



Judge President Dunstan Mlambo and Tzaneen Head of Office Tsakani Maluleke-Sihlangu (on his left) with other delegates at the conference

INTERNATIONAL ASSOCIATION OF WOMEN JUDGES 13th ANNUAL CONFERENCE

The South African Chapter of the International Association of Women Judges in partnership with the University of Limpopo and the University of Venda recently hosted their 13th Annual Conference and Annual General Meeting under the theme 'Let's wrap the wide arms of the Law around those who need it'. This took place just outside Polokwane, in Limpopo.

The Minister of Justice and Correctional Services Advocate Michael Masutha and the Chairperson of the Legal Aid SA Board Judge President Dunstan Mlambo were notable speakers at the conference.

Legal Aid SA was represented by Limpopo/ Mpumalanga Provincial Executive and SAWLA Chairperson Ms Mpho Kgabi as well as Head of the Legal Aid SA Tzaneen Office, Ms Tsakani Sihlangu-Maluleke.

Issues discussed during the conference included Children and the Law; Mentoring Young Women; National Action Plan to

Combat Racism; Child Pornography; Economic Transformation for Women; Cultural Marriages and Traditional Practices; International Law, and Sexual and Gender-Based Violence.

Legal Aid SA is an active partner in building justice systems and safer communities nationally, regionally and internationally, thus supporting access to justice for all. We are proud to have been involved in this very important event.

OUR VISION

A South Africa in which the rights and responsibilities enshrined in the Constitution are realised to ensure equality, justice and a better life for all.



Ladies from different departments of the Judiciary celebrating Women's Month with Judge Semenya

Represented by Limpopo/Mpumalanga Provincial Executive Ms Mpho Kgabi, who is also the South African Women Lawyers Association (SAWLA) Chairperson in Limpopo, Legal Aid SA commemorated Women's Day with women from different sectors of the legal practice and Judiciary. The event was also used to congratulate and welcome Judge Semenya for her appointment to the Bench at the Polokwane Division of the High Court.



Piet Retief Satellite Office: HIV Coordinator Nondumiso Mavimbela emphasising the importance of reporting all kinds of abuse

Piet Retief Satellite Office recently attended a workshop organised by the Department of Social Development to empower women in rural areas with life skills and further discussions on gender-based violence. The event was held at Social Development in Amsterdam, Kwathandeka. The main focus of the event was to discuss gender-based violence and give women information on what to do when faced with violence. Women were also encouraged to take action and help each other when they become aware that someone is in an abusive situation. Legal Aid SA was represented by Paralegal Ms Danisile Hadebe who explained the mandate of the organisation including the legal matters that Piet Retief Satellite Office receives, particularly those involving women and children.

The City of Ekurhuleni hosted a Women's Day workshop focusing on self-love and specifically targeting men in the community of Kettlehong. The rationale behind a targeted male audience was due to the common perception that men are the dominant perpetrators of violence against women and children. The workshop focused on the importance of self-love, as loving yourself affects both the person you are at home and in the community at large. The event was well attended, with various stakeholders also present to address the audience.



Head of Legal Aid SA's Germiston Office Aysha Ismail, speaking on the causes of lack of self-love

In celebrating Women's Month, Legal Aid SA's Bellville Office invited St Mary the Virgin Parish to a high tea to discuss the empowerment of women in the community. The Office staff contributed funds towards buying cake and sweet treats. The theme of the day was 'Ways to empower women within our communities'. The event hosted approximately 15 elderly parishioners who braced harsh weather conditions on the day to embrace the event. Legal Practitioner Ms Tatum Scullard addressed the group on the importance of women in the community, and their male counterparts, and informed them of the legal tools they have available to them to ensure that their rights are upheld.

Legal Aid SA's Pietermaritzburg Office had the pleasure of hosting a number of female walk-in-clients that came to the Office in the first week of August. Staff members at the Office contributed money to buy cakes, cooldrinks and roses to give to female clients. A table was set up in the foyer where all the women present were addressed by Civil Legal Practitioner Ms Daisy Munsami and Civil Principal Legal Practitioner Mr Ashok Kaloo on how Legal Aid SA is the champion of women's rights, the various legal services provided by the organisation and how valuable our clients are to the Office.



Pietermaritzburg: Clients receiving flowers at the Office



Swellendam: Senior citizens listen to a presentation by Legal Aid SA

The three women at Legal Aid SA's Swellendam Satellite Office opened their hearts when the request to pamper senior citizens in the community came in the form of an invitation from The Apostolic Faith Mission. Legal Practitioners Ms Mandisa Mzamane and Ms Ilze Koch as well as Paralegal Ms Samuela Riddles donated beauty products to ensure that the attendees were indeed pampered! The ladies were also informed about Legal Aid SA's services. This came in handy for many of them as they own properties but do not have legal wills, for instance. They were also told about the nature of estate and intestate succession with emphasis on the adverse effects of not having a valid will.



Tzaneen: Office employees with their counterparts from Merensky

Legal Aid SA's Tzaneen Office women visited Politsi Primary School to educate women working at Merensky about labour relations. Merensky produces a wide variety of pine lumber grades for use in both industrial and structural applications. The Office partnered with FAMSA, Merensky and the Department of Health.

Legal Aid SA's Polokwane Office Legal Practitioner – Regional Court Juneah Phuti Manamela, has been working for Legal Aid SA for over a decade and is known as a reliable and respected female attorney. Her litigation skills are very strong, as evidenced by the many presiding officers who praise her work and also make mention of her ever-present enthusiasm. Juneah is not only an attorney, but a mother as well. Her supervisor, Emily Makgato, has noted Juneah's potential and commends her stellar work. She certainly is a woman worth commemorating!



Polokwane: Juneah Phuti Manamela



Our Eastern Cape HR Manager explaining the Legal Aid SA Candidate Attorney Recruitment Programme

LAW STUDENT RECRUITMENT DRIVE IN PORT ELIZABETH

Legal Aid SA's Human Resources team in the Eastern Cape recently took university outreach to UNISA Port Elizabeth. The University's Career Day was aimed at connecting students with potential Employers, to find out as much as they can about them in order to plan for when they graduate.

Legal Aid SA gave a presentation outlining the process for Candidate Attorney recruitment and students were given an opportunity to interact with the HR personnel.



Women from Tholusizo Home-Based Care during the information session

SATELLITE OFFICES EMBRACE ACCESS TO JUSTICE WEEK

Access to Justice Week is an annual event coordinated by the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development with the aim of bringing legal services closer to communities. This year's national campaign was held from 7-11 August 2017 with different organisations, including Legal Aid SA, invited to converge at various service points to provide services to the people.

In Burgersfort, Legal Aid SA's local Satellite Office opted to meet the community at Diphoro Disability School while the Tonga Satellite Office team converged at Steenbok Trinity Church (see picture below) along with a number of other stakeholders. The Bochum Satellite Office campaign coincided with social grants dates so their Access to Justice Week campaign was held at SASSA pay points.

The Piet Retief Satellite Office focused on legal education when they visited two home-based care centres (Tholusizo in Driefontein and Siyabambela in Ethandukukhanya) to inform residents of their legal rights and obligations.



CAREER EXPO IN DELAREYVILLE

Legal Aid SA's Delareyville Satellite Office attended a career expo hosted by Tswaing Local Municipality at Lodorile High School. The expo emphasised the importance of completing one's studies and explained career opportunities available within various industries. Various professions were invited to the event, including medical doctors, chartered accountants, social workers, IT specialists, electrical engineers and lawyers. Each professional was given an opportunity to do a presentation about their careers, what it takes to be a professional, the learning areas to choose and scores to attain in order to be accepted into higher learning institutions. Legal Practitioner Tshepiso Nkuna and Paralegal Kagiso Tamenti spoke to the learners about careers in law – we are certain that we will see some of the faces at Legal Aid SA in the future!



Learners from Lodorile High School listening attentively during the career expo

LEGAL AID SA WELL RECEIVED AT UNISA CAREER FAIR

Legal Aid SA was invited to participate in the University of South Africa's (UNISA) annual two-day Career Fair in July. Our Gauteng Provincial Office and Pretoria Office staff spoke to students about the wide array of careers available at the organisation. Legal Practitioner Jabulani Moshasha and HR Officer Thandekile Notununu gave a formal presentation on the crucial work we do. Other stakeholders present included the IRBA; Van Schaik; Mazaars; Nkonki; SANBI; UIF; ARC LNR; the Departments of Trade and Industry, Labour, and Environmental Affairs; Potatoes SA and the SAPS.



Legal Aid SA representatives at the UNISA Career Fair

SUCCESSFUL LEGAL CLUSTER STAKEHOLDER FORUM IN CALVINIA

Legal Aid SA's Vredendal Office and Springbok Satellite Office in collaboration with the Department of Home Affairs held a successful Legal Cluster Stakeholder Forum at the Department of Community Corrections in Calvinia. All the stakeholders in Hantam Municipality were invited to attend.

The event discussed the 2016-2017 performance of Legal Aid SA and the Vredendal Office, as well as general case flow issues and changes within Legal Aid SA which may impact stakeholders. Initiatives that could positively impact on service delivery to the community were also explored. It was in this meeting that the value of sharing Legal Aid SA's successes and strategies with stakeholders was made clear – Calvinia Court, for instance, improved greatly and moved from 9 audit findings to 1 audit finding in the 2016-2017 financial year after a similar meeting.

The stakeholders applauded Legal Aid SA's report and promised to play their part in moving South Africa forward.

LEGAL AID SA TALKS BAIL ON TRU FM

Legal Practitioner Mr Mahlubandile Ntontela from our King Williams Town Office often features in hour-long radio interviews on Tru FM. A recent interview he did during the Incoko programme focused on bail and its conditions.

The topic arose as a result of the rise in vigilante acts and the response of communities when they see a supposed criminal walking the streets instead of being locked up. Legal Aid SA was called to give the community information on bail and bail conditions in order to educate more people on how this works. Mr Ntontela explained that bail is an agreement between the accused and the justice system to ensure that while the accused is awaiting trial or the matter is being investigated, the accused can temporarily be released, paying a sum of money to the court as a guarantee that they will come back to court when the matter resumes.

As part of fulfilling one of the organisation's objectives – providing education and information concerning legal rights and obligations – many Legal Practitioners across the country have similar slots on different regional and community radio stations. Below are a few of the many regular broadcast interviews held, in pictures.



Mahlubandile Ntontela on Tru FM



Nditsheni Muofhe of Burgersfort Satellite Office on Mash FM



Ntokozo Buthelezi of Siyabuswa Satellite Office on Moutse Community Radio



Goodman Bantwini of Soweto Office on Voice of Wits



Sibusiso Mashele of Polokwane Office on Energy FM



Enrico Gaurneri of Johannesburg Office on Power FM