

Bloemfontein Report Back on HIV/TB stigma workshop

Now You Know reporter, Communications Intern, Mcebisi Mthombeni, reports:

Soul City Institute in partnership with the MDDA facilitated an awareness campaign workshop to help inform the community print forums about how they can communicate and assist breaking down the HIV/TB stigma that is within the communities they operate in. Soul City has requested that these community print platforms may also be used to raise awareness and be the vehicles of communicating in the small-rural communities about health-related stigmas.

"It is important to understand what is known about the extent of HIV and TB – related stigma and discrimination in Southern and South Africa," comments Soul City.

Amongst the MDDA funded projects that attended the workshop in Bloemfontein on the 7-9 March were Metro News, Seipone News and others.

The imperative of this workshop was to raise the fundamental awareness of stigma and discrimination surrounding the health issues that affect South African rural-small communities. Workshop, topics included the forms of stigma/forms of discrimination- why people stigmatise and how can the small community print platforms that are funded by the MDDA assist in tackling the stigma arising in these communities.



UPCOMING EVENTS

■ 20 March – MDDA Human Rights event



MDDA's Margaret Ndawonde and Communications Intern, Mcebisi Mthombeni, visited the Eastern Cape to report, for our stakeholder newsletter, *Media Matters*, on media projects funded by the MDDA. A highlight of the trip was the visit to Eastern Cape Women's Magazine where they met Ms Pamela Timakwe, an ex community journalist with a mission for profiling and documenting work done by women in the rural villages of the Eastern Cape in their different initiatives. Margaret and Pamela can be seen above with the ladies of Imveliyethu village.

KNOW YOUR POLICIES Code of Conduct

In this issue we briefly introduce the MDDA Code of Conduct, which describes the desired behaviour of both the employer and employee to create a fair and equal relationship, built on honest and normal expectations of each other. The essence of our Code is *Conducting Business with Integrity*, i.e. ensuring ethical conduct at all times in how we carry out business. Key principles of ethical individual conduct are:

- Comply with the policies, procedures and rules. These preserve and protect the interests of the Agency and its stakeholders.
- Challenge other stakeholders who do not conduct themselves in an ethical manner. Their conduct will affect the Agency and its stakeholders negatively.
- Treat others in a respectful, fair and caring manner. They will respond positively in return and you will achieve the best possible results, even under difficult circumstances
- Accept responsibility for your personal decisions and actions at work. Behave at all times above reproach.

HUMAN RIGHTS DAY

On 21 March, South Africa celebrates Human Rights Day to commemorate the sacrifices made in the struggle for democracy in South Africa. On March 21 1960, the community of Sharpeville and Langa townships embarked on a protest march against pass laws. The apartheid police shot and killed 69 protesters, many while fleeing. Human Rights Day is therefore an opportunity to commemorate those who fought for liberation and the rights we enjoy today, as enshrined in our Constitution. These include:

- Equality – everyone is equal before the law and has the right to equal protection and benefit of the law.
- Human dignity – everyone has inherent dignity and the right to have their dignity respected and protected.
- Freedom of movement and residence – everyone has a right to freedom of movement and to reside anywhere in the country.
- Language and culture – everyone has the right to use the language and to participate in the cultural life of their choice.
- Life - everyone has the right to life.