



Women's Month District Events

NELSON MANDELA METRO AND AMATHOLE DISTRICT WOMEN'S DAY by Thabo Ratyana

The Nelson Mandela Metro district hosted Women Empowerment Forum's Women's Day celebration on the 10th of August 2019. This to pay tribute to the various strides and contributions made by women in the department as well as the icons of 1956 who paved the way. Addressing the gathering, HOD Ntombi Baart noted that engendering of education, skills development, and capacity building to enable women and girls to participate as empowered agents in the fourth Industrial Revolution, new collar jobs, green economy entrepreneurship and new areas of trade and investment, as well as their facilitation and liberalization.

In a radical style to celebrate Women's Month, the men in the Amathole District took it upon themselves to play hosts for the day. They walked them into the hall to their round tables and served them with everything they requested for the day. It was made clear by different speakers that women's health does not refer only to physical condition but to their total well-being. Furthermore, it is not determined solely by biological factors but also by effects of workload, nutrition and stress. Invited guest and speaker at the event, Siyasanga Sulo a lecturer for first year students in East London for Beauty Therapist stated that, "Women need stop judging each other based on their qualifications and start to build and support each other. The health of families of and communities are tied to the health of woman and due to that illness or death of woman has a serious and far reaching consequences for health of her children."

ON THE LENSE with Zona Mpendulo & Thabo Ratyana



IMPORTANT INFORMATION

The Socialite is the Department's Internal Newsletter which is published monthly

It reports internal issues and events, more especially service delivery related events.

Each and every Directorate, Section or Unit is therefore entitled to have their service delivery stories reflected on this publication.

Should you have what you regard as a deserving story, do not hesitate to contact the editor of this publication

samora.madolo@ecdsc.gov.za

CONTRIBUTORS

Editor

Samora Madolo
Zona Mpendulo

Writers

Zona Mpendulo
Thabo Ratyana
Kwakho Tshayimpi

Photography

Zona Mpendulo
Thabo Ratyana

Design Layout

Akhona Peter

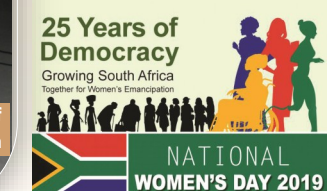
We are standing on shoulders of giants, we are following on the trail blazed by the fire brands of 1956 who stood up against the apartheid regime. Our struggle may be different to theirs but the end goal is one, the protection and embetterment of women's lives from all ages, areas, race, and economic standing," said Lusithi



MEC Lusithi and HOD Baart dance to the music in celebration of Women's Month

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATIONS 2019

By: Zona Mpendulo



As one of the longest standing and revered calendar events of the department of Social Development, the month of August, national women's month was marked with varying activities across the province. Under the theme: Visionary Women: Champions of Peace and Non-violence," perfectly fitting for this as the nation has been faced by gruesome cases of gender based violence. During the official women's Day celebration, held in East London, MEC Siphokazi Lusithi strongly condemned the ruthless killing of women in the country and made a call to women stand united in one voice to say "enough is enough". "We are standing on shoulders of giants, we are following on the trail blazed by the fire brands of 1956 who stood up against the apartheid regime. Our struggle may be different to theirs but the end goal is one, the protection and embetterment of women's lives from all ages, areas, race, and economic standing," said Lusithi. She added that women need to intensify their influence for gender equality in every position they possess, in society and in the workplace. MEC Lusithi encouraged women to leave abusive relationship and refuse to conform to societal standards in tern compromising their own well-being.

"We should learn to leave the minute signs of abuse start, it is okay to choose your life instead of fearing what the people will say, because at the end of the day you are the one who will have to endure and in worst cases, lose your life," concluded Lusithi. Addressing the women at the gala dinner, Head of Department (HOD) Ntombi Baart marveled at the unity of women. "It always gives me great pleasure to see women gathered in one place, looking ravishing and, contrary to popular belief, united as one. There is a wave and trend I have been delighting on the site of, of women taking a stand against any divisions sown amongst them and helping each become better in all the spheres of their lives. An attitude that is beautifully captured in the radical notion that "real queens fix each other's crown", queens that we all are. I want to strongly encourage us to continue to pull each other up and celebrate one another's achievements, both personal and in climbing up the career ladder." said the HOD. To close off the gathering new members of the Women Empowerment Forum were voted in to continue with the efforts to put gender equality and development on the forefront of all operations of the department.

WOMEN EMPOWERMENT FORUM APPOINTED

By Zona Mpendulo



New Members of the Women Empowerment Forum.

New members of the departmental Women Empowerment Forum (WEF) were voted in, during this year’s Women’s Month Celebration in East London.

Officially formed in 2017, the forum is meant to ensure the implementation of the 8 principles that encourage departmental action plans towards achieving women's empowerment and gender equality within the public service. The Principles are as follows:

- 1. TRANSFORMATION FOR NON-SEXISM**
Promoting and protecting human dignity and human rights of women, including the rights of women with disabilities.

2. ESTABLISHING A POLICY ENVIRONMENT
The full implementation of national policies and implementation of on-going women’s empowerment and gender equality through the development of departmental and sector- specific wellness and standard operating procedures.

3. MEETING EQUITY TARGETS
Ensuring women's full participation and decision-making through the employment of 50% women at all levels of the
- 4. CREATING AN ENABLING ENVIRONMENT**
Putting in place departmental and sector Gender Management Systems, adequate institutional mechanisms and dedicated Gender Units.

5. GENDER MAINSTREAMING
Incorporating gender perspectives in all work of the Department.

6. EMPOWERMENT
Capacity development for women's advancement and gender equality

7. PROVIDING ADEQUATE RESOURCES
Availing adequate human, physical and financial resources for advancing gender equality.
- SMS**

Active for two years, outgoing hindrances to their growth? Etc -li welcomed the handover and en- chairperson of the WEF Qaqamba ”said Xalisa. Among the highlights, couraged the new forum members Xhalisa listed a lot of triumphs in the Women Empowerment Charter to commit themselves to the em- the period. The forum successfully was distributed to WEF members powerment initiative which seeks compiled a comprehensive profile and other Departmental women improve their wellbeing and the of women within the department and Partnerships were initiated departmental women in general. which guides the implementation with SAPS, Old Mutual, Liberty and “It is our duty to keep this torch burning as our colleagues have of interventions for prioritized de- BeautyAcademy. In addition, women in levels 2-8 trusted us to. We need to remain velopment. “Having a clear understanding of were trained by an external service united and never forget we are in the environment before we can go provider on Report writing and this, not for ourselves but the ahead. We determine for example Presentation Skills on 29-30 Janu- women who have put us here as how many women are in the or- ary 2019, to mention a few of the representatives for their needs and ganization, in which positions are highlights. Newly appointed chair- voices,” concluded Tyhali. they in? What are the common person of the forum, Zukiswa Tyha

NEW-IN

Chief director: Specialist Social Services Shirley Hugo has published a book about the trauma of loss. The book has received rave review from national media, notably being featured on SABC 2’s Morning Live. Hugo tells us more about the book:



SocialLife: Tell us about the book, what is it all about?

My book “The stories of loss: You are not alone” is about stories of loss & trauma as experienced by my clients that I counseled between 1999 and 2009 in my private practice. I mixed the stories so that they remain anonymous. It is real life stories not fiction. I wrote about the family adaptation to loss, highlighting the important issues. Some of the stories are the loss of the only daughter, when miscarriage happens, when love is dangerous—a story about the mother who spoiled her son to death after losing her husband, a young woman lost her husband, the boys who suffocated and pushing myself to the edge—a story about a student who had abortion. All my stories are about the experiences of women though in my private practice I saw both females and males. I wrote about women because of my interest in women issues. I also observed that women were more affected. It is one of the reason I decided to sharpen my skills and studied Masters in Social Science, specializing in loss and trauma. Even now I am studying my PhD still focusing on women - widows! People need counselling to deal with their losses and trauma. Social workers can provide good and professional counselling without judging. But people can consult even psychologists, priests and pastors. I only chose some types of losses but there are more, like loss of a limb, divorce, change of HIV status from negative to positive, etc. What is important is for people to receive counselling to deal with their unfinished business and get closure for their loss and traumatic experiences.

SL: Who is the targeted reader for it?
I wrote my book out of seeing clients struggling with loss and trauma and others were not getting the needed support. I then decided to write a book targeting those who are experiencing loss and trauma. I also want other people to understand the process of loss and how to support a person going through loss. I realize that many people who experience loss do not go for counselling and end up struggling

later in life. The book helps to understand different types of loss and trauma and how to deal with such losses.

SL: Challenges and triumphs you experienced during the compiling?

I had to decide the approach whether it will be an academic book or motivational book and opted for motivational book. I then had to go through my file registers to identify similar cases and cluster them. I combined stories to keep them anonymous. I took three months to write it. I just had to make time on weekly basis. It was then published in January 2010. My book was published in America. I then had a local publicist who marketed my book very well. I had interviews with SABC MorningLive, BayTV, SA FM, Week End Post, to name a few.

SL: Where can people buy it?
Currently people can email Myshe.hugo@gmail.com or Whatsapp 0732458417.

I am reactivating my systems now that I received approval for selling my book here in the Eastern Cape. I have contracted a local distributor. They are busy reactivating the contracts with the books stores that were selling my book before I came to Eastern Cape, like Exclusive Books. I do have copies available while negotiating new contracts so I encourage people to buy my book please. Thank you for profiling me.

CUSTOMER CARE INSTILLS WORK ETHICS QUMBU

By Kwakho Tshayimpi

The customer care unit in the O.R Tambo District municipality held a much needed workshop on customer service and the importance of upholding Batho Pele principles on both internal and external clients. The workshop was for the Qumbu service office on 8 August 2019. This initiative is aimed at assisting social workers and staff in general to improve customer service for the realisation of high standards in relation to service delivery.

Employees engage with clients coming from the surroundings of Qumbu who are of different backgrounds and cultures. Concerns were expressed by employees, ranging from difficult customers who come in yelling at the office and others who made calls after working hours for personal reasons with which the employees felt discomfort.

Addressing the workers, O.R Tambo Customer Care Officer, Pumeza Bulana, said “The Customer should always be treated with care, respect, dignity and with compassion.” she also reminded the team that situations like these occur much more frequently and the best way to deal with them is with absolute professionalism. Bulana introduced five steps to the employees on handling client related situations, which were to review the situation of an unsatisfied client by examining their own behaviour and words spoken, observing the client’s reaction, admitting to mistakes and apologising for errors or actions that may have disturbed the client.

In addition, she also emphasized the importance of respecting internal customers such as management by wearing the appropriate attire for work and complying then complain later if assigned a task. The workshop was finalised with a quick word of appreciation by the team and a recapture of a very fruitful engagement with the customer care unit.