



THE BULLETIN

Official external publication of the Department of Social Development - January - March 2026

MEC: “THE DEPARTMENT IS READY TO FUND QUALIFYING NPOS IN THE NEW FINANCIAL YEAR.”



Taung Old Age Home in full swing

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EDITOR'S NOTE



Dear readers, we are confronted with new phenomenon. Our beloved country is experiencing a troubling new pandemic: the mushrooming of bystanders who devote their energy and time to post videos and photographs of injured people of all ages at accident scenes on social media platforms. These platforms are flooded with accident footage, generating views and shares.

This phenomenon extends beyond road accidents. Victims of gender-based violence, abandoned children, and school pupils, caught in moments of personal crisis are often filmed and circulated online. In some cases, individuals engaged in sexual misconduct are also recorded and exposed. We know for a fact that accidents are moments of crisis where help is needed immediately, not later.

Yet, in our time, many bystanders seem to be there for one thing only: content creation. Instead of stepping forward to assist, or call emergency services they rush to capture footage, eager to be the first to post or break the story. I am reminded of a horrific accident that occurred along the R34 between Bloemhof and Schweizer-Reneke in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District in 2022. In that tragedy, one family lost 15 members in a head-on collision that claimed 19 lives.

The grieving families were later confronted with heart-trending videos circulating on social media, depicting the bodies of their loved ones. Watching those viral videos made an already painful grieving process even

difficult, leaving many family members feeling helpless and traumatised. At the time, one family member was quoted as saying: "We were very much disturbed about the video that was shared on social media. We were disturbed about pictures that we saw. People do not have mercy. Children are traumatised now at home. Instead of healing, we keep on bleeding because of the videos that we saw."

In another accident earlier this year, 14 pupils were killed in a devastating scholar transport crash in Vanderbijlpark. Families were shattered, particularly after seeing viral videos of the accident circulating on social media.

The impact of these videos and pictures shared in the name of content creation can be severe. Imagine a viral video of the deceased reaching every corner of the world before families and relatives are formally informed. Imagine watching a critically injured person crying for help until their final breath while someone stands nearby filming. Social media is here to stay. Its immense influence has led many bystanders to prioritise capturing incidents rather than intervening in the plight of those in danger.

This phenomenon raises serious ethical questions for our society. Are we slowly losing our moral fibre? Are we not, in some ways, mocking or disgracing grieving families? And where is our collective sense of responsibility as people, particularly as Africans who are raised with the values of ubuntu from a young age?

Social media can serve as a powerful tool for sharing information. However, publicising accident scenes can also lead to serious privacy violations. The Protection of Personal Information Act (POPIA) exists to regulate how we handle and share other people's personal information, particularly without their consent. The best thing bystanders can do when confronted with an accident or crisis is to alert the relevant authorities and emergency services, rather than filming victims and spreading such images on social media.

Petrus Siko
Editor-in-Chief

FROM MEC'S DESK



Let me take this time to welcome all the readers to the fourth quarter edition of the Bulletin publication. This is the last issue of 2025/26 financial year. We want to thank you for your unwavering support especially your readership which is growing in quantum leaps and bounds.

Throughout the issues of the Bulletin, we have been touching lives in most deprived wards with a wide range of services that we have rendered as a department. In the previous issues we have been covering human stories in most of our communities. In this issue I would like us to focus on women empowerment. The Department of Social Development which I have an honour to lead as a Member of the Executive Council has a policy on economic strengthening of individuals, households and community initiatives in place to reduce vulnerability, poverty and dependence on the state. This policy puts us in the right stead as a department to provide material support to women owned small medium micro enterprises (SMMEs) across the province.

As part of social investment, the department, has on an annual basis procured equipment, machinery and materials for unemployed women who have livelihoods strategies to uplift the socio-economic level of their communities and generate income for their respective households. On a yearly basis many women benefit from this policy.

A considerable number of women also benefit from qualifying non-profit organisations. I am saying this

from a wide background. Most of the NPOs which include old age homes, residential facilities, treatment centres and many other facilities that provide social services that we fund as a department are largely owned by women.

I personally believe that the scenery of the world for women is changing drastically, giving women opportunities to make the difference in businesses, in civil society organisations and in politics. In a world where the largest percentage of men occupy high positions, I still believe that women should be prioritised in skills development programmes of any entity. Women should be given the recognition they deserve in the workplace. Women should not be oppressed at this time and age. Women should be given adequate resources as their male counterparts to execute their duties. Women should also be considered in recruitment of senior management positions in all the entities. Women should work in a conducive environment. Women should be protected from all the advances of sexual harassment in the workplace. Women should be informed of all the policies of their respective organisations.

We appreciate the role that women played and continue to play in our society to this very day and age. Without any shadow of doubt, women made immense contribution in the struggle for freedom. Our freedom was never earned without the full participation of women. In 1956, 20 000 women from all the walks of life staged the largest demonstrations in this country's history and was underpinned by the adoption of the Women's Charter of 1954. Quoting from its preamble, the Women's Charter reads in part: "As women, citizens of South Africa, we are here to claim our rights. We want recognition and respect for the work we do in the home, in the workplace and in the community. We claim full and equal participation in the creation of a non-sexist, non-racist democratic society. If democracy and human rights are to be meaningful for women, they must address our historic subordination and oppression. Women must participate in, and shape the nature and form of our democracy."

Their brave actions inspired women to take their rightful places in departments, municipalities, state owned entities and the civil society. Through their sacrifices, we now live in a country which recognises women as equal citizens, with equal rights, opportunities and responsibilities. This is clarion call to all leaders to advocate for women empowerment.

Let us meet again in the next publication.

Ms Basetsana Rebecca Sussana Dantjie
MEC for Social Development

ON THE COVER:

MEC Basetsana Sussana Dantjie addresses NPOs on compliance and funding responsibility during her NPO roadshows across the province.

APPROVAL OF 341 NPO BUSINESS PLANS AHEAD OF NEW FINANCIAL YEAR

An amount of R239 million has been budgeted for NPOs that have signed Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with the department for the 2026/2027 financial year and create 3, 649 job opportunities.

By Petrus Siko

The North-West Department of Social Development has completed the assessment and validation of 341 business plans submitted by non-profit organisations (NPOs), positioning the department to begin disbursing funds to qualifying organisations at the start of the new financial year. Speaking ahead of the provincial budget tabling by the North-West Provincial Treasury, MEC for Social

the NPO business plans. Through your collective effort, we will start the new financial year on the right footing, with contracting with NPOs almost concluded. This is a groundbreaking achievement for the department,” Dantjie told officials during the department’s planning lekgotla currently underway in Klerksdorp, in the Matlosana Local Municipality.



MEC APPLAUDS OFFICIALS: MEC Sussana Dantjie congratulate workers on sterling work done on concluding evaluation of NPO business plans on time.

An amount of R239 million has been budgeted for NPOs that have signed Service Level Agreements (SLAs) with the department for the 2026/2027 financial year. The funding is expected to create 3,649 job opportunities across the province, while strengthening the delivery of essential social services at the community level. The department partners with NPOs to expand its service delivery footprint, particularly in areas where community-based organisations are often best positioned to

Development Basetsana Sussana Dantjie commended departmental officials for completing the evaluation process in record time. The business plans were submitted through the department’s annual Request for Proposals (RFP) process, a legally regulated mechanism through which NPOs apply for funding to deliver social services across the province.

These services include crime prevention programmes, residential care for older persons, HIV and AIDS prevention initiatives, substance abuse support services, family strengthening programmes, gender-based violence interventions, and other community-based social services.

The MEC said the timely completion of the evaluation process would allow the department to start the new financial year on a strong footing, with most contracting processes already close to completion.

“I congratulate you on doing sterling work in processing

provide targeted, accessible support to vulnerable groups.

MEC Dantjie also emphasised the importance of compliance and accountability in the management of public funds. She urged programme managers within the department to closely monitor NPO compliance, particularly regarding the central system database, noting that non-compliance could result in delayed payments. In addition, she called on NPOs to ensure responsible financial management and to return any unspent funds to the department at the end of the financial year, unless formal approval has been obtained from the Head of Department to utilise the funds within the legally prescribed timeframe.

The MEC said strong governance and effective partnerships with the non-profit sector remain critical to ensuring that social development programmes reach vulnerable communities and deliver meaningful impact across the province.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE AND FEMICIDE HAVE LIFELONG EFFECTS ON CHILDREN

Children growing up in a household with Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) often feel hopeless.

By Allison Cooper

Imagine the trauma and stress of being a leader of a household of twelve family members and your only source of income is a small struggling poultry business. To add salt to the wound, the rest of the family members are not working.

Children growing up in a household with Gender-Based Violence and Femicide (GBVF) often feel hopeless.

This is according to Dr Dudu Ngubeni, an occupational medical doctor at the Gauteng Department of Health, who confirmed that all forms of GBVF are a violation of children's rights.

GBVF refers to violence that targets individuals or groups, based on their gender differences. "GBVF is a sad reality worldwide and is shockingly prevalent in South Africa," said Dr Ngubeni.

"Imagine what rape and physical assault does to children. In addition to physical injuries and long-lasting emotional and psychological problems that could lead to suicide, there are also social issues, stigma and rejection," she added.

Long-lasting effects

The impact of GBVF on children differs due to various factors, such as the nature, frequency and severity of the abuse. Other stressors in the family, such as a parent with mental health or substance abuse problems can make the impact greater.

GBVF can be verbal, physical, sexual or psychological. "Children are at an increased risk of emotional and behavioural problems, regardless of whether they were directly abused or not," said Dr Ngubeni.

"It is a well-documented reality that men, in general, have power and control over women and children, and often through violence. GBVF deprives children of an environment that enables them to fully develop their potential. They can become desensitised to suffering and may learn to see the use of violence as a means to achieve their own aims," she added.

Younger children witnessing or experiencing GBVF could display anxiety or increased fear; depression; loss of interest in school, friends or other things they enjoyed in the past; sleep problems, including nightmares or bedwetting; increased aggression; anger or changes in appetite.

Older children react differently. Boys could express

their distress outwardly, by becoming aggressive; using violence to solve problems; or using alcohol or drugs, to block out disturbing experiences and memories.

Girls are more likely to keep their distress inside. They may become withdrawn, anxious or depressed; have an eating disorder or harm themselves by cutting or using alcohol or drugs.

In most cases, the impact of GBVF on children lasts for a long time after the abuse itself. As adults, these children are more likely to become involved in a violent and abusive relationships themselves. "Studies have shown that children who experience GBVF could grow up believing in power inequalities in interpersonal relationships and society. They then reproduce a structure that enables GBVF," Dr Ngubeni explained.

Children might become perpetrators of GBVF

Silizwe Mbambo, a child protection social worker from the Saartjie Baartman Centre for Women and Children (SBCWC), agrees. "In later life, the child might become a perpetrator of GBVF or a substance user," she said.

The SBCWC handles new cases of GBVF daily. "Most children are affected either directly or indirectly by GBVF, which places them at severe risk. The centre has also observed an increase in the number of people in need of services and GBVF is a common factor," said Mbambo.

In one case, a child was suicidal due to a lack of parental support, love and attention. "The parents were constantly having physical and verbal fights, in front of the child. As a result, the child lost the motivation for school and future goals," said Mbambo.

Children tend to copy behaviour. Boys learn from their fathers to be violent to women. Girls learn from their mothers that violence is normal and something they have to put up with. However, not all children repeat the same pattern. Many try not to make the same mistakes as their parents.

Children and adolescents exposed to GBVF should be evaluated by a trained mental health professional, who will recommend the necessary treatment for emotional and behavioural problems. Treatment can include therapy and, in some cases, medication may be helpful. The non-abusive parent or caregiver also needs support.

For more information about getting help for children who are affected by GBVF, contact the GBV Command Centre tollfree helpline at 0800 428 428 or request a social worker to contact you by dialling *120*7867# from your cellphone.

MINISTER TOLASHE WELCOMES CABINET APPROVAL OF GOVERNMENT SEXUAL AND REPRODUCTIVE JUSTICE STRATEGY

The strategy signals renewed commitment to strengthening equality, expanding access to essential services and addressing structural inequalities.

By Staff Write



SheDecides Champion: Minister Sisi Tolashe affirms her commitment to ensure that women and girls empowered and have access to comprehensive reproductive health services.

Through its participation in SheDecides, South Africa strengthens its voice in the global movement, ensuring that every woman and girl can make informed decisions about her body, her health and her future.

The Sexual and Reproductive Justice Strategy outlines six priority areas, including strengthening information and knowledge management, improving governance and human resource development in the social sector, increasing coordination across departments, integrating Sexual and Reproductive Justice into service delivery frameworks, promoting youth participation and reviewing service delivery systems for persons with disabilities.

Tolashe has welcomed Cabinet's approval of the Government Sexual and Reproductive Justice Strategy for South Africa, adopted at its meeting held on 25 February 2026.

The strategy, developed over several years through extensive national consultation, aims to improve socio-economic, health, structural, institutional and political conditions that enable people, particularly women, to make informed decisions about their sexual and reproductive health and rights.

Reproductive justice links reproductive rights to the broader social, political and economic inequalities that often limit access to care and services. Recognising these intersections, the National Population Unit led a wide-reaching process to mainstream Sexual and Reproductive Justice across government and among stakeholders.

Minister Tolashe, who is a SheDecides Champion, reaffirmed her commitment to ensuring that women and girls are empowered to exercise bodily autonomy and access comprehensive reproductive health services. SheDecides is a global movement that advocates for a world where every woman and girl has the right and power to decide what to do with her body, her life and her future. The movement brings together governments, civil society, youth leaders and development partners to advance reproductive health, rights and equality.

A Core Group comprising the Department of Health, Department of Social Development, Department of Basic Education and the Department of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities will drive implementation. A Reference Group made up of departmental representatives and experts in Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights, Sexual and Reproductive Justice and Gender will provide strategic guidance. A Technical Committee, open to all relevant government departments, civil society organisations, United Nations agencies and development partners, will support coordination and oversight.

Welcoming Cabinet's decision, Minister Tolashe described the approval as a timely and significant step forward.

"I welcome the approval of this strategic document for South Africa, especially on the eve of International Women's Day on 8 March. This propels South Africa as a beacon of hope in fighting gender inequality and gender-based violence," she said.

The approval of the Government Sexual and Reproductive Justice Strategy signals renewed commitment to strengthening equality, expanding access to essential services and addressing structural inequalities that continue to affect women, youth and vulnerable communities across the country.

Source: DSDNews

FOSTERCARE CHANGES LIVES

The misuse of foster care grant can lead to child not getting the love and care needed. They end up being uncontrollable, displaying disruptive behaviour, and this leads to parent-child breakdown, particularly after the child reaches the age of maturity

By James Moche

Fostercare is highly beneficial to vulnerable children by providing a stable, safe and nurturing family-like environment that replaces neglect or abuse with essential care, emotional support and education.

Two learners from humble beginnings bear testimony to the great impact of fostercare in their lives.

development for placing her under foster care programme. Makape is in her second year at Vuselela TVET college, studying Civil Engineering.

“I appreciate the role played by the foster care programme”, Makape says after the passing of her mother. My grandmother applied for a foster care while I was in primary school. Foster care money was used to take care of me.



FOSTERING CARE: Pinky Makoro a Social Worker in Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti who deals with foster care cases

my grandmother and aunt made sure that I am well taken care of. I never lacked anything especially when it comes to school. foster money helped me until I finished Matric.

Pinky Makoro, a social worker, who administers foster care says foster care plays a vital role in the lives of eligible families and affected children. She describes her work as “a profound fulfilling and transformative experience of providing safety, stability and a healthy nurturing that fosters a positive necessary support to a child in need.”

she adds: “There are a few circumstances which warrants children to be place in foster care. They include amongst others; orphaned children were affected families apply at social development offices or such persons are identified through community profiling or service delivery blitz”.

The life of a social worker doing foster care is not without challenges, including monitoring of placements, high foster care caseloads and shortage of social workers, not enough tools of trade and uncooperative foster care parents of families.

Ferdos Setlhabetse, 19-year-old from Schwaezer-Reneke doing her first year in Bachelor of Arts at the Sol Plaatjie university in Kimberly. “Foster care has alleviated my financial burden. I am now focusing on my studies”.

Another beneficiary, Karabo Makape, 21, expresses her profound thanks to the department of social

“Some of them do not comply with proper usage of the foster care grants. You find that the grant is not being used to serve the interests of the child and they end up being uncontrollable, displaying disruptive behaviour, and this leads to parent-child breakdown, particularly after the child reaches the age of maturity”, concluded Makoro.

OUR KEY MILESTONES

Establishment of shelters

The department has established shelters meant to provide comprehensive social support services, including accommodation, trauma counselling, protection services, and safety. It operates in partnership with sister government departments such as the Department of Health, South African Police Service, Department of Correctional Services, and various non-profit organisations.

In pursuit of reducing poverty and tackling the high cost of living, the department has reached 10 036 households through our food security programmes.

The Re Thuse Re Go Thuse roadshows—conducted in partnership with the National Lottery Commission, South African Revenue Service (SARS), Provincial Treasury, National Development Agency, national Department of Social Development, and other sister departments - have already reached 646 NPOs in the four districts.

Job creation

The department of social development has created 1 308 jobs through Expanded Public Works Programme. This is a government initiative designed to create job opportunities, sustainable livelihoods and skills development for poor and unemployed people.

28 interns from the cost of employee budget and a further 27 interns from HWSETA funding.

Provision of food security

In pursuit of reducing poverty and tackling the high cost of living, the department has reached 10 036 households through our food security programmes.

Department has established community nutrition and development centres in most of our communities rid our people of hunger and starvation. These community driven centres aim at providing regular access to nutritious meals for those facing food insecurity. I must hasten to indicate that 13 231 people facing hunger and undue hardships have accessed food through these centres.

Waging war against GBVF

Government has classified gender-based violence and femicide as a national disaster. This classification strengthens the mandates of government departments in collaboration with the civil society organisations, the media and community at large in waging a winnable war against GBVF.

The department of social development has made great strides in establishing shelters to cater for the needs of the victims of gender based violence across the province.

These shelters are meant to provide comprehensive social support services, including accommodation, trauma counselling, protection services, and safety. It operates in partnership with sister government departments such as the Department of Health, South African Police Service, Department of Correctional Services, and various non-profit organisations.

643 victims of gender-based violence have accessed sheltering services in the reporting period and a further 3288 victims of crime accessed support services.

OUR KEY MILESTONES...Continue

Rehabilitation Services

The Department of Social Development has officially opened its second state-run treatment centre for substance use disorders in Taung and has already provided services to 21 clients, marking a major milestone in expanding access to rehabilitation services in the North West. The centre offers in-patient care to clients from across the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti District, helping to respond to the rising demand for support and recovery. A professional nurse, an assistant nurse and a personnel officer have been appointed to run the day-to-day operation of this centre.

Active ageing programme

Our active aging programme which popularly known as golden games is growing in quantum leaps and bounds with participation of many elderly people across the districts. In Bojanala we have reached more than 1400 elderly people in five service points. In Dr Kenneth Kaunda, 485, in Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti ,1 530 and in Ngaka Modiri Molema 1 229 elderly people This programme aims to support our elderly people in maintaining their independence quality of life as they age. Preparations are at an advanced stage to host the provincial golden games where will select 200 participants to represent the North West at the National Golden Games scheduled for May 2026 in Free State province.

Progress on post audit findings

We are on course to building a capable and ethical development state which adheres to the rules and regulations enforced by oversight bodies such as Auditor General South Africa and various portfolio committees. I must indicate that the department of social development has managed to resolve 42% of its post audit findings. We hope that this department will reach 100% compliance to AGs findings.

Re those re go those flagship programme

In support of struggling NPOs, the department of social development launched a flagship initiative, Re Those Re Go Those (“Help us to help you”), aimed at assisting social sector NPOs in achieving full compliance with the NPO Act. The programme reflects her commitment to building a strong and effective NPO sector that can deliver essential community services.

The Re Those Re Go Those roadshows—conducted in partnership with the National Lottery Commission, South African Revenue Service (SARS), Provincial Treasury, National Development Agency, national Department of Social Development, and other sister departments - have already reached 646 NPOs in the four districts.

We applaud the collaboration of the Department of Social Development , SASSA and NDA which has brought services at the doorstep of the communities. Their integrated outreach programme dubbed iCROP has enabled residents to access key government services under one roof, including social grant applications, identity documents, birth and marriage certificates, health screenings and many other services rendered by the private sector.

NEW THEME FOR THE PROVINCE

BUILDING A
NORTH WEST PROVINCE
THAT WORKS **FOR ALL**



TAUNG OLD AGE HOME: A HOME AWAY FROM HOME

Taung old age home is the state run facility, which has been established to cater for the needs of senior citizens across the province. It offers a safe and dignified living environment for vulnerable older persons in need of care and protection.

By Petrus Siko

Taung Old Age Home is more than just a residential facility; it is a place of comfort, dignity and renewed purpose for older persons. Situated in Pudumoe, a few kilometres from Taung station, the centre is registered under the Older Persons Act and is a state run facility funded by the North West Department of Social Development.

The Taung old age home is the second state run facility after Sonop, which has been established to cater for the needs of senior citizens across the province.

The centre welcomes residents not only from Taung but from across the province and, reinforcing its importance as a provincial resource for elder care. With a capacity of 64 beds, the facility is currently full, including its frail care unit, which accommodates 30 independent residents. There is already a waiting list, a clear indication of the growing need for quality elder care services that promote well-being and social inclusion.

Residents at Taung Old Age Home benefit from a wide range of services designed to support their physical, emotional and social well-being. These include:

- 24-hour residential care and supervision
- Assistance with daily living activities such as bathing, dressing and laundry
- Housekeeping services
- Access to health and frail care services
- Provision of nutritious meals tailored to dietary needs
- Medication management and basic healthcare monitoring
- Recreational and social activities
- Psychosocial support services

The centre is committed to upholding the dignity, safety and rights of older persons while providing quality, people-centred and holistic care. It maintains a safe, secure and hygienic residential environment and ensures compliance with all legislative, ethical and professional standards.

Emphasising the critical importance of the operationalisation of the facility, Social Development MEC Basetsana Sussana Dantjie acknowledged that her department is mandated to promote and maintain



TAUNG OLD AGE HOME: 24 hour residential care and supervision with access to health and frail care services.

the rights, well-being of older persons and to combat their abuse. “The operation of the old age home, underlines government’s commitment to improve the quality of life of older persons who have made invaluable contribution to our country.

Elderly people in need of 24-hour care who wants to live in an older persons’ residential facility, can apply at the nearest service point or older persons’ residential facility. To qualify for admission, an elderly person must be 60 years and above, be destitute, in need of full-time residence, be South African and be receiving an old-age grant or pension fund.

No one can admit an elderly to a residential facility without their consent unless a medical report proves they are mentally unfit to give consent and a court order is issued. In case of an emergency a medical report issued by a registered medical practitioner suffices pending the issuance of a court order. Admission to an older persons’ residential facility is subject to availability of beds.

Taung Old Age has already admitted 19 elderly. “Any elderly person will undergo a screening test to determine if he/she qualify for admission and a subsidy. If an elderly person is too old or sick to travel to the office to apply, they can ask a family member or friend to apply on your behalf. A social worker will arrange a home visit to assess your current living condition. If their application is not approved they must be given a reason in writing and you can appeal to the Minister of Social Development. Admission to an older persons’ residential facility is subject to availability of beds.”

DSD PROGRAMME CHANGES LIVES FOR THE BETTER

MEC Dantjie called on the beneficiaries to take good care of the items donated.

By James Moche

A life of struggles endured by groups of people including a Spaza shop and beautification business owners, and members of a youth academy has come to an end. Thanks to the generous gesture of donations by the North West of Social Development led by MEC Basetsana Dantjie.

The donations, which took place at Zeerust in the Ramotshere Moiloa Local Municipality, were part of the department's flagship programme called Re Thuse Re go Thuse.

A number of people, including the above-mentioned groups, became beneficiaries of MEC Dantjie's donation of goods which would advance their passion, and in some instances, create employment. Donations include stock for a Spaza shop, items used to beautify people, especially women, and related equipment



EMPOWERING WOMEN SMMEs: MEC Basetsana Sussanna Dantjie donates support material to women smmes as part of Re thuse, Re go thuse programme

The impact of the donations ranges from among others, employment creation in respect of a Spaza shop and beauty business and pushing passion to the fullest for members of the football club, coupled with taking young people away from temptations of getting engaged in social ills such as substance abuse and crime.

Addressing the occasion MEC called on the beneficiaries to take good care of the items she donated. She urged the Spaza shop owner not to lease her shop to other people but manage it saying the priority of the

South African government is its citizens first before other people.

"Please take care of these donations. Do not expect that the department will give you these donations every year. There are others like you who need to be helped. The question of empowering our people cannot be directed at assisting the same people every time," says Dantjie.

She stressed that the donations would help close the gap between government and the people it is serving. Dantjie added that while government deliberately targets women and youth with its empowerment programmes, it is also necessary to assist victims of gender-based violence because GBV is one of the serious challenges faced by communities.

Beautification business owner and recipient of make-up kit, nail lamp, trolley make up and cosmetic storage Bonolo Molefe of Driefontein village, says she is grateful for the donation, and confident that her business would grow.

Another beneficiary Esther Mothibi of Lekgophung village who owns a Spaza shop, says the donation would help her create job opportunities for her fellow villagers, especially young people. She received among others, deep freezer and fryer, and packets of chicken, spices and washing powder.

She said whilst government deliberately targets beneficiaries in the categories of women and youth, because they are marginalised groups, there is a need to also concentrate on the victims of gender-based violence.

The other beneficiaries included Nyetse Youth Academy and Mamiki Mmutlwane who specialises in vegetable and fruit production.

FEEDBACK SESSION PUTS COMMUNITY NEEDS AT CENTRE OF INTEGRATED SERVICE DELIVERY

Re Thuse Re Go Thuse programme strengthens coordination as residents press for action on local challenges

By Lerato Digoamaje

MERITING, RUSTENBURG- Residents of Wards 12, 38 and 41 gathered in Meriting for a feedback session under the Re Thuse Re Go Thuse programme, a flagship initiative led by North West Social Development MEC Basetsana Susana Dantjie. The session formed part of the MEC's province-wide rollout on matters affecting communities with regard to social development services, and how to speed up

of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, SASSA, the National Development Agency, SAPS and the Rustenburg Local Municipality present. Each structure engaged directly with residents, outlining available services and taking note of concerns requiring follow-up.

The approach reflects the programme's focus on integrated service delivery, where departments do not operate in isolation but work collectively to respond to community needs.



BRIDGING THE GAP: Meriting Community change agents group that will act as a bridge between residents and government

Launched in October 2024 in JB Marks Local Municipality, the Re Thuse Re Go Thuse programme is designed to strengthen access to social services while building closer links between government and communities. It combines community dialogues, on-site service delivery and follow-up feedback sessions, with an emphasis on accountability and coordination across departments and agencies.

services.

The engagement marked the second phase of a two-part process, where government returned to the community after earlier dialogues to present a consolidated community profile and respond to issues raised. For many residents, it was an opportunity to hear their concerns reflected back in practical terms. The profile highlighted challenges including gender-based violence, substance abuse, unemployment, child neglect and limited psychosocial support, alongside concerns about access to clinics, support for persons with disabilities and barriers to economic opportunities.

Community members spoke openly about lived realities, from long distance travelling to health facilities to the lack of local job opportunities, particularly for those outside the 18 to 35 age bracket. Others raised concerns about school dropouts, the treatment of children with disabilities and the need for stronger interventions on gender-based violence.

Stakeholder participation was central to the engagement, with representatives from the Department

One of the key outcomes of the Meriting session was the selection of community "change agents" from the three wards. Drawn from local structures including religious organisations and Community Policing Forums, the group will act as a bridge between residents and government.

Their role will include raising ongoing concerns, tracking progress on commitments made and assisting community members to access the correct services, whether within Social Development or through referrals to other departments such as Home Affairs or SAPS.

The model places responsibility on both government and community, shifting engagement from once-off consultations to ongoing dialogue. For residents of Meriting, the session signalled more than a report-back. It reflected a process where concerns raised in community spaces begin to take shape as coordinated responses, with local voices helping to steer how services are delivered.

DSD DELIVERS SUPPORT IN MARIKANA

By Lerato Digoamaje



The North West Department of Social Development delivered services to residents during the Phase 5 Accelerated Service Delivery Programme, Thuntsha Lerole Reloaded held in Marikana, Rustenburg local Municipality.

Working alongside the Bojanala management team, led by Masego Mekgwe, Chief Director: Social Welfare, officials provided psychosocial support, referrals and household interventions for families

facing social challenges.

Through outreach and doorstep visits, officials identified vulnerable households including that of a family, which is a household of seven dependent on the old-age grant of a blind pensioner.

Counselling and life-skills support are being provided to the 32-year-old mother, while two boys aged 13 and 17 who are not attending school will be assisted through engagements with North West Department of

Education.

Officials also assisted a 15-year-old child living with cerebral palsy, with arrangements made for admission to Ntshalleng Le Bana Care Centre in Lekgalong. The child also received a wheelchair through the North West Department of Health.

Both households will continue to receive food packages and psychosocial support.



SERVICE DELIVERY: Departmental Social Workers and Community Development workers delivering social services to the residents of Marikana facing social challenges during Phase 5 of Accelerated Service Delivery Programme, Thuntsha Lerole held in Braampie Sport ground.

THE DEPARTMENT BOOSTS WOMEN SMMEs THROUGH MATERIAL SUPPORT

By Duduetsang Mpa & William Sejeso



Mmamorwa Koneng from Ottoshoop

"I am very happy to be one of the recipients of these gifts from the department. I have been waiting for this tent and I do not know if I should cry or not. I started this business a long time ago and it has been costly because I had to hire tents from other people in order to sustain my business. My wish is for the department to keep doing a great job in empowering women."



Tuduetso Metsi from Mocoseng wa Phefeni

"The department is doing a good job in ensuring that women become the pillars of their home. I have been manufacturing hats as a way of maintaining my family for a while now and I am very happy with what the department has blessed me with".



Betty Moeti from Mooipan

"I feel overwhelmed for what the department has given me. I will now expand my already existing tent business as I have more materials to rent out".



Modiane Mmusi from Brooksby

"I am so happy to have received my tent because I have been waiting for it for so long. I started this business as a way of building myself and to provide for my family and now I have more material to maintain and make it a success. It is not easy starting a business but if you put your mind and heart into it, you will reach your ultimate goal".



Keitumetse Moeng from Sheila

"I started selling fat cakes at school after I lost my job and I have never looked back. The business has helped me a lot and my daughter managed to finish her grade 12 because of this business. Now because I have received catering material from the department, I will expand my business to where I have always dreamt it will be. There is potential growth because I am close to the clinic as well. I have hopes and ambitions of registering my business as general dealer to create generational wealth for my family".

THE DEPARTMENT BOOST WOMEN SMMEs THROUGH MATERIAL SUPPORT



Oumakie Tejane from Coligny

“I became so emotional when told that I would be one of the recipients. I have been on this business for more than 5 years selling fat cakes and chips. When I received the call, I asked if it is really me being blessed like this. I have always wanted to expand my business but I could not afford to, now I appreciate the department for giving me an opportunity to see my vision coming to life”.



Pule Dipholo from Boikhutso

“The department has really given me hope. I will now start to maintain my vegetable plot and cover it so that chickens do not ruin it. I have no income beside the grant I get from the government, now with the material I have received; I will be able to produce more and sell to the community as a way of sustaining myself”.



Kelebogile Modiane from Blesiesvlei

“I do not know what to say but I am overly excited because my business will grow. When starting business you do not anticipate that it will grow to this magnitude. Next time when the department come to do monitoring, you will see a huge difference. I started doing hair at school as a way of making money. In 2020, I opened my salon after working for people in town. I am really pushing myself to be a good businessperson”.



Meiki Gaseitsewe from Delareyville

“Today ,I feel truly grateful and full of joy after receiving Salon support materials, including a sewing machine and an iron . These resources mean a lot to me because they will help me grow my small business and improve my income. I am also making and selling beads, with the support I received ,I am now able to expand my work and serve my customers better. This opportunity has given me hope and motivation to continue working hard and building a better future for myself”.



Maletsatsi Sithole

“Ke na le dingwaga di feta masome a mabedi ke tsamaisa kgwebo ya me e nnye. Gompiono ke leboga thata go amogela dithoto tsa tuckshop go tshegetsa le go godisa kgwebo ya me. Tshegetso e, e nnatlafaditse thata ka gonne e tla nthusisa go tswelala go tlhokomela lelapa la me le go direla setshaba. Molaetsa wame go ba bangwe ke o o bonolo : Nnang le tumelo mme lo seka lwa latlhegelwa ke Tshepo.”

WEAR ORANGE



**SAY NO
UNiTE**
TO END VIOLENCE
AGAINST WOMEN

Every month on the 25th, the world turns orange - not in celebration, but in protest. The United Nations' UNiTE campaign has designated the 25th of each month as Orange Day, a global initiative to raise awareness and inspire action to end violence against women and girls. Join the fight against GBV by wearing some orange on 25th of every month. #NoGBV

MEC Basetsana Sussana Dantjie
Department of Social Development



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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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