

FREE STATE INTERNATIONAL WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION



MEC for Social Development Ma Sisi Ntombela handing out the school uniform

Each year the international women's day is celebrated on the 8th of March to highlight issues affecting women and to strengthen the "NO Violence against Women Campaign". The Free State province celebrated this day on 6th March 2015.

The Department of Social Development and other Provincial and National Government departments has resolved in the hosting and celebrating this day in partnership with various civil service organizations and government Agencies. The celebration of this day were held on the 06 March 2015 in Sasolburg and at least 5000 women were targeted for this event. The focus of the celebration was to highlight the achievements of the government in the past 20 years with a special emphasis on the nine-point plan which was articulated by the Honourable President



MEC for Social Development Ma Sisi Ntombela with Deputy Minister for DSD Ma Elizabeth Thabatha, Mayor of Pekaia Dabé, Mr Max Moshodi with representatives from Tebello

during his 2015 State of the Nation Address. The International Women's Day represents an opportunity to celebrate the achievements of women while calling for greater equality. The 2015 international women's day theme was; Make It Happen. It encouraged effective action for advancing and recognizing women.

The MEC for Social Development is mandated to champion issues affecting women in the free state and to ensure that the Free State Province makes significant strides towards addressing gender inequality, abuse of women and children, issues affecting Child and Youth headed households and coming up with solutions to empower women as heads of the families.

Various events were organized to mark the economic, political and social achievements of women. Organizations, governments, charities, educational institutions, women's groups, corporations and the media were invited to celebrate this day specific to their local context and interests.

Built up events had been planned to take place prior to the main event from 2 – 5 March 2015 and the main event highlighted the work done by the department in the past 20 years and to celebrate the achievements to date on 6 March 2015. The celebration were be held in Sasolburg with special focus on Women, who will have a chance to interact with different national ministers and other government leaders to raise issues affecting them.

SASSA gave out school uniforms and 800 food parcels and Tebello Association for the blind received a donation of R100 000.00

SASSA, Home Affairs and the Department of labour will also rendered services from 2 -5 March to ensure access to documentation and grants to the Zamdela community and SAPS

and Social Workers engaged in outreach programmes for high schools to tackle gansterism and use of alcohol and drugs by youth in schools .