

DSD NEWS

JULY 2020

**LAUNCH OF NATIONAL
DRUG MASTER PLAN**

**MEC FOR GAUTENG
ANNOUNCED**

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social development

Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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EDITOR'S NOTE

LUMKA OLIPHANT

This month as Communicators in the Social Development sector, we are mourning the death of one of our colleagues in the Eastern Cape, Mr Gcobani Maswana, who sadly succumbed to COVID-19. He was the Head of Communications at the Department of Social Development, Eastern Cape office.

We have lost a dedicated colleague and our communicator's forum will never be the same. We will miss his belly-laugh and larger than life character.

I will miss the respect he accorded me. He would fondly call me Boss and I will miss his phone calls demanding to know: "ithini iline of march?" When we speak about COVID-19, we will always remember that we lost one of our own. This pain cuts very deeply, more so that we could not even pay our last respects to him due to COVID-19 protocols. May our colleagues, especially, in the Eastern Cape be comforted.

"Sizakumkhumbula kakhulu uGcwaniini".

Ndifuna ukuthi ulale ngoxolo bhut'wam. Uggatso lwakho ulufezile. Sobonana kwelizayo!

REST IN PEACE GCOBANI MASWANA

BY NANDE FAYO

The voice that has been synonymous with the Eastern Cape Department of Social Development (DSD) for the past 20 years has been silenced. Gcobani Maswana (52), a seasoned communications practitioner, was the Head of the Communication Division at the provincial Social Development Department in Eastern Cape. He had been with the Department for 20 years. He was one of the longest-serving government communicators in the province who served the people of the Eastern Cape with great humility and diligence.

The University of Fort Hare graduate held a Masters' Degree in Communication and distinguished himself as one of the Eastern Cape's finest communicators. His passing was a monumental loss because death not only robbed the department of a venerable man but has silenced the voice and spirit of an astute communicator whose skills and capacity will be sorely missed.

He started working for the Department in 2000 and climbed the proverbial ladder to the Head of Communication in 2006. Before working for the DSD, Maswana worked for Delta Motor Corporation, currently known as General Motors, where he was a communication officer and contributed immensely to the company.

Maswana was a man that held his colleagues to the highest standard with warmth, compassion and humility. To media houses that he interacted with, he knew how to influence opinion, injecting honesty and integrity in his message, believing wholeheartedly in what he was communicating on behalf of DSD.

The Eastern Cape MEC for Social Development Siphokazi Lusithi described the passing of Maswana as an immense blow to the Department, the Eastern Cape provincial government, and the community of

the Eastern Cape as a whole. She said DSD has not just lost a colleague but a patriot who dedicated his life to serving the poor and the vulnerable.

"WE ADMIRE GCOBANI'S SENSE OF COMPASSION, HUMILITY AND DEDICATION AS HE SELFLESSLY VOLUNTEERED HIS SERVICES FOR THE BETTERMENT OF THE MOST VULNERABLE". SAID LUSITHI.

WE WISH TO PASS OUR HEARTFELT CONDOLENCES TO HIS FAMILY, FRIENDS, AND COLLEAGUES. WE HOPE HIS FAMILY WILL FIND COMFORT IN KNOWING THAT THE WHOLE PROVINCE DIPS ITS BANNER IN MOURNING OF THIS EXTRAORDINARY SERVANT OF THE PEOPLE OF THE EASTERN CAPE. LYINENE ELITHI "ISITYA ESHILE ASIDLELI".





— FROM THE DESK OF — THE PRESIDENT

**STAY
SAFE**

PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS

Dear Fellow South Africans,

For those fortunate enough to have an elderly parent or grandparent still alive, not being able to spend time with them has been one of the most difficult parts of the lockdown.

For millions of senior citizens, social activities like meeting friends and family, and attending religious services, and stokvel and burial society meetings, are the mainstay of their lives.

Because of social distancing regulations, most of these activities have been curtailed, potentially leaving them feeling socially isolated and lonely. And leaving their loved ones anxious for their wellbeing.

The reality, however, is that in keeping our distance from our elderly parents and grandparents at this time we could be saving their lives.

Coronavirus can infect anyone, but older people are among those at highest risk of getting severely ill and possibly dying. Sadly, there have been a number of Coronavirus

outbreaks at old age homes and care centres, resulting in a number of deaths.

In addition, data released by the Department of Health indicates that people with underlying medical conditions such as high blood pressure, diabetes, heart disease, renal disease, asthma and chronic respiratory disease are more vulnerable to developing severe complications and dying from Coronavirus.

According to new research published by the National Institute for Communicable Diseases, a third of patients admitted to hospital with COVID-19 had at least one co-morbidity.

This is a significant concern in a country such as ours that also has a high prevalence of HIV and tuberculosis, the leading cause of natural deaths in South Africa last year.

Additionally, more than 4.5 million South Africans have diabetes, a figure that has doubled since 2017. In the Western Cape alone,

diabetes is a co-morbidity in over half of all COVID-19 deaths.

In a number of our provinces, including Gauteng and Western Cape, testing is being offered to people with co-morbidities such as diabetes whether they show Coronavirus symptoms or not. This smart approach to screening and testing is part of our effort to limit infections among those most vulnerable.

We will continue to be led by scientific evidence and adapt our strategies where necessary.

As part of the national effort to contain Coronavirus, protecting the general population from becoming infected must be matched by efforts to protect people who are at greater risk.

Throughout the nationwide lockdown period, we have taken measures to ensure that those who rely on chronic medication or treatment are able to visit health facilities.

The Department of Social

Development has set dietary standards on the food provided to communities during lockdown to ensure they of nutritional value, which is particularly important when managing diabetes.

Companies can play their part by keeping basic food prices down, which means that people don't need to seek out cheap processed foods of poor nutritional value.

Among the many cases being made for the National Health Insurance is that we will be able to mobilise the necessary resources to overcome the burden of these non-communicable diseases and improve the health outcomes of all our people, not just those who can afford to pay.

Until we have overcome this pandemic, we all have to play it safe, for ourselves and those around us.

Difficult though it may be, we should not expose our elderly mothers and fathers to the virus through social visits. Let us keep in touch with them by phone or video

messaging.

If they live with us, let us ensure we observe proper hygiene at all times by washing and sanitising our hands. Frequently touched surfaces, including equipment used by our parents and grandparents like walkers and canes, should be frequently cleaned.

We should limit our shared spaces where possible and wear a mask when around our elderly relatives. At the same time we must be led by common sense and not isolate elderly or sick relatives at a time when they need us most.

People with underlying medical conditions like diabetes and hypertension should be extra cautious. They should observe social distancing, stay home if possible and stay away from crowded places. Like everyone else, they should practice good hygiene and continue to take their medication.

One of the lessons from this pandemic is that we need a holistic approach to health. Anecdotal evidence suggests many of our people have used

the lockdown period to make positive lifestyle changes like doing more exercise or quitting smoking. Such developments should be welcomed. If some of us have become healthier during the lockdown, we should continue in this vein.

Reducing the burden of lifestyle-related diseases on our health system is ultimately in the best interests of our health, our economy and our own personal finances.

While the COVID-19 fatality rate is considered low in South Africa compared to the rest of the world, the rising number of infections is a caution against complacency.

If we follow all the prevention measures we will be able to protect ourselves. We will also, through our everyday actions, protect and keep safe those who are most vulnerable.

Let us remain cautious. Let us remain vigilant. Let us stay safe.

With best wishes

MESSAGE FROM MINISTER LINDIWE ZULU

Dear DSD Colleagues,

It has been four months since the lockdown was announced by President Cyril Ramaphosa and like many South Africans, I'm sure you have all made great sacrifices to adhere to the lockdown rules and regulations.

Every day, you show up to help South Africa's most vulnerable. For this, I want to offer my heartfelt thanks and appreciation for your efforts in ensuring that the department continues to operate. Your commitment makes all the difference.

Whilst we try and get used to the "new normal" I'm pleased that the Department has continued with various programmes that mitigate the social ills that plague our communities.

This year's Child Protection Week was a tremendous success. Child Protection Week is a time for all of us to focus on children and how we can play our part in keeping them safe in our families and communities by taking practical actions, sharing social media posts and through national publicity that shines the light on children.

Our Youth Month engagements, which included informative discussions with youth from across the country, gave the department great insight into the issues facing young people especially during the Covid-19 pandemic. Our aim is to enable young people by giving them a collective voice on national matters that affect them.



Gender Based Violence has reared its ugly head again. Every day, we hear stories of brutal and barbaric murders of women and children. This has to stop. A violent-free society that upholds the rights of women and children is possible because violence is preventable. Help us end violence against women and children and all forms of violence in our country. As we prepare to observe Mandela Month in July, let us remember this quote "It is in your hands, to make a better world for all who live in it."

We can all strive for positive change by doing small acts of kindness for our fellow man. We continue to wage war on this invisible enemy so we need to remain steadfast in delivering social services to the most vulnerable.

Please, do look after yourselves and your families. And stay safe.

Minister Lindiwe Zulu

MESSAGE OF HOPE

FROM

DEPUTY MINISTER, HENDRIETTA IPELENG BOGOPANE-ZULU



To the DSD family, we are now, more than ever called and challenged to restore the dignity of our people.

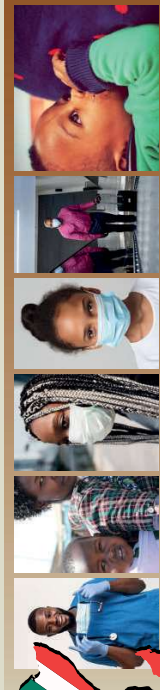
COVID-19 has challenged us to rethink our strategies and activities in the fulfilment of our mandate set out in the Constitution of the Republic of South Africa.

The country looks to us to provide the much needed, and at times, customised social services from cradle to the grave and beyond. I thank all our employees for your hard work and bracing the pandemic to

ensure that services are provided. I also want to thank your families for the sacrifices they are making in walking this road with you. Our mandate requires us to be there for all South Africans even after COVID-19 pandemic.

Let us all adhere to the safety and health protocols. Remember, the Coronavirus knows no race, age, gender, class, religion or geographic boundaries.

Nkosi Sikeli Africa!



The ACTING DG

LAUNCH OF THE DSD ETHICS PROGRAMME 2020

BY MR LINTON MCHUNU
ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL

Dear Colleagues

As you may be aware, the Department is committed to raising its ethics performance. An ethical organisation attracts and retains talented employees and gains the trust of the public, its partners, suppliers, and other stakeholders. An organisation that strives for successful service delivery can achieve this only with a strong ethical foundation.

We recently embarked on a process to review our ethics management approach. We have engaged the services of The Ethics Institute – an independent organisation that specialises in ethics management to guide us in this process.

The first step is to conduct an independent ethics opportunity and risk analysis to establish the DSD's current ethics opportunity and risk profile. As per the recommendation of the King IV report, this profile will inform our thinking around further ethics management interventions.

After some preliminary work, we will launch an online survey where we will ask all employees to provide their inputs on the organisation's ethics. This has been tentatively scheduled for July 2020. This will be an opportunity for you to respond to structured questions, but also to give us your general views on the organisation's ethics. Because

this is managed independently by The Ethics Institute you can be assured that your responses will be anonymous. We will communicate again closer to the time, but ask all employees to participate.

Using the information we receive, we will work with the management team to develop an ethics strategy and ethics policy for the department. The more responses we receive in the survey, the better we can respond to the realities on the ground.

The final part of the project – likely to roll out in late 2020 – is to start training employees on our new ethics approach.

We look forward to this journey and as we restructure the Department, this will form an important foundation in our culture.

Please make your contribution to building an ethical organisation by participating in the project where you can.

I will do the same!

A NOTE FROM EXCO



As you are aware, we are working and trying to deliver DSD services under trying times. The COVID-19 pandemic has changed the way we work and has forced us to find new and innovative ways of working.

While the number of South Africans infected by the virus is growing, South Africans especially those serviced by the Social Development sector, still need to be tended to. We need to communicate better and we need to make sure that our governance structures are in place. We wish to inform staff that we have revived our governance structures and will ensure that these structures sit as this is critical for governance and the progress of the Department of Social Development. This will include the requisite and regular reports to Parliament through the Portfolio Committee on Social Development.

Since Mr Linton Mchunu was appointed Acting Director-General, EXCO has had six meetings and these meetings will be held every Monday.

It is with a bitter-sweet feeling that Ms. Nelisiwe Vilakazi who was Deputy Director-General, Strategy and Organisational Transformation (SOT) has now been appointed as Social Development Head of Department in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal. Ms. Vilakazi was a great asset to the DSD sector.

While Ms. Vilakazi leaves the DSD National office, she will continue to work with us as a sector from

the KwaZulu-Natal Province. We congratulate and wish Ms. Vilakazi well in her new journey and thank her for the countless contributions she made towards our Department.

Mr. Mchunu has announced that Mr Thabani Buthelezi will be acting on behalf of Ms. Vilakazi until the post is filled. We take this opportunity to wish Mr Buthelezi well in the role of Deputy Director-General.

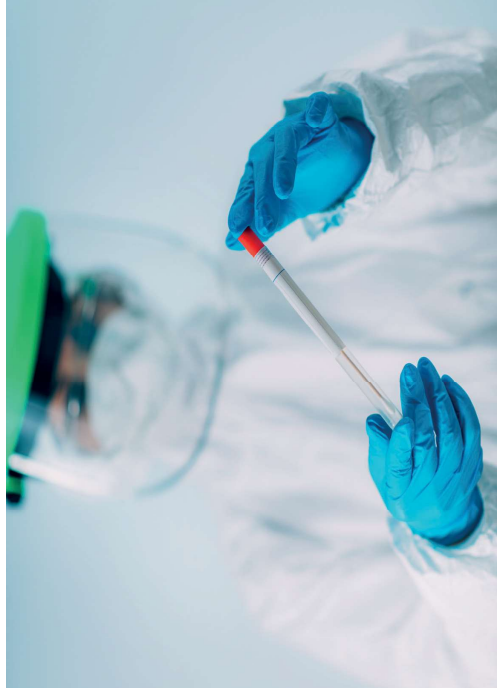
Colleagues, you may be aware that we are now at the enhanced Level 3 of the COVID-19 risk-adjusted strategy. This has implications for the DSD sector

and its workforce. We have communicated with staff the back-to-work circular which details how Level 3 will affect you. It is important to note since the announcement of the National State of Disaster by President Cyril Ramaphosa, the public service continued to operate, albeit on a reduced workforce. Colleagues have been furnished with information on how the sector will continue to do its work.

COVID-19 is going to be with us for a long time and EXCO is looking seriously at making sure that staff members have the requisite tools of the trade. An Information Technology plan was presented to EXCO and officials will need to be furnished with tools of the trade to make sure that staff members continue to work optimally when they need to work from home.

Although we still have some challenges around the tools of the trade, especially those that are IT related, we are mindful of how these can be a deterrent for staff members to be able to work remotely and this is being addressed as a matter of urgency. COVID-19 has given us a chance to find new and innovative ways to work and we are now in the process of making sure that every floor in the Department is connected to Wi-Fi.

EXCO resolved that an emergency procurement strategy must be developed to respond to the COVID-19 pandemic and that provinces would need to reprioritise resources associated with the pandemic.



A list of Bills was also presented to EXCO and it was agreed that the Social Practitioners Bill, the Children's Bill, the Older Persons Bill and Victim Support Bill should be processed in 2020. It was decided that the NPO and SASSA Bills will be tabled in 2021. All these Bills will make sure that DSD continues to do its work and changing the lives of South Africans. These cannot be achieved without the good work that staff members put in to make sure that we continue "Building a caring society together". We can never thank you enough as staff members to make sure that this work is realised.

Ethics and values are the foundation of successful organisations and the Ethics Institute has been appointed to work with the Department. Mr Kris Dobbie of the Institute made a presentation to EXCO on its areas of focus namely: ethics risk assessment, ethics strategy programme, and policy ethics training. EXCO welcomed the presentation and noted that the Institute was appointed at

an opportune time when the Department was busy with its organisational redesign through the GTAC process.

It was noted by EXCO that the Branch of Social Security will soon be relocating from Harlequins to the HSRC building. It was reported that the project of the Social Development campus is an ongoing project and this is to make sure that the DSD family that includes the South African Social Security Agency and the National Development Agency are in one area.

HOW CAN WE PROTECT OURSELVES AND THE PEOPLE AROUND US FROM COVID-19

#NewNormal #Covid19



Wear a mask



Wash hands



Keep at least one and a half metre distance from people



Open windows



Do everything possible outdoors



Avoid crowded spaces



Be quick when you are out for necessary work or errands



Stay at home as far as possible



MINISTER LINDIWE ZULU LAUNCHES THE NATIONAL DRUG MASTER PLAN

The Minister of Social Development
Ms Lindiwe Zulu launched the National Drug Master
Plan (NDMP, 2019-2024) on Friday, 26 June 2020 to
commemorate the International Day
Against Drug Abuse and Illicit Trafficking.



The NDMP is a blueprint for combating the scourge of alcohol and substance abuse which has reached epidemic proportions in South Africa.

The overarching goal of the National Drug Master Plan is to prevent drug use before it starts, early intervention to ensure substance users receive treatment and rehabilitation services and reducing the demand for illicit drugs.

The national theme of this year's commemoration is: "Value yourself and make healthy choices against alcohol, tobacco and drug abuse to minimise the spread of COVID-19".

This year's commemoration takes place at a time the global community confronts the major socio-economic challenges posed by the global COVID-19 pandemic which presents unique challenges for persons with substance use disorders and those in recovery.

The commemoration occurs in the context of the nationwide activities of the Youth Month programme, as young people comprise the vast majority of illicit drug users. Given this, there is a clear need for prevention efforts directed towards the youth.

Government remains resolved to tackle the scourge of alcohol and substance abuse in South Africa. In this regard, the Department has established the Central Drug Authority (CDA) - a multisectoral forum to tackle the scourge of alcohol and substance abuse.

The National Drug Master Plan can be accessed on:

www.dsd.gov.za

GAUTENG PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT WELCOMES NEW SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MEC

BY PHETOHO MAJA

Gauteng Provincial Government (GPG) Premier David Makhura has announced the appointment of Dr Nomathemba "Thembu" Emily Mokgethi as the new MEC for Social Development on the 19th of June 2020.

This appointment follows the untimely death of former MEC Thuliswa Nkabinde-Khawe who passed on in November last year.

Premier Makhura then later appointed Education MEC, Panyaza Lesufi to act on the portfolio of social development. In a media statement, Makhura conveyed his gratitude to MEC Lesufi for a sterling job done in steering the Department of Social Development through a challenging time of responding to COVID-19 during the past three months.

"I am very pleased to announce Dr Mokgethi as the new MEC for Social Development," said Makhura, adding that the new MEC is a seasoned public official with extensive experience in government.

"She has 27-years of experience in local government, where she served as a Municipal Manager in three different municipalities. She holds an MA in Nursing Science and a Doctorate in Literature and Philosophy from the University of South Africa (UNISA)," said Makhura.

Dr Mokgethi was currently serving in the 6th Legislature from 2019 as an MPL and Chairperson of COGTA and Human Settlement. She is also serving on the Scopa and Standing Committee on Chair of Chairs.

One of the MEC's urgent tasks will be to lead the battle against gender-based violence, a scourge that is currently ravaging our nation.

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www.dsd.gov.za

One of the MEC's urgent tasks will be to lead the battle against gender-based violence, a scourge that is currently ravaging our nation.

**DON'T MAKE ME FIGHT TO SURVIVE WHEN I WAS
BORN TO THRIVE. GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE
ENDS NOW.**

**Contact the
Gender-Based Violence
Command Centre on
0800428428 or *120*7867#
and a social worker will
call you back**

Building a Caring Society Together.



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MEC KHOZA WELCOMES THE APPOINTMENT OF NEW HEAD OF DEPARTMENT

KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Social Development, Mrs. Nonhlanhla Khoza, welcomed the appointment of the new Head of Department, Mrs. Nelisiwe Vilakazi with effect from 01 June 2020.

Mrs. Vilakazi is not new in the public sector. She has served as the Deputy Director-General responsible for Strategy and Organisational Transformation in the national Department of Social Development.

MEC Khoza said: "We welcome the appointment of the New Head of Department by the Cabinet led by Honourable Premier, Mr. Sihle Zikalala. Her appointment comes as a major boost to our team, as we strive towards the efficient implementation of programmes set by the sixth administration. We are confident that with Mrs. Vilakazi at the helm, we will take the Department to extra heights as she comes with a wealth of experience."

She said Mrs. Vilakazi would hit the ground running.

MEC Khoza expressed her gratitude to former Acting HOD, Mr. Sibusiso Ngubane for holding the fort while the recruitment process was taking place.

"We will remain indebted to Mr. Ngubane for the role he played in steering the Department in the right direction," she said.

Mrs. Vilakazi is from Newcastle, Amajuba District on the northern part of the Province. Her career path started in the Provincial Department of Social Development as a Social Worker, Chief

Social Worker, Assistant Director, Deputy Director, Director, and Regional Chief Director before joining the National Department.

Mrs. Vilakazi holds a B.A. in Social Work, Honours in BA Social Work from University of Zululand, Master of Art in Social Science from the University of KwaZulu-Natal, and B-Tech Management from Durban University of Technology. She is currently pursuing her PhD and her research interest is in the area of women and poverty.

“

Mrs Vilakazi said: "I decided to return to the Province so that I can contribute to improving the lives of the people. I'm passionate about seeing lives of the vulnerable change for the better.

With the team in the Department we have to implement programmes that change the lives of the people, fight the scourge of gender-based violence and protect vulnerable groups from poverty."

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ISSUED BY THE KWAZULU-NATAL MINISTRY FOR SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

DEDICATION TO UNEMPLOYED SOCIAL WORK GRADUATES:

BY LANGI MALAMBA



As we usher in Mental illness month, I want to pause and remember all those cadres who took their own lives and those of their intimate partners due to one of five major mental illnesses- depression.

One life lost due to this silent killer is one too many and we have to speak out without shame because everyone may suffer from bouts of depression once in their lifetime. I want to have a personal conversation with all unemployed graduates whom I have been fortunate to interface with from the time the national state of disaster was declared. It is with a heavy heart that I put pen to paper to reach out to all of you because I know how it feels to lose a colleague to depression or to face a bleak future where you are not sure where your next plate of food is going to come from.

I have been unemployed once upon a time in my life, I have felt desperate seeing fellow colleagues I studied with get 'nice' job offers and wondered when my turn will come.

I read your desperate emails each day telling me how 'hopeless and useless' you are starting to feel because you can't repay parents who made sacrifices to get you through university or you can't uplift your own siblings and pain grips my heart. I connect with your pain and anguish when you write

to me that you need the practice card or at least a registration number to prove to a prospective employer that you are qualified and fit to practice. I empathize and understand the impatience with me when I ask you to reflect on how you constructed an email or the unintended laziness that crept into your email because you were either hurried or tired of many emails to Council and got no response. I fight ignoring the bad habits I see in your emails and end up writing back to you to please write politely even when it might seem unimportant at the point where you are desperately looking for your receipts.

I understand and apologise for the hardship you are facing today, which is now exacerbated by COVID-19 conditions. It is however very important to always know that the first impression counts and that life's trials do have a greater purpose. As we mature, we need to be patient and get past "why me" question or thinking and feeling punished or forgotten by God or the world. It is important to connect with friends who will give you strength when you are feeling 'down' and afraid of your own thoughts. The first step to overcome anxiety and depression is to change your mind or to stop dwelling on negative thoughts, and to choose friends who lift you up.

I empathise with all of you who write to me, stating that you are starting to feel depressed because you graduated six years ago and no offer is coming your way - I know and understand that pain because I also travelled down that road many years ago and I have witnessed people I care for sink deeper into the dark pit because they lost faith and the will to fight. Being sucked into a world of panic and fear is not a nice feeling. It is a painful, scary and lonely journey for anyone who completed their studies and hoped for a sudden change and improvement and attainment of dreams. Like night gives way to daylight, this phase in your life will come to pass.

I want to salute the late Thokozani Nxumalo who was buried on 28 June 2020, may his soul rest in peace. I salute the provincial leaders of the USWMSA (Unemployed Social Workers' Movement of South Africa) and any other unemployed graduate networks for offering leadership and hope to the many unemployed social work graduates in our country.

In the next edition, I will address: "COVID 19 -the aftermath and the new normal".

(Registrar: SACSSP)

NORTH WEST HOUSES: 140 HOMELESS PEOPLE IN THREE DISTRICTS

North West Department of Social Development has provided alternative shelters to 140 homeless citizens in three district municipalities to avert the spread of COVID-19.



North West MEC for Social Development, Boitumelo Moiloa visits homeless people in Rustenburg during the lockdown.

Provision of alternative shelters to the homeless is a clarion call made by President Cyril Ramaphosa for people to stay at home and that government should provide homeless people with accommodation during the lockdown period.

Since the lockdown period began, MEC for Social Development, Boitumelo Moiloa has conducted site visits to the homeless people in Bojanala, Ngaka Modiri Molema and Dr Kenneth Kaunda to assess their living conditions at the shelters.

On her three-day expedition to the shelters, Moiloa shared information on COVID-19 with the homeless

"We appeal to you to stop roaming the streets during this period. Stay here. For your safety and that of others, don't leave this facility. The government will provide you with the necessary services such as food, blankets and sanitisers. Maintain social distance even when you are sleeping or eating," Moiloa said.

"We thank good Samaritans who have been providing support to the government by bringing food, mattresses and blankets for the homeless people. Equally important, we thank law enforcement agencies for working hand in hand with us in these shelters," Moiloa continued.

While the government is doing everything in its

NORTH WEST HOUSES 140 HOMELESS PEOPLE IN THREE DISTRICTS CONTINUED

power to take care of the homeless people, Moiloa said there are some challenges such as withdrawal symptoms of substance abuse among some homeless people at the shelters. She said her department is working in partnership with the Health Department to assist drug addicts.

Most of the homeless came to the North West towns with the hope of getting jobs. One of the homeless, Sherleen Hoffman said she came from Cape Town to look for a job in Rustenburg and later moved to Klerksdorp to try her luck.

"I am grateful to the government for taking care of us

during this period. We are so happy to be housed in this centre. We receive warmth and love in this place," Hoffman said.

Another homeless resident Stephen Diphoko from Galeshewe, Northern Cape also came looking for employment and stayed in the streets in Klerksdorp CBD with the hope of getting a job someday. With the Coronavirus outbreak, Diphoko said, his dream of getting a job is being delayed.

Moiloa is scheduled to visit homeless shelters in Mamusa and Naledi local municipalities soon.

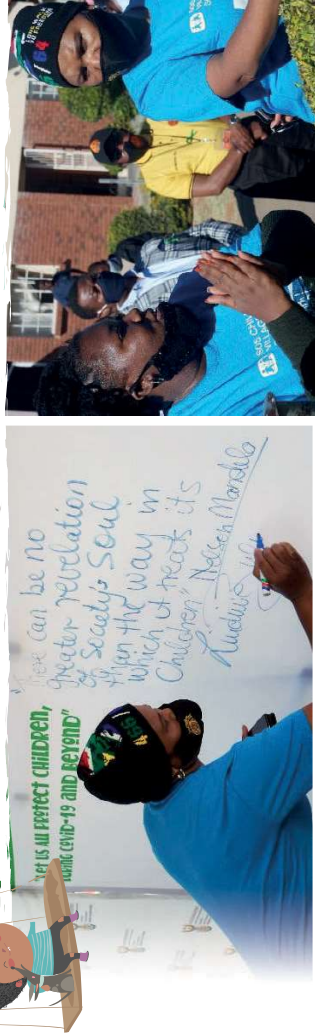


MEC Boitumelo Moiloa distributes food relief to households affected by the national lockdown.



31 May to 7 June 2020

BY EVANS MOLIMI



The Minister of Social Development Ms Lindiwe Zulu visited the SOS Rustenburg Child and Youth Care centre on May 8 to officially launch Child Protection Week (CPW) 2020.

CPW is held annually. This year's event was commemorated under the theme: "Let us all protect children during COVID-19 and beyond".

Minister Zulu singled out child neglect by their biological parents as the most worrisome issue in the country.

The SOS Rustenburg centre provides residential care as well as therapeutic and developmental programmes for neglected children in terms of the Children's Act 38 of 2005. The centre currently caters for 84 children between the ages of 2 and 20 years.

Addressing the gathering at the centre, Minister Zulu

continuing with life as if there is nothing wrong with child neglect. Let's work together to protect the rights of children and report child abuse to law authorities. Let's all build a solid foundation and a caring society for our children," said the Minister.

She further called on all South African citizens to focus on raising awareness of children's rights and to take a stand against abuse, neglect and exploitation of children.

Minister Zulu urged workers at the centre to always observe the COVID-19 lockdown regulations, whilst handing out personal protective equipment, including hand wash soaps and sanitisers to curb the spread of the virus at the centre.

ALEXANDRA RESIDENTS HIT HARD BY NATIONAL LOCKDOWN

BY EVANS MOLIMI

The Alexandra community in Gauteng Province seems to be the hardest hit by the effects of the COVID-19 pandemic after most of the households were left destitute and with no food since the lockdown period started on March 29.

The Deputy Minister of Social Development Ms Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu, in partnership with the mobile company Hauwei, had recently visited the area and distributed food parcels to 300 families, of which 60 were child-headed households.

This is part of the government's continuing efforts and national response to mitigate the effects of COVID-19 and its impact on communities.

Deputy Minister Bogopane-Zulu indicated that social development was working relentlessly to attract the private sector to assist the government in collating food packages for the needy families across the country.

"We understand your frustrations. The lockdown has

brought serious challenges to many of you. As the Department, we are working tirelessly to ensure that we continue working closely with the private sector to assist those who are vulnerable and in need of food parcels," the Deputy Minister said.

Ms Koketso Mothiba, one of the residents, said the lockdown has hurt her and her four children. Lockdown regulations forced her to close down her street vegetable business.

The financial strain has also been felt by many of us who survive by selling on the streets. We had to close our stalls due to the COVID-19 pandemic and we have lost our source of income.

"Be that as it may, I still have to provide food for my children because they depend on me. I am just grateful that I am receiving social grants for my children and the money is helping us during these trying times," said Mothiba.

A large number of the Alexandra community survive on government social grants because most of them are unemployed. Others survive through selling recycled materials, street vending and doing odd jobs in the neighbouring town of Sandton.



HAMMANSKRAAL RESIDENTS RECEIVE A WINDFALL AMID

BY EVANS MOLIMI

The residents of Hammanskraal in Pretoria North know hunger better than anyone.

Most of the households go to bed hungry, without knowledge of where their next meal or income will come from. A large population of Hammanskraal depends heavily on government social grants.

The 22-year-old, Tumelo Hlaka and his siblings know too well how painful it is to go to bed hungry. The only income the family relies on is Tumelo's sister disability grant, which he says is helpful but at the same time little because they also use it to pay for his sister's medication.

"Since the lockdown regulations came into effect, it has been a testing time for me because I only rely on recycling old materials to support my two siblings for survival. But I also thank neighbours around the village who are always sharing the little food they have with us," said Hlaka.

Owing to the dire situation in Hammanskraal, the Deputy Minister of Social Development Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu in partnership with Old Mutual visited the area on June 15, and donated food



parcels to the needy households, including the Hlaka homestead.

Deputy Minister Bogopane-Zulu expressed her heartfelt sentiments with the community, saying that she understands how it feels to go to bed on an empty stomach. She thanked Old Mutual for coming on board in augmenting government's efforts in fighting hunger around the country.

"As a Department, we are going to ensure that we continue working hard in partnership with the private sector to fight poverty and famine amongst South Africans," said the Deputy Minister Bogopane-Zulu. She said the Department would continue contributing food parcels to communities even beyond COVID-19.

Hlaka said he was thankful and happy that his family was among the 300 families who received food parcels on the day.

"I hope God can give Social Development Deputy Minister more influential powers to continue building more partnerships with other private sectors to fight poverty in our country," Hlaka said.

Another resident Martha Ntsane said: "Life under lockdown is tough and difficult. I used to work as a domestic worker in town to take care of my children. I am also happy to have been considered to be one of the beneficiaries."

The distribution of food parcels is part of the government's response to curb the effects of the COVID-19 on vulnerable communities since the beginning of lockdown in March this year.

COVID-19 WEIGHS HEAVY ON THE HOMELESS

BY EVANS MOLIMI



who are vulnerable and to provide a safe space for the homeless. We want to ensure that all South Africans are safe from COVID-19 infections," said Minister Zulu.

The impact of the COVID-19 pandemic in the country is felt heavily by the vulnerable people living on the streets, more so because they do not have shelter.

Minister of Social Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu and MEC, Thandi Shongwe visited the

Middleburg temporary shelter for the homeless and the Middleburg Child and Youth Care Centre on May 24 as part of monitoring the implementation and compliance of government-funded centres towards the Department's lockdown regulations.

Currently, 14 000 vulnerable homeless individuals are receiving Social Development services and social relief of distress at various shelters around the country. Minister Zulu urged the people at the centre to take care of themselves and to observe social distancing and to wash their hands at all times.

During the visit to both centres, Minister Zulu and MEC Shongwe handed over personal protective equipment, sanitisers and blankets for the homeless to keep.

streets. We also understand that it was unfortunate circumstances that led you to be where you are now.

"Ours is to ensure that we make available a conducive environment for all. We, therefore, are going to assist those who want assistance, especially those who want to withdraw from the usage of illicit substances and drug abuse," said the minister.

As part of the national response to contain the spread and mitigate the impact of the pandemic, the Department has established

Middleburg temporary shelter to provide accommodation and meals to the homeless people in Middleburg and the surrounding areas.

During the visit to both centres, Minister Zulu and MEC Shongwe handed over personal protective equipment, sanitisers and blankets for the homeless to keep.

"We understand your hardship. No one dreams of living on the

VUKUZENZELE CNDC AND TWO MORE THABA NCHU CNDC'S BENEFICIARIES RECEIVE FOOD DONATIONS

As a woman who believes in serving people, Martha Susiwe Tau did what anybody else thought was impossible to many. In 1998 January, Me "Martha Tau founded Vukuzenzele organisation that has been caring for the elderly (grandmothers and grandfathers) and developing unemployed women; youth and children.

As a woman who believes in serving people, Martha Susiwe Tau did what many thought was impossible. In January 1998, Martha Tau founded Vukuzenzele organisation that has been caring for the elderly (grandmothers and grandfathers) and developing unemployed women, youth and children. The organisation was officially registered in February 2010 and registered as an NPO by the Department of Social development.

Vukuzenzele Community Nutrition and Development Centre works as a pillar of strength to its beneficiaries at Ratau location, in Thaba-Nchu by providing lunch to 170 people daily from Monday to Friday. As the whole world has been dealing with the pandemic called COVID-19, even here in South Africa, organisations like Vukuzenzele and its beneficiaries are in need because the lockdown stopped its functions for a period of time. This meant that the organisation paused in taking care of their members on a full-time basis. The COVID-19 has affected the poor and needy who were supported by this organisation as most of its beneficiaries depended on its services daily.

When lockdown started in March this year, the Community and Nutrition Development Centres



(CNDc's) closed their doors to the community in order to abide by the Lockdown regulations, that prohibited movement of people from their homes to the centres. The President of South Africa, Mr Cyril Ramaphosa then made a call for those in need to be assisted as most people would not be going to work and the Free State Department of Social Development headed the call. The Provincial office provided training on COVID-19 to all Cooks at the Centres, and upon re-opening, food parcels were procured to ensure that all beneficiaries' households were catered for.

On 28 April 2020, the department assisted Vukuzenzele CNDc by donating and distributing food parcels to 170 beneficiaries' households. Two more CNDc's in Thaba Nchu received food parcels; 194 Tsie CNDc beneficiaries and 168 Sunrise CNDc beneficiaries' households also benefited.

The Department of Social Development was assisted by Police officers and South African Defence Force (SANDF) members in distributing the food parcels from house to house to these families. "I'd really like to thank Social Development for assisting those who needed the food parcels as they made a difference in their homes" said Me' Martha Tau of Vukuzenzele on behalf of Thaba Nchu CNDc's.

MEC, NKAKARENG RAKGOALE OFFICIALLY HANDS OVER DONATED WHEELCHAIRS

There were tears of joy and appreciation when Limpopo MEC for Social Development, Nkakareng Rakgoale, handed over three wheelchairs at Ga-Sekororo in the Maruleng Local Municipal area of Limpopo.

Joined by Kgoshi Sekororo at the Sekororo Traditional Authority Hall on Saturday 27th June 2020, MEC handed over the wheelchairs and food parcels to identified needy people with disabilities. The donation was made by a Good Samaritan who wished to give back to the community.

Kgoshi Sekororo along with the recipients' family members expressed their deep appreciation to the donor as well as Government, for ensuring that the dignity of community members is restored and for making their lives easier, especially during this trying time of the COVID-19 lockdown period. Kgoshi Sekororo further commended the MEC for the generous and personal gesture.

In her response, MEC Rakgoale said:

"We don't have wheelchairs waiting and we are relying on donors and Good Samaritans to provide us with such, but when we get new wheelchairs, we will be advancing to other districts of the Province to hand them over to recipients who we will have identified." She also thanked the donor of the wheelchairs, who chooses to remain anonymous.

ENHANCED SERVICES AT SASSA



social development
Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



The emergence of the unprecedented Coronavirus has shaken the entire universe in various ways. Subsequently, President Cyril Ramaphosa responded by introducing emergency economic and social relief measures to alleviate the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic. SASSA has thus been mandated to include the following remedial measures for a period of 6 months effective from May 2020 until October 2020:

- Top-up for the Child Support Grant (CSG) with R300 per child for May 2020 only. For the period from June to October, the amount per child will revert to R440 per month and an additional R500 per month for each care giver, regardless of the number of children;
- All other grant types (Older Person, Disability, Care Dependency and Foster Child Grants) monthly Top-up of R250 from May 2020 to October 2020;
- The re-instatement of the Temporary Disability Grants which lapsed from February 2020, since offices are currently not taking in new disability assessments as a result of lockdown guidelines;
- Introduction of R350 special SRD grant for the unemployed effective from May 2020 to October 2020 as a new intervention by SASSA to enable food and income security of eligible beneficiaries based on the following qualifying criteria:
 - Must be South African citizen, Permanent resident or Refugee registered with the Department of Home Affairs (DHA)
 - Resident within the borders of the RSA
 - Between the ages of 18 to 60 years
 - Unemployed
 - Not receiving any income
 - Not receiving any social grant
 - Not receiving Unemployment Insurance Fund benefit (UIF)
- Does not qualify to receive UIF benefit
- Not receiving a stipend from the National Student

- Financial Aid Scheme (NSFAS)
 - Not resident in a government funded or subsidised institution
- SASSA has had to develop a new system from scratch within a month to receive applications electronically, process and pay this new grant. This, as a new invention, has, like all new innovations, come with some teething problems. The latter has resulted in some delays in processing and paying on time. However, the challenges have largely been addressed and the response time should improve going forward. Any inconvenience is sincerely regretted.

As at 23 June SASSA has received 7 188 989 applications in total. Of these the applications for May month were 6 559 001, of which 3 340 607 were declined and 3 251 835 have been approved. 2 772 963 clients have been paid.

The Appeals process for the rejected Special COVID-19 SRD grant

If someone was rejected because their personal details which they initially provided do not match those held by Home Affairs, they can go to the website <https://srd.sassa.gov.za> as from early July to correct their personal details. It is important that the details provided to SASSA are exactly as they appear in their ID document, as initially advised during their application; otherwise the application will be rejected. Personal details refer to names, surnames and ID number.

SASSA wishes to advise all those applicants who have been informed that they were rejected as a result of their ID being found on the UIF database, that they are being rechecked by SASSA and an updated outcome will be sent to everyone shortly. Applicants do not need to try and appeal this outcome – it is being looked at by SASSA.

What to do once the application is approved

Once the application is approved, the applicant is sent a message to upload the banking details. The applicant should click on the link provided (not retype it as people make mistakes).

Payment

If applicants have been approved and can see a payment date on their status, but have not been requested to provide banking details, this means that the payment has been extracted to be sent to post office. This also happens if the banking details provided do not match the details held by the bank, or if the applicant fails to respond to the request for banking details within a period of 3 days.

Payment is then extracted to post office, so that there are no delays. If the payment is sent via the post office, the applicant will be sent an SMS notification to tell them that their money is ready for collection.

Once they receive the SMS, they need to take the SMS and their ID document to the nearest post office to be able to collect the money. Post Office will only pay the money to the approved applicant – the ID and the person in front of them must match. Approved applicants cannot send a proxy to collect the money on their behalf. This is to ensure that SAPO can FICA the account into which the money is paid, and to ensure that the correct person receives the money.

If an applicant who has been sent to the post office to collect the grant does not want to continue collecting the grant at the post office for subsequent months, he/she can go to the SASSA website at <https://srd.sassa.gov.za> from mid July to update his banking details. This function is not available earlier, as we are currently extracting payments and do not want payments to be "missed".

If an applicant is sent a link to update his/her banking details for payment, they must respond immediately. It is also important to note that this link cannot be shared with others, as it is specific to that client for security reasons. If someone tries to follow a link given to another person, they will receive a failed message.

Assistance by the Registered Volunteers

The Minister of Social Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu MP authorised the CEOs of SASSA and the National Development Agency (NDA) as public entities resorting

under her ambit of control, to implement her strategic focus area by adopting the Portfolio Approach to recruit, train and manage the Volunteer Programme using registered Community Based Organisation (CBO's) on the database of NDA.

The appointment of the accredited volunteers who sign an agreement with SASSA to uphold SASSA's values and service standards is to enhance the institutionalization of the Special COVID-19 SRD Grant. Approximately 700 volunteers have been recruited.

The intent with the volunteer programme is to increase access to the Special COVID-19 SRD Grant especially for vulnerable and potentially eligible citizens who are unemployed but may not have access to the electronic platforms and/or may require assistance to use technology to access the social assistance programme for the payment of the Special COVID-19 SRD Grant. SASSA created the following platforms to enable a responsive service to register an application:

- ➔ **WhatsApp Number: 082 046 8553**
- ➔ **Website : <https://srd.sassa.gov.za>**

The volunteers are to advance the access to the Special COVID-19 SRD Grant with emphasis on performing the following key activities:

- Register potential eligible beneficiaries who do not have access to technology to use the e-Platforms;
- Assist those who require assistance to complete the application using technology;
- Assist with communication campaigns and education;
- Assist during the 1st week each month to ensure that the COVID-19 Precautionary Protocols are maintained by the beneficiaries who collect their grants



TOLL FREE: 0800 60 10 11
www.sassa.gov.za

paying the right social grant, to the right person, at the right time and place. N/A/O!



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