



# DSD NEWS

DSD Online Newsletter

“Increasing our Footprint”

January-March 2018

## Fighting Poverty Through Learner Support



Department of Social Development MEC Mapula Mokaba-Phukwana and Mopani District Executive Mayor Nkakareng Rakgoale pose with photos with some of the learners from various schools in the Vhembe District, whom received new school uniform for the 2018 academic year. (Faces covered to protect identity). Photo: Amukelani Mabasa

By Amukelani Mabasa

The MEC for Social Development, Mapula Mokaba-Phukwana recently visited Nyavani Village outside Malamulele Town under the Collins Chavani Municipality, to distribute school uniform to vulnerable children in the district. The symbolic handover of the school uniform including brand new school shoes, was held at Nyavani Assemblies of God Church. The Vhembe edition of the Department's Learner Support Programme, followed handovers to other districts in the province.

Mokaba-Phukwana says the purpose of the distribution of school uniform is to provide care and support to vulnerable families and children and to enable them to continue their education without any disruptions. “It also gives u the opportunity to ensure that these children can interact with their peers with dignity and pride and without fear of stigmatisation”, she continues.

The Department has distributed school uniform to 548 children in the province, starting from January 2018.03.13

“SAY NO TO DRUGS”



“ It is my right to know my status: Prevention is my responsibility”

PHOTO GALERY

Mopani Learner Support Programme

Photo: by Amukelani Mabasa



#BACK TO SCHOOL

Waterberg Learner Support Programme



Vhembe Learner Support Programme



# WHAT IS FOSTER CARE?

## WHAT IS FOSTER CARE?

1.A child is in foster care if the child has been placed in the care of a person who is not the parent or guardian of the child as a result of:

- An order of a children's court; or
- A transfer in terms of section 171.

2.Foster care excludes the placement of a child:

- In temporary safe care; or
- In the care of a child and youth care centre.

3.A children's court may place a child in foster care:

- With a person who is not a family member of the child;
- With a family member who is not the parent or guardian of the child; or
- In a registered cluster foster care scheme.

## THE PURPOSE OF FOSTER CARE IS TO:

- Protect and nurture children by providing a safe, healthy environment with positive support;
- Promote the goals of permanency planning, first towards family reunification, or by connecting children to other safe and nurturing family relationships intended to last a lifetime; and
- Respect the individual and family by demonstrating a respect for cultural, ethnic and community diversity.

## CHILDREN WHO MAY BE FOSTERED:

- A child is in need of care and protection if the child:
- Has been abandoned or orphaned and is without any visible means of support;
- Displays behaviour which cannot be controlled by the parent or care giver;
- Lives or works on the streets or begs for a living;

- Is addicted to a dependence-producing substance and is without any support to obtain treatment for such dependency;

- Has been exploited or lives in circumstances that expose the child to exploitation;

- Lives in or is exposed to circumstances which may seriously harm that child's physical, mental or social well being;

- May be at risk if returned to the custody of the parent, guardian or care giver of the child as there is reason to believe that he or she will live in or be exposed to circumstances which may seriously harm the physical, mental or social well-being of the child;

- Is in a state of physical or mental neglect; or

- Is being maltreated, abused deliberately neglected or degraded by a parent, a care giver, a person who has parental responsibilities and rights or a family member of the child.

## WHO CAN BECOME PROSPECTIVE FOSTER PARENTS?

A prospective foster parent must:

- Be a fit and proper person to be entrusted with the foster care of a child;
- Be willing and able to undertake, exercise and maintain the responsibilities of such care;
- Have the capacity to provide an environment that is not a fit and proper person to be entrusted with the foster care of a child.

## FINANCIAL SUPPORT BY THE STATE

Foster parents receive financial support from the state in terms of the Social Assistance Act.

- A foster grant may be issued:

- If the fostered child has a disability the foster parent may apply for the Care Dependency Grant.

## WHO COULD BE CONTACTED

- social workers in government and non-profit organization.

# Mokaba-Phukwana Building Upcoming Social Workers



MEC for Department of Social Development met University of Limpopo’s Social Work students at their University to motivate them about the Social Work profession as well as giving them a light about their career, including the department’s expectations from social workers. The gathering was held at Turfloop University on the 17th of March 2018.

Mokaba-Phukwana introduced an idea of a summit to the students to allow Social Science students to ask questions about all the challenges or effects that affect social workers. “I want to address the issue of unemployment in the social work environment, It is very said that the university is full but and after completing students are going to work in some car washes.” Said Mokaba-Phukwana.



**NATIONAL CHILD PROTECTION WEEK**  
29 May - 5 June



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