



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

**DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

E-News



MEC Nandi Ndalane and HoD J.M Mahopo visited the Thabang Children's Project on Nelson Mandela Day, where they conducted their 67 minutes of service to the community.

2023-24 *Quarter 2*

Making Winter Warmer



By Adèle van der Linde



The Limpopo Province is known for its more pleasant and warmer winters, but an unusual cold spell, brought on by a cold front sweeping in from the southern parts of the country, has left residents shivering recently.

On cue, however, the Department of Social Development was ready to hand over winter school uniform to several vulnerable learners in both primary and secondary schools, through its HIV/AIDS programme. The first official handover in the Winter Relief Drive programme, took place in the Mamadi village in Blouberg Municipality, Capricorn District, by MEC Nandi Ndalane. The Department's initiative of taking this gesture to a remote and rural area such as Mamadi, was lauded by among others Warrant Officer Thoka, who attended the event in his capacity as Acting Station Com-



mander. “As part of our crime prevention programme, we visit schools a lot and what we see sometimes is heartbreaking. Children grow quite fast and there are too many learners whose parents can’t afford to buy them new school uniform. On behalf of the community, we thank the Department from the bottom of our hearts”.

MEC Ndalane, in addressing the various learners, parents, principals, SGBs and dignitaries in attendance, related that on our way to work in the mornings, we all see learners in uniform, and we usually take for granted that they have adequate school clothes: “School uniforms are an integral part of the school experience. Not only do they provide a sense of unity and belonging for learners, but they also create a sense of pride and responsibility.



Top and right: A festive atmosphere at the Vhembe edition of school uniform handover, in Mulima village, Makhado Municipality.



Making Winter Warmer

For orphans and vulnerable children, they can provide an extra layer of security and belonging. Vulnerable children are not able to access the same resources as their peers and without adequate uniforms these learners are often excluded and stigmatized," said MEC Ndalane.

The Winter Relief Drive plans to be a game-changer for the 30 learners who were already proudly wearing some of the items they had received. The Drive has seen these and other learners already receiving most of their uniform, but the official handover ceremonies will continue during July and August and will also be taken to the other four districts of the Province, namely Waterberg, Mopani, Vhembe and Sekhukhune districts and will benefit 150 children in total.



MEC and social workers in their school uniform, share a lighter moment at the Vhembe school uniform handover event

Images from the Departmental Heritage Month celebrations



Heritage

MONTH 2023



Images from the Departmental Heritage Month celebrations

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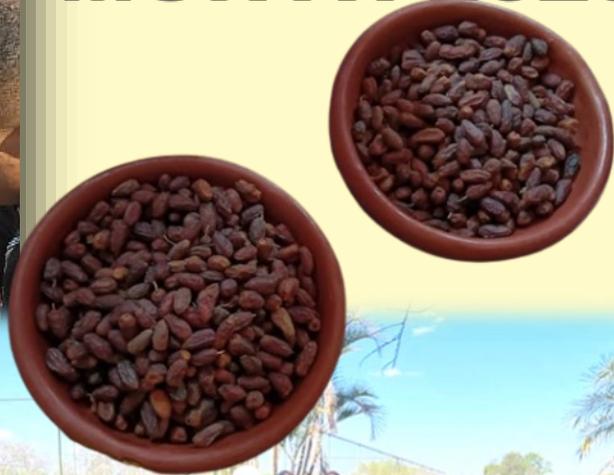
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Images from the Departmental Heritage Month celebrations

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Draft Policy: Persons with Disabilities have their say

The National Department of Social Development conducted a series of Public Hearings on the draft policy on social development services to persons with disabilities in all the 9 provinces from May to September 2023.



In the Limpopo Province, persons with disabilities had the opportunity to give their input into the draft policy, during three sessions in Tzaneen, Polokwane and Thohoyandou respectively, during September 2023. These images from the Mopani District (Tzaneen) session.



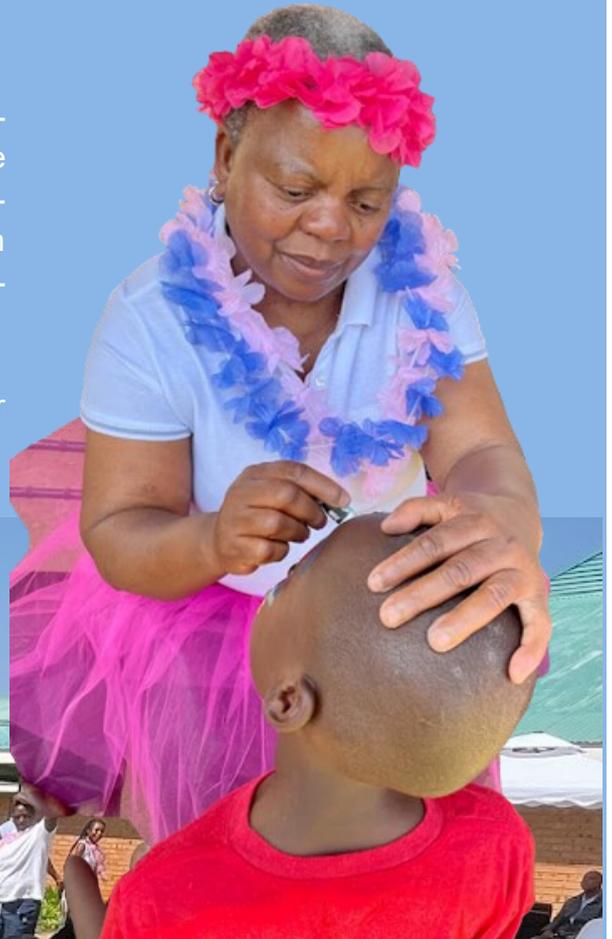
Spring Day @ Polokwane Welfare Complex

By Adèle van der Linde

In an effort to bring some joy, fun and recreation to both residents and employees of the Polokwane Welfare Co mplex in Polokwane, a Spring Day programme was hosted on 1st September 2023.

The Complex comprises of the Khuseleka Care Centre, Secure Care Centre and Child and Youth Care Centre. The three centres competed against one another in tug of war and other games and the children were treated to face painting, a jumping caste and other treats.

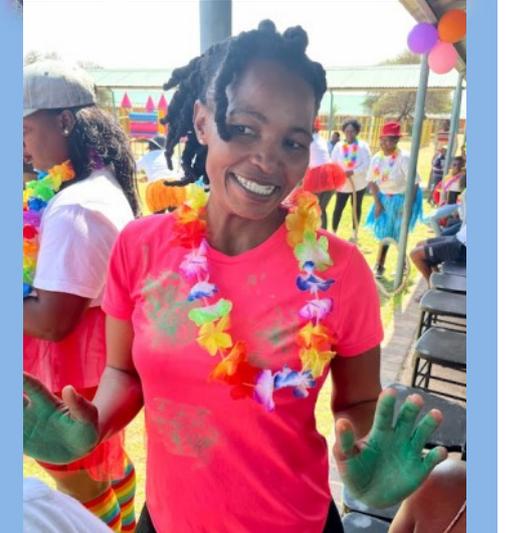
The day was ended off with a motivational speech for the whole audience.



Spring Day @ Polokwane Welfare Complex



Spring Day @ Polokwane Welfare Complex



Community Dialogues

On Substance Abuse



The Central Drug Authority recently hosted community dialogues on the issue of substance abuse, in the Sekhukhune district.

The event gave the CDA the opportunity to gauge the community's understanding and assistance in the implementation of the Drug Master Plan.





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It was yet another busy 18th of July for the Department of Social Development and everyone who was able to do their 67 minutes of service to society, did so with vigor!

MEC Nandi Ndalane and Head of Department Mr. J.M Mahopo did their service at Thabang Children's Project in Thabazimbi, where they did cooking and some gardening, planting fruit trees and also seedlings in the beautiful greenhouse on the premises.

With the assistance of a local donor, children also received blankets and care packs. The beautiful and talented children of the Project has a marimba band that entertained guests during the activities.

In other districts, Social Development employees were also gardening, cleaning, cooking and more (more photos on next page).





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Tackling Cyberbullying

By Eric Mamukeyani

Even beyond Child Protection Week which is observed from May to June, children need to be protected from all forms of abuse, maltreatment and other forms of horrendous evils like child trafficking, abduction and more. Social workers usually render awareness campaigns in communities about the risks that children are exposed to in empowering the communities to take action to protect children and to report any abuse or suspicion to the relevant departments.



This year, the Elias Motsoaledi offices of Social Development is focusing on raising awareness about the dangers of cyber-bullying in several high schools under the Motetema circuit. “Any form of bullying is detrimental to victims, and as social workers we have realized that cyberbullying is proliferating as many children have access to social media and smartphones these days. So my colleagues and I have decided to incorporate this aware-

ness in the child protection campaign to reduce the problem”, said Mr Matsheru Thomas, a social worker in Luckau office.

As social media gain more popularity nowadays, also a substantial amount of bullying takes place on these platforms. Cyberbullying is a type of bullying that takes place using digital devices such as computers and cell phones. “This type of bullying occurs on social media platforms such as Facebook, WhatsApp, Twitter, Instagram, and more. In this type of bullying, the culprit usually posts or shares pictures or videos of another person using very offensive or derogatory remarks about that particular person circulating them online. The aim of the post is usually to disparage and humiliate another person in public”, adds Mr. Mamukeyani Eric, a social worker in Luckau office.

Social workers visited several schools in the circuit to conduct dialogues and awareness among high school learners about the dangers of misusing social media especially bullying other learners. They emphasized that cyberbullying is very dangerous and harmful to the victim, and it has the potential to lead the victim to school drop-out, and even suicide. Furthermore, social workers made learners aware to never to post any negative images or videos of other learners and circulate them on social media because it is unlawful, also not to send pictures of themselves naked to anyone as that increases vulnerability. The learners were also given guidelines on how to safely deal with a cyberbullying situation or any other social media attacks to minimize harm. Lastly, the social workers indicated their services to schools to support learners who might be struggling with family or any other interpersonal problems.

Official Opening: **Taueatsoala-Babirwa CCC**



The Deputy Minister for Social Development, Ms. Hendriëtte Bogopane-Zulu recently officially opened the Taueatsoala Community Care Centre, at Ga-Taueatsoala in the Waterberg District.



The Deputy Minister started the day off with a courtesy visit to the local traditional authority, before doing a tour of the facility with the MEC for Social Development, Mme. Nandi Ndalane and other dignitaries. DM Bogopane-Zulu urged the community to help guard the facilities jealously, as the centre's main purpose is to serve the most vulnerable members of society. "The goal of building community care centres in rural communities is to enhance the quality of services to orphans and vulnerable children within their own communities of origin and to complement existing child-protection interventions and services such as Home Community Based Care, drop-in centres, Isibindi, childcare forums and early childhood development.



Under the Home Community Based Care programme, the Department renders early identification, psychosocial support and referrals for orphans and vulnerable children as well as capacity building programmes for community caregiver groups and facilitation of support groups", she explained.

Women's Dialogues



The Mopani District was the host to the Department's recent women's dialogues, with the eye on Women's Month activities, but also to ensure the continuous upliftment and protection of women in especially rural areas. The event was held at Xihoko village .

Greater Tzaneen Municipal Mayor, Cllr. Dikeledi Mmetle standing in on behalf of the MEC, also handed over some gardening equipment to local women, with the eye of them starting food gardens for self-sustainability. She also handed over some sanitary pads to female learners.

In her address on behalf of MEC, she proclaimed that studies have shown that empowering women economically not only



Women's Dialogues

benefits individuals but also has a positive impact on society as a whole. "When women are economically empowered, they invest in their families, communities, and nations. They contribute to economic growth and development, leading to reduced poverty and increased societal well-being. To achieve women's emancipation, we must work together. Governments, civil society organizations, and individuals must come together to advocate for gender equality, push for policy reforms, and challenge discriminatory practices. Education plays a crucial role as well, as it helps challenge stereotypes and empowers women to pursue their dreams and aspirations", she concluded.



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World Population Day 2023

World Population Day, which seeks to focus attention on the urgency and importance of population issues, was established by the then-Governing Council of the United Nations Development Programme in 1989, an outgrowth of the interest generated by the Day of Five Billion, which was observed on 11 July 1987. By resolution 45/216 of December 1990, the United Nations General Assembly decided to continue observing World Population

Day to enhance awareness of population issues, including their relations to the environment and development. The Day was first marked on 11 July 1990 in more than 90 countries. Since then, a number of a number of UNFPA country offices and other organizations and institutions commemorate World Population Day, in partnership with govern-

ments and civil society.

It took hundreds of thousands of years for the world population to grow to 1 billion – then in just another 200 years or so, it grew sevenfold. In 2011, the global population reached the 7 bil-



World Population Day 2023

lion mark, it stands at almost 7.9 billion in 2021, and it's expected to grow to around 8.5 billion in 2030, 9.7 billion in 2050, and 10.9 billion in 2100.

This dramatic growth has been driven largely by increasing numbers of people surviving to reproductive age, and has been accompanied by major changes in fertility rates, increasing urbanization and accelerating migration. These trends will have far-reaching implications for generations to come.

The recent past has seen enormous changes in fertility rates and life expectancy. In the early 1970s, women had on average 4.5 children each; by 2015, total fertility for the world had fallen to below 2.5 children per woman. Meanwhile, average global lifespans have risen, from 64.6 years in the early 1990s to 72.6 years in 2019.

In addition, the world is seeing high levels of urbanization and accelerating migration. 2007 was the first year in which more people lived in urban areas than in rural areas, and by

2050 about 66 per cent of the world population will be living in cities.

These megatrends have far-reaching implications. They affect economic development, employment, income distribution, poverty and social protections. They also

affect efforts to ensure universal access to health care, education, housing, sanitation, water, food and energy. To more sustainably address the needs of individuals, policymakers must understand how many people are living on the planet, where they are, how old they are, and how many people will come after them.



World Population Day in Limpopo this year was observed in the Capricorn District, at Sekakene Village, in the Molemole Local Municipality. The event was addressed by among others Mr. Jacques van Zuydam, Chief Director of the National Population Unit in the National Department of Social Development and Kgoshi Machaka.

World Population Day 2023

The main address, on behalf of MEC Nandi Ndalane, was delivered by Councillor Pauline Makgatho. During the event, a number of vulnerable households also received equipment with which to start

backyard food gardens. This is an ongoing initiative by Government, to ensure sustainable livelihoods for increased food security, event on the periphery of the province.



STOP THE VIOLENCE!

REPORT GBV and Child Abuse:

**SAPS Crime Stop: 08600
10 111**

SMS Crime Line: 32211

**DSD 24-hour Command
Centre: 0800 428 428 (toll-
free) or request a social
worker *120*7867# (free)
from any cell phone.**

**Child Welfare South Africa:
0861 424453.**



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Fax: 015 811 4357
Postal Address:
Private Bag X9689

VHEMBE DISTRICT

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Fax: 015 962 4623
Postal Address:
Private Bag X5040

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Polokwane
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Postal Address:
Private Bag X1051
Modimolle, 0510



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A Caring and Self-Reliant Society

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