



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

E-News



Together, fighting GBVF!

MEC Namane Dickson Masemola has a lighthearted moment with the DSD Vhembe District choir during the GBVF, Bullying and Anti-Substance Abuse Awareness Imbizo at Radzilani Community Hall, Vhuladudzi Village.



August 2022

"A Caring and Self-Reliant Society"

ZIM DELEGATION LEARNS FROM LIMPOPO

By Koena Hlahla and Khutso Molokela



The Head of Department for social development, Mr. Desmond Mahopo welcomed a team of Zimbabwean delegates on Thursday 11 August 2022, on behalf of MEC Namane Dickson Masemola. The delegation from the Zimbabwe government, which arrived in South Africa on 8th August 2022, were accompanied by officials from the national Department of Social Development (NDS),

SANCA, Seshego Treatment Centre along with provincial DSD officials. The purpose of the visit was to learn more about substance use disorder in South Africa and the ways of addressing it. They also shared their experiences of the situation in Zimbabwe. Presentations were made by the Substance Abuse Management Programme and the Seshego Treatment Centre. After the welcoming event, the entourage departed to SANCA (SA National Council on Alcoholism and Drug Dependence) offices and the Seshego Treatment Centre, which is the only government run centre for substance use disorder in Limpopo. Mr. Mahopo welcomed all the delegates and wished them a safe journey. He expressed his hope that they will benefit from the information sharing sessions until their departure from South Africa on 12th August 2022.



GBVF Campaigns Continue

By Koena Hlahla

The MEC for Social Development Dr. Namané Dickson Masemola continued his cam-

brought here from GBVF cases happening in our society and my intention is to make sure that when you go back, you take all the messages that were presented here with you and make them practical by creating programmes that will motivate and protect society at large” said the MEC. He furthermore alluded that GBVF is an evil spirit and therefore it needs our prayers and interventions. “GBVF starts with bad behaviour and such perpetrators needs to be arrested”, MEC said. He went on to quote two verses from the “book of authority” that supports the purpose of

MEC Namané Dickson Masemola flanked by Henrietta Ledwaba, acting Executive Mayor (left) and Bela-Bela municipal mayor Gloria Seleka



paings against Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF), bullying and substance abuse, in the Waterberg district of Limpopo, at the Bela-Bela Multipurpose Center under the Bela-Bela local municipality. MEC Masemola GBVF awareness campaigns have been rolled out across the Capricorn, Mopani and Vhembe Districts. The Waterberg event was held on the 23rd August 2022.

Mayor of Bela-Bela local municipality, Cllr. Gloria Seleka, chief whips, members of mayoral committees and other local and district councillors, the SAPS, district directors from the Department, NPOs and various church organizations formed part of the event. Feedback from a series of dialogues was provided from commissions held and amongst the topics were the power dynamics in the community, substance abuse and its influence on GBVF, economic development and emancipation of women & root causes and contributing factors to GBVF.

“We did not come here for just public speaking and the various reports that have been

the event, namely Proverbs 11:14 “Where



abundance of councilors there is safety and progress”, and 1 Corinthians 14:4-7 “Love is patient, where there is love there is patience”

Recently, MEC Masemola launched the provincial drug and substance abuse forum at Seshego Treatment Centre. He indicated that he will make sure that smaller forums are formed in all districts and local municipalities in the Province. He also made a promise that these committees will be established by the end of October 2022. According to statistics in the GBVF reports in Limpopo province, it is highlighted that Mogalakwena has a higher percentage of GBVF in Waterberg district, “It is of great importance that this report should be shared with the Mayors and formed committees” He added. The SAPS Brass Band was also present to elevate the mood of the gathered masses, through music.



Top: GBVF Survivor and author, Kholofelo. Mabye; MEC Namane Dickson Masemola joins the Waterberg District DSD choir.



GBVF Campaigns Continue

Similarly in Vhembe, MEC Namane Dickson Masemola addressed the GBVF campaign in Vhembe on the 12th of August, at Radzilani Community Hall, Vhulaudzi village.

The event was emotionally charged by a survivor of a GBV related incident, who relayed her story to the MEC and other dignitaries before the main event. Another survivor of GBV spoke during the main event about her experiences and motivated all women to love themselves and stand up every time they fall.



PROVINCIAL SUBSTANCE ABUSE FORUM LAUNCHED

By Mulalo Ratshibrumo and Koena Hlahla

The MEC for Limpopo Social Development Dr Namane Dickson Masemola launched the provincial Substance Abuse Forum on the 18th of August 2022, significantly at the Seshego Treatment Centre (STC). During the launch, nominated members who will form part of the forum were introduced. The Chairperson for the National Drug Authority Khoza Mayathula, head of department Mr. Desmond Mahopo, Chief Director for Social Welfare Services, Ms Dudu Setlajile, SAPS representatives as well as the Department of Sports Arts and Culture were in attendance. The MEC made the official handover of the appointment letters to members of the forum and in his address, he indicated that the substance abuse forum is the body that is going to make it possible to find solutions for the Province's substance abuse problem and that it is a milestone for the provincial government that will benefit everybody: "If we start working together we will save many people in our province," said the MEC.

The Central Drug Authority chairperson Mayathula Khoza, congratulated the nominated members of the Forum expressing her confidence that they will demonstrate their commitment to address the challenges of substance abuse and anti-trafficking in the province, and that the CDA has capacitated the officials and the leaders of the civil society on the national drug master plan of 2019-2024. "The National Drug Master Plan is a strategy plan that outlines all national efforts to address what president Cyril Ramaphosa refers to as national crisis, that is substance and alcohol abuse in our country, and also remembering what he said at the funeral of 21 children and young people who lost their lives at Enyobeni tavern in the Eastern Cape", said Khoza. "I have learnt from Limpopo 2021/2022 PSAF annual report that this team gathered here has finally produced the Limpopo drug master plan which embraces a multidisciplinary and multisensory action plan to allow the department and civil society to

work together.

According to the World Drug Report, substance abuse is a worldwide problem which, according to the 2022 Report, affects about 385 million of people aged between 15 and 64 years.



MEC for Social Development, Dr. Namane Dickson Masemola (centre) flanked by Ms. Mayathula Khoza from the Central Drug Authority (left) and Ms. Japisa Mathonsi (Central Drug Authority Limpopo Representative), pose with the newly appointed Provincial Substance Abuse Forum.

MEN TAKE CHARGE IN FIGHTING GBVF

By Eric Mamukeyani

The Vhembe District office is making serious efforts in the war against gender-based violence and femicide (GBVF). With the number of GBVF cases escalating in the province and the country as a whole, the Department of Social Development (DSD) through its Vhembe District office has embarked on a serious journey to fight this terrible social ill haunting communities. Social workers at Vhembe District office have taken a wonderful initiative to use Men Champion Change (MCC) programmes to fight GBVF in the area. These programs are being led and facilitated by the social work supervisor, Mr. Konanani Livhalani and Mr. Christopher Rendani Mahada, after having received training by the National DSD in October 2021.

“These programmes are intended to train social workers, social auxiliary workers, community development workers (Comdev), members of civil society structures, and non-profit organizations (NPO) to be agents of change in fighting GBVF in our communities. In other words, it is a ‘train the trainer’ programme in curbing incidences of GBVF in the country,” says Mr. Livhalani. “The facilitators have been going from municipality to municipality in the Vhembe District, conducting training to implement these



programmes within their respective communities and we intend to train as many stakeholders as possible, because we believe that the implementation of these programs will create enough synergy to win the war against this social ill that is terrorizing our communities.

Mr. Mahada adds: “This training on implementation of the programmes is likely to alleviate the problem because many issues affecting men, which is leading to violence, will be addressed during the rendering of these programs, and I would like to urge other districts to do the same in combating GBVF”.

Provincial Women's Day Celebrations

This year, the Limpopo Province celebrated National Women's Day at Chuene Resort in the Capricorn. The event was addressed by the Premier of Limpopo, Chupu Stanley Mathabatha and various members of his cabinet, including Social Development MEC, Dr. Namane Dickson Masemola. Departments in the Province also participated in the exhibition to promote their services and programmes.



Provincial Women's Day Celebrations



PROVINCIAL GBVF PRAYER DAY

Dr. Namane Dickson Masemola on behalf of Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabata addressed an interfaith prayer day for an end to GBVF in the Province.



SUPPORT FOR VICTIMS OF GBV



The Deputy Minister in the Presidency for Monitoring and Evaluation, Ms. Thembi Siweya, visited the Mopani and Sekhukhune Districts in Limpopo, to hand over food hampers to victims of GBV. Her first stop was Lulekani in the Ba-Phalaborwa Municipality, and the second was Phokoane Village in the Makhuduthamaga Municipality, where the Mahlasedi Foundation Generously donated the food hampers.



Elderly Abuse Awareness

The Department of Social Development has embarked on a process to amend the Older Persons Act 2006, to address gaps identified, one of which is the management of elder abuse. It was consulted with key stakeholders and was tabled in Parliament on the 3 May 2022. Reports on the violation of the rights of older persons are covered by media at various levels but the reporting of elder

abuse cases to the Department, however remains poor.

Elder abuse can take various forms such as physical, psychological or emotional, sexual and financial abuse. It can also be the result of intentional or unintentional neglect. The South African constitution protects the rights of all,

especially the vulnerable, and this includes older persons. The Department of Social Development is the custodian of The Older Persons Act that aims to maintain and protect the status, wellbeing, safety and rights of older persons. It also aims to promote their integration in the community by creating an enabling environment and promoting participation in activities with people of other ages and cultures.

This is the reason why the deputy minister of Social Development Mme. Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu hosted an elderly abuse awareness campaign in Bungeni village in Vhembe District on Friday 26 August 2022. Deputy Minister Bogopane-Zulu, joined by MEC for Social Development in Limpopo, Dr. Namane Dickson Masemola and Hosi Bungeni, raised awareness about Alzheimer's and Dementia and its impact on the lives and wellbeing of families, especially, older persons who are often killed by community members due to the missing knowledge about the condition and the elderly are still stigmatised and accused of witchcraft. During a dialogue session, she also addressed some of the older persons



Elderly Abuse Awareness



in attendance's concerns regarding their SASSA grants.

It has been confirmed that South Africa is becoming an ageing population. Data from Statistics South Africa, Mid-Year Population Estimates 2022, states that approximately 9,2% (5,51 million) of the population is 60 years or older. This older persons' population heightens the concern about services to older persons including elder abuse and neglect. During the month of August, the Department and Provincial Government as a whole, will be celebrating active

ageing during the Provincial Golden Games and International Day for Older Persons. The Games will be taking place in the Collins Chabane Municipality on 4th and 5th



October 2022.



From top left: HoD for Social Development, Mr. Desmond Mahopo; older persons enjoy the music of the day; Deputy Minister Hendriëtta Bogopane-Zulu addresses the older persons.



STOP THE VIOLENCE!

REPORT GBV and Child Abuse:

**SAPS Crime Stop: 08600
10 111**

SMS Crime Line: 32211

**DSD 24-hour Command
Centre: 0800 428 428 (toll-
free) or request a social
worker *120*7867# (free)
from any cell phone.**

**Child Welfare South Africa:
0861 424453.**



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Tel: 014 718 1700 | Fax: 014 718 1780
Postal Address:
Private Bag X1051
Modimolle, 0510



COVID-19

Together, we can beat
Coronavirus

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