth, development and employment in each country.

For far too long, we African countries have trained our gaze on trade and investment opportunities in markets beyond the continent such as Europe, Asia and North America. If the AfCFTA is to be a success, we have to both strengthen the existing trade relationships with countries closer to home and forge new ones.

Restoring and rebuilding our respective economies is as important as the fight against the health effects of COVID.

It is our hope that these upcoming visits will not only strengthen fraternal ties with our fellow countries on the continent, but that this will translate into new opportunities for South African businesses, new markets for our products and the creation of employment for our people.

Equally, it is our hope that companies from the countries we are visiting will forge partnerships with South African companies and will find opportunities to invest and trade in South Africa.

With best regards

Cyril Ramaphosa

MESSAGE FROM MINISTER

L I N D I W E Z U L U



DEAR DSD FAMILY,

By the time you read this latest edition of the DSD News, most of you would have heard or learned that I recently tested positive for coronavirus and I am currently in isolation and recovering at home. I would like to thank you for your well wishes and messages of support that will carry me on this journey to full recovery.

Now, more than ever before, we need to emphasise the importance of the vaccination as the most important arsenal to protect ourselves and others against severe illnesses, especially with the fourth wave on the horizon and the recent detection of the Omicron COVID variant by South African

medical scientists.

What is becoming much clearer now is that we need to stop trying to adjust the pandemic to our own behaviour, and rather start adjusting our social behaviour to limit the further spread of the virus. In the absence of preventative and curative pharmaceutical drugs, vaccines and social behaviour change interventions remain our only hope to respond effectively and return to some sense of normalcy. Vaccines do save lives.

2021 marks the 30th anniversary of the Global 16 Days of Activism of No Violence Against Women

and Children Campaign. In South Africa, the Campaign is commemorated under the national theme: "The Year of Charlotte Manny Maxeke-Moving from awareness to accountability". Many across our country continue to face violence every day because of their gender, gender identity or perceived gender. The recent quarterly crime statistics released by the Minister of Police show once again, the unacceptably high levels of crime against women and children, with almost 10 000 people brutalised and sexually violated within a period of three months. Of major concern is that these violent crimes are perpetrated by people that survivors and victims know and trust, and it happens in their own homes.

Speaking of accountability, we visited the Inanda Police Station in KwaZulu-Natal, which is one of the 30 Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) hotspot areas across the country to find out how police are responding to the issue on a community level. During the visit to the police station with Premier, Sihle Zikalala and MEC of Social Development, Nonhlanhla Khoza we learnt of how alcohol, illicit drugs and the mushrooming of unlicensed taverns drive Gender-Based Violence in the area.

We are collectively responsible for ending these crimes, and we must demand accountability from those who commit violence, those who condone it, those who allow it to happen and those who fail to prevent it from happening in the first place. This year's theme calls on us to continue efforts to expedite the implementation of the six pillars of the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (2019-2024).

On a lighter note, Christmas came very early this year for Mkhulu Joseph Thabethe of Soshanguve, who received a newly-built and fully-furnished house from the Collen Mashawana Foundation. It was a heart-warming moment to see Mkhulu Joseph smiling and shedding tears of joy on receiving the keys to his new house.

The advent of the COVID-19 pandemic has taught all of us the importance of compassion and looking out for those in our community who might need a helping hand. We commend the Collen Mashawana Foundation on its important initiative to give back and restore the dignity of many vulnerable groups and households by providing a roof over their heads.

In just a few weeks, we will be celebrating Christmas and I want to urge each one of you to do your bit by continuing to support and reaching out to friends, neighbours and those in need in our communities. The best gift you can give them this Christmas is to encourage them to get vaccinated and follow COVID-19 protocols at all times.

Thank you and Stay Safe!
Ms Lindiwe Zulu, MP
Minister of Social Development

Let the voices of sex workers be heard!

On Monday 29 November 2021, I facilitated a dialogue between sex workers, government, civil society, developmental partners and the general public about challenges that continue to plague the sex work trade.

We had an eventful day which included giving sex workers a voice through dialogues. These dialogues served as an opportunity for us as government to hear the experience of sex workers and the difficulty they face in accessing health care, justice, SAPS and our very own Social Workers.

As the Department of Social Development, we need to ensure that sex workers have access to our services and develop programs that empower sex workers. In addition, we need to ensure that those that are involved in sex work are doing it voluntarily, as sex work is based on two consensual adults who enter an agreement. Moreover, we need to make sure that those that want to exit the sector have access to rehabilitation, be it from the drugs they find themselves addicted to or rehabilitation from sex itself. It would be naive of us to assume that a sex worker who has been having sex with 5 or more men a day can easily stop; it's a gradual process as sex itself can be addictive.

As the Department of Social Development, we need to ensure that sex workers are aware that they have access to shelters when they decide to leave the sector.

The Department of Social Development calls for the decriminalization of sex work as its criminalization poses a myriad of challenges against interventions designed for sex workers. The criminalization of the trade is intricately linked to the on-going human rights violations and inadequate access to social, justice and health services. Sex workers continue to be the subject of human rights violations, Gender-Based Violence (GBV), ill-treatment by law enforcement officials and the public as well as severe cases of stigmatization.

As the Department of Social Development, we are calling on the Department of Justice to fast track the process of decriminalizing sex work. This process will assist in the protection of the rights of sex workers.



MESSAGE FROM DEPUTY MINISTER Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu

We also welcome the National Sex Worker HIV, TB and STI Plan 2019-2022 (NSWP 2019-2022) which builds on the strengths of the first Sex Worker HIV Plan (2016-2019). It addresses gaps identified over the past three years and supports the call for the decriminalisation of sex work. The NSWP 2019-2022 also introduces several improvements to address the challenges in delivering available, accessible, acceptable and quality HIV, TB, and STI services for sex workers.

The dialogues were held at the midst of the 16 Days of No Violence against Women and Children campaign commemorated between 25 November and 10 December, this year under the theme, "The Year of Manny Maxeke – 16 Days of Activism – moving from awareness to accountability". The 16 Days Campaign is a centre point of government's comprehensive fight against GBV and Femicide. The few days before the commemoration of the annual World AIDS Day on the 1st of December gives every community an opportunity to unite against HIV, show support to people living with HIV and remember those who have died. This year is commemorated under the theme, "Working together to end inequalities, AIDS, TB and Covid-19".

DSD family, this year has not been an easy year and it took an emotional toll on all of us. We lost family members, friends and colleagues. Thank you for the hard work you have put in to ensure our services reach our most vulnerable in South Africa.

Yours in service,
Honorable Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu
Deputy Minister of the Department of Social Development

Message from the Acting Director-General

MR LINTON MCHUNU

It is a moment which grants me an opportunity to interact with the Social Development Portfolio by means of our monthly Newsletter, the DSD News. It is more than a pleasure and privilege for me to overtime engage with you about important matters within our work space.

Let me kickstart our conversation by stating that the 16 Days of No Violence against Women and Children Campaign remains a United Nations campaign, which is observed annually between 25 November and 10 December. Since South Africa is part of the United Nations, we have an obligation of not turning a blind eye on the plight of women and children experiencing abuse, ill treatment and in some instances, brutal homicide.

This year, we are commemorating the campaign under the theme; "The Year of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke, 16 Days of Activism, Moving from awareness to accountability." What triggered my keen interest on this theme is that it, amongst other aspects, seeks to emphasise the significance of transitioning from awareness to a critical phase of accountability.

I therefore call upon all officials in the DSD sector to be more vigilant during the 16 Days campaign by holding perpetrators of violence accountable to their actions which continuously destroy our social fabric as a nation. This national call further coincides with other key commemorative days including the International World Aids Day, on 01 December, and the International Day for Persons with Disabilities, on 03 December as part of Disability Rights Awareness Month (DRAM).

Having said that, we have a task of ensuring that as we observe the above stated days, we do so by caring for and embracing vulnerable women, children and persons with disabilities by promoting their fundamental rights as enshrined in the supreme law of our country, the Constitution. It is our role as part of the social sector to focus and make a difference in the lives of persons infected and affected by HIV/Aids, abused women and children as well as those living with disabilities.



In some of our high-level deliberations, we picked up that we are underspending as a Department. My appeal is that we should try and revisit our spending plans and identify where we went wrong in terms of the set projections. Revisiting our spending plans will assist us in ensuring that no money is taken back to the National Treasury.

In closing, we thank all officials who grabbed the Vooma Vaccination Drive weekend to get their jabs, and also encourage those who have not yet vaccinated, to do so to protect their families, friends and fellow colleagues against the COVID-19 pandemic. Let us also refrain from attending unnecessary mass gatherings, which may pose a threat as super spreaders of Coronavirus.

PLAY YOUR PART AND SAVE MORE LIVES

MR L MCHUNU
ACTING DIRECTOR-GENERAL FOR
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

STOP THE SPREAD OF COVID-19

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The more COVID-19 spreads the more variants will develop. Now variants bring new risks.

TO STOP THE SPREAD IN 7 STEPS

1. Get vaccinated	5. Open windows
2. Wear masks	6. Meet outdoors
3. Sanitise	7. Avoid large crowds
4. Social distance	

STOP THE 4TH WAVE

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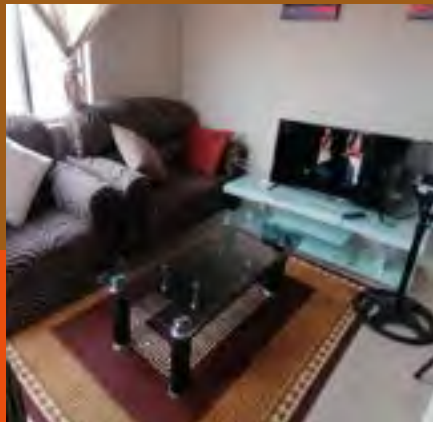
STOP THE 4TH WAVE

MKHULU RECEIVES A HOME – FROM RAGS TO RICHES

BY EVANS MOLIMI

"Ours is to ensure that we give back and restore dignity to many vulnerable groups in our society."

73-year-old, Mkhulu Joseph Thabethe from Soshanguve Block MM, openly speaks about how hard it was for him to be living in a one room shack. Life has not been easy for Thabethe. He had to endure the pain of sleeping in a makeshift shack without electricity, water and lavatory.



Being left alone for survival, Thabethe was living a life of sorrow. He had to tolerate hunger, colds during winter and loneliness.

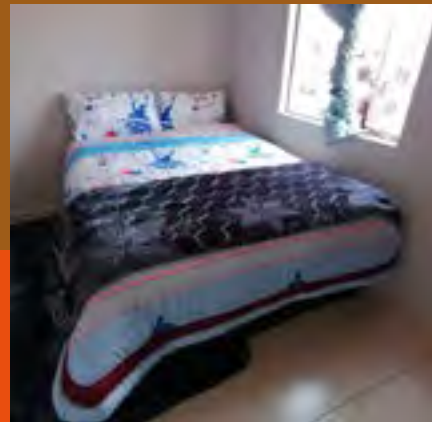
Thabethe, who only survives on old age grants, did not shy away from thanking the Department of Social Development's partnership with the Collen Mashawana Foundation, when he received a fully furnished house.

He explained that life was a living hell before the Minister of Social Development, Ms. Lindiwe Zulu together with Gauteng MEC for



Social Development, Ms. Morakane Mosupye and Mr. Collen Mashawana handed him the fully furnished two-bedroom house.

"Life has not been friendly to me. I had to use my one room shack for everything. I used to do everything from cooking, dining, bathing and sleeping in it. This year the spirit of giving came early for me. I am very grateful for the house. Poverty is everyone's problem and



my dignity has been restored," said the joyful Thabethe.

Thabethe never had a house before, instead, he has been living in a shack for most of his life. He has been surviving tough times through old age



social grants which were too little for him to build a house.

Handing over the keys to Thabethe in Soshanguve, Minister Zulu was brimming with bliss. She said the Department is going to ensure that it turns Mkhulu Thabethe's house into a home.

"We are working very hard by targeting those who have the means of giving back to those who do not have. Mashawana Foundation is one of the many foundations that we are working with. Ours is to ensure that we give back and restore dignity to many vulnerable groups in our society. The time is now

to work together with stakeholders as government towards a better South Africa," said Minister Zulu.

On the other-hand, Mr Mashawana said his foundation is not about letting vulnerable citizens down, but nothing more than restoring the dignity of vulnerable people in their own community.



Omicron:

Things you need to know about the new Covid Variant

1 What is it?

It's a **new heavily mutated coronavirus variant** also known as B.1.1.529. It is now designated as a variant of concern by WHO.

2 When was Omicron first detected?

The earliest sample was detected on **11 November 2021** in Botswana.

3 Why are we worried about it?

Omicron has **more than 30 mutations** on its spike protein (face). That's more than double what's carried by Delta, raising concerns if prior infections still provide some immunity.

4 Is it more transmissible?

It's **not yet clear**, however, within two weeks of its detection, it has outpaced delta to become the main strain in Gauteng where there is a surge of cases. Its R_0 value is 1.93 as compared to delta 1.47.

5 Will vaccines work against it?

Yes, most likely. A crucial objective remains to increase vaccination rates. Should updated vaccines be developed, these will also be used as guided by WHO.

6 What about drugs?

Currently, Oxygen and Dexamethasone have been saving lives. There is, however, **very exciting data** coming from two antivirals Molnupiravir and Favipiravir.

7 What can you do?



Get vaccinated



Wear a mask



Sanitize or wash your hands



Maintain social distance



Gather in well-ventilated spaces



VACCINE FREQUENTLY ASKED QUESTIONS

Who can get vaccinated?

South Africans and foreign nationals from 12 years and up.

Do you need to pre-book?

No. Just walk into any vaccination site with the required identity documentation. You won't be turned away.

Why vaccinate?

Because according to global experience to date, vaccinated people are 99% guaranteed to survive Covid-19. Evidence to date shows that those who are NOT vaccinated are 10x more likely to die if they contract the virus.

How many jabs do you need?

- 12-17 year olds need 1 jab of Pfizer to be vaccinated.
- Adults who are vaccinated with Pfizer need 2 jabs.
- Adults who are vaccinated with J&J need only 1 jab.

Where to vaccinate?

Log on www.sacoronavirus.co.za or ask a doctor, nurse or enquire at a clinic near you.

Who qualifies for the R200 grocery voucher?

Anyone 50+ who is vaccinating for the very first time is eligible for the R200 grocery voucher at Shoprite.

How does the Uber Mahala Voucher work?

Uber is covering 2 free trips of up to R100 each, to and from select vaccination sites across the country.

Who qualifies for the 200 Weekly Prizes?

Everyone who vaccinated before the end of 2021 is automatically entered into the lucky draw. Winners will be contacted on the number they gave when they vaccinated.

Call 0800 029 999 or email info@vaccinesupport.org.za for more information.



No one SEES me ... Literally!

By Nomfundo Xulu-Lentsoane

She walks her friend to the bus stop and hurries back to her house to meet with the Social Development team. Itumeleng swiftly climbs the stairs to her refurbished home in Hebron, North West, to get ready for her video shoot.

Itumeleng, who is a 40-year-old mother to a short statured son, is also of short stature. "I realised that my height was not normal when I was in primary school. My peers would make fun of me and say I should be in creche because I am so short," she recalls.

Yet, that did not dampen her spirits. She went on to finish school and study Public Management at the Tshwane University of Technology. "I am fortunate that I have always had a supportive family. I am the only girl at home so my three brothers have always had my back. All my family members are of normal stature. It is only my son and I that are short," she says. Although slightly reserved, Itu – as she is passionately known, is not afraid to share some of the most inhibiting challenges that she faces on a daily basis. "Weitsi (you know), there are simple things that people take for granted. I literally depend on my step ladders to do anything. I mean from getting on and off my bed, to getting into the bath, preparing food and doing basic chores around the house," she mentions but a few.

These trials are made more visual and heart wrenching when Itu says we must go to the mall. Getting into a standard vehicle alone is a problem because Itumeleng is less than a metre tall.

She cannot wear a seatbelt because it would strangle her. Public transport is even worse because she needs to be carried due to the height of a taxi. "Do you know that sometimes they don't even see me, especially in the rain when I have an umbrella? So, I know that if I am going to use public transport in the rain, I need to be accompanied by someone of normal stature, otherwise I would have to wait for a long time to be recognised by the taxi driver or passengers," says the Administrative Clerk at the National Department of Home Affairs. As if this struggle alone is not enough, Itu visually demonstrates the basic human rights violations that she and other short statured people face. "Apart from being stared at in public spaces and people taking pictures of me as if I am a scene from a movie, I can't go shopping alone because I cannot reach the trolley and the shelves for example. Do you know the pain of having to ask for assistance for a simple thing such as putting in a pin at an ATM? As grown up as I am, I am dependent on other people almost all the time because institutions and government have not considered us in their policy drafting and basic infrastructure. It is weird how there are parking bays, for

instance, for people on wheelchairs but not even elevators have buttons that are low enough for us short people to press. It is painful but we have to continue talking about our pleas until someone hears us. Look, in the current situation of COVID-19, sesi, do you understand that I need to sanitise like everyone else but half the time, the sanitising stations are too high for me to reach. The foot pedal is fine but the dispenser is over my head," says Itumeleng.

Itu was part of a three-day dialogue with short statured persons which was hosted by the Department of Social Development's Deputy Minister, Ms Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu, in partnership with the United Nations Population Fund from 10 – 12 November 2021 as part of Disability Rights Awareness Month (DRAM). This year's theme for DRAM is: "The Year of Charlotte Manna Maxeke - Create and Realise an Inclusive Society Upholding Rights of Persons with Disabilities".

View Itumeleng Maake's full story and highlights from the dialogues here: Itumeleng's Story: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=bT2sMVItumM>

Dialogues with Short Statured Persons Highlights: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=wnHijRer6PE>

"I literally depend on my step ladders to do anything."



FORGOTTEN AND MARGINALISED SHORT-STATURED PERSONS IN MZANSI

By SELLO TANG

Retha, Stefan and Harris du Plessis

"We chose to marry each other as people of short stature because we knew that we could understand each other's challenges and help one another in our marriage, instead of judging one another," says Retha on behalf of her family. "We also have a boy-child, Stefan here, who also looks short like us. Because we are short statured people too and we know the challenges short people are going through, we managed to teach him to love himself and provided support for him to gain confidence in whatever he wishes to achieve. We definitely face height challenges when we have to fetch stuff in the house that need tall people, but with team work, we are able to surmount those problems. We have small ladders, and through them we are able to access everything in our house," added Retha.



The Deputy Minister of Social Development, Ms Hendrietta Ipeleng Bogopane-Zulu hosted successful dialogues with the short-statured persons at a conference held from 10-12 November 2021 at the Burgers Park Hotel in Pretoria, Gauteng Province.

The dialogues sought to identify challenges experienced by short statured people on a daily basis and also find solutions to these problems. This was done in order to feed into government policy making decisions towards protecting the rights and needs of short statured people. Among other issues, the Deputy Minister Bogopane-Zulu and participants discussed sexual reproductive matters, employment gaps, family ties and how they have been affected by them. DSD News reporter spoke to some of the participants and this is what they had to say

Lerato Malebane

"We live with people who undermine us a lot, especially our own family members. They see us as people who cannot do anything for ourselves. I really hate it. Only if they can recognise us as equal human beings, will life be happy for us all," said Lerato Malebane.



Nosiphiwo Bottoman

"I am experiencing problems like any other short statured person in my home. But I am used to that kind of lifestyle and it looks normal to me. I heard that short statured people carry a child for only 7 or so months, but it was different with me during my pregnancy. I carried my child for 12 months, and I was surprised when the doctor kept on telling me that the unborn child was healthy in that period. At some stage, I thought my pregnancy was a curse or witchcraft, but I finally gave birth to a beautiful girl, who is also as short as me," she said.



Vovo Nguqu

"My outfits are all small. I wear the same sizes as children aged 5 and 6. You can imagine, I always have to buy clothes that do not look my part because they are meant for young kids and not for a person of my age. And I do not care who says what and how people stare at me at the shops. But, it is better these days because I have my own dressmaker who does any outfit I want. We also have challenges at the banks when we go to withdraw money. The ATMs are high up and at times we need to request strangers or security guards to assist us in withdrawing the money. The worst thing that ever happened to me, was when I was entering the automatic rolling door at the bank, and it could not read and sense me because I am short. The sensor was higher than my height. I felt so embarrassed because I had to wait for another person and had to squeeze myself with him to enter into the bank branch," said Vovo Nguqu.



Andries Aphane

"My wife is taller than me. She is the one who helps access anything that is in heights. Even when we go shopping, I trust her to pick some of the stuff that are at a higher elevation than my height. But, look, we live a normal life like all of you (tall people). We enjoy every part of life like you. The only thing I do not like when in the public domain is how people stare at us every time we are at the shops or just on an outing. It is really boring to be stared at in a way that makes it seem like there is something wrong with you," he said.



Pastor Jan Kekana

"There is a myth that short statured people are somehow disfigured when coming to the groin's parts. In fact, the opposite is true. We are just as normal as you and gifted. To tell you honestly, some of us are more endowed than taller people. Our sex life is normal. We do not want condoms, whether male or female condoms to be customised for us. For what reason? I am enjoying my sex life when making love with my woman who is taller than me," said Pastor Jan Kekana.



Gontse Mokoena

"I experienced bullying during the lower classes of my schooling years because of my short-stature. My parents would frequently visit the school to complain to the Principal about the bullying. Fellow learners would make fun of me and I would feel so saddened. It made me feel ashamed of myself and instilled a lower esteem in me. But now I do not care anymore, I just ignore anyone who makes silly jokes about me and my looks. I have grown out of those petty things and I have gained my confidence and self-love. I know I am beautiful and I am the same as everyone. I know that I am capable of becoming anything I want to be. My wish is for government to implement the White Paper on the Rights of People with Disabilities the right way and enforce it on companies to meet the employment equity targets, so that we can also be hired," said Gontse Mokoena.



Tsholofelo Jele

"My biggest challenge living in this country, is how we, as short-statured people, are discriminated against from work opportunities; and, if you are lucky to get employment, you end up facing disrespect in the workplace or people feeling sorry for you as if being short-statured means you are unable to do things that abled-bodied people can do. People must start recognizing that we have a disability of shortness, but we are not unable to perform any task or activity that a tall person can perform. We are equally capable of doing anything, only if we can be treated with respect and be given space and opportunities to compete equally with taller people," said Tsholofelo Jele.



STATE OF SOUTH AFRICA'S FATHERS 2021

TOO MANY CHILDREN DON'T HAVE FATHERS AT HOME

EASTERN CAPE

BY NANDE FAYO

Recent statistics have shown that more than 60% of children in South Africa grow up without a father. The Eastern Cape, standing at 24%, has the lowest number of children living with their fathers.

The above statistics were revealed by Pat Godana from Sonke Gender Justice during the launch of the 50/50 Men Care programme in Joe Gqabi District. The main objective of the programme was to promote co-parenting, breaking cultural and social norms on gender roles and conscientizing men on the importance of sharing responsibilities. The programme was initiated by the Sonke Gender Justice and Department of Social Development and also served as a build up towards the commemoration of the International Men's day.

Sonke Gender Justice works to create the change necessary for men, women and children to enjoy equitable, healthy and happy relationships which contribute towards the development of just and democratic societies.

kinds of absence, therefore it is vital to state the type of absence present in different households. "When emotional care is missing, physical presence may not make up for the lack of involvement between parent and child. When the father is in the house, but he is violent, it may be better if he was not living in the same household with the child. Some kinds of absence are more traumatic than others because they envelope violence or oppressiveness," he said.

Percy Ntsoane from MAN ALIVE, an organisation that specialises in providing counselling for men by men said growing up without a father figure has a profound effect on children, especially on boys. He said boys need a father figure to learn how to be a man. He said without having this influence in their lives, boys are at risk of growing into men who have problems with behavior and emotional stability.

WHEN EMOTIONAL CARE IS MISSING

physical presence may not make up for the lack of involvement between parent and child.

Speaking at the launch, Pat Godana said the issue of the absence of fathers in households is one that attracts a great deal of attention. He said there are different degrees and



EASTERN CAPE

EC READY FOR ECD FUNCTION SHIFT

It's all systems go for the Eastern Cape's Department of Social Development and Department of Education. The Departments held a joint summit in East London on November 12, 2021, wherein all stakeholders in the sector were updated on the latest developments in the preparations for the shift. The function shift of the Early Childhood Development unit pronounced by President Cyril Ramaphosa seeks to improve the quality of education received by children during their early development.

Addressing the summit, Social Development MEC, Siphokazi Lusithi said the Department has identified all the ECD centers that will be shifted over to the Department of Education. "Close to 1 500 ECDs have been identified, made aware of the shift and assisted in the administrative process of being under the Department of Education," said Lusithi. The MEC added that all personnel affected by the shift have been engaged on the matter and have come on board with enthusiasm.

"In the beginning of this shift, we started engagement with all the staff members affected and labor unions to ensure that all parties involved are satisfied with this process. This is to ensure that there is no frustration and anxiety on the workers which could lead to a low morale and poor performance," she said. She proudly shared that 80 percent of the personnel and resource funds have been prepared for shifting to the

Department of Education.

Department of Education MEC, Fundile Gade expressed pride in the fact that the Eastern Cape is among the first four provinces who are well within the targeted time for the shift. The MEC said the shift will help improve the teaching material at ECDs. "When in our department, the ECDs will have a set curriculum that is carefully drafted to improve the outcomes throughout the learning stages of a child," said MEC Gade. He added that poor performances at learners' matric level can be curbed by ensuring solid foundations. MEC said the shift is ready for take off.

"By the 1st of April 2022, the shift will be fully functional. All parties involved have shown strength and courage to ensure speedy service in this matter. "The common interest here is for our children on the ground to not feel the pinch in this new change," said Gade. The MEC also assured ECD practitioners that they will be capacitated with the skills and education needed to implement the curriculum. "A few years ago, we started taking practitioners to University to train them; we continue with that and are now more intentional. This helps both the children and the practitioners," he concluded.

Minister of Social Development, Lindiwe Zulu commended the Departments and stakeholders for the continued hard work during the process. "The commitment we have

By Zona Davani

all put in is paying off. The regular meetings every Friday have helped us give careful attention to all areas and possible mistakes before even implementing the shift," she said.

Speaking on behalf of the affected staff of the Department of Social Development, Nkalitshana said they appreciate the support they've received from the Department's leadership. "The thought of finding ourselves starting over in a place we've never applied for rendered many of us anxious, however, the employer and unions didn't leave us wondering at any stage. We were informed of all stages and we still continue receiving support, psychological and administrative," said Nkalitshana. She echoed the sentiments of Minister Zulu that, ultimately, the common interest is to give excellent service delivery on the ground.

Vuyelwa Royi, a parent of a child with special needs said they welcome this new shift with hope for improvement. "Having the Department of Education take over this learning stage will help parents and teachers alike to identify strengths and weaknesses in our children very early and therefore implement interventions speedily to bring out the best in our children's capabilities," said Royi.

ECD sector representative, Patricia Goje said they welcome the change and are even more encouraged by the Department of Education capacitating practitioners. "We look forward to the growth that lies ahead," she said.



EASTERN CAPE

Teenage Pregnancy

ON THE RISE IN EASTERN CAPE

BY NANDE FAYO

There is a general notion that while teenage pregnancy rates were already high, the impact of the COVID -19 pandemic may have also contributed to the increased numbers. This is a result of schools temporarily closing, increased GBVF incidents and the difficulties of accessing contraceptives in medical facilities.

It is estimated that roughly 30% of teenage girls between the ages of 9 and 10 in South Africa fell pregnant during April 2020 and March 2021. Additionally, the Eastern Cape Province is reported to be among the top three provinces with a high teenage pregnancy prevalence at 17,1%. This was revealed by Eastern Cape Social Development MEC, Siphokazi Lusithi in her address during the National Council of Provinces debate on teenage pregnancy.

Lusithi said that given the deep inequality and unevenness of the province's socioeconomic structures, it is essential to ensure that rural and peri-rural communities are prioritized by the Department's interventions. She said it is important to note that there are other key social factors that contribute to the challenge and those

include backward social norms, risky sexual behavior and the scourge of Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF).

She said that in order to curb the pandemic of teenage pregnancy, the interventions must be family based. "Families have a core feature in understanding social behavior in every society. They are a central location where change can be implemented. She said the Eastern Cape Department of Social Development recently launched Social Behavioral Change programmes. These programmes are designed to be implemented in community settings, group settings and individual settings. These programmes are "YOLO" (You Only Live Once) and "Chommy" (Friend). The programmes target young people between 15-24 years and their objective is to generate knowledge, develop skills and empower children to make informed choices in order to reduce HIV infections, substance abuse and also prevent teenage pregnancy," she added.

Lusithi also said that in partnership with the United Nations Childrens Fund (UNICEF) and the Government of Canada, they are implementing a

programme of empowering women and girls to realise their sexual and reproductive health and rights which covers the period 2021-2023. "The aim of this programme is to make adolescent girls and young women realise their sexual reproductive health", said Lusithi.

30% of teenage girls between the ages of 9 and 10 in South Africa fell pregnant during April 2020 and March 2021.

FREE STATE

By Vinolia Motshabi

Important role to be played by male figures in households no longer exist

"The campaign's vision is to achieve a world that is free from violence and the threat of violence. "



On the 25th of October 2021, the community of Madikgetla in Trompsburg gathered at the Emmanuel Unity Reformed Church to celebrate Orange Day. The gathering was attended by church members, local SAPS, The Provincial Department of Justice, The Department of Health and the Provincial and National Department of Social Development.

Orange Day, is a prevention and awareness programme which is celebrated globally on the 25th day of every month, with the aim of raising public awareness and an increased political will towards ending the global pandemic of violence against women and girls around the world. The campaign's vision is to achieve a world that is free from violence and the threat of violence. This can only be realised through the participation of all members of Governments, NGOs and the citizens of every nation.

All stakeholders who partnered with the Social Development district office added orange pieces to their attire to mark the day. They took the opportunity to address the audience and give them an overview of the services they render in relation to Gender-Based Violence.

Mme Mosala and Mr Kgasane from the Department of Health highlighted the importance of going to any health facility or clinic for post exposure prophylaxis (PEP). This is in the case that a woman is sexually molested or raped especially if no protection was used by the perpetrator. She explained to the community how PEP can be used as medication to prevent HIV after a possible exposure such as rape; and emphasized that PEP should be used only in emergency

situations and must be started within 72 hours after a possible exposure to HIV.

Representing the Department of Justice, Mme Mokoena urged women to refrain from withdrawing cases which they have opened against their abusive partners. Constable Lawerlout from the Madikgetla SAPS supported Mme Mokoena's sentiment and reiterated that women should also stop using Protection Orders to provoke their partners. He warned that the Protection Order is there for a person's protection, not something that people are supposed to use to provoke or threaten their partners. "Most women in the Madikgetla community report a crime so that their partner can get arrested for a few days, only to have them withdraw the case against them when they feel like it", said Lawerlout.

The keynote address was delivered by Dr Joyce Moganedi who is from the National Department of Social Development. Dr Moganedi spoke about the challenges faced by women in society. "Family bonds have been broken because we no longer trust each other, even in our own households. Men/fathers are victimizing their partners and children and as a result, the important role that is supposed to be played by male figures in a home no longer exists", said Dr Moganedi.

Dr Monagedi thanked the stakeholders for supporting the campaign because it is through their support that the event became a success. She also expressed her gratitude to the community members for taking part in the program and urged them to share all the information they have received with others who were not able to attend the event on the day.

GAUTENG

UMNOTHO FOR EMPOWERMENT CONTINUES TO CHANGE LIVES

By Sibusiso Chauke

The Umnotho for Empowerment Centre is determined to eradicate poverty in the informal settlement of Muldersdrift, West of Johannesburg.

It hopes to do so by equipping more young people with vocational training in the area. The centre is accredited to provide Youth Development Programs and is funded by the Gauteng Department of Social Development to fulfill its objectives.

The Umnotho for Empowerment Centre Manager, Florence Sibeko, said this year (2021), the organisation has placed more than 300 beneficiaries in the Tourism Sector after receiving training from the centre.

The centre offers Life Skills Training, Business Skills, Technical Training, Social Change and Entrepreneurship courses. Sibeko said the centre prides itself with providing

placements for almost all the waiters and bartenders in the lodges and restaurants around Muldersdrift; these placements were those trained at the centre.

"Even entrepreneurs dealing with welding and plumbing around here are the beneficiaries of our centre", said Sibeko.

She added that since the centre partnered with the Gauteng Department of Social Development four years ago, they have changed many lives drastically around Muldersdrift and surrounding areas. The centre also assists young people with finding jobs, learnerships, bursaries, research, and the writing of Curriculum Vitae.

"Beneficiaries are profiled before admission to determine their needs. We direct and advise as per one's strength and ability. Some pursue careers in life skills, some in business. Some come already with certain skills; and those are linked

with potential employers. The centre recently sent 200 young people to a company called Clean Heat to do their apprenticeships in bricklaying, electric work and plumbing; while on training, they receive a stipend.

"We also have a housing project and have partnered with the Mogale City Municipality whereby the beneficiaries are also locals. As Umnotho, we are waiting for funding for bulk infrastructure projects so that we can start the development. Our beneficiaries are from Video, Joe Slovo, Lion Park, Kroomdraai informal settlements, Kagiso and Krugersdorp.

"We are grateful to the Gauteng Department of Social Development for the assistance they offered to us. We are still going strong because of them. Furthermore, we would like to expand into other business ventures like filling stations and shopping complexes. This is to ensure the youth and broader community gains access to economic opportunities through our centre," concluded Sibeko.

"We are grateful to the Gauteng Department of Social Development for the assistance they have offered us. We are still going strong because of them."



GAUTENG

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT HANDS OVER 229 VEHICLES TO NON-PROFIT ORGANISATIONS

By Phetoho Maja

The Gauteng Department of Social Development handed over two hundred and twenty-nine (229) vehicles to Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) that provide services to vulnerable people and communities as part of Social Development Month, observed annually in the month of October.

Speaking at the handover ceremony on the 27th of October at Wembley Stadium in Johannesburg, Social Development MEC, Morakane Mosupye said the NPOs that received the vehicles should safeguard them because they were purchased through taxpayers' money.

"As Social Development, we spent approximately 95 Million Rands on these vehicles, bringing the total vehicles purchased to 229," said MEC Mosupye.

"We are proud to say that out of the 229 vehicles purchased, 114 of them will be used for older persons' programmes. This is an indication of the Department's commitment to care and ensure that the dignity of our elders is preserved," she said.

Social Development remains focused on intervention programmes regarding older persons.

"Our focus is on community-based services and to protect and promote the rights of older persons. Over the years, we have found that the provision of community based social infrastructure for older persons has contributed immensely to the reduction of incidents of abuse and the neglect of the

elderly," said Mosupye.

The Department has also committed to fighting the scourge of Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in communities. Through the Victim Empowerment Programme, we provide support services to victims of GBV and all forms of abuse, and advocate for community efforts to end violence.

"We will continue to implement awareness programmes in all sections of society. We will continue to link victims of violence to economic opportunities, and continue to ensure the participation of victims of violence in skills development programmes. As an indication of our commitment to ending violence, 38 of the vehicles purchased are for services dedicated to women," said Mosupye.

"Due to the Covid-19 pandemic, most of our NPOs were negatively affected. This was due to an unstable and precarious economy that resulted in numerous companies' reduction in Corporate Social Investments thus affecting the NPO sector negatively. Our responsibility as the Department of Social Development was to ensure that we support our NPOs," she added.

"It is pleasing that we are able to show support to our NPOs because they provide services in our communities to people that need them the most. The Growing Gauteng Together 2030 Vision stipulates that as the Gauteng Provincial Government, we must commit to education, skills revolution, health, safety, social

cohesion, and food security. As the Department of Social Development, we are delighted that through our efforts, we are able to contribute meaningfully to the GGT2030 Vision. Through these vehicles, our objective is to accelerate service delivery by ensuring that NPOs can provide their services with greater ease," she said.

The MEC has further pleaded with the recipients of the vehicles to ensure that the vehicles are branded timeously to ensure their security.

Expressing gratitude to the Department was Ncazelo Mlilo, representing the NPO sector. Mlilo said, "On behalf of the NPOs that have received support in the provision of vehicles from the Department, we are thankful. We work with vulnerable groups that need our assistance and at times, we need to travel to and fro to offer our services. Our NPO used to have an old vehicle that would break down amid assisting communities. However, with the new vehicle, we can travel between Zandspruit, Diepsloot and Cosmo offering services to clients that have been abused. Through this initiative, the Department has challenged us to be the best we can be in the communities we serve. With the new fleet, we will be able to be more effective. Gauteng DSD, thank you for listening to us and thank you for equipping us. Your commitment to transform our society is felt deeply. We appreciate this partnership. To the MEC, thank you Mama for your leadership."



GAUTENG

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MEC OFFICIALLY LAUNCHES PARK HOMES FOR THE DISPLACED

By Lawrence Mashabela

The Gauteng Department of Social Development led by MEC, Morakane Mosupyoe together with Johannesburg's MMC for Health and Social Development, Eunice Mgcina officially launched park homes for displaced people who previously lived on the streets. The homes were launched on the 26th of October as part of observing World Homelessness Day and the continuous commemoration of Social Development Month, at the Wembley Stadium near Turffontein Racecourse in Johannesburg.

The Wembley Homeless Shelter is a result of a partnership between the City of Johannesburg's Department of Social Development and the Gauteng Department of Social Development. The shelter is a non-permanent accommodation, that currently caters 60 men between the ages of 19 and 59. The beneficiaries are allowed to stay at the shelter for a maximum of six months.

Speaking to the audience, MEC Mosupyoe acknowledged and thanked the good work that the Department has done by partnering with the City of Johannesburg in delivering proper services. These services ensure that homeless people are provided with temporary shelters, especially during the times of the Covid-19 pandemic.

Mosupyoe called on members of the community and various stakeholders to play a pivotal role in the work that government continues to do. This includes assisting the homeless, especially those in need of identity documents, skills development, and various other interventions that will help them get back on their feet. She said government cannot win the fight against homelessness alone.

"As the Department of Social Development, we resolved that this year, our objectives would be: focusing on promoting the collaboration of different stakeholders in delivering effective and efficient services to families; creating awareness on the pride of the homeless, the contribution the members of the public can make towards addressing homelessness and educating homeless people about different services offered by various stakeholders," she said.

MEC further highlighted the importance of reuniting the beneficiaries with their families, emphasizing that it is the right thing to do for those who still have their families.

"As we launch these park homes for our destitute people, at the back of our minds, we should remind ourselves that this is not a permanent home. Therefore, I urge everyone including the beneficiaries to work tirelessly with our social workers to find solutions to the problems that landed them on the streets, and where possible, we encourage people to be reunited with their families", said MEC.

"While there is emphasis on people exiting the homeless shelters that we are running as the Department, we also want to emphasize that for as long as there are persistent socio-economic challenges, homelessness will continue to be a challenge", she said.

Furthermore, MEC reiterated the importance of a well-functioning integrated system that can respond to the needs of the destitute.

City of Johannesburg's Member of the Mayoral Committee (MMC), Eunice Mgcina said she is pleased with the work that has been done to help and protect the homeless in Johannesburg. She said the city has been grappling with the issue of homelessness for years but acknowledged that when the city works with the Department of Social

Development, strides are made. Mgcina said statistics show that 15 000 or more people in the city are homeless.

One resident at the shelter, Olly Akom (42) said he used to be on drugs. He said he was encouraged by fellow beneficiaries to utilize the opportunity granted by the Department to focus on his rehabilitation, rejuvenation and later on, reintegration back into society. He said they must all strive to rebuild their lives so that they can stand on their own.

"I was a broken man when I walked into the gates of this shelter in 2020, I was hopeless and on drugs, but now I can see a huge change to my life", said Akom.

This shelter is run by the non-profit organisation called Kusasa Lethu, funded by the Gauteng Department of Social Development.



"I WAS A BROKEN MAN WHEN I WALKED INTO THE GATES OF THIS SHELTER IN 2020, I WAS HOPELESS AND ON DRUGS, BUT NOW I CAN SEE A HUGE CHANGE TO MY LIFE."



GAUTENG

GAUTENG SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT BRINGS SERVICES CLOSER TO GA-RANKUWA COMMUNITY

BY SIPHO NCUBE

Gauteng Social Development MEC Morakane Mosupyoe opened newly built administration offices on the 26th of October 2021 at Ga-Rankuwa Rearabilwe Child and Youth Care Centre, in Tshwane.

The building floor area is 1 025.24 m² and the offices will house thirty-five workers of the Department that provide services to the community of Ga-Rankuwa and surrounding areas. The offices were built by the Department in conjunction with the Department of Infrastructure to alleviate the shortage of office space and bring social work services closer to people.

Speaking during the opening of the offices, Mosupyoe said because of the previous limited office space, officials were squashed in small office spaces. However, now that new offices have been built, officials can enjoy more office space, which in turn results in faster service delivery to the community of Garankuwa and surrounding areas.

MEC indicated that accessibility to service providing offices and their location within target communities is critical for the Department's clients. Additionally, the distances traveled by clients by means of public transport need to be taken into account as well.

The new offices comprise of a Reception area, Dining area, Consulting Offices, Administration Offices and Boardrooms to mention a few

JOHN JANGAISO EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRE

GAUTENG

BY LAWRENCE MASHABELA

The Gauteng Department of Social Development's MEC, Morakane Mosupyoe together with Infrastructure Development MEC, Tasneem Motara officially handed over the newly built John Jangaiso Early Childhood Development Centre (ECD) to the community of Devon in the Sedibeng Region.

This was done as part of the Department's efforts to ensure that children between the ages of 0-5 are given the best start in life by being well cared for, protected, supported and provided with early learning development.

The opening and handover of the facility was done in the month of October also as part of observing Social Development Month. In the month of October, the Department has been escalating its services to various communities, including services to older persons, services to people with disabilities, services to victims of Gender-Based Violence and Early childhood development.

Addressing the community of Devon, MEC Mosupyoe said the launch remembers the life of Charlotte Maxeke as she was a pioneer for education. She also added that the Gauteng Provincial Government seeks to bring early childhood development

centres in rural areas, as it values the proper development of children. She further acknowledged and thanked the family of John Jangaiso who allowed the government and community of Devon to honour him with the name of the centre.

MEC emphasized that formalised early childhood development in rural communities is essential for the development of those areas, which is why the government prioritises access to ECD centres and programmes. Mosupyoe spoke of Social Development's Vangasali Programme, which intends to ensure that no child is left behind. Through this programme, the Department ensures access to compliant ECD centres for all.

"This is very important for the Department as we believe that the first 100 days in the development of a child are very important and contribute to a firm foundation for a child. As government, we want to see a better educational outcome for our children and that can only start at the ECD level, hence we make provision for facilities such as this one," concluded the MEC.

As from April 2022, all ECD functions will be shifted to Department of Education from Department of Social Development, thereby streamlining on educational efforts and residing them in one Department

As she handed over the keys to the board members of the centre, MEC pleaded with community members to safeguard the facility.

"We are handing over this facility to you as the community and I plead with everyone to protect this facility. Even though the Department will provide security, I urge every member of the public in this area to protect this facility as it belongs to you and your children", MEC Mosupyoe said.

MEC Motara said it took twenty-four months to complete the project. The provincial government invested just over R18 000 000 to the community of Impumelelo where they were able to provide four hundred and twenty-four Extended Public Work Programme (EPWP) job opportunities throughout the duration.

She further indicated that the project was able to hire ten subcontractors and four of them were part of the local community.

One resident, Thoko Skhosana (57) said they are excited as a community to receive a facility of this nature in Devon, adding that it is the first of its kind in their area and that they are committed to protecting it from vandalism.

Multi-Talented youth impresses MEC and guests with his testimony

GAUTENG

By Madali Chibambu

23-year-old, Thuso Sotyingwa impressed everyone with his testimony during the opening of Bambisandla-Sam Centre of Excellence in Wedela, West Rand.

A recovering substance user from Fochville said the Centre has transformed him into a better person with dreams and goals. He also shared that he is Fashion Designer, Guitarist, Poet and also plays the saxophone. The multi-talented Sotyingwa shared his testimony in front of guests and dignitaries including the Gauteng Social Development MEC, Morokane Mosupyoe.

Addressing guests, Mosupyoe pledged to support Sotyingwa's business by ordering a dress from him after the event.

Mosupyoe also encouraged guests and the Department to support small and local businesses in order for them to create jobs.

Sotyingwa said he was raised in a Christian family by both his biological parents who made sure no

mother to accompany me. She was then asked to sign forms for substance abuse rehabilitation, and everyone at home was shocked" says Sotyingwa. He was then admitted for rehabilitation and stayed on the programme for three months. When he completed, he was clean and stayed off drugs from that day on.

As part of the aftercare programme, he was referred to Bambisandla-Sam Centre of Excellence where he started a fashion designer course. His dream is to start a boutique where he will specialize in vintage clothing.

"I would like to bring back the old fashion style to the new generation where I will dress them in ties, suits and bow hats. Music is in my blood, as you can see I play the guitar with passion. My dream is to employ and train the youth from disadvantaged communities. As the MEC stated, some of us are born to create jobs," Sotyingwa says.

He added that what he went through was a learning curve; that this is the beginning of his new journey and people will read more about him in magazines

"My dream is to employ and train the youth from disadvantaged communities. "

one went to bed hungry, but due to peer pressure, he ended up smoking Marijuana.

"We then started a band with my friends to raise money to buy drugs since we were no longer smoking weed. We used to perform at taxi ranks and people were supporting us not knowing that with that money, we were buying drugs like Crystal Meth," he explained.

"No one forced me to visit the Gauteng Department of Social Development's offices to seek help. I went there alone, however, the Social Worker needed consent from my parents so I had to ask my

people will read more about him in magazines



NORTH WEST

TOP COMPANY'S DONATION FITS INTO GOVERNMENT'S OBJECTIVES

BY JAMES MOCHE

Ramosadi Bakery Cooperative, an entity funded by the North West Department of Social Development, is set to create more job opportunities and expand its business operations. This is thanks to a R150 000 donation made by major cell phone network company, MTN. The potential growth of the cooperative fits well into some of government's buzzwords of employment creation as well as women and youth empowerment.

The entity, based in Ramosadi village outside Mahikeng, is currently employing five women with two being young people and has a limited client base. It was started by unemployed women residing in the village in 2016. The money will be used to, amongst other things, expand the operations of the cooperative and potentially employ more people.

North West Social Development MEC Boitumelo Moiloa, described the donation as revolutionary. She said it is important to note that when you help people, you consider the impact it will have on others, just as what happened with Ramosadi Bakery Cooperative.



She said because government coffers are limited, they have to knock on the doors of the private sector to help. "If we had many companies like MTN, we would make a huge difference in the lives of our people," she added.

Moiloa called upon all people who receive government help one-way or the other, to cherish such assistance and not misuse it. She cited instances where those who received government food parcels would sell them.

"We need to appreciate the fact that government is lending a helping hand. We will continue to monitor the projects we are funding and assist with their running," said Moiloa.

She concluded by thanking the head of department, Relebohile Mofokane, who

was instrumental in making the MTN donation possible.

MTN general manager for education and community programmes, Angie Maloka applauded the passion demonstrated by the bakery employees, adding that they deserve a standing ovation. She said after visiting and vetting the project, her company was convinced that the entity deserved MTN's support.

Maloka predicted a great future for the bakery. "In three years' time, the project will need a bigger space and we will assist in providing more skills," said Maloka.

The bakery's representative, Ntesang Golelelwang thanked MTN and the Department for the assistance. She said the time has come for the fruits of their patience to show and is confident that their client base will increase because of the donation.

MOILOA APPLAUDS UNITY AROUND GBV CASE

NORTH WEST

BY JAMES MOCHE

North West Social Development MEC, Boitumelo Moiloa has applauded the unity shown by different political parties in their quest to combat Gender-Based Violence (GBV) ravaging our society. Moiloa who was in a sombre mood, later expressed her delight to community members who demonstrated support during the bail application hearing of the alleged murderer of Tshwanelo Seleke (25), who lost her life in the early hours of 1 November 2021.

Ntesang Molefe (28), appeared for the second time before the Zeerust Magistrate Court early November 2021 for a bail application related to the incident. He is alleged to have gruesomely murdered Seleke amongst others, slitting her throat following an altercation that occurred as the two left a tavern in Ikageleng Location. Reports indicate that the pair were in a relationship that Seleke wanted to discontinue.

The case against Molefe who abandoned his bail application was postponed to the 8th of December 2021 for further investigation.

Addressing about 400 people including ANC, EFF, and Forum 4 Service Delivery supporters, Moiloa said Femicide knows no political affiliation or boundaries. "Let us all unite and say we are tired of GBV. We fought against Covid-19, therefore nothing will derail us from totally eradicating this pandemic called GBV."

She called on demonstrators to ensure that unity is sustained until the end of the trial. "Let us unite and show the justice system that enough is enough. Whenever the accused appears before court, mobilise people in numbers."

"If we are organised and keep on supporting this cause, a harsher sentence for such cases will definitely be achieved," added Moiloa.

Reacting to the accused person's decision to abandon bail, Moiloa said, "the community is happy because we won't see him on our streets. We want harsher sentences for perpetrators who have GBV cases."

Moiloa concluded by urging communities to report any form of GBV to Social Workers within their areas so that professional interventions can take place before the situation turns ugly or deplorable.

"We fought against Covid-19, therefore nothing will derail us from totally eradicating this pandemic called GBV."

Children in Conflict with the Law Get a Second Chance

WESTERN CAPE

By Esther Lewis

The restoration of children who have been in conflict with the law requires a range of interventions. For the children at the Outeniqua Child and Youth Care Centre (CYCC), part of the approach is for the boys to be active participants in the community they're based in.

The Outeniqua CYCC, located in George, established a food garden in January 2018, and has been donating the harvests to several community organisations including shelters, hospices, and old age homes.

The food garden is part of the vocational training programme. "To date, 320 boys have participated", says centre manager, Barbara Nicholas. The programme consists of practical and theory sessions. The theory sessions focus on studying different types of soil, the importance of water usage, pest control, and the season management of plants.

The practical session includes soil preparation, seed management, planting of plants, watering, pest control, harvesting and community outreach. One of the boys who participated in the programme says that for the first time in his life, he feels a sense of pride in what he's been able to achieve. "For the first

time, I am able to help people in the community with these donations. When I leave here, I'd like to use this skill at my own home to help my family and to carry on helping others," he says.

He adds that the programme has taught him to think positively, and behave positively towards others.

Another participant says he not only learned a skill, but also learned more about himself. "There are many children in the community who don't have this privilege. When I leave here, I want to start a programme to teach others what I've learned," he says.

Nicholas explains that these donations strengthen the boys' generosity and teach them social responsibility. "The boys appear to be much more self-confident in their rehabilitation programmes and are open to learning and change," she says.

On average, they donate about 50kg of produce to organisations per harvest. As part of the hospitality programme, the boys cook some of the food they have harvested, and donate the cooked food to community organisations in need.

"This programme allows for the effective reintegration of the boys back in their families and communities, and supports the prevention of recidivism. Our vision



"This programme allows for the effective reintegration of the boys back in their families and communities."

Going digital is the future of effective service delivery monitoring

KWA-ZULU NATAL

By Nelisiwe Vilakazi

Migrating to digital administrative systems to improve service delivery seems to be the irreversible future of government, thanks to the Covid-19 Pandemic that has reshaped the way things are done.

There is also a demand for effectiveness in rendering services as dictated by the Constitution of this country. It is against this background that the Gauteng North High Court order, together with the arrival of the Covid-19 Pandemic, made it essential for government Departments to revamp their ICT capacity.

The KwaZulu Natal Department of Social Development (KZN DSD) is pressing ahead with the move towards eliminating the use of paper in the interest of controlling the spread of diseases, particularly Covid-19, hence Departmental employees have been introduced to e-submissions and e-leave forms as well as electronic signatures.

The KZN DSD has welcomed the proposed digital solutions in dealing with the pertinent challenges of our times, particularly Covid-19 and monitoring service delivery capacity with a view to making appropriate interventions.

It has been a huge development in the history of the Department's effective service delivery monitoring capacity to have gone through presentations on digital solutions. The new ICT network system will bring value in effecting change management, as well as measuring the effectiveness of the services rendered to KZN DSD clients through transparent and easily accessible digital methods. Additionally, this monitoring tool will enable KZN DSD to identify local DSD service offices that are struggling to reach targets so that they can be helped accordingly and help achieve their targets in processing applications from prospective clients. The implementation of this system at a provincial level still needs to be decided with the help of the relevant DSD national unit tasked to develop this tool.

The KZN DSD can only look forward to working towards being effective in updating new cases on the national digital network. It will enable the department to anticipate foster care grant beneficiaries whose benefits are about to lapse as they reach the age of 18. Additionally, the system will make it easy for social workers to ensure that cases of clients whose benefits are about to lapse are extended in good time and minimise chances of unnecessary deprivation.

This digital system will also be able to capture the particulars and details of clients in a holistic manner. This means all DSD beneficiaries or clients in the various programmes of the Department will be systematically profiled, including young people in conflict with the law.

Although KZN DSD has made progress in providing work tools like laptops to be able to achieve these novel digital innovations, they are nevertheless aware that there are rural areas where connectivity may still be a problem due to poor internet reception. They are also aware that there is still room to engage in continuous improvement in ensuring that the old manual way of doing things is merged with the new digital method.

The ICT solutions resonate with the Department's welfare and developmental mandates, respectively. In other words, social workers will be entrusted with the responsibility to monitor the holistic development of an individual client from being dependent on welfare and follow their development and progress to becoming self-sufficient citizens.



The new ICT network system will bring value in effecting change management, as well as measuring the effectiveness of the services rendered to KZN DSD clients

By Evans Molimi

DSD SHARES ITS INCLUSIVE SOCIAL SECURITY PROGRAMME WITH COTE D'IVOIRE



"Our aim is to learn from your best practices in order to empower [the] poor and vulnerable people of Cote D'ivoire."

The Government of Cote D'ivoire, represented by Dr Ayodele Odusula and Mr Gabriel Dave, was at the Sokhulumi South African Social Security pay point in Bronkhorstspuit.

Dr Odusula and Mr Dave are both UNDP representatives to South Africa from Cote D'ivoire. They have recognized the Department of Social Development's social security model as the best to fight poverty in the continent.

Cote D'ivoire has identified DSD as the best learning guide because they are planning to introduce the same social security model in their country. They explained that they are in the

process of implementing several social security programmes in their country with the aim of ending poverty.

Leading the delegation, Dr Odusula said the West African State shares a common vision with South Africa on a range of socio-economic challenges affecting both countries.

"We are here to learn. We find it very important that we will be able to advance the eradication of poverty in our country through social grants. We will continue with our efforts to advance the development of poor people in our country," said Dr Odusula. Furthermore, he explained that they are in the country to learn of South Africa's best practices and

how social assistance services have helped poor and vulnerable citizens.

"We are in the process of implementing several social security programmes. So far, only 227 000 households in our country receive social grants through the support of the World Bank. We have identified your Department to learn more about social security. Our aim is to learn from your best practices in order to empower [the] poor and vulnerable people of Cote D'ivoire."

Their areas of interest on social security include the protection of the rights of children, persons with disabilities and provision of social grants to the poor.

DSD promised to share its good practices in the area of social protection and social assistance, especially on how the South African government manages to pay social grants to 18 million beneficiaries.

South Africa's social protection model is increasingly recognised by many African States as the best practice in the continent to address poverty and inequality amongst citizens.



SASSA ICROP FOOTPRINT

IN AMAJUBA

BY MDUMISENI HADEBE



Social Development Month is celebrated annually to mark government's commitment to caring for the most vulnerable in society. The Minister of Social Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu declared October 2021 as Social Development Month under the theme, "Delivering DSD Services during COVID-19 in the Year of Charlotte Maxeke."

The Social Development Month campaign seeks to showcase the work of the Department and aims to emphasise the measures taken by the Department and its entities, South African Social Support Agency (SASSA) and National Development Agency (NDA), to improve the living conditions of South Africans. This is done by promoting access to social development services to the poor, vulnerable communities, children, families and older persons.

As part of Social Development Month, the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) in KZN hosted an Integrated Community Registration Outreach Programme (ICROP) under the Amajuba District Municipality. The outreach programme was geared at bringing various government services closer to rural communities as guided by government's Batho Pele principles.

The ICROP events kicked off on Friday, 15 October 2021 at Skobaren Community Hall in Danhausser, where over 200 people attended. The key activities

on the day of the event focused on Beneficiary Education. SASSA shared information on the various types of grants (FCG, CSG, OAP, CDG, DG, GIA & WVG) and their qualifying criterias. SASSA also assisted clients with resolving Special SRD Grant enquiries, raised awareness (fraud), provided information on existing benefits and services, online registrations for OAP and CSG and online bookings for DG.

The Department of Social Development created awareness on issues ranging from Gender-Based Violence, Substance abuse, Zero Hunger and assisting Non-Profit Organisations with registering with the Department of Social Development. In its continued efforts to ramp up the COVID-19 vaccination drive, the Department of Health was present to administer vaccines to the vulnerable and provide health education on how to prevent the spread of COVID-19, healthy eating habits and the prevention of malnutrition.

The marathon of ICROP events proceeded to Mxhakeni on 20 October, Failegih on 21 October, Madadeni on 22 October, Osizweni on 25 October and the last event was held at Moya on 26 October 2021.

The Department of Social Development is continuing to leave the footprints of service delivery under Amajuba District.

MY APPLICATION FOR THE R350 SRD GRANT WAS DECLINED – WHAT CAN I DO TO DISPUTE THE OUTCOME?

By Nelisa Motsatsi

1. WHAT LED TO THE APPLICATION TO BE DECLINED?

During the verification process, the application did not meet one or more of the qualifying criteria.

1.1. Applications Verification and Validation

- ▶ All received applications for the Special Covid-19 SRD R350 grant are verified on a Monthly basis, to confirm if they meet the qualification criteria.
- ▶ Applications that do not meet the qualification criteria, are declined with reasons. Reasons are explained later in this document.

1.2. Special Covid-19 SRD R350 Grant

During the application process, all applicants agreed to the declaration and consent that stipulates the qualifying criteria and provides consent to SASSA to verify the information against the various databases that are used to validate the qualification for the grant.

The qualifying criteria for the grant is as follows:

- South African Citizens, Permanent Residents or Refugees registered on the Home Affairs database and holders of special permits under the Special Angolan Dispensation, the Lesotho Exemption Permit dispensation and the Zimbabwe Exemption Permit Dispensation, and asylum seekers whose section 22 permits or visas are valid or were valid on 15 March 2020;
- currently residing within the borders of the Republic of South Africa;
- above the age of 18 and below the age of 60;
- unemployed;
- not receiving any social grant in respect of himself or herself;
- not receiving an unemployment insurance benefit and does not qualify to receive an unemployment insurance (UIF) benefit;
- not receiving a stipend from the National Student Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS) or other financial aid;
- not receiving any other government COVID-19 response support; and
- not a resident in a government funded or subsidised institution (e.g. Prison)
- not receiving an Income more than R595 per Month

1.3. Definition of Income

Income in relation to the SRD R350 grant means, any source of income as defined in regulation 19 of the Social Assistance Regulations, 2008 and includes any form of donation or other financial support or financial assistance received by the applicant of not more than R595 as per the food poverty line threshold;

2. What can I do to dispute the Outcome?

The Client has the right to apply for reconsideration should they be in disagreement with the declined outcome. The client can apply for reconsideration via the SRD Website (<https://srd.sassa.gov.za/reconsideration>) should the client wish to dispute the outcome. Since this grant is validated monthly, the request for reconsideration must be submitted for each month that the application is declined, even if the reason for the decline and the reason for disputing this decision is the same each month.

2.1. Reconsideration Process

Applications are verified on monthly basis. Should the client not meet any one or more of the qualifying criteria, the application is declined for each month that the qualifying criteria is not met.

To reconsider the application, the client is verified against refreshed databases and also against a means test through the Banks, to verify if the client has an inflow of funds into the client's account amounting to more than R595 per month.

- Should the client be receiving an amount totaling more than R595 per month, the application for reconsideration is declined.
- Should the client not be receiving an amount more than R595 per month, the application for reconsideration is approved and paid.
- The reconsideration decision is final. Should the client wish to dispute the reconsidered decision, he/she should follow the legal route and approach the court.

2.2. Declined Reasons and Steps to follow to dispute outcome

In the table below, a detailed breakdown of the reasons for declining an application is indicated, as well as steps to take should the client wish to dispute the outcome.

DECLINE REASON	MEANING	WHAT MUST THE CLIENT DO TO DISPUTE OUTCOME
Alternative_income_source_identified	The applicant has been employed and is indicated as contributing towards income tax	The client can submit a request for reconsideration via the website, should they feel that the reason is invalid. https://srd.sassa.gov.za , under the TAB: Apply for reconsideration
Identity_verification_failed	The personal information provided does not match the Department of Home Affairs details.	The client must correct name and surname on SRD website- https://srd.sassa.gov.za , under the TAB: Request Names and Surname Update The client can submit a request for reconsideration via the website, should they feel that the reason is invalid.
Existing_sassa_grant	The applicant is a current recipient of a Social grant other than a child grant	The client can submit a request for reconsideration via the website, should they feel that the reason is invalid. https://srd.sassa.gov.za , under the TAB: Apply for reconsideration
Nsfas_registered	The applicant is receiving a benefit from National Student Fund Aid Scheme	The client can submit a request for reconsideration via the website, should they feel that the reason is invalid. https://srd.sassa.gov.za , under the TAB: Apply for reconsideration
Uif_registered	The applicant is eligible for UIF benefits based on TERS OR Contributions to UIF OR is currently receiving the Unemployment Insurance Fund benefit	The client can submit a request for reconsideration via the website, should they feel that the reason is invalid. https://srd.sassa.gov.za , under the TAB: Apply for reconsideration
Gov_payroll_registered	The applicant is in employment in a government institution	The client can submit a request for reconsideration via the website, should they feel that the reason is invalid. https://srd.sassa.gov.za , under the TAB: Apply for reconsideration
Age_outside_range(>60)	The applicant does not qualify for the grant due to not meeting the age requirement (Over 60)	The client must apply for the old age grant, this can be done by visiting any SASSA Local Office or applying online at https://servcies.sassa.gov.za
Suspended (Deceased Record on DHA)	The client is registered as deceased on the Department of Home Affairs database	1. Contact Department of Home Affairs to correct living status. 2. The client can submit a request for reconsideration via the website, should they feel that the reason is invalid, only after having corrected the details with Home Affairs https://srd.sassa.gov.za , under the TAB: Apply for reconsideration



I had a painful marriage - Mmapule

By Evans Molimi

The North West Province held its 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign at Siyanda Bakgatla Platinum Mine. Included among those who attended were the community members of the Bakgatla ba Kgafela Village. The campaign is aimed at bringing awareness to Gender-based Violence and Femicide and to also encourage communities to protect women and children from abuse and violence..

Mmapule Marakalla, a community member, used the campaign as an opportunity to share the story of how she endured years of abuse from her husband, with the rest of the attendees. Mmapule Marakalla met her late husband in 1986, and they instantly fell in a blossoming love affair and a beautiful relationship. However, the romance didn't last for long, as Mmapule recalls how a perfect relationship happened to turn sour later down the years.

"I did not believe that my loving husband was turned into a monster later after our marriage and that I have been nursing the emotional abuse and heartaches for sixteen years since we got married," said Mmapule.

Her ordeal began after she got married to her late husband in 1993. She says she never thought one day her husband would abuse her. This mother of three from rural Bakgatla ba Kgafela village told DSD News that she did not only suffer abuse in the hands of her deceased husband but he also infected her with HIV/AIDS.

Mmapule said although deep down in her heart she knew what her husband was doing was wrong, she did not know what to do because he was the sole breadwinner.

"I never enjoyed the privilege of marriage due to the physical and emotional abuse from my late husband. I am now HIV positive because of him. My marriage life was painful. Back in those days, it was

difficult to confront the police and the elderly about abuse," she said.

Mmapule suffered in silence. At the end of every month, she always felt terrified as she knew her husband would abuse her. She never enjoyed seeing her husband coming home from the mines.

She one day contemplated suicide. She couldn't live with herself anymore because she was always reminded by him of how useless she was and he even threatened to kill her one day. "I just became tired of his abuse. I bowed to him when he was angry. I was always wrong to him. I was always reminded that one of us will end up in hospital or in jail. He never gave me money to run family errands. I was always abused, but what kept me going were the lives of my children. I was always dancing to his tune. I was always angry and just wanted to ask him what I had done to deserve his bad treatment. But then I realized, fighting him was not a solution", she said.

Her marriage journey might have been a rough one, but Mmapule is grateful to God for the positive life she is living today. She is proud of herself for talking publicly about her ordeal. She currently does motivational talks around her community to encourage women to come out of abuse denial. In her response, Minister of Social Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu said women like Mmapule are living proof of the abusive relationships that are out there- urging women to unite and rise to the occasion to end Gender Based Violence (GBV).

Minister Zulu also added that GBV does not discriminate, but can affect any member of the society. "I wish there was a way in which we can mobilize our men to rise and act against these violent acts against women. Men also need to take a stand and say no to GBV. Men need to understand the importance of protecting women because they are vulnerable," said Minister Zulu.

GENDER BASED VIOLENCE IN THE FILM INDUSTRY WEBINAR INVITATION

The Government Communication and Information System in partnership with the GIZ and UN Women will host a virtual panel discussion on Gender Based Violence (GBV) in the film industry.

Date: 24 November 2021

Time: 14:00 - 15:30

Platform: Zoom

Please click the link below to join the webinar:

<https://gcis.zoom.us/j/93934776009?pwd=YlI2bGdXUzhTc3VkYWVjUHRzSk01UT09>

Passcode: 476658 **Live streaming:** @GCISMedia

Panelists:

- **Onke Dumeko** – Acting HOD: Operations (Partnerships & Distribution Manager) National Film and Video Foundation (NFVF)
- **Masechaba Khumalo** – Spokesperson to Minister of the Department of Sport, Arts & Culture and a South African media personality
- **Londoka Mlawuza** - Producer, Writer and Board Member at Sisters Working in the Film & Television (SWIFT)



government
communications

Department:
Government Communication and Information System
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



Issa Vibe! ChommY

GOES TO THE CITY OF JOHANNESBURG

[BY TSITSI MAKINA]

On the sunny Saturday morning of November 13, in the heart of Diepsloot East, the ChommY programme was officially launched in the City of Johannesburg (CoJ).

Hosted by the DSD funded NPO Afrika Tikkun, the event was a roaring success. The ChommYs from CoJ arrived in what can only be described as the style of ama2000. This energetic group were excited to receive the programme and the battle cry greeting by their Mascots (Ntsako, Nkanyezi and Bokamoso), of Ayeye ChommY Ayeye! matched their exuberance and enthusiasm.

ChommY is a social and behavioral change (SBC) programme targeted at children and teenagers between the ages of 10 and 14. The programme equips this next generation with the necessary skills to enable them to navigate the often confusing world around them. "ChommY is a groundbreaking programme that allows us to talk to our children as peers. If we don't talk to our children, who will?" said Ms Maboniso Buthelezi from the DSD as she addressed the ChommYs and stakeholders in attendance.

The programme aims to increase their knowledge of positive social and sexual behaviors, such as how to say no

to sexual encounters and peer pressure, how to stay in school, and to not take and abuse substances (drugs and alcohol). The programme promotes their self-efficacy, and enables them to make good choices for positive life outcomes. There was representation from a wide range of stakeholders including the Men's Sector, SANAC, Afrika Tikkun, DSD provincial and district officials and the Thintane Foundation, who all imparted positive messages to the ChommYs, and encouraged them to stand up for what is right and to take their future into their hands.

"The killing is getting out of hand, our county is rusting. Every breath I take is to survive," said ChommY ambassador, Bonolo Mushiya as she was reading her spoken word poem, The line between Grey & Black to her peers. This powerful performance touched on all the nuances around Gender-Based Violence. It spoke of how Gender-Based Violence (GBV) is affecting the country and its youth (both girls and boys); about how sexual predators are around every corner, and that being young means living in constant fear and danger. Owami Mhlangu and Julie Sehume, who are also ChommY ambassadors, echoed her sentiment when they spoke to their peers about saying no to peer pressure, not

bullying others and the impact of GBV.

Before the Deputy Minister, Ms Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu engaged the ChommYs, renowned artist Ntsika performed his hit song Bamebelela, in which he encouraged the youth to stay strong. During a poignant moment in his performance, Ntsika shared why he wrote the song and what it means to him. He told the ChommYs his life story, and how the song reminds him of how far he has gone in life because he held on.

Deputy Minister, Ms Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu held an impactful dialogue with the ChommYs. In it, she created a safe space where the ChommYs opened up to her about their experiences of emotional abuse, living in a single parent household and substance abuse. The ChommYs shared their stories of how they had their first drink (some were as young as 7 years old), and their encounters with drugs, sex and pornography. Her session ended with the circle of trust, where the ChommYs shared their dreams and ambitions with her. The launch ended unexpectedly, with an outpouring of rain, which is a sign that the programme has indeed been given its blessing to be in the City of Johannesburg.

Challenging the Culture of Toxic Masculinity The time is NOW!

BY NOMFUNDO XULU-LENTSOANE



When the Government Communication and Information System (GCIS) and the Department of Social Development (DSD) hosted a dialogue on challenging the culture of toxic masculinity to combat violence on 16 November 2021, a breakdown of what this term actually means was deliberated by panellists.

Moderated by Luxolo Matomela who is the Technical Advisor at German Development Cooperation (GIZ) and United Nations Entity for Gender Equality and the Empowerment of Women (UN Women), the engagement comprised of experts in the field of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF), including Commissioner Sediko Rakolote from the Commission for Gender Equality and Dr Matome Kganakga from the South African Aids Council Men's Sector.

In attendance was also Deputy Minister, Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu and Alessio Marcus – the former Deputy Junior Mayor of the City of Cape Town, former Chairperson of the Representative Council of Learners in the Western Cape and former Deputy Speaker of the Nelson Mandela Children's Parliament.

"The real problem with toxic masculinity is that it assumes that there is only one way of being a man. It assumes that a man needs to restrain from personal emotions whereby men and boys are taught to be dominant over fellow human

beings and that one has to participate in the objectification of women," said Commissioner Rakolote adding how dangerous these so-called "norms" are.

Reiterating his point, Ms Matomelo quoted from a Gender Links study which found that gender stereotyping remained at the centre of perpetuating the inhumane culture of toxic masculinity. "Women are still less heard than men and behind the scenes, decisions are still being dominantly being made by men. According to a study by Statistics South Africa, women earn at least 30 per cent less than their male counterparts," she said.

Alessio agreed and added that society, in its totality, needs to play a role in reversing the toxic views on masculinity. "Men, to this date, are viewed as more superior than women. These gender "norms" are still being practiced, as we speak, even in our schools! Unfortunately, these practices are committed by young men and boys because they are doing what they were taught and do not know better," he expressed.

Giving guidance, based on his work in the sector and through the Department's Men Championing Change programme, Dr Kganakga said challenging the gender inequalities made to thrive by toxic masculinity will take a lot of unlearning and relearning over time but it is not impossible. "This is why it is important to have these conversations intergenerationally. We cannot change anything without involving young men and boys and including them in finding solutions," he said.

Deputy Minister Bogopane Zulu said this is where social behavioural programmes such as ChommY and Yolo come into play. "You need to change the mindsets of young people as early as possible. Undoing mindsets is much tougher than programming the mind from the onset. I believe in the phrase 'catch them while they are young!'" Through this dialogue, the GCIS and DSD continued to play a role in implementing the social behavioural change goals outlined in the National Strategic Plan on GBVF as adopted by Cabinet in 2020.

View the discussion here:

Link: https://gcis.zoom.us/rec/share/XFctUW8r18-FtOocc1WUYtpITTEhUPiyZbPdJBe1F3vG-j6Chib_C0U0idwrn5ig.xJuEvzUkxNg7kNTt
Passcode: hleS#2U4

On your marks get set, ready .. Almost there!

By Neliswa Dabankulu

The long-awaited coming back home of Social security officials working from Harlequins is about to take off! This follows the signing off of the contract between DSD and HSRC to accommodate the 9th floor for social security officials.

The Department of Social Development (DSD) has been renting accommodation at the HSRC building since 2001. Over the years, the staff complement increased and the available space at HSRC building could not accommodate the Social Security Branch. Due to space constraints at HSRC for offices and shortage of parking space, additional accommodation for Branch: Social Security and the inspectorate was acquired in Harlequins building, Groenkloof from 2009. The accommodation lease for HSRC and Harlequins

expired in 2017 and 2018 respectively.

All the supporting units of the DSD are accommodated at Harlequins building (i.e. Facility and Security Management, Finance and Human Capital Management) which is seven (7) kilometres away from HSRC building. The officials based in Harlequins make daily trips to HSRC building to ensure that they get full departmental services. However, with the relocation of Harlequins officials to HSRC, the daily trips to the HSRC building will no longer be necessary, which will in turn make getting full departmental services easier.

The DSD initiated a process to develop a new office campus that would accommodate the Head Quarters of the DSD, SASSA and NDA through the National Treasury Government Technical Advisory Centre (GTAC). The DSD decided to relocate officials accommodated at Harlequins to the HSRC whilst building the new office park. Floor nine (9) of the HSRC building which was identified as the ideal space is available to accommodate the staff from Harlequins.

In June 2019, the DSD requested the Department of Public Works and Infrastructure (DPWI) to facilitate the extension of the HSRC lease and the relocation of Harlequins to HSRC. The new HSRC lease was signed in June 2020 and an extension of the contract to accommodate Harlequins officials on the 9th floor of the Harlequins building was signed in November 2021.

A relocation process has commenced. In the following weeks, a process to prepare the 9th floor will resume, and the following will be done: a viewing session with all Harlequins officials will be arranged once the 9th floor is vacated by the HSRC; space allocation, tenant installation – partitioning, flooring, painting, Installation of IT network and the removal of furniture, security equipment and safes to the HSRC.

I am Lerato – HIV Positive, Motherless and a Teenage Mom

By Nomfundo Xulu-Lentsoane

As part of the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children, the Boys Assembly was launched on the 20th of November in the Free State Province. The assembly was attended by more than 100 participants and the aim was to provide a safe space for the boys to speak on issues affecting them, as well as teach them values that would eradicate the scourge of Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF). The Assembly was attended by multiple speakers including Deputy Minister Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu and a fellow youth from the Free-State, Lerato Mogotsi*.

Giving a speech at the Assembly, Lerato Mogotsi says she had faced some of the worst experiences life could ever give a human being. Not only was she a teenage mom, she had also lost her mother at the age of 14 and later discovered that she had contracted HIV.

The father of her child absconded upon finding out that she was pregnant. "Mojolo will hurt you!" she says with an uncomfortable laugh reflecting on how in 2015, she started dating. "The guy and I were together for a number of years and in 2018, I fell pregnant. He

That realised that I was on my own. But my father, although unemployed, has always been my rock. So now, all of a sudden, he was playing the role of a father and a grandfather because of my irresponsible ways..." - she says adding that she can never be grateful enough to him for

then started telling people that the child was not his and calling me all sorts of names.

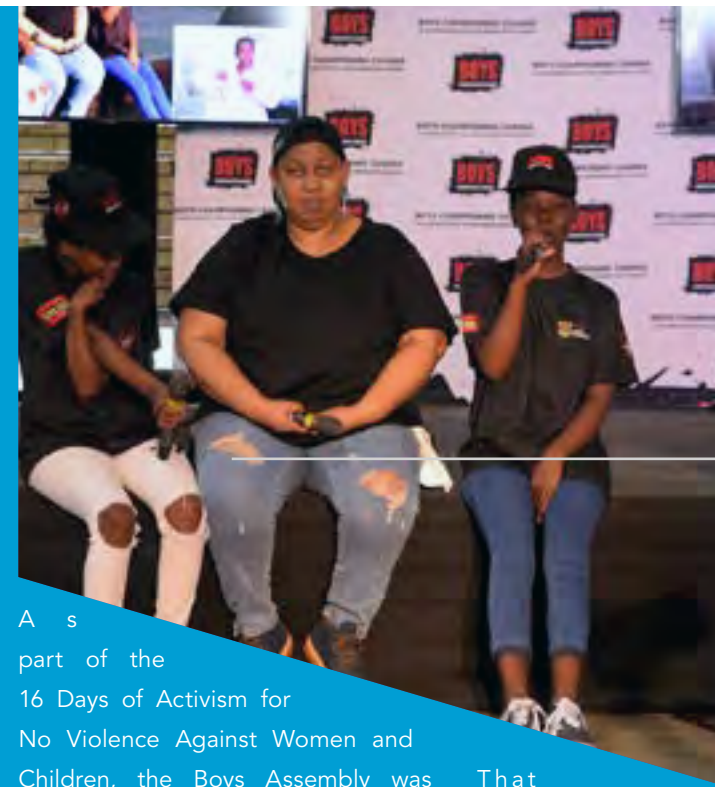
is when I realised that I was on my own.

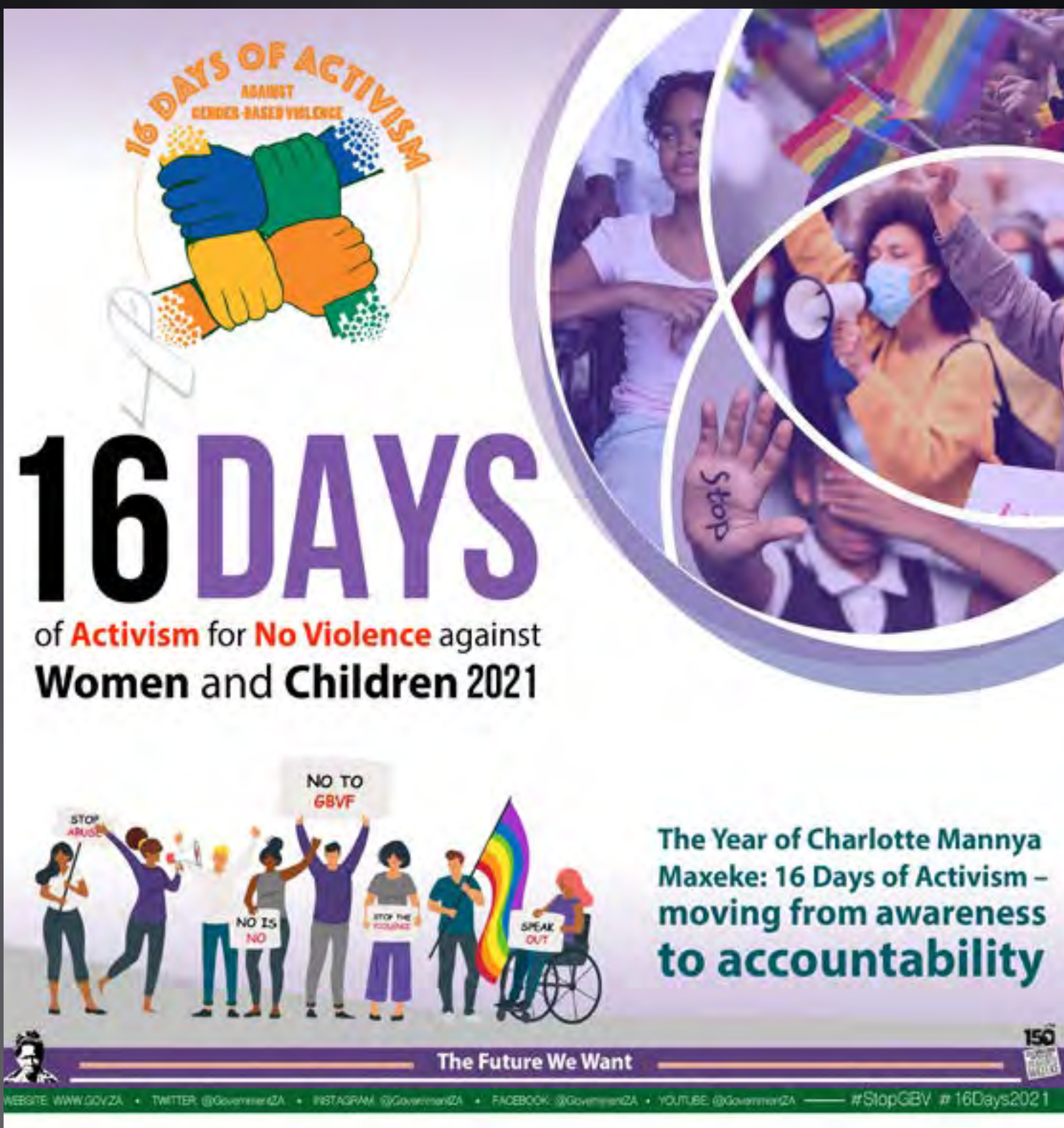
For Lerato, it is also knowing that before she can buy anything for herself, she needs to think of her child first which keeps her strong. "I look at my child and know that one day he will be a better man than his father was, because I will make sure of it. I respect my dad for trying, through temporary jobs here and there, to make sure that we at least have food to eat at home at all times. He is a good example," she continues.

Taking her Department of Social Development cap off, Lerato tells the more than 100 participants that her HIV status does not cause any concern for her. "As I stand here, I am HIV positive but I am not worried because HIV is not a death threat – it is not a life sentence."

Her main message, she says, is to encourage boys and young men to take responsibility for their actions. "It does not matter if you are a mama's boy or whatever, when you impregnate a girl - you must play your part because at the end of the day, the child will want to know where their father is. The last thing anyone deserves is to not know where they come from," says Lerato in closing.

You can view the full Free State Boys Assembly here: <https://www.youtube.com/watch?v=y5mEif68uHs&t=2950s>





16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM
AGAINST
GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE

16 DAYS
of **Activism** for **No Violence** against
Women and **Children** 2021

**The Year of Charlotte Mannya
Maxeke: 16 Days of Activism –
moving from awareness
to accountability**

The Future We Want

150

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STOP
GBV

DSD is determined to
eradicate the scourge of
Gender-Based Violence and
Femicide in communities!

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PICTURES



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DSD NEWS

NOVEMBER EDITION



#DisabilityInclusiveSA

3 November- 3 December

DRAM 2021

DISABILITY RIGHTS AWARENESS MONTH

The Year of Charlotte Mannya Maxeke – Create and Realise an

Building a Caring Society. Together.

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social development

Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



THE YEAR OF
CHARLOTTE
MAXEKE
THE ROAD TO FREEDOM
1902-2021

