



# THE BULLETIN

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2024

Special Edition of MEC's first 100 days in the office



As soon as Ms Basetsana Rebecca Sussana got to grips with her portfolio as a Member of the Executive Council for the Department of Social Development in the 7<sup>th</sup> Administration, she developed a meticulous programme detailing the activities that she undertook in her first 100 days in office.



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# EDITOR'S NOTE



**W**elcome to the special edition of The Bulletin external newsletter of the North West Department of Social Development. This electronic publication is dedicated to the first 100 days of MEC Basetsana Rebecca Sussana Dantjie in the office.

The production of this special edition is the brainchild of the editorial team. We took it upon ourselves as the editorial team to compile the stories that cover the 100 day programme of MEC Dantjie as it unfolded in various districts across the province. Every jot and title that you read on the pages of this publication demonstrate MEC Dantjie's fruitful engagements with various stakeholders.

MEC Dantjie is really capable of hitting the ground running. Without any shadow of doubt, she is able to lead the department to greater heights of service delivery given her political and administrative experience. Dantjie is not a new kid on the block. She has served in various political roles and has done a good job as a Speaker of the North West Provincial Legislature.

Since she assumed office shortly after the May 2024 elections, Dantjie interacted robustly with Chief Directors on departmental core service delivery programmes of the department.

Upon her appointment as the MEC, Mme Dantjie did not mince her words when she talks about service delivery. She hinted that more still needs to be done to change the lives of our people.

Her words can be summed up as follows: 'People still need our services. It is upon all of us in the department to restore the confidence of our people in government's programmes of service delivery. As public servants, you are at the coalface of service delivery. Work as a team. The achievements of the department are the results of the combined efforts of every employee in the department. Do not compete with each other. Compliment each other.'

As she got to grips in her portfolio of social development in the 7<sup>th</sup> Administration, MEC Dantjie got a baptism of fire. This, after two elderly people killed another elderly in an unlicensed old age home at Jericho near Brits. The pair were arrested and died in prison before they were sentenced. Without any delay she led a team of officials to Ipeleng Bagodi old age home to get first hand information on the ordeal.

She convened a meeting with the management of the centre, board members and the traditional leadership to inform them of her decision to close down the facility pending thorough consultation with individual families of the elderly people who resided at the facility.

I was there. After a lengthy and robust deliberation, one could sense resistance from the community members on the closure of the old age home. With all boldness MEC Dantjie ordered the management of Ipeleng Bagodi old age home to close down the centre and work towards making sure that their old age home complies with minimum standards for residential facilities catering for older persons.

She ordered that the then residents of the home be moved to other suitable facilities after thorough consultation with their families.

MEC Dantjie who is adamant about compliance with the law, said the incidents that took place at the facility were an eye opener and called for her department to embark on an expedition to check the registration status of each non-profit organisation in every ward and district in the province.

**Petrus Siko**  
**Editor-in-Chief**



# FROM MEC'S DESK



**D**ear readers. On my assumption of duty as an Executing Authority for Social Development portfolio, I directed that an itinerary of activities be compiled for my first 100 days in the office. The itinerary ran from the 21<sup>st</sup> June to 07<sup>th</sup> November 2024 and was comprised of the activities that were in pursuit of the departmental Annual Performance Plan (APP) service delivery targets. The 100-day period also presented me with an opportunity to interact with various stakeholders within the social sector.

My initial days in the office involved listening roadshows with staff, non-profit organisations, the provincial older persons and disability forums including the oversight bodies. Without any shadow of doubt, this has been a wonderful experience that I will always tap on as I embark on the implementation of social service programmes in the 7<sup>th</sup> political administration.

During the period under review, I have been to various communities in the province and I had first-hand

experience on how our people are leading their lives. We have intervened in the plight of female learners in villages and farms by providing them with sanitary towels at Kromkuil village in Moretele.

As I crisscrossed the remotest parts of our province, I have learnt that there are people who are unable to access government services because they do not have relevant documents such as identity documents and birth certificates. They are far away from the very important amenities that are intended to change their lives. When we take Thuntsa lerole reloaded service delivery roadshow to the people, we made it easy for them to receive the same services that are being rendered at our service points, districts offices and head office.

Thuntsa lerole programme as it is popularly known, was launched by the NW provincial government in 2023 to intensify and accelerate the provision of basic services, intervene where there are service delivery blockages and promote consistent engagement with different communities across the province on service delivery issues.

With regard to youth development, I presided over a ceremony at Deelpan and awarded certificates to unemployed young people who have completed security courses and obtained drivers licences.

The department that I am leading as a Member of the Executive Council is not new to me. I have learnt the ropes while serving as an MPL on social cluster portfolio committee at the Provincial Legislature.

I have always had passion to improve the living conditions of people. I believe in changing the lives of ordinary people through provision of services. This has always been my port of call. In fact it prides me when I extend a helping hand to many of our people who are living below the breadline.

Despite the sterling work that government has done in the communities, a lot still need to be done to change the lives of ordinary citizens.

**Ms Basetsana Rebecca Sussana Dantjie**  
**MEC for Social Development**

## ON THE COVER

**Fifty young people at Deelpan village in Tswaing local municipality have gained significant employment prospects following their completion of accredited training in security services, funded by the North West Department of Social Development.**

# MEC DANTJIE DONATES SANITARY TOWELS TO LEARNERS

By Petrus Siko

- The North West Social Development MEC, Basetsana Sussana Dantjie, announced the provision of 6,625 sanitary towels to disadvantaged learners in rural schools, addressing a critical barrier to education for girls during their menstrual cycles.
- During a recent visit to Rethusitswe Combined School, Dantjie emphasised that the lack of sanitary products negatively impacts girls' hygiene, health, and educational participation, highlighting the need for continued support.
- The initiative is part of the 'Thuntsa Lerole Reloaded' programme, aimed at improving basic services and community engagement across the province, with plans to expand free sanitary towel distribution to women in non-profit organisations and cooperatives.

**T**he provision of sanitary towels to rural schools will significantly restore the dignity of disadvantaged learners at risk of missing school due to their menstrual cycles. North West Social Development MEC Basetsana Sussana Dantjie made this announcement to school management and learners at Rethusitswe Combined School in Kromkuil village, Moretele. The lack of sanitary towels is a major contributor to girl learners missing classes.

"According to our annual performance plan, our department will provide 6,625 sanitary towels to learners in need across the province in the current financial year. This initiative will help learners greatly, as they will no longer feel ashamed to attend school during their menstrual periods," Dantjie stated, to applause from the learners, teachers, and social workers who filled the school hall.

Dantjie emphasised that the absence of sanitary towels could compromise young girls' hygiene, health, education, and participation in various activities. Alongside Health MEC Sello Lehari and Education MEC Viola Motsumi, Dantjie donated sanitary towels to learners at the school as part of the North West's year-long accelerated service delivery programme, known as 'Thuntsa Lerole Reloaded.'

Launched by the NW provincial government in 2023, the Thuntsa Lerole programme aims to intensify and accelerate the provision of basic services, address service delivery blockages, and promote consistent engagement with communities across the province on service delivery issues.



During the handover ceremony, Jack Nkwena, principal of Rethusitswe Combined School, praised the authorities for delivering sanitary towels to learners - a timely gesture that met a critical need. Nkwena noted that teachers had previously donated money to purchase sanitary towels for learners.

"We are incredibly grateful that the MECs visited our school and brought these essential items. We are in a disadvantaged community where many parents cannot afford sanitary packs. This donation will make a significant difference in the lives of our learners," Nkwena said, adding that his school serves 606 learners across grades R to nine. The provision of free sanitary towels in the province is also set to expand to organised women in non-profit organisations and cooperatives within the region.

# NPOs MUST COMPLY – MEC

By Petrus Siko

- North West MEC for Social Development, Basetsana Sussana Dantjie, emphasised that the non-compliance of non-profit organisations (NPOs) with legislation is a major barrier to achieving a clean audit for her department.
- During a meeting with NPO representatives in Ngaka Modiri Molema, she warned that no further funding would be granted to those unable to adequately account for previous allocations, urging strict adherence to compliance standards.
- With a shrinking budget, Dantjie highlighted the need for NPOs to seek alternative funding sources and affirmed the department’s commitment to supporting compliance through dedicated bookkeeping for each organisation.

**M**EC Basetsana Sussana Dantjie, highlighted the non-compliance of non-profit organisations (NPOs) with legislation as a significant factor hindering her department’s ability to achieve a clean audit.

Addressing representatives from various NPOs in Ngaka Modiri Molema as part of her 100-day programme in office, MEC Dantjie emphasised, “We are accountable to oversight bodies for how we spend our allocated budget.

A large percentage of our departmental budget is directed to NPOs to support their partnership with us in delivering services to the community. If we fund NPOs that are not fully compliant with legislation, we risk attracting findings from the Auditor-General.”

She stressed that no further funding would be released if NPOs cannot adequately account for previous allocations. “To stay in good standing with the Auditor-General, you must demonstrate compliance. If you do not provide proper accountability for your prior funding, we will not release your next tranche.”

Dantjie noted that her department is facing a shrinking budget, which necessitates that funded NPOs explore alternative funding avenues, including fundraising, sponsorship, and assistance from other government departments and entities. “NPOs must adapt to budget cuts and maximise the resources they receive,” she stated. To support compliance, the department has ensured that each NPO has a bookkeeper.

Dantjie warned that failure to comply with regulations would not be tolerated. NPOs are also required to maintain their initial staffing levels and inform the department of any changes.

Regarding NPOs working with older persons, Dantjie urged them to familiarise themselves with the Older Persons Act. Key highlights of the Act should be prominently displayed at their facilities so that the community is informed.



“Those who receive older persons grants must ensure that the elderly meet their obligations with their churches and burial societies,” she added.

Dantjie cautioned NPOs against complaining about delays in funding if they have already received 90% of the older persons grants for the elderly in their care.



# MEC DANTJIE INTERVENES IN THE PLIGHT OF AN ABANDONED BABY

By Petrus Siko

- Social Development MEC Basetsana Susanna Dantjie condemned the abandonment of a newborn baby found in Klerksdorp and highlighted safer alternatives available to mothers.
- The abandoned baby, found in good health, was taken to Klerksdorp Hospital for care, and the MEC emphasised that mothers can surrender their babies safely to hospital staff.
- Dantjie, who oversees child protection under the Children's Act, will deliver essential supplies to a temporary care facility and has called on law enforcement to find the person responsible.

**T**he Social Development MEC for the North West, Basetsana Susanna Dantjie, addressed the issue of child abandonment, highlighting available alternatives to such actions. She was responding to a report on social media about a newborn baby found abandoned in Naserhof, Klerksdorp.

According to the information received, the infant is in good health. The baby was wrapped in a blanket, with a carton of milk and a few nappies besides him. The police were summoned to the scene and took the child to Klerksdorp Hospital for medical care.

"I am so shocked by this incident. At this time and age, it is deeply troubling for a girl or woman to abandon a baby. At the time of giving birth, mothers have the right to give their newborn babies to the hospital nurses who will in turn liaise with our social workers for placement at the temporary safe care facilities.

Depending on the outcome of the investigation, an abandoned child can be placed with a family member who has shown interest in the child or be placed under adoption," Dantjie said.

She also noted that her department is collaborating closely with the Rata non-profit organisation, which is responsible for child

protection services in the region. Dantjie, who oversees the Children's Act, delivered a set of baby essentials, including milk, during her visit to a temporary safe care facility in Matlosana. She has also urged law enforcement agencies to apprehend the person responsible for the abandonment.



# MEC DANTJIE INJECTS FINANCIAL BOOST TO CHILDREN'S HOME

By James Moche

- In a significant initiative to support orphans and vulnerable children in Moretele, North West MEC for Social Development Basetsana Sussana Dantjie has allocated R960,000 to Morena Children's Village in Ratjiepan, highlighting the department's commitment to improving the lives of those in need.
- During the Thuntsa Lerole Reloaded service delivery roadshow, MEC Dantjie emphasised the importance of non-profit organisations (NPOs) using government funds appropriately to ensure compliance with relevant legislation and to effectively deliver essential services to communities.
- Dithoriso Lwate, founder of Morena Children's Village, expressed gratitude for the funding, which will enhance care for 30 children and create job opportunities for locals, while sharing her own journey of overcoming personal hardships to provide support for vulnerable youth.



compliance with the NPO Act," said Dantjie. "We value the work that NPOs are doing in our communities. They serve as an extended arm of the department, delivering critical services to our people and reaching areas that the department might not be able to access." The founder of Morena Children's Village, Dithoriso Lwate, mentioned that her facility provides services to 30 children from Ratjiepan and the neighbouring villages.

Lwate explained that the funding is intended to brighten the future of all the children in her care and to cover

**I**n a move to support orphans and vulnerable children in Moretele, North West MEC for Social Development Basetsana Sussana Dantjie has provided a much-needed financial injection of R960,000 to Morena Children's Village based in Ratjiepan. During the Thuntsa Lerole Reloaded service delivery roadshow in the area, MEC Dantjie stated that the funding for Morena Children's Village symbolises the department's determination to improve the lives of vulnerable individuals, including children.

Thuntsa Lerole is the North West provincial government's programme designed to intensify and accelerate the provision of basic services, address service delivery blockages, and promote consistent engagement with communities across the province regarding service delivery issues.

"Our appeal is that NPOs should use government funds for their intended purposes. We call on the management of this children's home to do likewise and use this money in accordance with relevant legislation, ensuring

overhead costs. "With this funding, I will also be able to provide three meals a day for the children and create eleven job opportunities for locals," Lwate stated, adding that the Department of Social Development has previously assisted the village with funding in the 2023 and 2024 financial years to support vulnerable children.

Reflecting on her own experiences, Lwate shared her history of gender abuse from an early age. Growing up without biological parents and facing physical abuse without support, she now dedicates herself to caring for children who need love, care, and support.

"I'm very emotional because we have endured many difficulties to get here. For me, as long as I can do something to benefit the children and put a smile on their faces, I feel satisfied. My heart feels good when I do good for children because I grew up in an orphanage myself," she said. Dantjie is scheduled to hand over cheques to funded NPOs across the province during the Thuntsa Lerole Reloaded service delivery programme until the end of the current financial year.



# FIRE DESTROYS PENSIONER'S SHACK; MEC INTERVENES

By Petrus Siko

- North West MEC for Social Development Basetsana Sussana Dantjie is prioritising relief efforts for a pensioner in Robega after his shack was destroyed by fire, reportedly caused by an electrical fault.
- Support Initiatives Dantjie has deployed social workers to provide trauma counselling and assess the pensioner's living situation, while local residents and stakeholders have contributed essential items, including blankets, mattresses, and food parcels.
- Community Engagement Dantjie urges community members to support the elderly and to enhance awareness of fire safety measures to prevent future incidents, as investigations into the fire's cause continue.

**T**he Social Development MEC for North West, Basetsana Sussana Dantjie, is fast-tracking relief efforts for a pensioner in Robega whose shack was gutted by fire. The devastating blaze destroyed the pensioner's three-room shack, leaving him displaced and without furniture, clothing, his identity document, and other essential belongings. It is believed that the fire was caused by an electrical fault.

MEC Dantjie dispatched a team of social workers from her department's Rustenburg office to provide psychosocial support in the form of trauma counselling and to compile a report on the pensioner's living circumstances.

"I thank God Almighty that the pensioner is alive. I express my profound gratitude to all the stakeholders who have worked tirelessly to assist this pensioner in collaboration with our department. Our interventions are ongoing. Stakeholders have already delivered blankets, mattresses, and clothes to the affected family, and social relief in the form of food parcels has also been provided," Dantjie stated, adding that the South African Social Security Agency has issued a voucher worth R2,100 to the pensioner.

Local residents have also contributed groceries and cement to the pensioner, who is currently staying in a nearby shack. Dantjie has called on community members to continue supporting the elderly in their areas and to educate themselves on fire prevention and safety measures to avert property destruction and tragic loss of life. Law enforcement agencies are currently investigating the cause of the fire.





# ADMINISTRATIVE DATA SYSTEM IS THE SOLUTION FOR FUTURE INCLUSIVE POPULATION STATISTICAL COUNTING

By Sello Tang

- The administrative data collection system has been identified as the most effective method for accurately counting the population in South Africa, as discussed at the World Population Day (WPD) 2024 initiative in Mahikeng, North West Province.
- Key speakers, including Social Development Deputy Minister Mr Ganief Hendricks, emphasised the urgent need for comprehensive and inclusive data to address the growing disparity between population growth and resource allocation, particularly in underfunded sectors like social development.
- The initiative coincided with significant anniversaries, including the 30th anniversary of South Africa's democracy and the International Conference on Population and Development (ICPD) Plan of Action, highlighting the importance of data in shaping effective policy and improving citizens' quality of life.

The administrative data collection system is the future of an accurate and inclusive population counting ecosystem, as was discussed on, 1 October, at the World Population Day (WPD) 2024 commemoration initiative held at the Mmabatho Palm Hotel and Conference Centre, near Mahikeng in the North West Province.

All speakers agreed that, among the various methods of data collection, the best tool for measuring the size of the population is the administration of birth and death registration rates in the country, alongside other methods of tracking migration patterns in and out of the country.

Addressing the official launch of the State of the World Population Report 2024, Social Development Deputy Minister Mr Ganief Hendricks stressed that funding remains a significant challenge in addressing population growth in South Africa, adding that social development is one of the underfunded departments.

"We hope that Africa will, in the future, become one of the prosperous regions in the world through the planned Africa Free Trade Agreement. However, there is not enough data on the population of Africa, which is why there is a delay between trade agreements and investments in our people. Therefore, the collection of inclusive data is crucial for us to plan resources accordingly," Deputy Minister Hendricks explained.

The Deputy Minister delivered the keynote speech at the WPD initiative, which focused on the theme: "Embracing the Power of Inclusive Data Towards a Resilient Equitable Future for All." He noted that the unemployment rate in the country highlights the



significant disparity between population growth and the allocation of appropriate resources for sustainable community development. He cited the distribution of the R370 social relief grant as insufficient to meet the needs of impoverished individuals.

"There is a lack of data on the needs of the population and how many people require resources to live decent lives. The solution is before us. To alleviate pressure on the fiscus, we must create decent jobs for our people.

The EPWP is a smokescreen for alleviating poverty, not a solution to eradicate the rampant poverty affecting our population. Let us think outside the box in our strategic plans and start creating decent jobs," Deputy Minister Hendricks stated.

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North West MEC for Social Development, Sussana Dantjie, echoed Deputy Minister Hendricks's sentiments, emphasising the need for data collectors to focus on inclusivity when gathering data in the province. "Our province is very rural, and we require effective tools that can encompass all needy populations and communities during data collection," MEC Dantjie said.

MEC Dantjie paid tribute to the heroes and heroines who were recently repatriated to Freedom Park from abroad, calling for a moment of silence at the initiative. "These men and women struggled to free our country. This year, we celebrate 30 years of freedom and democracy, thanks to their contributions," she stated.

The South African population rose from 28 million in 1996 to the current 60 million, although it is predominantly composed of an ageing demographic, as reported.

Diego Iturralde, Chief Director of Demography and Population at Statistics South Africa (Stats SA), highlighted that while current statistical methods are effective, the most advanced and reliable system for collecting population information is through administrative means. "It is crucial to collect, share, and utilise data that enables the country to make evidence-based decisions and develop relevant interventions," Iturralde stated.

He outlined current data collection sources as administrative data, surveys and censuses, surveillance sites, and emerging sources such as big data. "While surveys and censuses occur at various intervals, administrative data is continuous and can include permit data, human movement (across borders), refugee and asylum seeker data, education, health, social security, and other sources," explained Iturralde.

WPD is held annually on 11 July to raise awareness around population issues, following its declaration by the United Nations General Assembly in 1990. This year's commemoration in South Africa was delayed due to the presidential elections held earlier this year.

Through the implementation of the ICPD Programme of Action, South Africa has made significant progress in enhancing the quality of life for its citizens. Mr Iturralde noted that Chapter 12 of the Plan of Action refers to the need for factual and socio-economically relevant data collection, research, and analysis methods if the world is to address the current situation where some sub-groups of the global population are overlooked.

He highlighted several socio-economic challenges that require factual data for effective resolution, including unemployment, education, nuptiality, language, poverty, and disability. "The power of data enables us to make informed decisions and hold ourselves accountable for the choices we have made based on comparable data over time and between regions or countries facing similar social challenges," Iturralde remarked.

"We have made progress, but numerous challenges remain to enable evidence-driven policymaking and programming," he added.

As we celebrate Older Persons' Week, Iturralde painted a concerning picture of South Africa's population, noting its ageing trend, with older citizens constituting a significant percentage of the total population. Research indicates that the elderly demographic has seen the largest growth from 2002 to 2024, rising from 3.5 million in 2002 to 6.1 million in 2024, while the population aged 35-59 grew marginally from 11.3 million to 18.7 million in the same period.

Meanwhile, the youth population (aged 16-34) has stagnated, increasing from 16.5 million to 20.8 million in the same timeframe.

Yu Yu, Country Representative for the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA) in South Africa, officially launched the State of World Population Report 2024 during the initiative.

The WPD was organised in collaboration with the United Nations Population Fund (UNFPA), the North West Provincial Department of Social Development, and North West University.





# MEC DANTJIE OPENS NEW SAFE HAVEN FOR GBV VICTIMS

By Petrus Siko

- The North West Social Development MEC, Basetsana Sussana Dantjie, inaugurated a new safe house in Rustenburg, aimed at providing shelter and support services to victims of gender-based violence (GBV).
- Donated by Anglo American mining company, the facility offers trauma counselling, skills development, court preparation, and long-term accommodation to women and children in distress.
- The opening highlights the crucial role of partnerships between government and the private sector in addressing GBV and ensuring safe spaces for vulnerable community members.

**I**n an effort to protect vulnerable women and children, North West Social Development MEC Basetsana Sussana Dantjie has opened a new gender-based violence (GBV) safe house in Rustenburg.



Donated by the Anglo American mining company to the Department of Social Development in 2021, the safe house is designed to provide a range of services, including psychosocial support, trauma counselling, referrals, skills development, court preparation, long-term accommodation, and both prevention and aftercare services for victims of GBV in Rustenburg and surrounding areas.

Speaking at the official opening, MEC Dantjie emphasised that providing safe spaces for abused women and children allows them to share their experiences in safety and privacy. She noted that admission to the safe house would be for victims facing physical and life-threatening situations, including domestic violence.

“The opening of this safe haven will go down in history as a demonstration of what a mutual partnership between government and the private

sector can achieve in changing the lives of those who need care and protection. We are humbled by the meaningful contribution that Anglo American has made in the fight against gender-based violence,” Dantjie said, to applause from various stakeholders and community members attending the event.

MEC Dantjie reiterated that the fight against gender-based violence cannot be won by the government alone. “All of us gathered here must lend a hand in combating this pandemic. Despite the remarkable strides that government has made, violence and the abuse of women and children persist, calling for the attention of every community member, the private sector, faith-based organisations, non-profit organisations, and the media.”

Tebogo Matolo, an Anglo American livelihood specialist, described gender-based violence as a global pandemic. “As a responsible corporate citizen, we felt it was imperative to join forces with the government. We acknowledge that an entity like Social Development alone cannot meet all the needs of citizens on the ground. When we donated the house, we noticed that Rustenburg did not have a centre of this nature to provide overnight accommodation for GBV victims,” Matolo explained, adding that the company also provides GBV training for all its employees.

The opening of the safe house drew significant attention from residents of GBV hotspot areas in Rustenburg, including Boitekong, Sunrise Park, Bokamoso, Tlhabane, Lethabong, Chaneng, Kroondal, Marikana, Lefaragatlhe, and neighbouring villages. The establishment of the Rustenburg safe house is part of MEC Dantjie’s 100-day programme in office, which is being rolled out across the four district municipalities.

# MEC DANTJIE CALLS FOR COLLABORATION TO EMPOWER YOUNG SOUTH AFRICANS

By Precious Mupenzi

- Over 200 young people participated in a vibrant social development engagement at Rustenburg Kloof Resort in North West Province. The event, buzzing with youthful energy, featured discussions and networking opportunities focused on empowering young South Africans.
- North West MEC for Social Development, Ms Basetsana Dantjie, emphasised the critical role youth played in both past and present struggles. She highlighted the importance of youth development for the nation's future, outlining a six-point plan from the DSD Youth Policy 2021-2030. This plan focuses on areas like skills development, economic participation, and well-being.
- MEC Dantjie called for collaboration between public and private sectors to tackle socio-economic challenges. She concluded by quoting Nelson Mandela, urging the young delegates to embrace their pivotal role in shaping South Africa's future.

**T**he North West MEC of Social Development, Basetsana Dantjie, joined the vibrant youth engagement currently underway at Rustenburg Kloof Resort in North West, as part of Youth Month commemoration. The event, buzzing with youthful energy, featured dynamic dialogues and panel discussions where young participants passionately engaged in deliberations, sharing their experiences and building valuable networks.



MEC Dantjie delivered a keynote address on behalf of Minister of Social Development, Nokuzola Sisisi Tolashe, who could not attend due to other pressing engagements. MEC Dantjie highlighted the critical role of youth in South Africa's liberation and ongoing development and also underscoring the importance of

youth development in the context of South Africa's democratic achievements.

"Our democracy is characterised as one of the best by many countries globally. The youth must emulate the resilient character of this nation, which is about negotiation, dialogue, unity, and the improvement of people's living conditions beyond political party lines," she noted.

She emphasised that youth development is a dynamic process that transforms individuals, communities, and society.

"Amongst you, there are young women and men who have gifts and talents that are worth showcasing. We strive to identify these talents and take efforts to avail opportunities to exercise and enhance these gifts and talents to enable you to find sustainability in life," she stated.

Highlighting the department's comprehensive approach to addressing youth challenges, MEC Dantjie explained, "The Department of Social Development provides a basket of services and a variety of programmes aimed at advancing and empowering youth. This includes addressing holistic challenges such as unemployment, gender-based violence, substance abuse, social crime, victim empowerment, poverty, and teenage pregnancy."



# DANTJIE STRENGTHEN TIES WITH SENIOR CITIZENS

By Obusitswe Keboneilwe

- MEC Basetsana Rebecca Sussana Dantjie pledges to support older persons forum
- Dantjie encouraged the senior citizens to be active champions on the interest of older persons.
- During the meeting Dantjie donated a laptop and router to the older persons structure to ensure that their work is recorded for future reference.

**M**EC for Social Development, Basetsana Sussana Dantjie has thrown her weight behind the activities of older persons to ensure that their rights are not trampled upon.

embraced and will ensure its implementation, especially where it tallies with the plans of the department. Sehularo lamented poor customer services in most public spaces, where at times older persons have to endure long queues while on their feet.



In a meeting with North West older person's forum, Dantjie encouraged the senior citizens to be active champions on the interest of older persons. "The province has consistently provided the national forum with chairpersons, underscoring the wealth of leadership amongst you", Dantjie told the meeting. "I have no doubt that this leadership quality that the national forum has embraced can take us to new heights".

MEC Dantjie appealed to the provincial forum to go back to the drawing board. "For a powerful legacy that will last generations, your structures must be solid from ward level. It is at the grassroots where you will harness unity and interest for a stronger older persons forum," continues Dantjie who told the forum to also benchmark from other provinces with similar outlook with North West. Dantjie says the forum must never underestimate their influence and must fight for better services in both public and private space.

Leading the provincial forum was Kgosietsile Sehularo, who is also the national chairperson. Sehularo presented a detailed plan, which the MEC

Sehularo has however vowed to "deepen advocacy and awareness on the rights of older persons." He made a clarion call to the MEC to ensure that, action is taken on resolutions of Older Persons Parliament.

On other niggling issues that affect senior citizens, Dantjie has promised to support many pensioners, whose funds lay unclaimed. There are many older persons who do not enjoy the fruit of their hard labour, sometimes based on minor technicalities. "The forum must drive this issue, while arrangements could be made on educational roadshows to help those who are yet to claim their money."

The meeting was to acquaint Dantjie with structures under her belt and the MEC donated a laptop computer and router to the structure to ensure that their work is recorded for future reference.



# MEC DANTJIE AWARDS SKILLS DEVELOPMENT CERTIFICATES TO DEELPAN YOUTH

By James Moche

- Fifty young people from Deelpan village in Tswaing local municipality have gained significant employment prospects following their completion of accredited training in security services, funded by the North West Department of Social Development.
- In addition, unemployed youth were equipped with driving licences as part of a broader youth development programme.
- The graduation ceremony, attended by North West MEC for Social Development Basetsana Sussana Dantjie, highlighted the department's commitment to offering developmental initiatives beyond traditional aid, such as food parcels, with the aim of creating sustainable job opportunities for young people across the province.

The prospects of a bright future have drastically increased for 50 young people from Deelpan village in Tswaing Local Municipality following their extensive training in security services, accredited by the Private Security Industry Regulatory Authority (PSIRA).

government is to touch lives," she said. "We have done sterling work here in Deelpan, and we will continue to do the same in other areas of the province. Congratulations to you all. Do not be choosy. Grab any job opportunity that comes your way; it will help you gain valuable experience in the workplace."



Other unemployed youth have also received driving licences as part of a youth development programme funded by the North West Department of Social Development.

Presiding over the youth's graduation ceremony, MEC Basetsana Sussana Dantjie stated that the occasion demonstrated that, contrary to popular belief, her department is not solely focused on providing food parcels. Instead, it offers a variety of developmental programmes that are transforming the lives of community members across the province.

Dantjie explained that the training would help create job opportunities, allowing participants to improve their lives and those of their families. "Our work as

She added that the youth should not only look to the government for employment but also approach private companies for opportunities.

One of the beneficiaries, Bakang Diseko (29), who lives in a household with no employment and a disabled father, expressed pride in having completed the training. As a breadwinner, he is optimistic that he will find work.

Tshepang Sebati, another beneficiary from a disadvantaged background, commented: "This is what we have always wanted. Without the Department of Social Development, we would not have valid security certificates or driving licences today."



# 100 Days through the Lens





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**THE NDP SETS OUT A VISION FOR SOUTH AFRICA FOR 2030.  
IT AIMS TO ELIMINATE POVERTY, AND REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT  
AND INEQUALITY BY 2030**



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