

Inhlabamkhosi

Mpumalanga Premier launches 67 Emergency medical vehicles



The Premier of Mpumalanga, Ms Refilwe Mtshweni-Tsipane launched 67 new ambulances. The Premier was accompanied by Mpumalanga health MEC Sasekani Manzini, Ehlanzeni District Municipality Executive Mayor and the City of Mbombela Acting Mayor Councilor Majaheni Nyalunga.

According to Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane, the new ambulances would be dispersed to all districts in the Province.

This, according to the Premier, would improve the response time to all call outs and emergencies to save lives as the festive season is approaching. Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane added that the "new fleet will undoubtedly add to our patient transport efficiently, safely, reliability and further extend our ability to provide efficient emergency health care across the length and breadth of our province. The excited emergency practitioners warmly welcomed the fleet and committed to take care of the vehicles and patients.



CORONAVIRUS

#COVID-19

Hotline: 0800 029 999

Precautions:

-  1 Wash your hands with soap for 20 seconds
-  2 Cough or sneeze into a tissue or your elbow
-  3 Avoid close contact with people who are sick



Manzini encourages everyone to take charge and be responsible for their own health

On the 13th November 2020, the MEC for Health, Ms Sasekani Manzini visited Mbombela taxi rank to bring primary health care services to tax drivers, owners, commuters and hawkers to increase access to health care service as people with limited access because they are always at the taxi ranks on a continual basis providing their services.

This programme was launched by MEC Manzini in December 2018 and it has continue to reap successful health outcomes with the objective of lengthening access

to health services and raise awareness about the importance of practicing Healthy lifestyle culture. The programme was welcomed by MMC Shongwe from Ehlanzeni district municipality and Mr MJ Mavundla from Mbombela Taxi Association. This programme is also available at Nkangala and Gert Sibande districts.

MEC Manzini said "government brought comprehensive health screening services in the Mobile Clinic and the erected stalls specifically for you. Our health workers are here to diagnosed, treat, prevent, educate

and manage minor ailments. You should take charge and be responsible for your own health".

In the fight against Covid-19, Manzini further emphasize the importance wearing mask and adhering to all Covid-19 preventative measures and reminded drivers not allow any person without a mask to enter their taxis. MEC Manzini branded several Taxis with stickers with messages warning commuters about the importance wearing masks and other health awareness messages.

COVID-19 PREVENTION ON PUBLIC TRANSPORT

Wash your hands with soap and water for **20 seconds** or use a 60% or more alcohol-based hand rub often **throughout the day**



Wash your hands at these **5 KEY MOMENTS** FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORT:

1



Before going on public transport

2



After touching doors, handrails and money

3



After making contact with other people

4



Before touching your eyes, nose and mouth

5



When you arrive at your destination

Credit: NICD



Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane launches the 16 Days of Activism against GBVF Campaign

The Mpumalanga Province joined the rest of the world on the 25th of November 2020 as it launched the 16 Days of Activism against Gender- Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) at the Kaboweni Community Hall. Officially opening the campaign, Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane said that the campaign is a call to action to end the destructive impact of gender-based violence (GBVF) in the communities and should continue for 365 days of the year.

The campaigns runs from the 25th of November to the 10th of December under the theme:

During the launch, Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane stated that GBVF is a pervasive threat that survives through harmful gender norms and silence, and has been exacerbated by the government lockdown to prevent the spread of the COVID-19 pandemic. According to Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane, 763 cases of GBVF have been reported in Mpumalanga during this lockdown.

She said that women and girls remain disproportionately impacted by GBVF at a disturbing rate.

"As government, we vow to continue raising awareness about Gender-Based Violence and Femicide. Women and children are experiencing GBVF which has adversely affected their well-being as well as their dignity and productivity in their homes, communities and places of work," she said. "This problem also occurs mainly due to existing negative social norms within our society and detestable cultural beliefs which suppresses them and leaves them to suffer in silence. These inhumane acts have continued to prevent women from achieving their maximum potential and compromise

their physical and psychological integrity," Premier Mtshweni said.

Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane said that one of the striking truths about the nature of the violence experienced by women and children is that the majority of cases, is perpetrated by male partners with whom they have an intimate or an interdependent relationship with, as well as their closest family members, relatives or custodians of children.

"This means that, contrary to the conventional wisdom that the family or extended family is a safe haven of love and support, girls and women are at greatest risk of violence from the very members of their households who are socially responsible for their protection and welfare," she said.

Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane said that GBVF has long acute physical, psychological and social consequences.

"Survivors often experience psychological trauma, which ranges from depression, terror, guilt, shame and loss of self-esteem. They may be rejected by spouses and families, ostracised and subjected to further exploitation or to punishment. This even goes to an extent of causing communities to suffer trauma from all the atrocities committed by the perpetrators. We should stand together and say enough is enough" she commented.

She also outlined that part of challenges is how the police force respond to cases of domestic violence.

"Women have reported in the past, when they sought assistance from the police, they were told to go back home and handle the domestic dispute within their families. Do not agree to that. It is your fundamental right to ensure that you open a case and get assistance from the relevant police officer

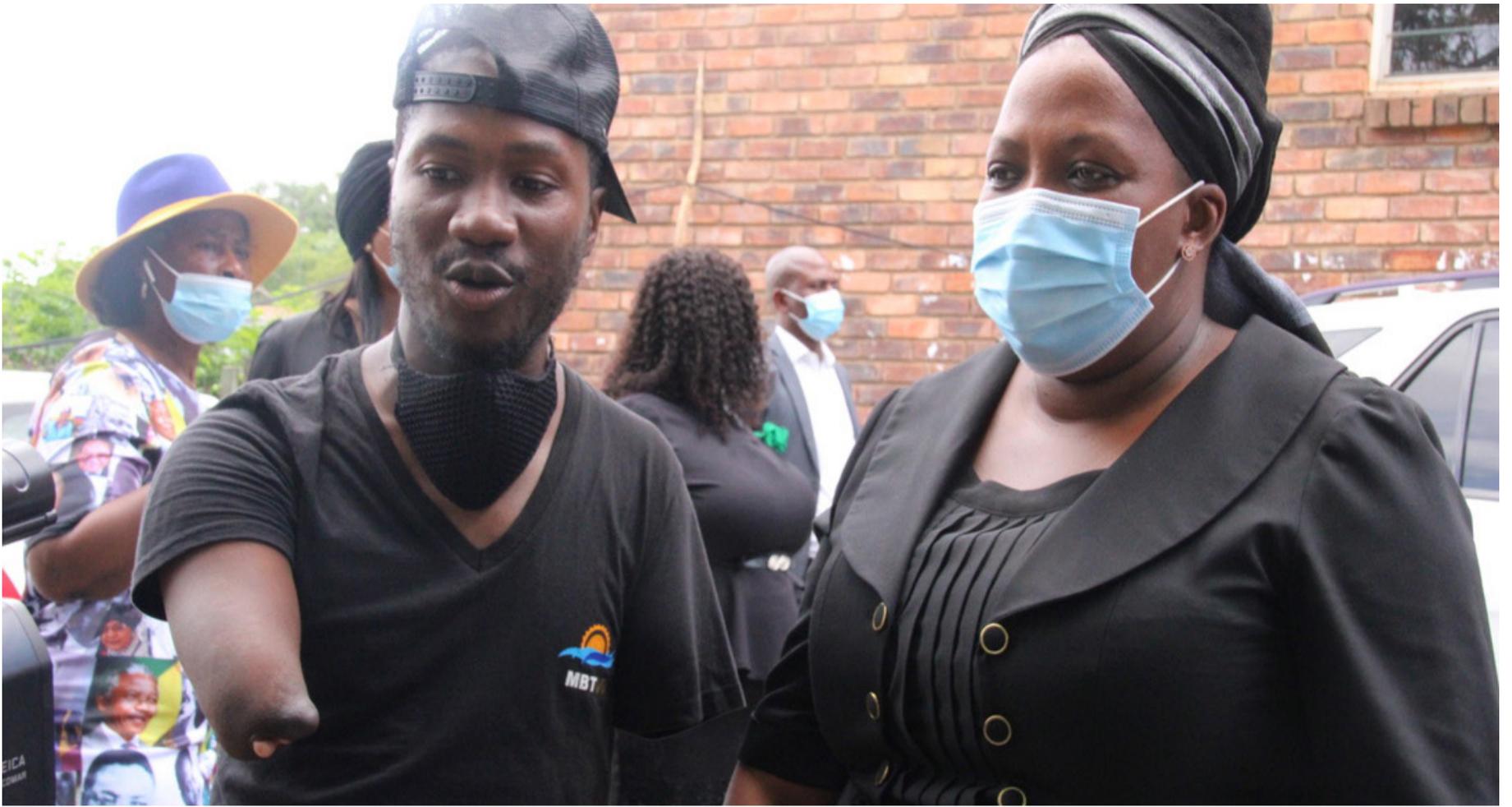
attending to you," she said.

However, with the introduction of the police victim friendly units in the SAPS, Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane said that she expects all the police officers to be more friendly towards the victims of gender based violence. Premier Mtshweni-Tsipane said that Gender Based Violence and Femicide has acute physical, psychological and social consequences.

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Premier Mtshweni called upon communities, traditional leaders, councillors, churches, NGO's and all relevant stakeholders and players to make efforts to increase solidarity between men and women and work more closely together to address GBVF, so that the plight of the victimised would be eased. She said that the Mpumalanga Provincial Government has already build stronger support networks for GBVF victims.

"There are life-saving services or one stop centres for survivors of gender based violence such as GRID. This provides not only shelter for survivors but also help improving the reporting of cases and trauma counselling. The Justice and Constitutional Department will soon be opening all the sexual offences courts where victims will be treated with dignity and also be free to express themselves freely with the assistance of the Social Workers. We commit ourselves that we will employ more social workers that are well trained to deal with these issues," she said.



Marking international Day of Persons with Disabilities

The Mpumalanga Province joined the rest of the world in marking the International Day of Persons with Disabilities. Organised within the 16 days of Activism against Gender Based Violence, and Feminism Campaign, the month long campaign carried weekly sub-themes which are reflected in the Mid-Term Strategic Framework (2019-2024) of government. Disability is the consequence of an impairment that may be physical, cognitive, mental, sensory, emotional, developmental, or some combination of these. A disability may be present from birth, or occur during a person's lifetime.

Over one billion people, or approximately 15 per cent of the world's population, live with some form of disability.

Persons with disabilities, often face barriers to participation in all aspects of society. Barriers can take a variety of forms, including those relating to the physical environment or to information and communications technology (ICT), or those resulting from legislation or policy, or from societal attitudes or discrimination. The result is that persons with disabilities do not have equal access to society or services, including education, employment, health care, transportation, political participation or justice.

Evidence and experience shows that when barriers to their inclusion are removed and persons with disabilities are empowered to participate fully in societal life, their entire community benefits. Barriers faced by persons with disabilities are, therefore, a detriment to society as a whole, and accessibility is necessary to achieve progress and development for all.

In the Mpumalanga Province, Mr Du Toit Nkambule, Manager: Office on the Status of Disabled Persons, Department of Social Development said that government coordinated a programme of action for the disability month 2020. He said that the activities came from various government departments, municipalities, chapter 9 institutions, Non-Governmental Organisations and the business sector.

"The province embarked on various campaigns to raise awareness on disability issues using different media platforms. People were educated about the rights of people with disabilities. During the events and dialogues, persons with disabilities were given platforms to express themselves and to share the challenges they face on a daily basis," he said. Events such as the Disability Awareness Day with Deaf and Blind people were held at the Kruger National Park, Disability Awareness Day on Epilepsy at Thembisile Hani local Municipality, Disability Annual General Meeting at Ehlanzeni District Municipality, Training on Social Support and care for Persons with Disabilities at Emakhazeni, Crime Prevention Dialogue by Persons with Disabilities at Emakhazeni Local Municipality and more as part of the Disability Month Programme of Action.

"The call to make persons with disabilities equal partners in the development of the economy of the province or the country in general has been made a concern of every government departments and institutions. Stakeholders are urged from time to time to comply with legislations which seek to empower persons with disabilities," he said.

Women and girls with disabilities continue to suffer Gender Based Violence and Femicide (GBV&F), stigma and discrimination and the impact of Covid-19.

Women and children with disabilities also continue to suffer more human rights violations as they have other vulnerabilities. They suffer double discrimination, firstly as women, and secondly as persons with disabilities.

Cultural beliefs and practices also weigh too heavily against the realisation of the rights of women with disabilities. Poverty, misery, illiteracy, joblessness and social exclusion are some of the common plights that women with disabilities face. Similarly, children with disabilities are normally not sent to school, compared to their non-disabled counterparts. "Without the requisite knowledge and skills, it is very difficult if not impossible for the children to secure any form of employment when they grow up. In the end, a vicious cycle of poverty and disability is created," said Nkambule. Mr Nkambule said that the state must do more in taking appropriate measures, within the limits of the resources available to it, to ensure that persons with disabilities realize their full mental and physical potential.

"They can be assisted by enabling them to be self-reliant, to live with their families and participate in social, creative or recreational activities, to protect them from all forms of exploitation and abuse, to give them access to medical, psychological and functional treatment, to provide special facilities for their education and to provide state-funded education and training where they need it," he concluded.



Combined 2020 matric exams underway

The Mpumalanga Department of Education is pleased with the smooth start of the combined 2020 June and November NSC examinations. The 05th of November 2020, marked the start of the examinations as the Premier Mrs Refilwe Mtsweni-Tsipane and the MEC for Education, Mr Bonakele Majuba visited Tikhontele Secondary School in Matsulu, City of Mbombela to observe the running of the first day of the examinations. In her message of encouragement to the candidates, Premier Mtsweni-Tsipane said, "We are with you in our prayers, we are with you in terms of supporting you. It is now incumbent on you as students to make sure that you prove your understanding. It is time now to prove your full potential to determine your future and destiny."

Expressing his pleasure in the good progress of the examinations, MEC Majuba said, "We are satisfied with the progress of our

arrangements and plans made to ensure that the examinations run smoothly as has been the case in the last eleven years. We want to stress the need to abide by the COVID-19 safety precautions by all our examination centres. It is now time for our learners to deliver on what they have worked hard for. We wish them all the best in the exams."

The combined June and November examinations process commenced on Thursday, 05 November to end on Tuesday, 15 December 2020.

The total number of all registered candidates for the 2020 Combined June and November Examinations is 93 899.

The Examination took place in 556 National Senior Certificate Centres and 99 Senior Certificate Examination centres for 2020. The Mpumalanga Department of Education deployed Residence Monitors to all 35

independent schools within the Province. The Department also intensified security to manage an incident free examination as it has been the case in the past 11 years. The MEC for Education, Mr. Bonakele Majuba extended his appreciation to everyone who played a pivotal role during the process leading to the examination.

"We are grateful that we have been able to navigate the examination preparations well thus far. The COVID-19 has presented us with a fair share of challenges but our teachers were up to the task. We salute them for their resilience, dedication and commitment during trying times of the pandemic. We wish to use this time to extend our best wishes to the Class of 2020," he said.

The NSC 2020 provincial results will be announced on 23 February 2021 at the University of Mpumalanga.

Mpumalanga gains more jobs in Agriculture and Finance



Despite the negative impact of Covid – 19 pandemic on the economy, Mpumalanga managed to produce at least 49 000 jobs.

Tabling the Provincial Adjustments budget on Tuesday, MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism Pat Ngomane said the jobs were created between July and September 2020.

MEC Ngomane said although his budget was tabled during the poor economic environment, due to the lockdown, government is striving to respond to service delivery areas.

“This budget is tabled in a fragile and challenging economic environment,” said MEC Ngomane. “The Coronavirus and lockdown measures have adversely affected the world, national as well as

the provincial economies.”

While the Province recorded job losses in the construction, manufacturing, trade and tourism during this period, Labour Force survey of StatsSA indicates that the Province gained 49 000 jobs in agriculture, finance, community and social services, as well as private households between July and September 2020, added Ngomane. However, the global growth is projected to deteriorate to minus 4% this year. “We also expect a negative growth for South Africa this year of minus 8 per cent,” said MEC.

He said the GDP figures for the second quarter of 2020 confirmed the significant impact of COVID-19 on all economic sectors, except for agriculture.



MEC Shongwe visits Agric Projects in Mkhondo

MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs Vusi Shongwe is not too pleased with the slow progress related to the construction of a One Stop Centre for farmers in Mkhondo, Piet Retief. He visited the Centre and the Mkhondo Agri-Hub on Thursday, 12 November 2020.

The centre will house, among others, animal vets, diesel depot, fertilizers and farming

equipments.

“We must prioritize finishing the construction of this centre as soon as possible.

“I understand that during the Covid19 lockdown suppliers were not busy. Now that the country is back to business, there must be progress even if it means working during the festive season,” he remarked.

Vandalism and theft of material like fence was

identified as another setback. MEC Shongwe called for security to be beefed up.

He later visited the completed Mkhondo agri-hub which is set to start operating early next year.

“There are some structural defects which must be attended to. We should not make a mistake of handing over inferior infrastructure to our farmers,” he cautioned.

Tune in to **Sikhaba iCovid-19**, our daily COVID-19 radio update.

Brought to you by the National Department of Health and SABC Education.



The National Children's Day: Translating dialogues and actions towards building a better Mpumalanga for children and youth

The department of Social Development's commitment to child and youth development remains unwavering, having realized that the development of the province depends on a generation of empowered young people who should become drivers of the province's future. In giving effect to this the department continues to steadily increase the provision of services to children and youth and to also respond to the call to promote and celebrate children's rights as part of the annual National Children's Day.

Celebrated annually on the first Saturday of November as declared by the Government of the Republic of South Africa, the department has through Touch a Million foundation coordinated a series of dialogues as part of the National Children's Day held on Saturday, 14 November 2020 at Gert-Sibande District Municipality offices in Ermelo. The day comes after the formal declaration by the United Nations General Assembly which formally adopted the Declaration of the Rights of the Child and the Convention on the Rights of the Child on the 20th November

1959.

This year the focus was on highlighting the progress that is being made in the promotion and realisation of children's rights, inform and educate the public on the comprehensive basket of services needed by children in the community that can contribute in preventing abuse of children, to strengthen Prevention and Early Intervention programme as a mind shift to ensure that there is investment (time, resources and programmes) that could be sustained to keep children off the street, to engage children meaningfully while addressing critical issues relevant to the children, to encourage parents to participate in programmes aimed at empowering children and creating family stability and to push for the involvement of children and adolescents in decisions affecting them by affording them an opportunity to have a voice as meaningful stakeholders.

The event drew learners from various schools in the province who took part in dialogues to discuss issues affecting them on a day to day basis as young people. Amongst the

discussion were issues of child trafficking, Gender Based Violence, drug abuse and COVID-19 crisis, all aimed at advocating and promoting children's rights.

Celebration of this day affords each of us an inspirational doorway to champion, promote and celebrate children's rights, more so this year having realised that COVID-19 has resulted in child rights crisis which need to be addressed immediately.

The psychological wellbeing of children was also at the center of the event as children were also given educational games, educational movies, educational tasks, music, dance, poetry and life orientation, through well trained facilitators from DSD, SANCA and Dream Kids Foundation.

During her address the then acting Head of the Department Ms Moyane stressed on the need for children to get into the habit of knowing more about their rights and the responsibilities that come with such rights. She encouraged them to avoid bullying each other in schools and elsewhere or generally infringing each other rights.