



YOUTH MONTH 2023

1976 - 2023

#47THANNIVERSARY #YOUTHMONTH2023

“ Accelerating youth economic emancipation for a sustainable future ”

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Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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EDITOR'S NOTE

Dear Colleagues

The Month of June not only brings a change in season but marks a midpoint in the year, the end of one chapter the beginning of another. As we wrap this eventful Youth Month, we celebrate the youth of today who face slightly different challenges than the Youth of 1976 but are enduring and fighting with the same spirit.

As department, we seek to support young people to shield and strengthen them, overcome the social ills and support their journey to becoming the best version of themselves. Throughout this edition we have featured the beautiful work done by young people, especially in rural communities and townships, through cooperatives, non-profit organisations and their entrepreneurial effort to uplifting their communities.

This edition is packed with stories of young people with a special focus on the work of the department in fight-

ing alcohol and substance abuse.

Under the theme: "People first: stop stigma and discrimination, strengthen prevention", we encouraged the community to have a different approach for young people who are struggling with any kind of substance abuse, the biggest being alcohol.

We saw young people graduating with different skills after they received assistance from the department. Not only did we look at what we have done but sought to empower officials within the department and visited different organisations while collaborating with the South African Police Service.

The department took officials on tour to the Durban Port. The Durban port is reportedly one of the targets for maritime drug trafficking. Through the experience of the tour, we learned about how the SAPS makes sure that everything that passes through our shores is free of drugs.

Our officials were also taken

to one of the Forensic laboratories in Pretoria where officials got to see how the police analyse the drugs and destroy them after cases have been concluded.

In February, the country was blacklisted by the Financial Action Task Force and it recommended a comprehensive and consistent framework for the county to implement to combat money laundering. NPOs were identified as being one of the sectors that can be vulnerable for such activities.

The department is the custodian of the NPO Act and is starting to work towards implementing the recommendations. As a start, the panel of arbitrators was appointed and inducted. We introduce you to these members and what their work will entail. As we go into the month of July, we are preparing for a new and revamped DSD News. Lookout for these new developments.

Lumka Oliphant





— FROM THE
THE PR

DEAR FELLOW SOUTH AFRICANS

As countries around the world work to reduce carbon emissions, there is great potential for South Africa to establish and develop new industries.

For us, reducing our carbon footprint is critical to the health and well-being of our people, the sustainability of our society and ensuring that our goods and services remain competitive into the future. At the same time, it is a great opportunity to grow and diversify our economy and create employment.

We have said that our transition to a low-carbon, climate resilient economy must be just and inclusive. We have therefore produced a Just Energy Transition Investment Plan to direct resources both

to supporting workers, communities and industries affected by the shift towards renewable energy sources, and to investing in new industries like green hydrogen and electric vehicles.

This is particularly important as many of our export markets are increasingly seeking to reduce the negative environmental impact of the goods they produce and import. The European Union, for example, has decided to ban the sale of new petrol and diesel powered motor vehicles from 2035.

This has significant implications for South Africa since Europe accounts for about 60% of our motor vehicle exports. This presents both a threat to our auto industry, which mainly produces petrol and diesel vehicles, and an enormous opportunity.

This opportunity has been seized by one of the world's largest automotive manufacturers.

Last week the BMW Group announced that it will be spending R4.2 billion over five years to prepare its local manufacturing plant for the production of the next-generation BMW X3.

The plug-in hybrid X3 will be exclusively manufactured in South Africa at BMW's Rosslyn plant in Pretoria from the second half of 2024. While other vehicle manufacturers are producing hybrid vehicles, the X3 will be BMW's first locally-produced electric vehicle.

The investment announcement affirms the confidence investors continue to have in our economy. It also gives effect to the principle of our



THE DESK OF —
PRESIDENT

transition to low carbon energy.

While there are fears that the move towards decarbonisation will result in job losses, BMW's plans for job retention, reskilling and training on electro-mobility will provide certainty to more than 20,000 employees at the company's facilities across the country.

Working in partnership as government, business, labour and civil society, we have to ensure that the transition to new forms of production is managed in a just, equitable manner.

Among other things, this means that auto manufacturers need to be supported to expand their investment in the production of new energy vehicles in South Africa.

We currently have a range of

measures to support automotive manufacturers, such as the Special Economic Zone incentives, the Automotive Investment Scheme and others.

We will soon be finalising a strategy to support the transition to electric vehicle manufacturing that is affordable and effective.

It is key that South Africa keeps up with other countries, including on the continent, that are incentivising the manufacture and uptake of electric vehicles as the world moves towards decarbonisation.

South Africa has some important advantages. We have the world's largest reserves of platinum and are an attractive location for renewable energy, both of which are important elements in the production of green hydrogen. Such hydrogen can

be used as an e-fuel in some models of vehicles, which are exempted from the EU ban.

The decarbonisation of our society can be used to drive growth, improve industrial competitiveness, create jobs and harnessing the potential of innovation.

In the State of the Nation Address in 2018, I said that "while change can produce uncertainty, even anxiety, it also offers great opportunities for renewal, revitalisation and for progress."

Whether it is in the auto industry, energy or other economic sectors, we are confident that our country is taking the necessary steps towards a low-carbon future that leaves no-one behind.

With best regards,



A VIEW FROM THE MINISTER

Dear DSD Family,

It is the end of the first half of the year and June has certainly been a busy month for the DSD portfolio, which is mandated to provide care and support to the most vulnerable in society.

We kicked off the month with the tabling of the DSD Portfolio Budget Vote in the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) where we also hosted a group of special “gogos” Grandmothers Against Poverty and AIDS (GAPA). GAPA is a non-profit organisation that supports grandmothers from low-income households affected by HIV/Aids and poverty. Our special guests were treated to a delicious lunch before the proceedings began and certainly added a special touch to the day.

In a partnership with TIKA, a development agency of the Republic of Turkey, I was honoured to join the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey to South Africa, Ms. Ayşegül Kandaş in an unveiling of a newly refurbished electrical workshop at the Salesian

Institute Youth Project in Greenpoint, Cape Town. The Salesian Institute Youth Project offers support, life skills and vocational training to vulnerable children and youth from impoverished communities around Cape Town. We also handed over a cheque so that the organisation can expand its skills development programmes for vulnerable women.

We are all affected by load shedding. It has had a disastrous impact on the lives of many South Africans, including, vulnerable older persons, women, children and youth who depend on electricity to access work opportunities and other basic services. To alleviate the stress and impact on the elderly, the department collaborated again with TIKA and handed over a 13,650 kw solar power system to the Beit-ul-Aman Old Age Home, in Wynberg.

Later that day, Ambassador Kandaş and I met the staff and learners at the Siviwe School of Skills in Gugu-

lethu where we handed over a mobile library, which has 200 books and a smart TV system to address the educational needs of learners. The learners were elated and displayed their various skills like baking, carpentry and hairdressing to the department and embassy officials. We believe that the mobile library will go a long way in addressing their educational needs.

An important highlight of June is the commemoration of World Elder Abuse Day, which reminds all South Africans to defend the elderly against abuse by protecting and upholding their rights. This year, the day was observed under the theme: “Closing the Circle: Addressing Gender-Based Violence (GBV) in Older Age - Policy, Law and Evidence-based Responses” and I want to urge all South Africans to ensure that we protect older persons against any form of abuse and exposure to exploitation.

Thank you and Stay Safe!
Minister Lindiwe Zulu



social development

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DEPUTY MINISTER'S VOICE



This month we commemorated Youth Month observed under the theme "Accelerating youth economic emancipation for a sustainable future."

Through our long-standing Public-Private partnership with MTN SA Foundation, a multimedia centre was launched at the Charlestown Care Centre in Newcastle.

All community members in the area will have access to the state-of-the-art fully accessible to persons with disabilities centre.

This centre will not only emancipate the youth for a sustainable future but will significantly bridge the digital divide toward the fourth-Industrial Revolution for the rural community. As there will be access to comprehensive computer training.

This month we also saw the 11th AIDS conference in Durban, running under the theme "Act, Connect and End the

Epidemic." Diverse HIV sectors were gathered under one roof to deliberate ways to get to zero new HIV infections by 2030.

Our department hosted a satellite session where our Social Behaviour Change programme was explained and explored with other key players in the sector. It was evident that one government department cannot end the scourge of HIV/AIDS alone and this fight needed inter-governmental services to serve each "client".

Stigma, discrimination and poverty lead to people being discouraged from accessing basic services, such as health care, education and social services. We need HIV/AIDS literacy campaigns that are community-based, so our key population has access to services without fear of being discriminated against.

I attended the public hearings on Persons with Disabilities Policy. The purpose of the Policy is to mainstream

disability issues in all programmatic interventions as well as target investments that will specifically benefit persons with disabilities.

Persons with disabilities spoke on various issues that affect their daily lives such as access to public transportation - how they "do not want to be carried into a taxi". Issues of housing were also raised and how government housing is not accessible for persons with disabilities. Most of the delegates spoke on issues of unemployment and how they were not considered for employment or if they were employed it was only for lower-level careers.

We need to reinforce the importance of securing the rights of people with disabilities, so they can participate fully, equally and effectively in society with others and face no barriers in all aspects of their lives.

The public hearings will continue in all provinces across the country till September.



DIRECTOR CORNELIUS

We are dedicating this edition of the DSD News to the young people who are scattered across the length and breadth of our country in their continuous struggle against the triple challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality.

Wrapping up the Youth Month which unfolded under the theme, "Accelerating youth economic emancipation for a sustainable future," we have a clarion call to acknowledge that the Social Development portfolio has an overarching mandate of changing the lives of all South Africans. This we must accomplish and implement across the racial, ethnic and gender boundaries.

As part of changing these young lives, the department, has during the National Anti-Drug Awareness Week, conducted numerous activities to engage and intensify the working relations between Foundation for Alcohol Related

ACTOR-GENERAL'S

ER | Linton Mchunu Acting Director-General

Research, Forensic Science Laboratory, Community Dialogues in Toekomsrus, Mohlakeng and Durban port of entry respectively.

These engagements were not only an opportune moment for us to deliberate on alcohol and drug related issues, but to also look on how best we can collectively find sustainable solution to address substance abuse.

This the department embarked on in pursuit of the National Drug Master Plan (2019 - 2024) provisions which guide us to work in collaboration with the Civil Society Organisations and communities to reduce the demand for and supply of drugs in the country.

The International Commemoration against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking was observed during this month under the theme, "People first: Stop Stigma and Discrimination, Strengthen Prevention", at Nkanyisa Rehabilitation Centre, in

Randfontein, West Rand.

This was not a usual commemoration, as we had an opportunity to hear inspiring testimonies from service users in recovery.

What motivates us is that some of these service users successfully completed skills development programme from within the same rehabilitation centre, meaning, persons who recovered from addiction can plough back into their communities.

As the DSD portfolio, we remain confident in the capacity of the Non-Profit sector, which serve as an extension of helping the department to render essential services to poor and vulnerable communities.

The department commenced with the deregistration process and this initiative must be perceived as a punitive measure. We are taking the deregistration route

to comply with the Non-Profit Organisation Act 71 of 1997 and most importantly, to clean the NPO database so we may also have a sense of accountability.

Let me conclude by applauding all officials within the DSD portfolio, for their the beyond reproach work ethic and dedication of developing and improving the living conditions of many South Africans, in rural poor and township communities.

We are closing the Youth Month, but their hardships for work and economic opportunities should remain part of our heart beats, as we design and implement the proper policies.



REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA
MR L MCHUNU



The Protection of Children Not Over Yet

By Priscilla Monama

"Every single incident reported or not, is a call to action to end all forms of child abuse."

The Department of Social Development portfolio is proud of the successful culmination of the Child Protection Week campaign, a national initiative aimed at combating child abuse in the country. The child protection campaign, which commenced with the launch at the James House Child Care Centre in the Western Cape, has transcended boundaries and reached far-flung areas such as Richmond and Platfontein in the Northern Cape, Amajuba in KwaZulu Natal, Ficksburg in the Free State and Phatsima in North West province.

Led by the Minister of Social Development, Ms. Lindiwe Zulu, Deputy Minister of Social Development, Mme Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu and supported by the MEC of Social Development in Mpumalanga, Ms. Lindiwe Ntshalintshali, UNICEF, USAID and local social partners, the closing ceremony was

held in Manzini, Mpumalanga.

During the ceremony, the Deputy Minister engaged with the children in attendance, encouraging them to express themselves and discuss their rights and responsibilities. One of the children, *Ntando Mgaba*, 14 years old, confidently stated, "I have a right to education and my responsibility is to respect my teachers, wear my school uniform and be punctual."

As part of our ongoing commitment to child protection, the Department of Social Development has implemented various programmes such as the Sinovuyo Parenting Programme, Community Care Centres, Social Behaviour Change programmes like Chommy and YOLO (You Only Live Once) and Boys and Men Championing Change Programmes. These initiatives form part of our year-round effort to ensure the well-being of children.

Several other children shared their thoughts on their rights and what they believe every child deserves. Nhlanhla *Zwane*, 8-years-old, stated, "Every child must have a birth certificate, go to school and have enough food to eat." *Zweli Maphaka*, 11-years-old, emphasised, "Every child has the right to life and to be protected." *Khethokuhle Kuane*, 7-years-old, expressed, "Children have the right to create memories with their families and to be happy all the time."

"Mpumalanga is known as a predominantly traditional province. As part of the tradition, children are taught to keep family secrets. I am encouraged by the children who attended the event and confidently expressed themselves, breaking the silence on issues affecting them," said Abegail Lebego, a Child Ambassador, highlighting the importance of creating a safe space for children to speak up.



Children is

Incident of violence against a child, whether a national tragedy. We must take collective action against all forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation

Parents, caregivers and professionals working with children also shared their experiences. One of the parents, Sis Rose Mabunda said, "Before going through the Sinovuyo programme, I had anger issues. Poverty and unemployment were the biggest factors.

I could not listen to my children, I would instead resort to hitting them out of frustration. Sinovuyo brought back our dignity. My daughter was raped at the age of ten and she could not speak up. At the age of 15, we had anger issues and we ended up going to the Sinovuyo programme. In this programme my daughter was able to express herself and reveal her trauma of being raped in my absence," she said.

The community dialogues held in Mpumalanga have highlighted the impact of harmful cultural practices and child killings which continue to be a threat to the lives and well-being

of children across the country. Particularly, in Mgaduzweni and Manzini, Ehlanzeni District, where ritual child killings are prevalent, posing a grave danger.

Siyanqoba school representative Mr. Makhanya said, "Buhle Mashiyane, a child from the community, was abducted and mutilated, her body discovered after 30 days. Parents gripped by terror began accompanying their children to and from school. The impact of this heinous act has terrified the entire community. The community of Mgaduzweni and Manzini are united in their unwavering commitment to protecting their children. They refuse to allow fear to take over their lives."

Expressing deep concern and sadness, Minister Zulu addressed the recent cases of abuse and crime against children in various areas, including KaNyamazane, Matsulu, KaBokweni,

Mnganduzweni, Chochocho, Nkomazi and Bushbuckridge. These areas have been identified as hotspots for child killings, with several children going missing and later found murdered.

Minister Zulu urged children to speak out, stating, "Every single incidence of violence against a child, whether reported or not, is a national tragedy. We must take collective action to end all forms of abuse, neglect and exploitation so that all our children, whether here in Manzini, Mgaduzweni or anywhere in the country, are safe at home, within their families and communities, at school and online."

While the awareness week officially closed on 5 June 2023, The Child Protection campaign is taking place over 365 days, under a five-year theme: "Let us Protect Children during COVID-19 and Beyond".

** Not their real names**



Family and Community Based Interventions to End HIV/AIDS

By Makhosazana Mavuso

The 11th South African AIDS Conference (SAAIDS), with the theme "Act, Connect and End the Epidemic Will," took place in the Durban International Convention Center from June 20 to June 23, 2023.

Civil society, non-governmental organisations and government departments spoke in one voice reiterating that now more than ever before, we need to act to end an epidemic that has been a part of our lives for decades and move swiftly toward an AIDS free generation in 2030.

The Department of Social Development hosted a satellite session moderated by the Deputy Minister Mme. Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu, explaining the department's response to build resilience through the provision of psychosocial response services and addressing the social structural drivers of HIV, TB and STI's towards ending the pandemic.

HIV and AIDS takes a profound toll on families. When a family member becomes sick or dies, everyone in the family suffers. HIV/AIDS disrupts the family structure in an irreversible and devastating way.

Older people, particularly older women, are put in the position of caring for the sick, the dying and the children orphaned by HIV/AIDS. Children and young girls

are often forced to assume adult responsibilities well beyond their years, leaving them highly vulnerable to discrimination and other forms of exploitative behaviour and in turn, to HIV infection.

Minimising the impact of HIV/AIDS on family well-being constitutes an immense challenge. It is also one of the most pressing challenges of our time, faced by families, extended families, communities and government.

The department showcased ways through the Social Behavioural Change programme- Family Matters, that can assist the family remain resilient. A strong and supportive family is one of the first lines of defence against HIV/AIDS. The family is also often the only safety net, playing a critical role in determining how well individuals and communities cope with AIDS and its consequences.

The evidence is in the increase in the number of orphans and vulnerable children, child-headed households and the inability of the extended family system to provide such children with basic requirements such as shelter, food, medical care, education, love and support. It is estimated that at least one in eight children are already orphans while many more are living with and often caring for ill parents or primary caregivers, as well as for their siblings.

The departments' Orphaned and Vulnerable Children programme runs throughout Community Care Centres mostly based in

rural areas. The programme accelerates access to HIV testing, care and treatment and to viral suppression among children and adolescents living with HIV using child-centered, family-based case management. The department has established community-based drop-in centres where children are given meals and a packed lunch before they go to school.

The department also spoke of Social Behavioural Change programmes such as Chommy for boys and girls between the ages of 10 to 14 years and Yolo for 15 to 24 year olds. These programmes reach marginalised and vulnerable youth and children in rural areas. It focuses on preventing the spread of HIV/AIDS among young people. Behavioural change programmes are implemented to help reduce vulnerability.

People who use drugs are marginalised and often find themselves not freely accessing services because of the stigma that they have had to endure. It is within this key population that high cases of HIV and hepatitis B and hepatitis C are reported. These are most common through intravenous drugs and risky sexual behaviour.

It is through the community based Harm Reduction centres which have a needle exchange programme that these blood borne diseases may be curbed. Partnerships with organisations such as the South African Network for People Who Use Drugs play a pivotal role as it allows for



BUILDING RESILIENCE Empowering Children to Stand Against the Spread of HIV

By Sello Tang

The 11th South African AIDS Conference held at the Inkosi Albert Luthuli International Convention Centre from 20 - 23 June, brought together leaders and diverse stakeholders from different walks of life to connect and learn from each other in pursuit to 'End The Epidemic'. Among the guests of honour were children who took the stage to share their own personal encounters from services.

The conference emphasised that the choices and actions people make, play

a vital role in shaping how these individual choices and actions could lead to the detrimental consequences, including being infected with HIV and AIDS.

It was reported that HIV and AIDS is spreading rapidly among children. Statistics show that children from the ages of 8-14 years, are increasingly becoming sexually active primarily via sexual license, with many innocents unwittingly becoming victims.

As a response to addressing the scourge of AIDS

among children, the Department of Social Development hosted a Satellite Session at the conference titled: "DSD's response to building resilience through provision of psychosocial support Services and addressing social and structural drivers of HIV, TB and STIs towards ending the epidemics."

The Satellite Session, which was facilitated by the Social Development Deputy Minister, Mme Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu, hosted the young participants as speakers.



Sithobile Dlomo (12)

"I have attended 11 sessions of the ChommY programme. From these sessions, I have learnt that knowledge is power and that knowledge assists us in shaping our behaviour and our approach to life. The programme teaches us to take care of ourselves and our bodies and about our rights and responsibilities. I was sexually harassed at school, but I kept this a secret for a long time. The sexual health session in this programme taught me that I have a right to speak out and be protected. ChommY motivated me to take care of my body and the right to say "No. The programme taught me that no one is allowed to touch my private parts, not even a family member is allowed to touch me in an unbecoming manner. Through this programme, I am confident that I can make good choices about my life. When I grow up, I would like to be a teacher so that I could teach other children about their rights and responsibilities." Sithobile learnt about the ChommY Programme from the Department of Social Development Social Worker, Ms. Zinhle Memela.



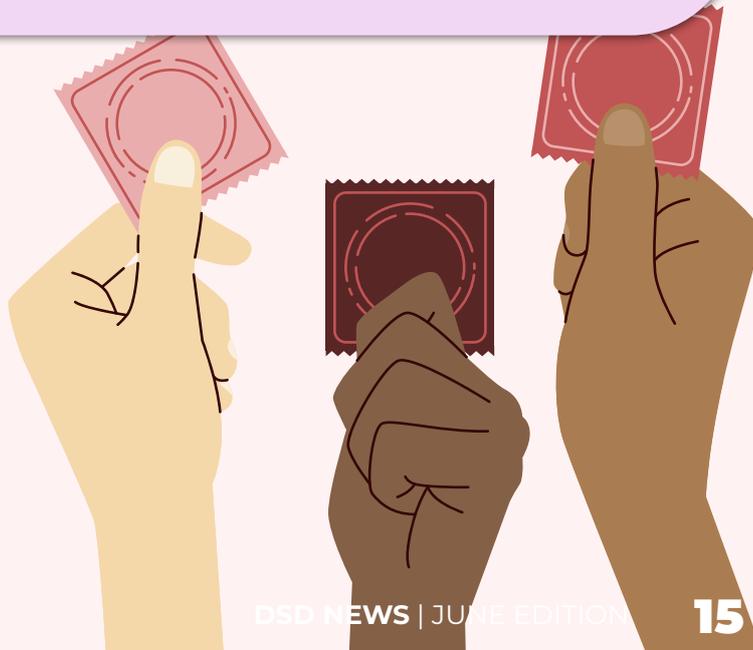
Nosipho Hadebe (12)

"ChommY teaches us how to be responsible for our bodies, My body, My Pride! I have learnt how to treat all people with respect and also to respect the elders. I also learnt how to choose good friends and avoid bad company. I know that I must avoid friends who drink alcohol and who are bullying other children. I have the right to safety and protection. My value is education. In order to succeed you need to be educated and education empowers us to know right from wrong. Through this programme, I learnt that, as people, we need to help each other and not undermine one another. Umuntu...Umuntu ngaBantu, and izandla ziyagezana." Nosipho learnt about the ChommY programme from her school, Mariannhill Primary.



Londeka Ngcongo (24)

"A while back ago, I have been privileged to have been of the YOLO Programme. The programme taught me a lot, including useful foundation skills such as self-confidence and self-identity. The information I learnt from YOLO strengthened me to tackle whatever challenges that come my way. I also learnt how to be assertive, how to set realistic goals and how to put personal boundaries when with friends. I understand sexual reproductive and health rights. I now know that the best way to keep safe from unintended teenage pregnancies and from attracting sexually transmitted diseases is abstinence. I also learnt that there are free services available for us, such as contraceptives, PREP and PEP, AYFS and Champions. I have also learnt resilience, purpose and leadership. Indeed, it truly takes a village to raise a child with respect. Today, I stand here, a young educated and resilient dude, an empowered and self-aware young woman, ready and able to have a positive impact on society."





Paving the Way for

By Priscilla Monama

"When we conduct tracing activities, we often encounter victims still traumatised by gang violence that happened years ago. Empowering these victims is crucial."

In a display of resilience and determination, the parents and children of De Aar faced the cold weather to confront the scourge of gangsterism that has plagued the region and their community.

The Pixley Ka Seme and ZF Mgcawu district municipalities, identified as hot-spots for gangsterism, have suffered the devastating consequences of this social epidemic. Collaborative efforts between the Department of Social Development (DSD) and local stakeholders shed light on the alarming prevalence of gangs among learners in the Sunrise township of De Aar. The Emthanjeni DSD service point witnessed an overwhelming number of gang-related referrals, underscoring the urgency of the situation.

Recognising the pressing need for a restorative justice approach, Ms. Thenjiwe Adonisi, Social Crime Prevention in Pixley ka Seme, emphasised the significance of an integrated effort by various government entities and the National Prosecuting Authority.

She said, "This anti-gangsterism intervention represents a comprehensive approach that brings together the DSD, the Department of Basic Education, the Department of Safety and Security and the National Prosecuting Authority. Since 2017, when the Orion and Veritas high schools were torn apart by gang fights, disrupting the education of our children, we, as committed stakeholders, vowed to implement long-term interventions."

The battle against gangsterism goes beyond maintaining law and order; it is a battle for the hearts and souls of the community. Ms. Ingrid Maseilane, Social Auxiliary Worker from the Colesberg Community Corrections said, "When we conduct tracing activities, we often encounter victims still traumatised by gang violence that happened years ago. Empowering these victims is crucial. Through Victim Offenders Dialogues, Mediation and Conferences, we facilitate safe and secure face-to-face meetings between family members, offenders and community members.

The South African Police Service representative, Warrant Officer Swanepoel

cautioned the children. "Anti-gangsterism dialogues where you identify yourself, not yourself, it is something you do wrong thing."

Your actions can get you into trouble. The Child Protection Act states that if you are younger than 12 years old, you cannot do anything. We may not know what our actions can get some children into, but it is a danger to society, and the consequences are severe. Parents had their fair share of anti-gangsterism interventions, group discussions, and other activities, including identifying a gang member and gangsterism, as well as addressing the root causes of gangsterism.

"Parents need to work with government entities. We need to be aware of the drastic change in behaviour, the language used, the tools, dress code and

Restorative Justice

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well as understand-
nd consequences of

ck hand in hand with
to curb this illness.
e of signs, such as a
haviour or mood, al-
and use of slang, tat-
l even the way they

walk," said Ms. Maria Afrikamer, speaking
on behalf of parents.

Ms. Nosindiso Mvenya from the Depart-
ment of Education, Pixley ka Kaseme,
highlighted the importance of school
safety and the interventions in place.

"We have fences and security as part of
school safety. There is no place for vio-
lence, drug use, sexual harassment and
other criminal acts in schools. Parents
must attend school meetings and be part
of governing structures like school gov-
erning bodies. Instilling discipline and en-
suring safety demands collective involve-
ment," she said.

Addressing the underlying issues, Ms. Lin-
da Makhathini, a Social Worker from the
Social Crime Prevention at the national
DSD, stated, "You will find that some
children have learning difficulties and
the situation at home may also involve
violence, such as gender-based violence.
This affects children's ability to process
their emotions, often resulting in violent
behavior and bullying other children."

During the community dialogue, young
people belonging to youth groups in De
Aar shared their insights:

Stephan, a 14-year-old, explained, "The sit-
uation at home sometimes contributes to
how one acts. If you see someone doing
something you do not like or that annoys
you, you will get aggressive and possibly
react negatively."

Luthando Simon, a 13-year-old added and
said, "Drugs are bad, but they also calm
these members down and make them do
things they would not ordinarily do."

The department offers interventions such
as Family Group Conferencing as a re-
storative justice process. Ms. Makhathini
explained, "This is a platform for young
people at risk of gangsterism to address
their differences that make them join
gangsterism with the presence of a pro-
bation officer and to explore reconcili-
ation and guide young people to make
better choices with support, communica-
tion and self-development."

A FOCUS ON SUBS

Commemoration of
**INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST
DRUG ABUSE
AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING**

**"People first: stop stigma and
discrimination, strengthen prevention"**

Building a Caring Society Together.



social development

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STANCE ABUSE



www.dsd.gov.za





Changing Minds Changing Lives



By Precious Mupenzi

The scourge of drug abuse in the country needs more than just law enforcement getting the substance off South Africa's streets, it also requires an approach that puts users at the centre of tackling the social ill.

This was the core message spread at the commemoration of International Day Against Drugs and Illicit Trafficking held on 26 June in Randfontein hosted by the Department of Social Development under the theme "People First: Stop Stigma and Discrimination, Strengthen Prevention."

Speaking at the event Social Development Deputy Minister Mme Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu highlighted the importance of changing the mindset of users by treating them in a different manner in a bid to encourage them to turn their lives around.

"We are here to be reminded that it is not okay to judge and label people who are battling addiction because we are all battling with some sort of addiction. Put people first with a focus on human rights in raising awareness about the importance of treating people who use and or inject harmful substances, with respect and empathy to prevent stigma and discrimination and promote recovery," said the Deputy Minister.

She also said that users needed to be supported in dealing with the root causes of their decisions to use drugs and abuse alcohol.

Present at the commemoration was the Central Drug Authority (CDA) which echoed the Deputy Minister's sentiments saying that citizens needed to promote language and attitudes that are non-judgemental.

"For instance, we need to stop calling users names such as ama - phara, junkies, nyaope boys or girls. Let us just call them by their names because everyone in our country has a constitutional right to a name or, we can refer to them as service users. This can assist them to change their harmful behaviour and yearn for a positive life outlook because "we see them as human beings," said Mayathula-Khoza.

She also went on to applaud law enforcement on the efforts it was making in ensuring that the vision to rid the country of drugs was realised.

"Recently, we heard on the news that they busted drugs worth R12 million and that is just from May this year more than 1 600 drug lords were arrested through Operation Shanyela. There is, however, still a need to deal with bad policemen who work

with drug lords," she said.

Mayathula-Khoza added that the country has good legislation, policies, and strategic plans such as the National Drug Master Plan with evidence-based programmes that are being implemented toward achieving a South Africa free of substance abuse.

The event was held at Nkanyisa Rehabilitation Centre simultaneously with a graduation ceremony for recovering users and the homeless.

The Department of Social Development Minister Lindiwe Zulu said according to the National Strategic Plan on Gender-Based Violence and Femicide 2020-2030, in comparison to its counterparts globally, South Africa has the highest levels of alcohol consumption and harmful drinking such as heavy episodic drinking which is a common occurrence.

"The problem of substance abuse cannot be taken lightly as it has a huge impact on the socio-economic development of the country. It is the same problem that contributes to an already overloaded health system, and a shortage of social workers who battle with multiple social ills in our communities daily."



“

I takes one cough mixture for an addict to relapse. The day we understand that will be the day we will be able to give them better support.

Ms Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu
Deputy Minister for the Department
of Social Development



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Communities must be assisted to access all levels of interventions, including prevention, early intervention, treatment, reintegration and aftercare services.

Ms Lindiwe Zulu, MP
Minister for the Department
of Social Development



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Leave No One Behind- Reach the Furthest Behind, First

By Precious Mupenzi

The year 2023 marks the midpoint of the work toward achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), however, the global drug phenomena continue to challenge, both the implementation of the SDG targets and efforts to promote peace, security and human rights. This was the message shared by Dr. Linda Naidoo, the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) National Project Officer.

She said this on behalf of the United Nations (UN) Country Team in South Africa during the commemoration of the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking event organised by the Department of Social Development on 26 June at Nkanyisa Recovery Centre in Randfontein, Gauteng.

Naidoo has warned delegates that the youth are the most vulnerable

to using drugs and are also more severely affected by substance use disorder. She also raised a concern that Southern Africa has the highest prevalence of persons who inject drugs among the population at 0.18% and the highest prevalence of the Human Immune Virus (HIV) among persons who inject drugs at 21.9%.

“According to the World Drug Report 2022, 70% of people in treatment are under the age of 35. She said the report further outlined that the prevalence of persons who inject drugs living with HIV, is of “particular concern”; with 41% of new HIV infections in the Eastern and Southern Africa occurring in South Africa; Kenya, Uganda, Zambia and Tanzania.

Held under the theme “Leave no one behind: Availability, Affordability and Access to Prevention and Treatment Services”, this year’s

commemoration focused on highlighting harmful effects of substance abuse in communities. This is aligned with the core principles of the 2030 Agenda for SDG -to ensure that we “leave no one behind” and to “reach the furthest behind, first”.

“People who use drugs are some of the first to be left behind in almost all circumstances. As UNODC, we call for a mobilisation of all sectors and industries such as health, justice, social development, education, media and entertainment for a whole society approach to facilitate the design and implementation of evidence-based prevention, treatment and rehabilitation services for people who use drugs and with drug use disorders. As UNODC, we stand ready to work with all of you. Let us stand together against the world drug problem, and put people first.” Dr. Naidoo concluded.



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The implementation of the NDMP, is not a sole responsibility of the Department of Social Development, but rather, a collaborative effort with other organs of state, including Civil Society Organisations and the rest of society.

Ms Lindiwe Zulu, MP
Minister for the Department
of Social Development



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Stopping Drug Trafficking One Boat at a Time

By Precious Mupenzi



Going on a tour to the Durban Port to learn about maritime drug trafficking, Precious Mupenzi, takes through her journey.

The Durban Harbour is South Africa's largest port and is currently being targeted by global drug cartels and vandals.

While available indicators suggest that South Africa is not a producer of drugs, the flow of drugs in its port of entries have been found. With 72 ports in the country, South Africa, Kenya, Somalia, Tanzania, and Mozambique are the main drug transit routes in Africa that are used by criminals to transport drugs from countries such as Afghanistan and Pakistan.

The mammoth task of nipping the world of drug trade in the bud begins at our ports where law enforcement has to make sure our ports are not porous.

A study tour of the Durban harbour put this daunting task into perspective, this had been on day five of the National Anti-Drug Awareness Week campaign on 23 June 2023. Department of Social Development Deputy Minister Bogopane-Zulu accompanied by a team of DSD social workers and Central Drug Authority members were privy to the workings of the South African Police Services at the country's biggest port.

Nestled in a tug boat going in between vessels carrying containers at the Port's berth, the DSD team got to hear and see first-hand how millions of containers as well as ships were searched for illicit drugs. Above the drugs being hidden inside containers, from the tour one learned that the vessels themselves were also used to stow away the substance.

While in the boat close to the docked vessels the role divers played in exposing drugs hidden away in parts of the ships that were under the surface was explained. Under the guidance of Acting Head Component: Border Policing, Brigadier Mhlanga, and Warrant Officer Sander it became clear that it was no easy feat to ensure that each container and vessel were drug-free.

"Approximately 4 million containers are received per year, covering countries within the South African Development Communities (SADC) region. There is a need to increase the workforce in order to meet the increased demand for border control in relation to policing and security. We currently have 4500 personnel, while the amount of work requires 12000 personnel," Mhlanga explained.

A peek into just one aspect of the process of searching containers and vessels saw the team witnessing the work of sniffer dogs with border policing at the Port. With precision and stealth in a simulation where a suspicious package was hidden away in a vehicle was retrieved by a sniffer dog.

The SAPS K9 member on his belly submerged under the car to come out with the planted suspicious package clutched between its jaws in a matter of seconds. The recent narcotic seizures at the port of Durban, one in a container depot in Isipingo where approximately 541kg of cocaine and the other where 581kg of cocaine were found just outside the Durban harbour exposed the vulnerability of the country's economic hub.

The fact that the Port of Durban is the biggest transhipper of cocaine in the world, a lucrative and growing business in the coun-

try, means that law enforcement had to always be on their toes.

And this is why discussions on personnel recruitment are afoot to bolster the lack of police resources to fight against the scourge of drugs in the maritime industry, said Mhlanga.

The visit was part of the build-up to the International Day against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking commemorated annually on 26 June to strengthen action and collaboration in achieving a world free of drug abuse.

"Venezuela which is one of the poorest countries in the world is the grower of cocaine and makes 13 dollars a day from harvesting 400 to 500 kg of coca leaves used to produce cocaine paste, which is then distributed and processed and sold at approximately 250 000 to 350 000 per kg in South Africa," Saunders shared with the team.

He said that the main types of drugs used in South Africa are Dagga, XTC, Heroin, 'Rock' Cocaine, Crystal Meth, and Cocaine. Understanding the multifaceted world of drug trade helped broaden the understanding of substance users that the DSD social workers have to engage with to aid turn their lives around.

The innovative ways that were used to get drugs into the country through our Ports undetected spelled that law enforcement also ups its game.

However, it is evident that current efforts were yielding fruit as seen when on 25 June cocaine worth a street value of R12,8 million was seized in an empty cargo container at the Ngqura Port in the Eastern Cape.



Community Dialogues Reveal Youth Perspectives on Substance Abuse

By Ziphelele Siguca

The Department of Social Development held an anti-substance abuse dialogue session in Mohlakeng, Johannesburg on 22 June to raise awareness of drug abuse as this has become a problem in the community.

During this session, community members were given an activity to list their likes and dislikes about their community. The purpose was to better understand their experience of the effects of substance abuse on individuals, families and community, also factors that contribute to substance abuse.

It is in this manner that the community members were able to express their views

openly to the point of admitting that as young people they have a role to play in changing the circumstances.

Mr. Thato Msenga, a community member voiced out saying some of the reasons why young people engage in such activities in many cases is because they have all the time in their hands doing nothing due to lack of job opportunities, others are drop-outs at school because they could not further their studies due to financial difficulties.

"I do not see the reason why I should completely stop smoking and drinking, because it gets boring sitting at home doing nothing as a man," said Msenga

They then started listing things that they would like the government to intervene with to change their behaviour such as:

- Implementing more rehabilitation facilities
- Agricultural programmes
- Give matriculates an exposure to the work environment
- More safe places for the homeless

In the meantime they promised to form a group of community patrollers as well as traffic controllers during school hours to ensure that school children are safe during peak hours. There is usually a lot of traffic during those times.



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It is the same problem which contribute to an already overloaded health system and shortage of Social Workers who battle with multiple social ills in our communities daily.

Ms Lindiwe Zulu, MP
Minister for the Department of Social Development



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Social Workers Learn About Types of Drugs

By Justice Malapane

After working for many years practising as therapists and implementing the policy on alcohol and other drugs, therapists of the department for the first time were exposed and taught about the different drugs available on the market.

The department is trying to equip its therapist with every knowledge to be able to assist families on how to identify drugs. The intention of the visit was to strengthen collaboration between departments to effectively fight the scourge of drugs in communities.

On the second day of the national drug awareness week - 20 June, the social workers visited the South African Police Service Forensic Science Laboratory in Pretoria. The forensic Science Laboratory is responsible for conducting drug research, analysis, testing and the destruction of drug samples after cases are concluded by the courts. It also assists countries within the Southern African Development Communities (SADC) region with research, analysis and testing of drugs as some of these countries do not have capacity to do this work.

Presenting about the work of the labora-

tory, Colonel Tshepo Shole said that the laboratory has a chemistry section that conducts different types of analysis, including, amongst others, drug analysis, poison investigation and liquor analysis.

Colonel Shole highlighted that the work of the laboratory is regulated by the South African Constitution and the Criminal Procedure Act 51/77, Drug Trafficking Act, 140/91 and Medicines and Related Substance Act 101/65. The laboratory follows the ISO 17025 Quality Management System to ensure that it complies with international standards.

Between the years 2003 and 2022, there has been a significant increase of drug analysis from 12 025 to 137 831. Colonel Shole said this showed that there was a serious challenge of drugs in the country.

Siza Magangoe, Chief Director: Substance Abuse and Social Crime Prevention stated that a partnership with the Science Laboratory and other partners will assist the department to make a meaningful impact during engagements with communities. She said sometimes drugs are in the house and parents are unable to identify them due to lack of

knowledge. It becomes a further challenge when social workers themselves cannot identify them.

Ms. Motshabi Nkwane, Social Work Policy Manager in the department highlighted that she learnt about all internal processes that are followed before a suspect is sentenced for drug related crimes. Ms. Magangoe said the department was looking forward to working with the laboratory in the fight against substance abuse. She further called upon South Africans to be careful not to discriminate against people and families who are affected by drugs.

"For example, calling our children nyaope boys is not assisting in the fight against drugs. We need to use better language too, especially when we refer to children," said Ms. Magangoe.

The national drug awareness week continued the following day and hosted the community dialogues in Toekomsrus, West Rand area. The dialogues, which also form part of youth month, did not only afford community members an opportunity to engage with the department about substance abuse, but also to strengthen relations between both the department and the people.



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I am calling upon all of us, not to drop the ball, but unite as we continue with the battle against drug abuse.

Ms Lindiwe Zulu, MP
Minister for the Department
of Social Development



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FROM HOPE TO ACHIEVEMENT The Celebration of Graduates

By Justice Malapane

The Gauteng Department of Social Development (GDSD) hosted a graduation ceremony on 16 June at the Nkanyisa Recovery Centre for 687 graduates who were part of a skills development programme run by the GDSD.

The ceremony had graduates coming from different parts of the provincial centres such as the homeless shelters, and treatment centres and

some were the unemployed youth. The criteria for graduates coming from treatment centres were for those who completed formal treatment for Substance Use Disorder (SUD). The recovering service users also came from different inpatient, outpatient, and community-based services and halfway houses.

The department funds per service user to ac-

cess treatment centres. Funding for inpatient treatment for the previous financial year was R15 473.00 per month per service user and will be increased to R 17 020 per service user per month for the 2023/24 financial year. 45 outpatient services and 63 community-based services are funded by the department. In total, 37 407 service users sought out SUD treatment services for the fiscal year 2022/23.

Here are the Gauteng fund treatment centres

Treatment Centres: 15	How many bed capacity:	Treatment period
Dr F&F Ribeiro Centre (TSHW) Government run facility	200	9 weeks 36 Day
Jamela Rehabilitation Centre (SED)	64	3 months
Freedom Recovery Centre (SED)	52	3 months
Nkanyisa Recovery Centre Randfontein (West Rand)	406	6 weeks
Ithemba Alcohol and Drug Rehabilitation Clinic (West Rand)	40	6 weeks
Westview Clinic (JHB)	40	6 weeks
Rand Aid Association Wedge Gardens (JHB)	25	6 weeks
SANCA Nishtara Recovery & Wellness Centre (JHB)	10	6 weeks
Empilweni treatment centre (JHB)	20	8 weeks
SANCA-Golden harvest (JHB)	70	6 weeks
SANCA – Castle Carey (TSHW)	40	6 weeks
Stabilis Treatment Centre (TSHW)	8	6 weeks
Nkanyisa Recovery Centre, Witpoort (EKH)	200	6 weeks
House of Mercy (EKH)	27	6 weeks
SANCA – Horizon (EKH)	56	6 weeks
15	1258	

The GDSD finances 169 non-profit organisations (NPOs) that focus on skill development and have the capacity to serve 100% of homeless and eligible recovering service users.

With the capacity to train and connect the users to employment prospects exists, the number of users leaving treatment facilities and those staying in homeless shelters can be accommodated in the numbers inside the skills development centres.

The graduate programme included qualifications such as Handy Man NQF Level 2, Basic Kitchen Appliances Repair NQF Level 2, Website Design NQF Level 4, Hospitality NQF Level 2, Office Skills NQF Level 3, and Project Management NQF Level 4 just to name a few.

The GDSD also aims to continue to assist these centres as it helps train and link opportunities for the young people exiting the treatment centres and homeless shelters. Thus, the government has established six more Centres of Excellence for skills development programmes and the programme that will be included in the centres will be, plumbing, welding, carpentry, bricklaying, and scooter driving the project.



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I would like to thank everyone who is involved in fighting the scourge of substance abuse in the country.

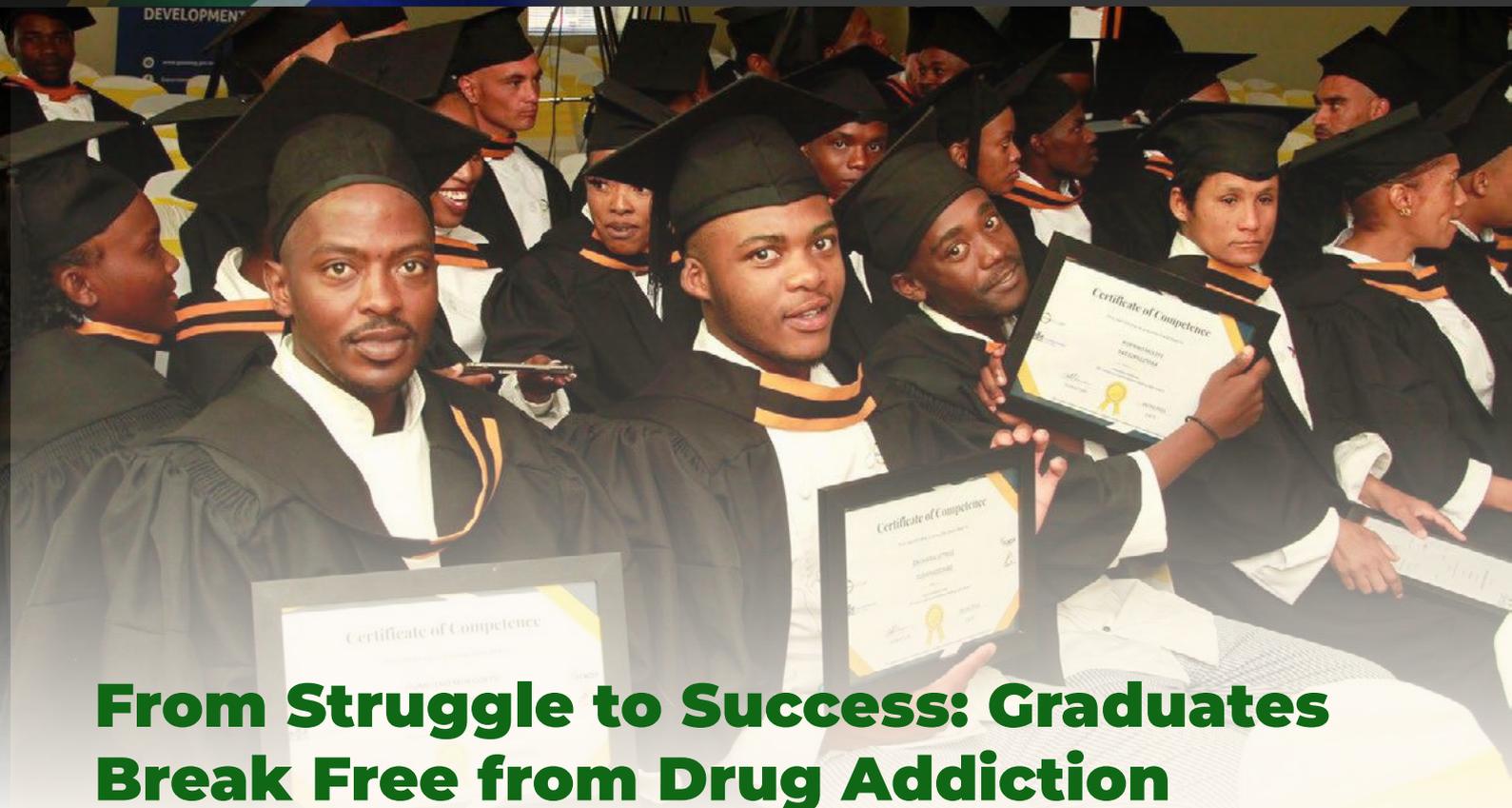
Ms Lindiwe Zulu, MP
Minister for the Department of Social Development



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From Struggle to Success: Graduates Break Free from Drug Addiction

By Precious Mupenzi

It has been one year since the Enyobeni Tavern tragedy in East London, where 21 young people lost their lives. More recently, school children had to be rushed to hospital in order to save their lives, after they vomited and collapsed because they had been sold a purple harmful substance called lean.

While the country and families are still waiting for the closure of these matters, the concerted efforts to intensify substance abuse programmes; create awareness and educate communities about the effects and impact of substance abuse and related challenges on individuals, families, and communities continues.

In line with this year's United Nations Theme: "People first:

stop Stigma and discrimination, strengthen prevention" and the South African Theme: "Leave no one behind: Availability, Affordability and Access to Prevention and Treatment services", the Department of Social Development (DSD) commemorated the International Day Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking (IDADAIT) at Nkanyisa Recovery Centre NPC Randfontein in Gauteng.

The commemoration demonstrated the integration between Anti-substance Abuse, Skills Development and Homeless programmes as 210 graduates from different Centres of Excellence (CoE) across Gauteng graduated and were awarded their certificates for completing the skills development programmes.

These graduates were service

users in recovery as well as homeless people from shelters. Speaking on the recruitment process of the service users in recovery, the Gauteng Department of Social Development's Acting Head of the Department, Mr. Onkemetse Kabasia, said the service users in recovery are recruited from halfway houses, and the homeless recruited from Homeless Shelters supported by the DSD every quarter.

He further highlighted that the skills development programme is implemented at CoE targeting rehabilitated youth, unemployed youth, welfare recipients and the homeless through offering these young men and women an opportunity to change their lives by training for specific skills, developing entrepreneurial skills, or receiving in-depth life skills.

DSD NEWS spoke to four graduates and a coordinator to share their experiences



Primrose Lwane

Primrose Lwane is a Project Coordinator at Bambisandla Sam Primrose says as the centre they are proud of the group that is graduating. "We are pleased to say that some of the graduates have registered their co-ops with the assistance of department of social development and the centre. Some have secured work placements. As a centre, we have given the co-op groups the starter packs which include laptops and other baking and cooking equipments. However, she added that some of the challenges faced by the centre include the relapse on the process, due to the long waiting period between rehab and skills training. Withdrawals and dropout are also part of the challenges as some of the learners do not sleep at the centre.



Seeng Setlaba

Seeng Setlaba (22) also from Caltonville said she is very excited about obtaining her certificate in Assistant Chef. She was part of the group from Bambisandla Sami Centre for Excellence which has opened doors for her, as she is expecting to sign a contract with a local retail shop where she was doing her experiential training. Setlaba completed her matric in 2020. She was hopeful that after completing her matric she would be able to find a job, but things turned out differently. The pressure from her parents to find a job and being reminded to be independent always got to her. Stress mounted and that is when she opted for alcohol abuse as a coping mechanism and subsequently attracted bad friends into her life. "Parents should not put pressure on their unemployed children, but rather support and motivate them. Being unemployed is not a choice, we all want to work - but there are no jobs. Setlaba shared a message of encouragement to all young girls who are trapped in the scourge of substance abuse to seek help and join support groups in their areas.



Tshidiso Tshose

Tshidiso Tshose (26) from Khutsong, Caltonville. Tshose received his NQF level 2 certificate in Chef Assistant. Sharing his experience, he said the qualification has redefined his purpose in life. "Getting out of drugs is a struggle, but it is possible. Drugs are easily accessible on our streets, but if you find your purpose in life - everything works in your favour. He stated that he used to steal from neighbours, and most often the neighbours would come to his mother's house to look for him. He was always on the run and always thinking of new methods of stealing to afford his drug addiction. "I have peace in my heart. I do not have to worry about the police or neighbours anymore, I am only worried about my future now. He said his dream is to find a job and live a normal life - drug-free.



Warren Bobby

Warren Bobby (32) from Wembley Shelter graduated with General Security from Believers Care Society and Ikusasaletu Centre for Excellence.

Bobby who is a former drug addict came to Wimbely Shelter in 2022, and later moved to a rehab for treatment. "Hope is what kept me going," says Warren.



Relebogile Mokgohlane

Relebogile Mokgohlane (22) says peer pressure at school influenced her to use drugs.

"It all started when I was writing my matric examinations in 2020. I started with alcohol then later moved to drugs (crystal meth). Mokgohlane was one of the graduates from Bambisandla Sami Centre for Excellence who obtain her certificate in Assistant Chef during the ceremony. She says young girls at school are peer pressured into doing substance abuse and this often lead to negative consequences. She further stated that children at schools have normalised using illegal substances to cope with matric anxiety, and those that are not using it are looked down upon. "My advice to young girls is that do not let problems stand in your way. Always remind yourself about your future"



Residents of Toekomsrus Im ASSIST Web App Tool

By Justice Malapane

The Department of Social Development conducted a community dialogue with the residents of Toekomsrus, in West Rand on 21 June as part of the Drug Awareness Week. Ms. Faith Namathe, Social Work Social Policy Manager of the department, had the opportunity to use the Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test web known as the ASSIST web app tool to conduct on-site assessments with residents in attendance of the community dialogues.

ASSIST web app tool is a comprehensive risk assessment tool

that provides a self-screening opportunity to conduct an assessment on whether a person is at low, moderate, or high risk of substance consumption. The tool goes further to provide a level of substance assessment and provides information as well as feedback about the risks and harm associated with each substance then makes a recommendation on the best practice intervention in line with the risk level calculated.

Launched by the department in collaboration with the University of Cape Town, this app tool can be downloaded and accessed on a smartphone.

One of the residents from Toekomsrus, Sibusiso Tshabalala (29), mentioned that the ASSIST tool is useful, as it assists people, especially, young persons to focus on their development instead of using alcohol and drugs as a temporary solution. "I think the ASSIST tool is useful and even the questions are more relevant and easier to answer," said Sibusiso.

Another resident, Dirk Van Wyk (54), indicated that after participating in the tool although he has not taken alcohol or drugs in his entire life, the ASSIST tool is a path in the right direction. It will not only assist them in Toekom

impressed by the

srus but assists all South Africans who are willing to live their lives without alcohol and drugs.

A 26-year-old, pregnant woman, who requested to remain anonymous, also appreciated the ASSIST tool and said that it was simple and fast to detect if she needs post-assessment intervention.

"I am eight months pregnant and have never drunk alcohol or smoked any drug since the beginning of my pregnancy. After answering all questions from the ASSIST tool, I am glad to know that I will give birth to a healthy child. The Social Worker

also encouraged me to protect my baby from Foetal Alcohol Syndrome Disorder (FASD) by not drinking alcohol for the duration of my pregnancy and during breastfeeding," she said.

Social Work Policy Manager, Ms. Motshabi Nkoane, from the Department of Social Development, urged community members to stop discriminating against drug users by calling them names such as drunkards, druggies and nyaopes.

Deliberating with Social Workers through dialogue, the residents, pleaded with the department to introduce radical interventions

to fight substance abuse issues. This engagement is informed by the National Drug Master Plan 2019 – 2024, which guides the department to work in collaboration with various stakeholders including, community members, civil society organisations and Non-Profit Organisations to reduce the demand for and supply of drugs in the country.

It is in this context that the department is reaching out to communities during Drug Awareness Week and beyond to reduce and prevent the prevalence of substance abuse in the country.

Siyalulama Outreach Programme

Siyalulama Outreach Programme

Siyalulama is an outreach programme targeting people living in hot spot areas, be it people working and living on the streets, disadvantaged communities, or schools that are affected by substance abuse. Siyalulama is derived from a Xhosa word, meaning "We are getting better" or in simple terms, "reclaiming our lives."

The concept "Siyalulama" was informed by the increased number of identified hotspot areas that are addicted to substance abuse.

The purpose of this programme is to provide services to people who are affected by substance use disorders and who cannot take initiative in reaching out for such services.

Affected communities, schools and the public can participate in the Siyalulama Outreach Programme by using the ASSIST tool.

ASSIST Tool

The Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test (ASSIST) makes use of risk categories determined by screening scores to help determine the ideal intervention strategy.

This tool was developed by WHO as a paper-based tool which requires that providers who will administer the tool receive appropriate training and supervision to correctly calculate the risk score based on responses from the patient/client and to then provide the appropriate level of intervention, Why the ASSIST?

- ASSIST assesses recent substance use over the past 3 months and also assesses for lifetime use risks.
- Contains a comprehensive list of substances including for tobacco and alcohol.
- Provides a level of risk for each substance.
- The second part of the intervention is the Brief Intervention (BI) and provides direction for language and content to be used in brief intervention.
- Provides information and feedback about the risks and harms associated for each substance. Includes physical, medical, and psychological risks of regular substance use.
- High risk screening scores will lead to further assessment and a referral to specialized treatment. Usually a small proportion (5%) of the using population will be at high risk. The rest of the individu-

WebApp ASSIST



video





Commemoration of
**INTERNATIONAL DAY AGAINST
DRUG ABUSE
AND ILLICIT TRAFFICKING**

*“People first: stop stigma and
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ESTABLISHMENT OF PUBLIC TREATMENT CENTRES IN ALL PROVINCES



To address the problem of substance abuse, the Department of Social Development has ensured that every province has a public treatment facility so that everyone, including disadvantaged persons can access

treatment at no cost.

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DRUG TRAFFICKING THROUGH MARITIME ROUTES



A new United Nations report on the drug confirms that since the Covid-19 pandemic, smugglers targeting South Africa are increasingly using maritime routes.

Narco-traffickers prefer using maritime routes to pump cocaine into South Africa, meaning they are targeting the country's harbours.

Durban, one of the busiest ports in Africa, has recently been linked to a spate of large cocaine seizures.





2023 THEME

PEOPLE FIRST: STOP STIGMA AND DISCRIMINATION, STRENGTHEN PREVENTION.

THE AIM OF THE THEME

IS TO RAISE AWARENESS ABOUT THE IMPORTANCE OF:



TREATING PEOPLE WHO USE DRUGS WITH RESPECT AND EMPATHY



OFFERING ALTERNATIVES TO PUNISHMENT,



EVIDENCE-BASED SERVICE



PRIORITIZING PREVENTION



LEADING WITH COMPASSION



VOLUNTARY SERVICES FOR ALL

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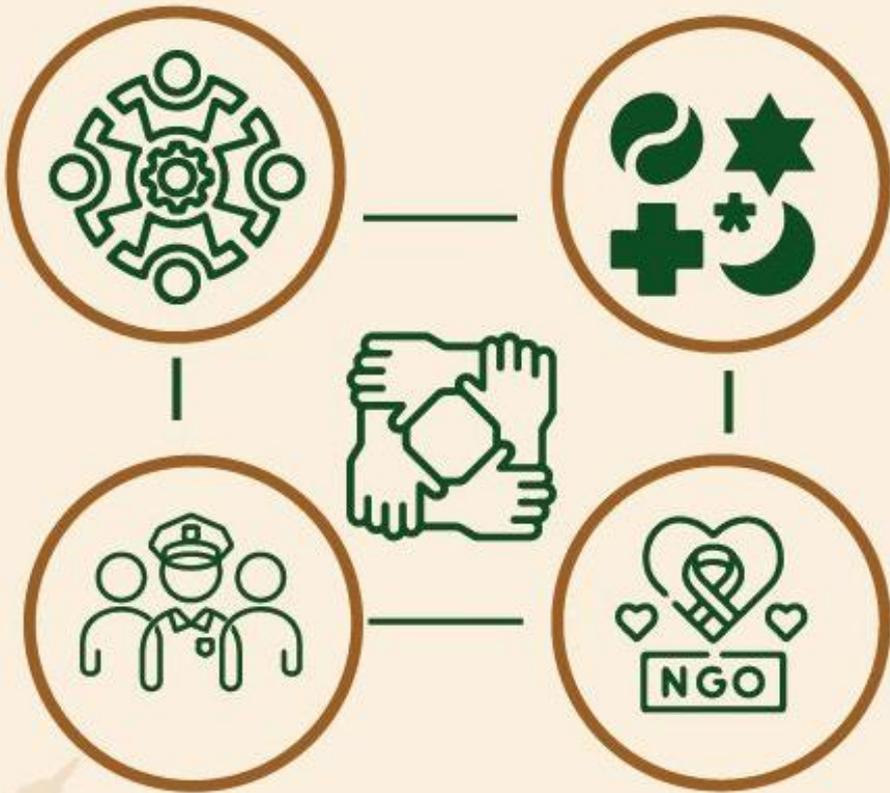
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COLLABORATION FROM RELEVANT STAKEHOLDERS



It is for this reason that we need collaboration from relevant stakeholders including community structures, Faith Based Organisations, NGOs and Community Policing Forum etc.





DRUG ABUSE IS A COMPLEX PROBLEM



Drug abuse is a complex problem at the intersection of public health, safety and social issues.

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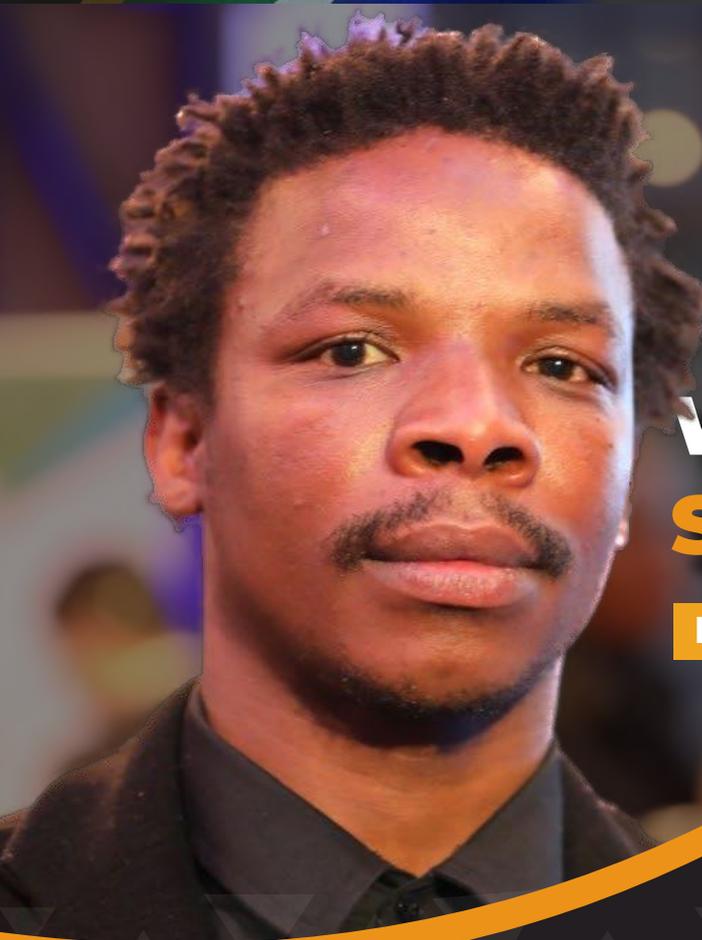
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What About our Struggles?

By Ziphelele Siguca

Mayibuye Melisizwe Mandela (29) is a South African Socio-Economic Analyst in the political field and media commentator. He was born and raised in Qunu, Eastern Cape, then later moved to Cape Town in 2003 and lived with his grandmother until 2011. He went to Cape College of Magic and studied Theatre Production, resulting in him graduating with a National Diploma in 2017.

He is involved in analysing and providing insights on social and economic issues in South Africa, particularly within a political context. As a media commentator, he often shares his perspectives and opinions on current affairs and political developments through various media channels and has been vocal about his support for the movement toward transformation.

Melisizwe is currently working for a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) called African Innovation Solution, as an Operations Intern. The African Innovation Solution provides a platform to highlight Africa's technology innovators, helping them reach investors, like-minded

innovators and a network of potential business.

During the debate, after the Budget Vote Speech, given by the Minister of Social Development, Ms. Lindiwe Zulu, in Parliament on 06 June, Mayibuye was among the speakers that had an opportunity to express his views as a young person about bringing like-minded companies and NGOs, to determine how the department can empower their services.

"I firmly believe that the government of the Republic of South Africa has misconstrued the challenges faced by the country's young population. The current approach of providing a grant of R350 to the unemployed citizens does not effectively address our underlying problems," said Mayibuye.

Addressing the unemployment issue, he said that the government should rather analyse the factors contributing to youth unemployment, such as limited access to quality education, lack of skills training and insufficient job opportunities.

He also recognised the importance of targeted solutions and acknowledged

that a holistic approach is necessary to address the multidimensional nature of youth unemployment which also include; Establishing initiatives such as public works programmes, learner-ships and internships to facilitate the transition from unemployment to stable employment; regular monitoring and evaluation; conducting periodic evaluations to identify areas of improvement and gather feedback from programme participants and stakeholders; being flexible and adaptable to ensure that the programme remains responsive to the changing needs of the unemployed youth and the evolving economic landscape.

In addressing all challenges faced by unemployed youth in South Africa. A proactive and collaborative approach is required, with a focus on partnerships between the Department of Social Development, the unemployed citizens and other relevant stakeholders. "By implementing this comprehensive strategy, we can empower young people, foster economic growth and create a brighter future for the Republic of South Africa," Melisizwe said.



Art

is Also a Career

By Ziphelele Siguca

M eet Maxwell Nkala [49] from Gugulethu township. He is a Marimba teacher at Salesian Institution Youth Project - School for special skills in Green Point, Cape Town.

He joined the institution in January but he has more than 20 years of experience teaching Marimba in different schools.

On 06 June, the Minister of Social Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu, together with Turkish Ambassador, Aysegul Kandas, Turkish Konsul General Sinan Yesildag, Mr. Abdulkar Abukan TIKa and other governmental stakeholder's entities - South African Social Security Agency and the National Development Agency paid a visit to the institution for the unveiling of the Electrical Workshop sponsored by the Turkish Cooperation and Coordination Agency.

During the ceremony, learners were allowed to perform and express their gratitude to the deligation through the Marimba drum performance. The school offers a four-year programme providing skills for youth from the age of 14- 24 years from socially disadvantaged backgrounds.

Through Nkala's coaching skills, this year; girls from Salesian Institute entered for the Eisteddfod Marimba competition in Wynberg Girls High. It was their first time competing with well-trained bands and they obtained a score of 70 percent. "As their leader, I was very impressed be-

cause I knew this was their first trial. We would rehearse for at least three hours, four days a week to perfect their skill and build self-confidence," said Nkala.

The group's second performance took place at the school premises on June 16 in commemoration of the day.

"Not all of us can be engineers, music and art can also be a career for some people and a source of income for others," Nkala added.

He went further by saying; "One of the reasons for training these young people is to encourage them not to rely on the government's SASSA grant or on anyone to give them a job. But rather use their skills and talents to open doors, as we all know one of the challenges that are faced by youth in South Africa is the high rate of unemployment," said Nkala.

"This should not just be a local show-off skill, but rather a training to exchange their skills to other countries, like Turkey and to build strong relationships and consider this talent as a possible career that may put food on the table one day," he concluded.



"Not all of us can be engineers, music and art can also be a career for some people and a source of income for others," Nkala added.



NDA
National
Development
Agency

Honeybush Tea Cooperative Gains Momentum with NDA Support

By Lesego Ranchu



The Western Cape Honeybush Tea Cooperative (WCHTC) in Oudtshoorn, will now be able to produce 2000 honeybush tea bags per hour due to the grant funding of R202 962, 35 from the National Development Agency (NDA), which has enabled them to purchase a tea bag packaging machine.

grow the Cooperative by providing the tea bagging services to other tea-makers who do not have the machine", says Mr. Raoul du Toit, Director at WCHTC. The tea bag machine measures and seals precise quantities of the tea cuts to size and produces a completed tea bag.

capacity building, grant funding and market linkages. The purchase of this machine will unlock the potential of WCHTC to move it to the next point of the business where they can now, instead of outsourcing, bag and package their honeybush tea," said Mr. Ardiel Soeker, NDA's Western Cape Provincial Manager.

Honeybush tea is a herbal tea indigenous to South Africa and grown in the mountains, mostly along the Western and Eastern Cape coastal regions. WCHTC grows its tea along the Swartberg mountain range - the honeybush tea is harvested, processed and later bagged and packaged. Honeybush tea has several health benefits including acting as an antioxidant and is said to be effective for weight loss.

"This will not only birth a proudly South African product but will also create jobs and lend itself to replication and a viable actor in the economy. The tea bag packing machine will serve as a catalyst to selling the product on the local and international market," he continued.

The Cooperative was registered by six members in 2016 as a vehicle to produce tea and address the high unemployment rate within the small community of Oudtshoorn. The WCHTC belongs to the Honeybush Tea Association and hopes to export the honeybush to other countries once firmly established within the local markets, including retail stores, places of accommodation, restaurants and also the Garden Route.

The honeybush tea industry in South Africa is an important economic growth sector and has been earmarked by the government for the industrialisation of indigenous medicinal and aromatic plants. This will create employment opportunities in previously disadvantaged communities by harnessing their indigenous knowledge systems to create economic value.

"The NDA is a poverty eradication entity of government that seeks to empower civil society organisations through formalisation,

WCHTC participates in local, regional and international exhibitions to market the honeybush tea, including Klein Karoo Nasionale Kunstefees and recently, they appeared at the Saitex Event at Gallagher Estate in Midrand, Gauteng.

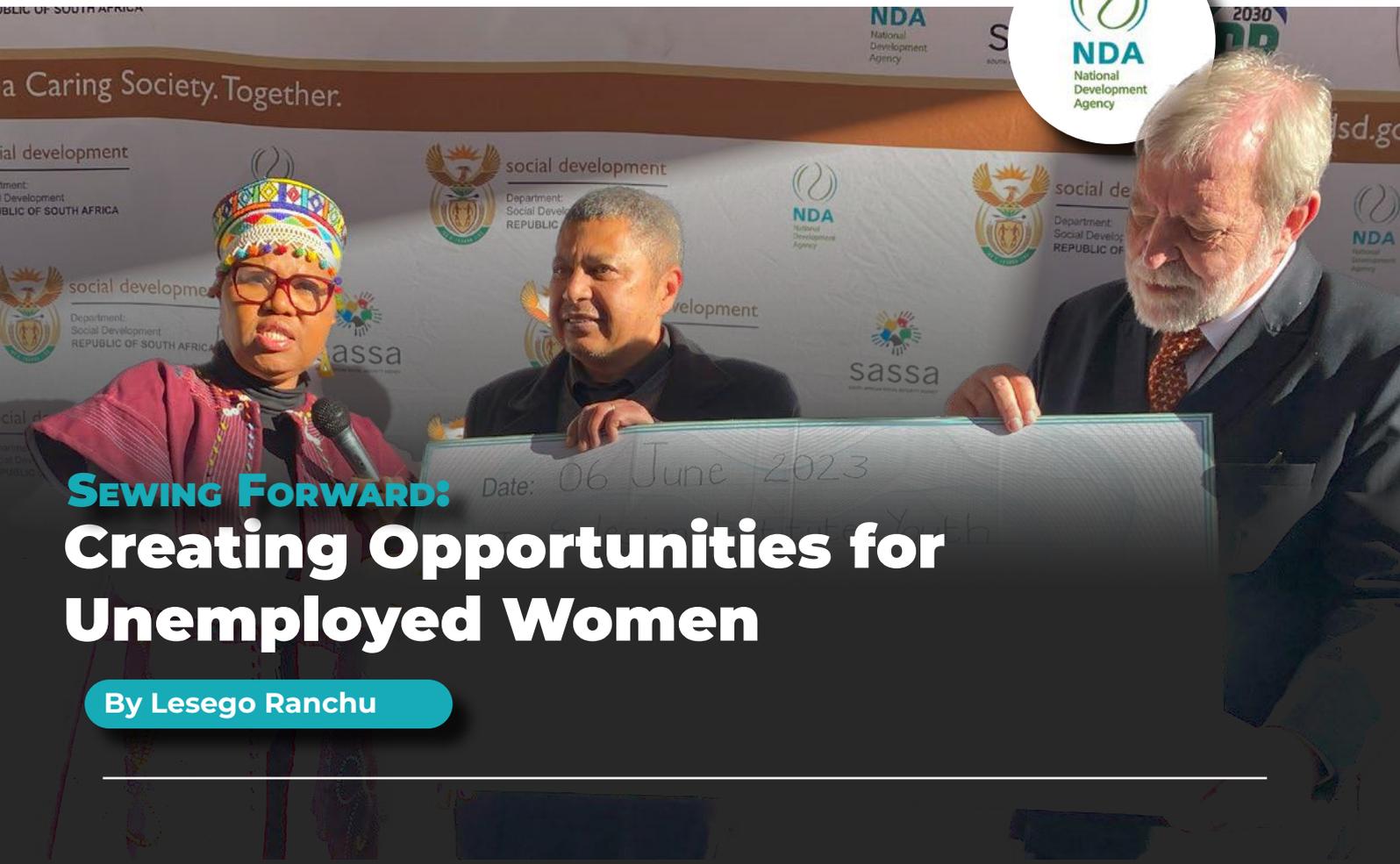


The NDA is a poverty eradication entity of government that seeks to empower civil society organisations through formalisation, capacity building, grant funding and market linkages.



"This is a big breakthrough for the cooperative. Up to this point, we were only able to process the honeybush tea and package it in sealable small plastic bags. Now we will be able to bag 2mg per tea bag which we will package in boxes containing 40 tea bags for a retail price of R59,00.

This will enable us to create more jobs and



SEWING FORWARD: Creating Opportunities for Unemployed Women

By Lesego Ranchu

Ahead of tabling the Department of Social Development's portfolio Budget Vote in the National Council of Provinces, Minister Lindiwe Zulu, together with the Ambassador of the Republic of Turkey, visited the Salesian Institute Youth Projects (SIYP) in Green Point, Cape Town – a National Development Agency funded civil society organisation.

SIYP is part of the Salesians of Don Bosco, a Catholic religious congregation that has been working for education and training youth from their premises since 1910. The SIYP offers a total of four very different and innovative programmes which cater to different ages, capacities and industry sectors. All programmes are designed to empower, educate and uplift, with employability as the goal and offer a component of psychosocial support and referral where necessary.

One of the four programmes of SIYP is the Waves of Change Programme. This programme aims to increase employment among at-risk youth, aged 18-35.

The National Development Agency (NDA) approved funding for SIYP to the value of R 392 106, 95 for implementing the Sewing Forward project – a project that will benefit 15 unemployed women.

Sewing Forward is a comprehensive course, not only covering the Sector Education and Training Authority requirements but also offering far more in terms of working with exclusive patterns to create products for resale. The women moved from hand sewing to machine sewing.

The course is supplemented by understanding and managing budgets; costing a garment; creating an invoice; managing a bank account; understanding how to create a brand; creating their logo on free digital platforms and learning how to use the logo to create business cards, letterheads and even brand a website, Instagram and Facebook. The idea is to maximise the opportunities offered by free digital platforms where possible.

"I acknowledge that the NDA has a small budget to support projects such as these across the country. I

have urged the NDA to go ahead and show their capacity and capability in strengthening civil society organisations - when this is done, as we are seeing today, more resources will be available. We have always reported what the NDA budget does toward poverty eradication, today, we are showing what the taxpayer's money that goes to the NDA does.

Women's lives and livelihoods will be improved through this programme led by Salesian, who is an accountable organisation with a history of clean governance. I therefore, issue this cheque with full confidence that these funds will enrich the lives of the beneficiaries of the programme," says Minister Lindiwe Zulu.

Once each student has designed a brand for his or her own business, SIYP will facilitate the registration of the businesses, so that each graduate can apply for further funding to support their small businesses. All students who successfully graduate will exit the programme with a sewing business start-up kit which includes fabric, haberdashery, a sewing machine and tools.



No Mainstream Education? Not the End of their Future



By Ziphelele Siguca

Siviwe School of Skills, based in the township of Gugulethu, Cape Town, is a special school for learners who are not able to cope with the mainstream curriculum. Established in 2007, the school is known for teaching the best skills in the previously disadvantaged community.

On 7 May the school was visited by the Minister of Social Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu; Turkish Ambassador - Aysegul Kandas, together with stakeholders and entities.

Even though these learners were identified as slow in reading and writing, this was

an exciting day for them in showcasing their best skills in bricklaying, hospitality, hair-dressing, sewing and computer skills.

Phumlani Mggobhoka, a brick-laying teacher, who joined the school in 2014, expressed how it has been like working with the youth, "We appreciate the opportunity that we have and the department to entrust us to train and equip our young leaders with the best skills."

He also mentioned that they utilise the best and essential tools in how to lay bricks during their workshops as well as health and safety skills.

The learners are taught the basics on different types of walls, such as; white brick walls, half brick walls, english walls and block work.

"We are teaching them skills so that they can be employable in any construction company, and be able to open their own businesses as well," said Mggobhoka.

He went further to say that the school is now overpopulated because of it being in demand, with learners coming from different townships. However, the school is appreciates the assistance they get from sponsors and the different governmental departments.



IMST Forum Fosters Collaboration and Innovation in Information Technology

By Priscilla Monama

"Digital tools not only make it easier to extract, report, and verify information but also enable accountability among government systems"

The Information Management Systems and Technology (IMST) Forum commenced on Wednesday, 21 June in Gqeberha, Eastern Cape. The forum creates a platform for IMST representatives from across the country to explore the latest advancements in information technology. The quarterly event aims to strengthen relations between the national department, provinces and agencies, fostering collaboration and establishing norms and standards in the Information Communication Technology (ICT) sector.

Mr. Mzimkulu Machedema, Head of the Department of Social Development (DSD) in the Eastern Cape, welcomed the IMST team to Gqeberha, emphasising the importance of the forum in enhancing, understanding and implementing the ICT strategy. He stated that the forum provides the platform to reinforce one another, share information and work effectively.

Ms. Mapaseka Nkhethoa: Acting Chief Information Officer of the DSD, highlighted the significance of digital tools in promoting accountability and efficient government systems. "Digital tools not only make it easier to extract, report, and verify information but

also enable accountability among government systems," she emphasised.

During the event, Ms. Desiree Jason: Director for Policy and Programme Evaluation, presented findings on the IMST Strategy Assessment. The assessment reviewed the relevance of the IMST strategy to the DSD sector's needs and its successful implementation. Ms. Jason emphasised the importance of long-term commitment, prioritisation and multi-stakeholder collaboration in shaping a shared responsibility and collective endeavour.

The IMST Forum goes beyond exploring new advancements, it also reviews the National Digital Strategy and conducts site visits to gain a deeper understanding of the departmental and provincial challenges. Mr. Nicholas Munyai: Board of Implementation Chair of the Integrated Justice System (IJS), provided valuable insights into the Criminal Justice System and the digital landscape.

Mr. Unathi Ngumla: Programme Manager for the IJS, provided an update on the IJS project within the DSD environment. They highlighted the National Integrated Social Information System (NISIS), which utilises biometrics

to track recipients of government services, providing accurate and comprehensive information about households living in poverty. Mr. Ngumla stated, "NISIS can tell us through the use of biometrics to track recipients of government service across the social and criminal justice cluster."

Mr. Munyai emphasised the collaboration between departments, particularly in addressing critical services for vulnerable groups. He stated, "DSD is the only member that is not part of the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security Cluster (JCPS), however, a critical partner in dealing with gender-based violence and femicide, child justice and many other critical services for vulnerable groups." He also stated the modernisation and integration of the criminal justice system as outlined in the National Crime Prevention Strategy.

The IMST Forum continued its discussions on imperative ICT issues, including the Digital Strategy, DPSA-DSD Sector ICT landscape, Information Security Directive and ICT Service Continuity. The forum provides a valuable opportunity for IMST professionals, researchers and partners to share best practices, exchange knowledge and drive innovation in the information technology sector.



SASSA's Role in the IMST Forum Shapes the Future of Social Development

By Priscilla Monama



Following the Information Management Systems and Technology (IMST) Forum that was held on the 21st of June in Gqeberha, Eastern Cape where the forum had an opportunity to explore the various advancements in information technology. Priscilla Monama had an opportunity to interview the General Manager of Information Management at the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) Mr. Caesar Vundle.

What is the role of SASSA at the Information Management Systems and Technology Forum?

SASSA is one of the agencies of the Department of Social Development, and our primary responsibility is to oversee the distribution of social grants. At IMST Forum, our role is to ensure alignment between SASSA activities, the mandate and objectives of the department. We recognise that as an organisation that SASSA holds valuable information for more than 50% of the population. Therefore, it is crucial for us to find ways to optimise the use of this data by the DSD portfolio to facilitate informed decision-making for both the portfolio and the country as a whole.

What were some of the key pain points that you were able to iron out through the IMST forum?

The IMST forum provided a platform for addressing various pain points within the DSD portfolio. Several presentations that were made proved to be instrumental in addressing these challenges. Some of the key presentations included the evaluation of the IMST strategy, the digitisation strategy, and the governance of Information Communication Technology presented by the Department of Public Service and Administration (DPSA). These presentations laid a solid foundation for collaborative efforts between the DSD and its entities. We anticipate that in the coming years, we will witness the positive outcomes of this collaboration, guided by the directives shared with us by the DPSA.

What are your hopes for the future of IMST and the sector?

Our collective participation in the IMST structure is of utmost importance. It is crucial for the DSD, along with representatives from the provinces, SASSA, and the National Development Agency, to actively engage in this collaboration. By doing so, we ensure that no one is left behind in this journey. Through continued collaboration and information sharing, we can overcome the challenges faced by the sector and work toward a future where IMST plays a pivotal role in empowering the DSD portfolio and ultimately benefiting the people we serve.



UNLOCKING THE POTENTIAL OF ICT: Insights from the IMST Forum

By Priscilla Monama

Michael Machubeng
Director: Information and Knowledge Management

The Director of Information and Knowledge Management, Mr. Michael Machubeng, was among the delegates who attended the Information Management Systems and Technology (IMST) Forum on June 21 in Gqeberha. Priscilla Monama sat with Mr. Machubeng to reflect on the outcomes of the Forum.

How did the IMST Forum in Gqeberha contribute to the advancement of Information Management Systems and Technology?

The IMST Forum held in Gqeberha was a remarkable event that brought together experts and stakeholders in the field of Information Management Systems and Technology (IMST). During the forum, the Department of Public Enterprise South Africa (DPSA) shared valuable insights on governance issues related to ICT and participants had the opportunity to deliberate on various projects and supporting programmes within the ICT space. Additionally, representatives from the business sector were present, providing valuable perspectives that will shape and guide future system development.

Why is collective oversight crucial for addressing ICT issues effectively?

Collective oversight plays a vital role in ensuring governance and accountability in ICT matters. By coming together as a collective, we can verify and ensure that our

actions are aligned with proper protocols and standards. Given the significant investments made by the government in Information Management Systems and Technology, oversight becomes crucial to ensure that resources are utilised optimally and that the desired outcomes are achieved.

How will the Digital and Cloud strategies presented by the DPSA benefit the Department of Social Development (DSD)?

The presentations on Digital and Cloud strategies by the DPSA were highly valuable for the Department of Social Development (DSD). The emphasis on corporate governance, particularly regarding ICT expenditure in the public service, highlighted the need for a return on investment. The DSD, along with its entities SASSA and NDA, recognizes the importance of digital strategies for realising investments in ICT. By prioritising digitization, significant cost savings can be achieved, as shared by the DPSA. Furthermore, the focus on corporate governance ensures that innovative systems and investments comply with established governance structures, allowing for proper accountabil-

ity and alignment with the guidelines provided by the DPSA.

What can we expect in terms of Information and Knowledge Management in the future?

Looking ahead, one of the significant areas of focus in Information and Knowledge Management is data classification, particularly in the DSD sector. With the provision in section 72 of POPIA (Protection of Personal Information Act) allowing for transborder information and the DPSA's guidelines on cloud computing strategies that enable data to be stored outside South Africa, there is a need to intensify efforts in data classification.

It becomes essential to classify data appropriately, ensuring compliance with the criteria for data transfer. Sensitive data, however, should remain within the country. Strengthening partnerships with the DPSA and state security agencies, who are custodians of minimum information security, will assist in complying with the guidelines and provisions set forth by the DPSA.



Newly Inducted Panel of Arbitrators Set to Adjudicate NPOs Timeously

By Justice Malapane

Non-Profit Organisations (NPOs) that are deregistered or refused registration by the Department of Social Development (DSD) now have recourse. The Minister of Social Development, Ms. Lindiwe Zulu, has now appointed a panel of arbitrators for NPOs to fast-track the process of adjudication of cases submitted to the department by the NPOs. The panel was inducted on 29 June 2023.

The newly appointed panel of NPOs arbitrators are:

Advocate Motlatjo Josephine Ralefatane, will serve as the Chairperson of the Panel of Arbitrators while Mr. Mzolisi Michael Toni is to be the Deputy Chairperson of the panel. Other panel members are: Adv. Letsepe Thubakgale; Mr. Alewyn Dippenaar; Chief Livhuwani Matsila; Dr Malega Constance Kganakga; Dr Bongani Ngcobo; and Mr. Moses Themba Makhweyane.

Expressing his view on his new role, the Deputy Chairperson of new panel of Non-Profit Organisations arbitrators, Mr Mzolisi Michael Toni, indicated that: "What is expected of us as a panel is that we assist the NPO sector

to normalise its working relations with the Department of Social Development. We acknowledge that the department invests a lot of money in the NPO sector, with the primary objective of enhancing the lives of South Africans.

Mr. Toni also stated that the panel has a responsibility to help with the improvement of NPOs to comply and assist those who are struggling to do the same. He said this while urging NPOs to avoid being used by criminals for money laundering purposes.

Deputy Director General: Community Development in the Department, Mr Peter Netshipale, said that NPOs in the country are playing an important part of community enhancement by changing the living conditions of ordinary people. "Your role as panel of arbitrators is very important considering that you will not only be supporting the NPOs but also helping with serving the poor and vulnerable people of South Africa," said Mr Netshipale.

Given the important role that NPOs play, especially, in the social sector, the department continues to encourage and educate all registered NPOs about the importance of being

compliant and in good standing as required by the NPO Act.

In February this year, South Africa was grey listed by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), which recommended a comprehensive and consistent framework of measures which the country should implement to combat money laundering and terrorist financing.

NPOs are seen to be vulnerable to abuse for the financing of terrorism in several ways and recommendation 8 of the FATF, sets out such as by being a conduit for funds, by obscuring diversion of funds and by being a front for terror organisations. This recommendation also calls for a broad framework for regulation of the non-profit sector to prevent abuse by terrorists.

Despite the department's efforts to encourage NPOs to comply, by the end of March last year, 256 212 NPOs were registered on the database, and out of this number, 148 423 were non-compliant, and only 82 559 were compliant. The Minister of Social Development has since lifted the moratorium on the deregistration and the Department will announce a date for commencement.

The Panel of Arbitrators are:

By Nomfundo Xulu-Lentsoane



I have been an arbitrator for various bargaining councils for more than 20 years. Being a member of the Black Lawyers' Association (BLA) as part of the Gender Committee was encouraging. This motivated me to continue being a Human Rights Activist and a co-founder of an organisation called Gender Crime Investigative Aid (GENCRIA).

Adv. Motlatjo Josephine Ralefatsane
Chairperson



I am registered Constituent Assessor and Moderator for the Local Government and a Public Service Sector Education and Training Authority. I am a mentor for Women in Water Business - a programme of the Department of Water and Sanitation. I am currently a member of a committee of the Cape Peninsula University of Technology (CPUT) Governance and Ethics Committee. I am a member of the Municipal Evaluation Appeal Board for a Mpumalanga Municipality as established in terms of section 56 of the Municipal Property Rates Act of 2004.

Mr. Moses Themba Makhweyane



I am an attorney and service provider to parastatals and government departments. I come with extensive experience in labour, property, local government and commercial law. I am member of the Natal Law Society and served on the Transnet panel of housing. Part of my experience includes providing legal opinion to Umgeni Water. Currently, I serve on the panel of Ithala - which is an influential financial service provider in Kwa-Zulu Natal.

Dr Bongani Ngcobo



I have worked with NPOs including the Nelson Mandela Foundation as Chief Director for the Department of Social Development. There, I was part of the team of progressing the Policy Framework and Action Plan for Orphans and children affected by HIV/AIDS. It is in this function that support for implementation of programs was done in collaboration with members of National Association of Children Affected by HIV/AIDS (NACCA)

Dr Malega Constance Kganakga



As a developmental consultant and a qualified social worker, I have gained valuable knowledge, experience and skills over the past thirty years in the fields of arbitration, negotiation, dispute settlement, mediation, public liaison consultations, training, research, economic development, constitutional development, legislation and investigations, financial management, project planning and management, economic development, socio-economic impact assessment and marketing.

Mr. Alewyn Dippenaar



I have a Master of Science from the University of Witwatersrand and Bachelor of Science (majoring in Botany) from the University of Venda. I worked at the South African National Parks as a Senior Manager: People and Conservation. I also served as Chief of Staff for the office of the Deputy Minister of the Department of Environmental Affairs.

Chief Livhuwani Matsila



Through my United Nations negotiation experience and that with NPO - as well as being a disability activist and leader, we were able to be engaged with academic institutions. We currently have a Master's Programme at the University of Cape Town and a number of disabled people have graduated through it. Some institutions are involved in disability research.

Mr. Mzolisi Michael Toni
Deputy Chairperson



I am currently the Chairperson of the Risk Committee of the National Gambling Board. I also serve as Chairperson of the Limpopo Rental Tribunal. As a chairperson, and member of the Limpopo Rental Tribunal, we mediate and resolve rental disputes between landlords and tenants.

Adv. Letsepe Thubakgale



Community Input Sought on Disability Services Policy

By Precious Mupenzi

The Deputy Minister of Social Development Mme Hendrietta Ipeleng Bogopane-Zulu lead stakeholders consultations sessions in different provinces to garner feedback on the departments draft policy on services for persons with disabilities and create a platform for people who attended the sessions to be heard and included.

While addressing the public attending the session in KwaZulu- Natal, The Deputy Minister broke down the policy, to make it easier for the communities to understand and, she said: "Your needs and the points you have raised will be incorporated into the policy. Since the Department of Social Development already has awareness programmes for parents with children with disabilities as well as albinism, the department will return to roll these out where they have been called for."

The first leg of the hearings was held in Gauteng and the second was in KZN on 28 and 29 June in two districts - the Ilembe and Ugu.

The two sessions saw a variant of issues raised including the growth of persons with disabilities in the workplace, the lack of tools of trades in the

workplace, job placement after learnership, and the lack of justice in criminal cases perpetrated against people with disabilities as well as calls of awareness programmes and the declaration of Albinism as a disability.

During the first session held at Relax Inn in Ilembe district, a parent with an 18-year-old child said awareness programmes in communities especially in families where there are disabled children are needed.

"Some families are still locking and hiding away children with disabilities. Awareness programmes can teach families and communities to understand the unique needs of their children. The policy must include ongoing programmes for communities and parents with children who have disabilities" said the 38-year-old Thabile Mdlalose.

The hearings will continue to take place across all nine provinces to garner input and contributions from members of the public, particularly those living with disabilities.

The issue of those with albinism was brought to the fore where sentiments that communities were not

yet still educated on the call was made for albinism ability taking into account came with living with the

Others in attendance who government department named raised frustrations of trade in the workplace such and JAWS software. Additional trade impacted them from accordingly.

They said this also created place and that they are in their duties when in fact this "How do I work without the The policy should include the tools of trade for posts that disabilities."

The Director of Services to P Manthipi Molamu outlined the by the ratified international and legislation, inclusive of the convention on the Rights of P



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(UNCRPD), the African Charter on Human and Peoples’ Rights on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities in Africa as well as our Constitution which protects the rights and the human dignity of all persons.

“The Policy utilises a human rights approach to the development and provision of social development services and is intended to be appropriate, specific, relevant and responsive to different types and associated specific needs of a diverse range of impairments. It provides for effective monitoring and reviewing of services and feedback from beneficiaries to ensure that the services continue to be appropriate and reach persons with disabilities in their communities.”

On the second day of the KZN sessions held at St Michaels Hotel in Ugu district, Siniko Ncayiyane [38] from Gamalakhe raised concerns over being absorbed into the workforce after taking advantage of available learnership programmes offered by the government.

“We have become the custodians of learnership programmes without having the full benefits of the fruits of it. So there is no hope around learnerships.

We attain the necessary skills but are not employed at the end of the day. When permanent job opportunities arise, jobs are given to other people. We also need permanent jobs because we are parents and have families to support. As much as we are beneficiaries of the disability grants, we are capable of being employed. The policy must help us in this regard.”

What came out at both sessions was the stagnant growth within the workplace for people with disabilities.

“Yes we do get jobs, even though we are still not there in terms of the percentage required where seven percent of the workforce is to be for persons with disabilities, there was no growth in terms of promotions,” said an employee of one the government’s departments who preferred not to be named.

While the country made efforts to battle crime, an apex highlighted during the sessions was the lack of justice for persons with disabilities and that it had become a norm that persons with disabilities became victims of crimes that rarely get justice served.

INTERNATIONAL

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The Department this month has received delegations from Somalia, Sw



social development

Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA





RELATIONS that bind"

hosted three International
Brazil and Japan





The Head of the Japan International Cooperation Agency (JICA) Headquarters' Mission, Dr. Shintaro Nakamura described the partnership between the Department of Social Development (DSD) and JICA as a great opportunity for learning toward developing good practices on disability in South Africa.

On 20 June, a delegation led by Dr. Nakamura visited South Africa, specifically DSD following a series of discussions on the design of the project for the expansion of respite care services to families and children with disabilities.

As a result of the discussions, both parties reached a common understanding concerning the project title, the design

and the framework of the project. This forms part of the broader cooperation between the two countries.

Dr. Nakamura was speaking during the meeting with DSD officials at HSRC Building in Pretoria, before the signing of minutes of the respite care project.

“This is a great opportunity for us to learn. The commitment from the Social Development and provincial departments is very encouraging for us. We applaud DSD for the inclusion of the Department of Basic Education and the Department of Health as a stakeholder in the project. This is key to ensuring that children with disabilities and their families have access to necessary services, such as healthcare and education, which cater to all types of disa-

bilities. During our engagements at the provincial level, we got the opportunity to visit a home and the challenges and achievements that were shared with us are important for the implementation of the framework.

The minutes of the meetings between JICA and DSD for the project were tabled and signed by both parties. The minutes contained a detailed planning survey for the expansion of the respite care project to families of children with disabilities. Two provincial departments (Mpumalanga and Northern Cape) of social development were also present.

DSD's Acting Director-General, Mr. Linton Mchunu led the discussions and acknowledged the collaboration with JICA that affected the inception of the



BREAKING NEW GROUND

Implementing Respite Care Services in SA

By Precious Mupenzi

project on the Respite Care Services.

"Respite Care Services marks a significant era in the development of services to persons with disabilities by the department. As a country, we have ratified the United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities, which requires a change in how we see and address persons with disabilities. This project awards us with an opportunity to work toward creating probabilities for children with disabilities to be included in their communities, rather than confining them to institutions. For us to attain this, the Respite Care Project is critical," said Mchunu.

The project will focus on home-based care and centre-based care as Respite Care Service delivery models form part

of the basket of services provided by DSD which encompass a range of services aimed at sharing the caregiving roles beyond primary caregivers.

Mchunu explained that due to the multi-stakeholder nature of this project, a collaboration between national, provincial and district levels of DSD is critical for the success and sustainability of the project. This includes interdepartmental collaboration within DSD, including Directorates such as Care and Support - HIV and AIDS, Families, Older Persons, and Children. The expansion will focus on the implementation of the programmes developed in the 2021-2023 financial years by both DSD and JICA.

"It is also critical that the Respite Care Project be expanded for the methodol-

ogies that were developed in the study sites - Upington, Northern Cape and Mbombela, Mpumalanga and the approaches that have been identified by the said provinces to be implemented. The expertise provided by JICA is imperative in upskilling our officials for them to take the project forth in the coming years" explained Mchunu

The Acting Director-General acknowledged JICA for the invaluable contribution to significant changes and development toward the South African communities, more specifically in enhancing the skills level and capacity of the DSD officials working with persons with disabilities, and the development of sustainable community-based Respite Care Services.

Eswatini Gleans from South Africa's leading GBVF Strategies

By Precious Mupenzi

President Cyril Ramaphosa declared Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) a second pandemic following Covid-19, while Statistics South Africa data released recently indicated that rape and sexual violence have become hyper-endemic.

The South African government has intensified policies and legislative interventions to improve the criminal justice system to increase access to justice for victims of crime and these legislative reforms aimed at strengthening the protection of women and children against GBVF.

With progressive legislations, policies and strategic plans such as the National Strategic Plan (NSP) on GBVF, South Africa has become a beacon of hope for African countries within the context of GBVF interventions and programmes. The Department of Social Development is responsible for Pillar 4 of the NSP on GBVF, which contributes to Pillar 2 of the strategy.

Some African countries including South Sudan, Uganda, Somalia, Zimbabwe and Eswatini have also come to visit DSD to gain knowledge on how South Africa is championing the fight against GBVF.

Within this context of Eswatini relying on a learning visit, it intends to set up a Gender Offenders Registry within the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act as part of curbing access to GBVF cases in the country.

Lomakhosi Dlamini, Director under the Deputy Minister's Office and the delegation said that Eswatini enacted the Domestic Violence Act in 2018.

Regulations for Domestic Violence Act were enacted in August 2018.



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provides for the establishment of a National Registry for Sex Offenders.

The learning visit is a benchmarking exercise meant to capacitate the Kingdom of Eswatini officials on both physical institutional and technical aspects of the registry of Sex Offenders.

According to the United Nations Population Fund Report, GBVF in the Kingdom of Eswatini is a persistent challenge, disproportionately affecting women and girls with approximately 1 in 3 females experiencing some form of sexual abuse by the age of 18 years, and 48 percent of women reporting to have experienced

some form of sexual violence in their lifetime.

Dlamini indicated that the regulations provide details with respect to the manner in which the Register is to be established, the personnel who will be supporting the mandate of the Register as well as the operation of the Office of the Registrar in accordance with the Sexual Offences and Domestic Violence Act.

The DSD delegation was led by the Acting Deputy Director-General of Welfare Services, Ms. Isabella Sekawana. She welcomed the delegation and explained the DSD's GBVF response services.



The Department of Social Development and its agencies, the South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and the National Development Agency (NDA), successfully hosted the Federal Republic of Somalia Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs from 5-8 June, on a study visit to share best practices and knowledge on the implementation of social development programmes.

The study tour by the Somali Ministry of Labour and Social Affairs kick-started at the department's agency - SASSA. The SASSA senior officials were led by SASSA's National General Manager of Customer Care, Mr. Sonwabo Koliti. Koliti made presentations on the social assistance programmes, including the operations processes and how the online

social grant applications are processed.

SASSA General Manager of Grant Administration, Ms. Tsebeletso Makhetha shared some valuable information with the Somali Ministry on how grant administration processes work, emphasising that the online grant administration processes for the Social Relief of Distress grant were the most difficult to manage.

The Somali delegation was then taken on a walk-about at the SASSA's local Offices in central Pretoria and in Dobsonville, Soweto, to have first-hand experience on how social grants are captured and disbursed to the beneficiaries.

The Department of Social Development executives delegation was led by the

Acting Director-General, Mchunu who also made a special delegation visit. The Acting Director-General and Organisation of the Department of Social Development, Thabani Buthelezi, also on the study visit, shared his mandate and strategy for the department, after the delegation engaged

On the day 4, the study visit officials team headed to the SASSA offices to learn more about the operations to the Civil Society and the impact of social grants on poverty in the

The NDA team, led by the Acting Director-General, Mchunu, and the Acting Director-General, Mchunu, also on the study visit, shared his mandate and strategy for the department, after the delegation engaged



SOCIAL ASSISTANCE PROGRAMME BEST PRACTICES Shared with the Somalian Ministry

By Sello Tang

General (DG), Mr. Linton engaged with the Somali delegation on day 3 of their study visit. Deputy DG for Strategy and Operational Transformation, Mr. Mphahlele, presented a brief strategic overview of the programme for which the Somali delegation is part of the executive team.

The Somali Ministry officials visited the NDA offices to discuss how grant funding through the National Poverty Organisation (CSO) can have a positive impact thereof, to alleviate poverty in vulnerable communities.

Facilitated by the Chief Operating Officer, Ms. Suzan Khumalo, took the delegation to the Ministry through NDA's facilities. Ms. Khumalo presented

an overview of the NDA's mandate and strategic objectives.

She explained that the NDA provides grant funding to national strategic projects, through the CSOs, which have the potential to yield best practices in enabling the poor to participate in the formal economy of South Africa. These projects include, but are not limited to gardening, clothing and shoe manufacturing, tourism-related manufacturing and textile industries.

Hailing praises on the South African social development systems and programmes response, the DG of the Somali Ministry for Labour and Social Affairs: Mr. Abdullahi Mohamed Ali, thanked the department for the valuable and important information they shared.

South Africa is regarded worldwide as one of the best countries in the administration of social security and poverty alleviation programmes.

Just recently, in May, the department was named the winner of the prestigious International Social Security Association (ISSA) Good Practice Award in Social Security for Africa 2023, at the ISSA Regional Social Security Forum for Africa Awards Ceremony held in Abidjan, Cote D'Ivoire.

The Good Practice Award recognises the country's efforts and ability to consistently extend social security coverage to vulnerable children. South Africa is covering over 13 million children through the Child Support Grant.

DSD [news] PROVINCIAL



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Secure Care Centres Redefine Rehabilitation Through a Holistic Development

By Queensly Kupa

The Namaqua Child and Youth Care Centre was established as a secure care programme in accordance with the Child Justice Act - Act 75 of 2008. The centre's main function is to contain and protect children who are in conflict with the law and serves as a residential care facility.

The centre makes provision for youth from the ages of 14 to 21 years and is currently accommodating 37 service users who are all in conflict with the law. The centre is suitable for the containment of awaiting trial youth, youth on diversion as well as sentenced youth. The various types of offences committed by the housed youth range from minor or less serious crimes, for example, shoplifting to more serious offences such as rape and murder.

The centre aims at delivering services in line with a holistic development strategy, which focuses on unlocking the youth's potential through education, personal development, therapeutic intervention, cultural activities, entrepreneurial development, sport and recreation and reintegration back into society.

The Namaqua Child and Youth Care Centre always strives to encourage youth through their service to establish meaningful and positive relationships. This is aimed at enhancing, but not limited to their self-image, increasing accountability and personal responsibility.

The team of professionals at the centre understands the principles of working with youth offenders in such a setting. All services aim to have

components such as; developmental in nature, restorative and rehabilitative, therapeutic Programmes, dignity restoration programmes and multi-disciplinary approach.

It is thus necessary to provide the youth with alternatives when re-integrated back into society, rather than condemn them to a meaningless and purposeless life, otherwise, the youth will revert to their old behaviour patterns and a life of crime.

Our objective remains the same: To develop and equip every youth in our care, to develop them to their maximum potential to be reintegrated back into society as responsible citizens, who can contribute positively to their respective communities.



Youth Entrepreneurship Soars at Namaqua

By Gamiem Abrahams

Namaqua Child and Youth Care Centre tackled the reality that majority of the youngsters will not be able to follow mainstream schooling upon their release, by currently having a few special projects. Aiming to enhance youth's entrepreneurial skills, these projects include making products out of wire, car wash and gumboot dancing.

The most significant project at the moment is the Aquaponic system which was implemented last year in October 2022 by the Department of Agriculture, Environmental Affairs, Rural Development and Land Reform (DAEARDLR) in collaboration with the Department of Social Development (DSD) and Kangnas Wind Farm.

The project originated from climate-smart agriculture initiatives that DAEARDLR and Kangnas Wind Farm wanted to take forward in the Namaqua district to address climate change and the way the Namaqua people practice agriculture.

This project, in collaboration with DSD, has added the objective of engaging the young people residing at the centre and providing them with innovative ideas of how to use the Aquaponics System to become entrepreneurs and in that way, form part of the agricultural value chain and improve food security.

Since the implementation of the system in October 2022, the team working on the system has faced many chal-

lenges but also gained significant insight into the daily operations of the system and managed the system to ensure optimal growth of fish and fresh produce. Initially, with five media beds in the system, spring onion, cucumber, spinach, tomatoes and lettuce seedlings were placed into the system along with 70 Mozambican tilapia fish. As part of the commencement, the project received 18kg of fish feed to ensure the welfare of the fish for at least four months.

In December 2022, 29 fish died from the system due to high water temperatures. Mitigation protocols were immediately implemented with the addition of borehole water to the system regularly, two to three times a



week. Since the high mortality incurred, there has been one added mortality thus leaving 40 adult fish in the system.

The second challenge was the correct crop to grow in the system. Because the system is not temperature controlled, they are still dependent on climatic conditions to determine the product that will grow well in the system. They saw poor growth in cucumber plants and lettuce. They then had a meeting to address this matter and it was decided that the kitchen staff would indicate as to the products they make use of for meal preparation.

The staff then indicated broccoli, cauliflower, spinach, bell peppers, tomatoes and a few others.

With the challenges they have been experiencing, they have also decided that they may have to look only at two or three crops at most and sell surplus produce so that the system can maintain itself regarding the procurement of fish feed and possibly an extra water pump and air pump.

The third challenge was the addition of water to top up the system. This has been a challenge and now an investigation is underway to determine the cost of a pipeline, stretching from the borehole to the system, to avoid pump malfunctioning. The system requires a 10 -12% top-up every 10 days for water lost through evaporation and transpiration.

Currently, 40 fish remain in the

system of the original 70 procured. They have seen many hatchlings from eggs produced by the adults in the system that today, have grown. They have also been able to purchase another 18kg bag of fish feed as feed is going a lot faster due to the number of juveniles gained in the system since implementation.

They have since planted butternut into the system which is showing promising results and bell pepper trees already carrying green bell peppers.

Green pepper and Spinach are currently planted in the media beds of the system. These plants do not present high nutrient demands. The mentioned has been the best of the rest in terms of adapting to the cycle of the system.

It can be reported that the system produced $\pm 1,2$ kg of spinach in June, which is to date the biggest harvest in terms of weight. The harvest was also allocated for the food preparation of the youth of the Namaqua Child & Youth Care Centre.

An Oxygen pump, as well as, feed for the 2023/24 financial year will be procured from Farmer Support at DAEARDLR. The water Pipeline will be installed from the borehole to the aquaponics system.

The service users partake in these projects which will enable them to not only acquire the skill set but will also to become self-reliant and self-sustainable.

BUILDING A BETTER FUTURE FOR

Government and Private Partnership

By Busi Kheswa

Child Protection Week is annually commemorated in the country to raise awareness of the rights of children as articulated in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa and Children's Act - Act No. 38 of 2005.

The campaign is led by the Department of Social Development in partnership with key government departments and civil society organisations that render child protection services. During Child Protection Week, the government called on all South Africans to support Child Protection Week in ensuring that the most vulnerable in society do not suffer abuse. It is on our hands to stop the cycle of neglect, abuse, violence and exploitation of children.

Children in South Africa live in a society with a constitution that has the highest regard for their rights and the equality and dignity of everyone. Protecting children from violence, exploitation and

abuse is not only a basic value but also an obligation set out in Article 28 of the South African constitution.

According to reports 5.4 million children around the world are being raised in orphanages. The government refers to these homes as Child and Youth Care Centres (CYCCs). In these CYCCs are residential facilities that provide care, support and services to vulnerable children and youth who have been removed from their homes due to various reasons such as abuse, neglect or abandonment.

These centres aim to create a safe and nurturing environment for children and they offer a range of services to meet their physical, emotional, educational and social needs.

Below are some of the common services rendered at these centres

Residential Care: CYCCs offer a safe and

stable living environment for children who cannot live with their families. Trained caregivers and staff members provide round-the-clock supervision and support

Basic Needs: The centres provide necessities such as food, clothing, shelter and healthcare to ensure the well-being of the children

Education and Schooling: CYCCs facilitate the education of children by either providing on-site schooling or ensuring their enrolment in nearby schools. They support educational development and may provide additional tutoring or support service

Counselling and Therapy: Emotional and psychological support is an essential aspect of care at CYCCs. They offer counselling and therapy services to help children deal with trauma, build resilience and develop healthy coping mechanisms

Life Skills and Social Development: CYCCs



OR CYCCS:

focus on equipping children with essential life skills to enhance their personal and social development. This may include programmes on decision-making, conflict resolution, vocational training and recreational activities.

Family Reunification or Alternative Care: The ultimate goal of CYCCs is to reintegrate children with their families whenever possible. They work closely with social workers and authorities to explore options for family reunification or alternative care, such as adoption or foster care

Aftercare and Support: CYCCs may provide aftercare services to young adults transitioning out of the centre's care. These services can include assistance with finding employment, accessing further education or training, and ongoing support as they navigate independent living.

However, with all these interventions, the impact is lifelong and the beneficiaries of-

ten leave these centres as young adults who are unprepared to enter the workforce and unprepared for independent living.

Thus, the Gauteng Department of Social Development has partnered with Hope and Homes for Children, an International Organization that supports amongst others successful, sustainable and supported transition of youth 11 – 21 years into independent living within communities.

Deloitte professionals from South Africa will be working with Hope and Homes for Children to support young people transitioning out of CYCCs to gain life skills and increase their employability through tailored workshops.

Deloitte professionals will be training caregivers at these facilities to support these young people with employability more effectively, ensuring a significant indirect impact in addition to the young people

directly reached on the volunteering day.

The skills will include empowerment in inspirational speech, career guidance, basic financial literacy, employment readiness and basic digital literacy.

Studies have shown that the majority of young people attending sessions will have a low level of prior knowledge on these topics and have had limited exposure to life outside institutions. Most of them do very few chores within the centres and have had few opportunities to gain independence skills, thus the need to equip them.

Having Hope and Homes for Children and Deloitte on board will ensure that the Gauteng Social Development's Independent Living Programme is strengthened and the lives of the children improve for the better. Thus, it is also important to celebrate such partnerships.

Protecting the Elderly Against Crime



By Teddy Gomba

A growing number of older persons are being targeted by criminals in South Africa. As highlighted in a recent community newspaper where a retired school teacher who stays alone in her home has experienced a traumatic incident where criminals removed her tile roofing to gain access to her house in Chrisville, South of Johannesburg. These thugs continued to torment the elderly woman even after a mash safe was installed in her house to prevent them from accessing it through the ceiling, they have now resorted to stealing anything in the yard including vandalising her car.

According to the United Nations Population Fund (UNFP), older persons in South Africa experience a substantial risk of exposure to physical and property violence in their homes. They also face financial abuse including extortion of pension and property theft is prevalent; over 90% are perpetrated by a family member. Furthermore, alcohol and drug use among unemployed adults and youth are related to the incidence of crime and older adults' fear of violence.

On 15 June the country joined the international community to mark World Elder Abuse Day. The day seeks to highlight the abuse of senior citizens worldwide. But what is elder abuse? According to the World Health Organisation it is a single or repeated act, or lack of appropriate action, occurring within any relationship where there is an expectation of trust which causes harm or distress to an older person. Initial definitions were considered overly broad, however, consensus has arisen about the inclusion of five major types of elder abuse: physical abuse, psychological or verbal abuse, sexual abuse, financial exploitation and neglect.

Against the background of the historical disadvantages and the multicultural nature of the South African population, this definition is sometimes considered too narrow. There exist unique categories of abuse that are not usually found in developed countries. These include loss of respect for elders and systemic abuse, which refers to dehumanising treatment at public institutions.

There are also problems with allegations of witchcraft, mainly against elderly black women and as a result of the accusations their property can be confiscated and they can be assaulted or even burnt. Another concerning tendency is particularly violent forms of abuse, specifically rape of older women by sons or grandsons to extort pension money. These acts tend to be concealed and are often not seen as rape in the communities because the abuse is perpetrated within the family.

To make the matter worse, the Gauteng Elder Persons Forum said most of the criminal cases opened by senior citizens against families are withdrawn by the victims before going to court. Older persons are afraid to speak out and report incidents of elder abuse for several reasons like, fear of re-primation, further abuse by the perpetrator and often the unwillingness of the police to take charge.

In 2010 the government introduced the Older Persons Act which aims to maintain and protect the constitutional rights of all older persons and to facilitate accessible, equitable and affordable services to older persons. The Act makes provision for mandatory reporting of suspected abuse by any citizen, not just by health care professionals. The

Department of Social Development also had to establish a register to keep track of criminals who have committed crimes against elder persons.

The majority of older South Africans are not in residential care and there is a critical shortage of proper facilities to care for the elderly. Most of the elderly live in rural areas and communities with their families or on their own. The Gauteng Department of Social Development has built day-care centres for the elderly throughout the province. At these daycare centres, the elderly are provided with meals, allowed to exercise, partake in choral music and soccer teams, most importantly they allow them to be with their peers.

Care of older persons is the responsibility of the family and the state. The expectation that the elderly should be cared for by the younger generations has in some cases been turned upside down because of rapid social change, urbanisation, migration and the high increase in drug addiction.

As the global population ages, the number of people aged 60 years is estimated to reach 2 billion by 2050. The proportion of elderly in South Africa is on the increase with 8.1% of the population being over the age of 60. This increase in the older population heightens the concern about elder abuse and neglect. Elder abuse is a criminal act, let us protect our senior citizens.

As former President Nelson Mandela once said, "A society that does not value its older people denies its roots and endangers its future.", let us rally behind the safety, care and protection of our senior citizens.



ITHEMBA

A GLIMPSE OF HOPE

By Nande Fayo

One of the Department of Social Development's funded Non-Profit Organisation, Sakhe Family Care (SFC), based in Humansdorp in the Eastern Cape, recently released their debut short film which highlights various social challenges hoping to promote positive social and behavioural changes within the youth and families at large in that area.

The SFC Development Centre offers marriage enrichment seminars, parenting skills workshops, educational community awareness campaigns, social and behaviour change programmes, skills training, job creation and enterprise development opportunities. Established in 2014, the organisation has developed into a safe, inspiring and life-changing environment for both individuals and families.

To continue their work in the community, the organisation decided to release its first debut short film titled "ITHEMBA". SFC Founding Director, Thanduxolo Buka says the vision behind the film is to act out what they teach learners in schools through their social behavioural programme.

He says the organisation is implementing an amassed range of social behavioural programmes to address the risky behaviours and harmful social norms that are significant. The short film also highlights the key role that the organisation plays in the community.

Buka says the short film was written by two young people from Humansdorp and are currently studying Bachelor of Arts at AFDA in Gqeberha. He says the film is based on a young man who has lost his

mother and starts to experience behavioural changes that have been caused by his new environment.

"We plan to develop the short film into a show with more episodes, where we will focus on other programmes that we offer. By doing this, we intend to showcase what we do as an organisation and put more emphasis on gender-based violence and femicide," says Buka.

She also added that they hope to shoot more episodes if they get funding for this initiative. "We continue to increase our efforts to extend our reach and transform the lives of many in our society." In her conclusion, she says that the public can watch the film on their Youtube channel and they are also planning on doing a roadshow around the province to showcase their production.



The Abongile Farm Produce Primary Cooperative was launched on 8 June, in Tsomo, Chris Hani District Municipality, by the Department of Social Development in collaboration with the determined youth of Xolobe village.

The cooperative is a brainchild of a group of five - one woman and four men, who decided to be proactive and start a cooperative to lessen the impact of unemployment and widespread poverty in the area. Just like many communities in the province, Xolobe has a high unemployment rate, particu-

larly among young people. Many households are dependent on some form of a social grant as poverty is rife in the area.

Drawing strength and inspiration from one of Xolobe's famous daughters, Mamu' Albertina Sisulu, the group invested their funds and approached the local Chief to source land that they currently use to produce vegetables. Cooperative member, Bakhangele Somlotha, said they started the project in 2015 due to hardships facing young people in rural areas.

"We sold the idea to Chief

Ngcongolo, who bought it, because most young people in the area spend most of their time, if not all, in liquor outlets consuming alcohol and other illegal substances," said Somlotha.

The group produces a variety of vegetables including cabbage, butternut as well as spinach and through their obstinacy, they have managed to secure a stable market including established retail stores, the local community and surrounding schools.

Impressed by the efforts of the cooperative, the department through its youth development



Abongile Cooperative Grows in Leaps

By Siphumelele Mdyodyo

directorate capacitated the members with financial management and marketing skills. Additionally, the cooperative received funding to a value of R341 000.00 which they are planning to invest in the business by buying a truck that will assist in delivering the produce. Their immediate plan, however, is to expand from five to seven hectares as demand for produce has grown.

A visibly delighted Somlotha thanked the department for the support and the confidence that they have in the cooperative. "Abongile cooperative has grown

in leaps and bounds largely due to the support we have received from the government, we appreciate this gesture from the Department of Social Development and promise to utilise the funds wisely and grow the business."

Delivering the keynote address, MEC for Social Development, Bukiwe Fanta, displayed a great appreciation of the development encouraging other youth, especially young women, to focus on their future and wellbeing. She thanked project members for their continued resilience in confronting and overcoming all the project challenges they en-

countered right through to the project's success.

"The funding they received from the department will be used for the installation of boreholes to ensure sustainability even during times of drought, particularly in this era of climate change," she said.

The MEC also handed over cheques to two more funded cooperatives. R172 000 to Kimi Makwethu Co-operative and R99 000 to Sakha Isizwe Sibanye Poultry Farm from the area totalling to R271 000.



Social Services On

By Piet Bambo

On a crisp June morning, about 160 officials from various departments took to the dusty streets of Setumong village, Ga-Matlala, in the Polokwane Municipality to visit households at their doorstep and assess their individual situations and help bring services closer to the people.

The aptly named "Bob Mmola Door to Door Campaign" was an initiative of the Capricorn District of Limpopo Social Development which is soon to be rolled out to other districts, due to its effectiveness. The campaign was named after the late seasoned politician and former Director in the Department of Social Development, Mr.

Bob Mmola, who served his people diligently.

After a brief visit to the local traditional leader of Bakone ba Matlala a Thaba, Kgošikgadi Matlala, MEC Nandi Ndalane greeted and encouraged the growing group of officials, which included social service professionals; community development workers; community health practitioners; ward committee members and officials from the Department of Home Affairs, the South African Social Security Agency, Limpopo Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs; the South African Police Service; Bakone Traditional Council and the National Development Agency; Home Affairs mobile

service unit was also

In her short but powerful speech, the MEC reached out to the community, the MEC announced her plans for social service units to take their expertise to the people they serve. "I am committed and beyond, I request you to be considerate of the needs of the community and show respect to all people at all times," said the MEC.

During the campaign, social service professionals and officials visited the community not only gathered information about the households but also provided services of that community,



Your Doorstep

on standby.

powerful address to eagerly to start the Setumong committee simplified the need for professionals to be outside of their doorstep of the In today's process rest you all to be needs of the committee respect and humiliated the MEC .

gn, social service those supporting gathered information and living conditions to design appro-

appropriate interventions and referrals, but they also used the opportunity to inform their stakeholders about the various options in accessing government services in the Limpopo province.

Households were asked about, among others, their dependable means of livelihood, contributory factors leading to the state of the household, presence or absence of IDs or birth certificates, educational skills levels, service delivery challenges and then, of course, ample information with regards to any possible Gender Based Violence within the household or the community.

Information gathered during the Bob

Mmola Door-to-door Campaign will be summarised and scrutinised for short-, medium- and long-term interventions which will be discussed with relevant stakeholders, together with the traditional council.

But more than that, it was yet again humbling and informative to observe social work professionals at work; interacting with households who in turn welcomed their assistance and guidance with open arms.

The Campaign is set to become an annual programme in the Capricorn District, and with the other districts wanting to follow suit, it is sure to become an eagerly anticipated occurrence in the Limpopo Province



CLOSING THE SKILLS GAP

Cellphone Repair Programme

By Trevor Khuzwayo

The KwaZulu-Natal Department of Social Development (KZN DSD), in partnership with other stakeholders, awarded certificates to 32 young people qualifying them as cell phone repair technicians as part of its commitment to socio-economic development and eliminating youth unemployment.

In the last quarter of 2022/23, the KZN DSD collaborated with the National Electronic Media Institute of South Africa (Nemisa), the Department of Communications and Digital Technologies (DCDT) as well as the Vaal University of Technology (VUT), on the roll-out of a three-month Cell Phone Repair Training programme for disadvantaged youth drawn from various districts within the province.

VUT is the appointed implementing agent for the training programme. The university, through its E-Skills CoLab and in collaboration with its appointed delivery partners, HCLS, successfully designed, developed and executed an ICT SMME capacity-building model for this programme to equip the trainees with entrepreneurial understanding and business knowledge.

After completing this training, the beneficiaries can operate as cell phone repair technicians, with the ability to troubleshoot, repair and maintain various types of cellphones in rural and urban residential areas. They were also upskilled to understand broader competencies for work readiness and entrepreneurial abilities.

Standing in for M... Khoza, Deputy Direc... Maphili Mhlongo, e... satisfaction with th... strategy in developin...

"We made a solemn... ensure that no one is... ognising the challeng... province, particularly... issue of youth unem... strongly believe that... the brilliance and po... people, hence we h... ourselves to upskilling...

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that effectively address the pressing challenge of youth unemployment.

Equipped with invaluable skills in cell-phone repair, the graduates will not only possess the capacity to thrive in the digital world but also contribute significantly to the growth and development of the province.

One of the participants, Ms. Thobeka Sengane, expressed gratitude and optimism about her completion of the training programme.

"The training programme has given me a second chance in life as I was frustrated at being unemployed without any tertiary education. I consider this training as a lifesaver, because now I have a tangible skill to use to make ends meet

The entrepreneurial aspects of the training provided me with a valuable understanding of running a small business and I am inspired to start a cell phone repair business," she expressed.

Antoinette Lombard from VUT highlighted the shortage of qualified mobile device repair technicians in South Africa. A task team consisting of DSD, NYDA, Nemisa and VUT, has been established to finalise an exit strategy for the programme beneficiaries.

The strategy will consider additional capacity building, procurement of cellphone accessories for sales, linking up beneficiaries with municipalities as well as possibly procuring containers for the best-performing SMEs.



social development
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Social Development
FREE STATE PROVINCE

FREE STATE

DSD [news]



YOUTH DAY

Commemoration Celebration

"Do your best so you can make a difference and be part of a solution from what history has deprived us of, this is exactly what the youth of '76 fought for"

June 16, National Youth Day, is the day the country reflects on the massacre of school children during the Soweto Uprising of 1976. Each year, June 16 recognises the struggles of the youth of 1976 and celebrate the impact they brought in the liberation of our country. This year marks the 47th anniversary of youth day commemorated under the theme "Accelerating youth economic emancipation for a sustainable future."

The Free State Provincial Celebrations were held in Bloemfontein at Petrus Molemela Stadium on 16-17 June 2023. The Minister of Social Development: Ms. Lindiwe Zulu, accompanied by the Acting Regional Executive Manager: Mr. Mohodi Tsosane, General Manager: Grant

Administration, Mr. Rapelang Leshotho and Acting General Manager, Corporate Service & Finance: Mr. Mosiuoa Rampai, hosted 12 Grade 11-12 learners from various schools in Bloemfontein who are in receipt of CSG and 4 former recipients of CSG funded by NSFAS from Institutions of Higher Learning in Bloemfontein.

The Minister encouraged learners to go to school to become professionals in different fields. "t," said the Minister.

The Minister took the opportunity to walk the learners through different exhibitions that were relevant to their development such as Youth Empowerment Services (YES), National Youth Development Agency (NYDA), Council of Scientific and Industrial

Research (CSIR), South African National Space Agency (SANSA), Manufacturing, Engineering & Related Services (MERSETA), Health and Welfare (HWSETA) Education, Training and Development (ETDP SETA), to name a few.

In support of the Minister, Mr. Tsosane echoed that Youth Day plays an integral part in our history. "It is important for SASSA to bridge the gap and expose youth to available opportunities that can transform their future," said Mr. Tsosane.

The Executive Management appreciated all SASSA officials for availing themselves to support the Youth Day Celebration (exhibitions) to educate the youth who were in attendees about SASSA services and for offering services for the two days.

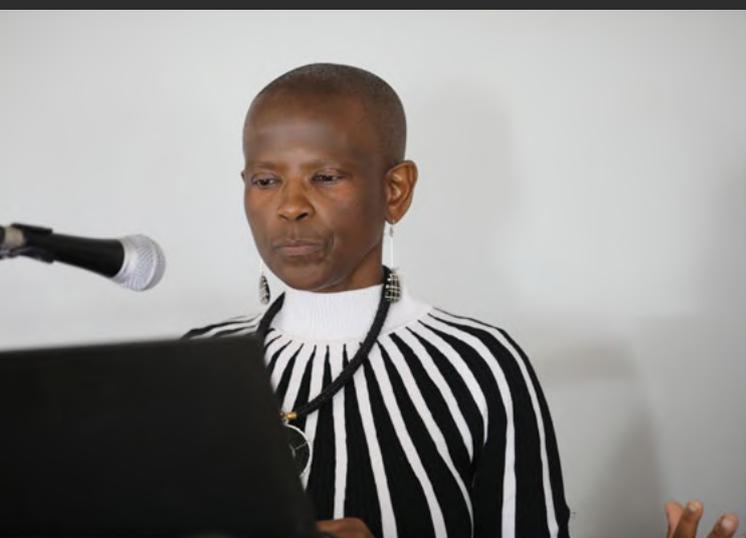


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28 MAY - 04 JUNE 2023
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ASSIST Tool is The Alcohol, Smoking and Substance Involvement Screening Test (AS-SIST)) makes use of risk categories determined by screening scores to help determine the ideal intervention strategy.

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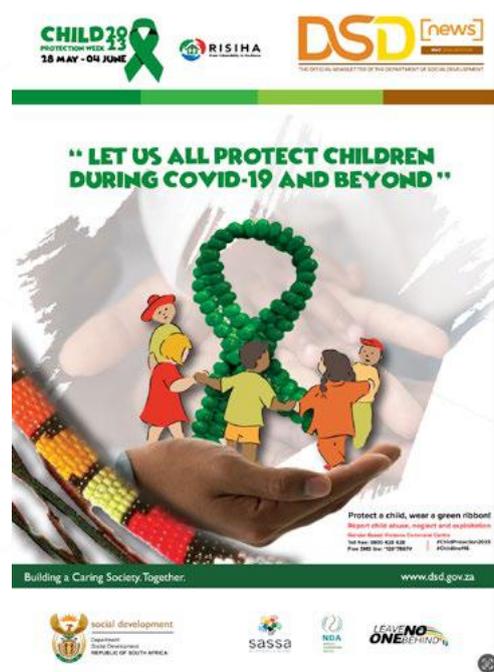
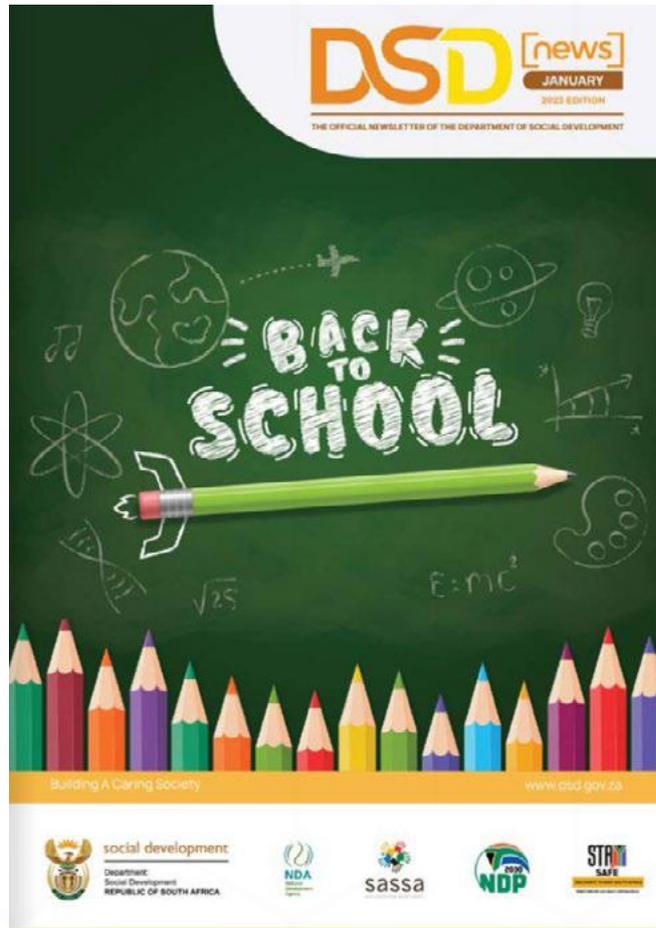
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