

# Empowering young girls through information

Young girl learners recently left the Department's premises excited about the future and the opportunities that lie before them. Lesego Rapetsoa, a Grade 12 learner from Phelindaba Secondary School, in Pretoria, said she is now more convinced than ever that pursuing a career in law is what she wants to do after completing matric.

Lesego was among 30 girl learners who were part of this year's Cell C Take a Girl Child to Work Campaign that took place at the national office on **25 May 2017**. The annual campaign, done in partnership with Cell C, aims to provide an opportunity for girl learners to get exposure in the world of work, getting first-hand experience of opportunities available for them in the workplace.

This year, girls from Phelindaba Secondary School, Pretoria High School for Girls and Kgadime Matsepe Secondary School spent the day learning about the available work opportunities within the Department.

The learner's first stop was at the Pretoria Magistrate's Court where they took a tour and a detailed presentation on court operations and proceedings. Ms Bonita Theys, a Senior Admin Clerk at the court, enlightened the girls about all the different areas of disciplines that are required for the court to function properly. "There are many facets that contribute to the smooth functionality of the court. You need to uncover what you love and work extra hard to achieve it," she said.

The learners were then escorted to the North Gauteng Master of the High Court to learn more about insolvency, deceased estates, appointments and the Guardian's Fund. This interactive session saw a panel of officials, each an expert in their own field, give detailed presentations to the learners who posed questions at the end.

The session ended at the national office where learners engaged with officials on law as a profession and career path. "I have always been fascinated by law but did not really know about all that goes with being a lawyer. Fortunately, all my queries about the profession itself have been answered now and I look forward to all that awaits me in future," said Lesego

This year's theme; "**Dream. Believe. Achieve,**" is meant to encourage young women and girls around South Africa to believe in themselves, open their eyes to the possibilities around them and make a difference in their own lives.

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**Pretoria Magistrate's Court:** Ms Theys gave the girls a tour of their different sections and how the court operates.



**Pretoria Master's Office:** The learners were enlightened on matters including insolvency, Guardian's Fund and deceased appointments.



**Engaged:** Different speakers spoke to the girls about the importance of working hard in a male dominated industry.