

Generation Equality: Realising Women's Rights for an Equal Future

WOMEN'S MONTH 2020



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social development

Department:
Social Development
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



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PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS

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EDITOR'S NOTE

LUMKA OLIPHANT

August in South Africa is the month where we celebrate women. It is the month when we remember the contributions made by women in the struggle against apartheid.

It is the month when we also take stock of how far we have come as a country in the emancipation of women.

I battle with the idea that women must be empowered. I believe we are already empowered. We are leading households, raising our children while holding down careers or growing our businesses. All women need is equal opportunities.

This week, I stumbled across a story of a woman in KwaZulu-Natal, who after she could not get a job, put aside some of the child support grant she collected for her child to start a multi-million rand tomato farm.

Welile Gumede was featured by eNCA this week and is the epitome of what women can

do with the little support they receive from the Government. Gumede told eNCA that she used some of the money to research about government neglected greenhouse tunnels around the iLembe region in Kwa Zulu Natal.

She now employs 13 workers on the farm and her business has evolved from a start-up to a business worth more than R5 million. This month we celebrate women like Gumede, who against all odds are determined to take up space and lead South Africa to be a better place.

To all the women of South Africa, allow me to say Happy Women's month!





— FROM THE DESK OF — THE PRESIDENT



PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS

DEAR FELLOW SOUTH AFRICAN

At midnight tonight, our country will move to alert level 2 in our response to the coronavirus pandemic. This will come as a relief to all South Africans who have had to live under stringent restrictions for the last five months.

It is a sign of the progress we are making in reducing new infections and demand on our health facilities. It is also a very important development as we strive to restart our economy.

But it is too soon to celebrate.

We are still very much in the middle of a deadly pandemic that has taken over 11,000 lives in South Africa alone. At more than half a million confirmed cases, we still have the fifth-highest number of infections

in the world. And there is always a chance of a resurgence of the disease.

If we ever need a stark reminder of the need for vigilance, we should look to recent events thousands of kilometres away in New Zealand. Three months since the country was declared coronavirus-free, New Zealand is once again under lockdown. Although the latest outbreak was of relatively few cases, the government swiftly re-imposed lockdown restrictions.

Similar restrictions have had to be reimposed in several parts of Europe as they experience a 'second wave' of infections. These experiences show just how swiftly things can change when it comes to COVID-19.

It is a wake-up call to any among us who may harbour illusions that we are even close to seeing the end of this grave public health emergency.

Certainly, there are signs of hope. The number of new confirmed cases in South Africa continues to decline. At the peak of the disease just one month ago, we were recording around 12,000 new cases a day. This has dropped to an average of around 5,000 a day over the past week. Our recovery rate stands at

80%.

As the country moves to alert level 2, many restrictions on social and economic activity have been lifted. With this comes an increased risk of transmission.

We now need to manage this risk and ensure the gains we have made thus far in containing the pandemic's spread are not reversed. The greatest threat to the health of the nation right now is complacency. It may be that we are now permitted to meet friends and family, to visit entertainment venues, to travel for leisure and to consume alcohol in restaurants, bars and taverns.

But as the adage goes, just because you can, doesn't mean you should.

Many people who have the coronavirus do not have symptoms and may not even know they are infected. This is a sobering reality because it means that any of us could be infected right now and could unwittingly infect others.

This is particularly the case when visiting relatives, especially the elderly and those with pre-existing medical conditions that render them vulnerable to infection. It is also true for attending religious services or

cultural activities.

The 'second wave' of infections that several other countries have experienced is an ever-present possibility for us too. Although many restrictions have been lifted, it does not mean they will not return should we experience a significant rise in infections. This pandemic is a matter of life and death. We need to adapt and we need to be vigilant.

In the days, weeks and months that lie ahead, we must urgently focus our efforts on recovery. Our economy and our society have suffered a great deal. As we return to economic activity across almost all industries – and work to repair the damage done – we have a responsibility to not let our guard down as individuals, employers, communities, families, professionals, workers and citizens.

None of us wants a return to the early days of extreme lockdown restrictions. We want to move on with our lives. We want our friends and loved ones to remain healthy and safe.

As a nation, let us continue to work together to ensure that we progress. The move to alert level 2 of the lockdown is not a 'free for

all.' The rules on social distancing, mask-wearing, social gatherings and international travel remain.

Our success rests on our ability to abide by these regulations and to ensure that we each behave carefully and responsibly.

Every time we are considering any form of non-essential activity, we should ask: what is the risk of infection to ourselves and others? Where there is a risk, even a slight one, it is better not to do it.

Let us proceed, as ever, with caution. Let us keep each other safe.

With best wishes

MESSAGE FROM MINISTER LINDIWE ZULU

'Wathint' Abafazi, Wathint' Imbokodo'.

(You strike the women, you strike the rock)

I start off this Women's Month edition message with this famous phrase to remind you of the courage and strength of South African women who fought valiantly for the freedom and democracy we all enjoy today. This month, I pay my respects to our heroines past and present, who have made and continue to make it possible for women and girls to reach their full potential.

We stand on the shoulders of a brave generation of women from every background who marched to the Union Buildings at the height of the apartheid regime in 1956 to protest against the restrictive pass laws. These courageous women were none other **Lillian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Rahima Moosa** and the last surviving leader of the historic Women's March, **Mama Sophie de Bruyn**. We will remain indebted to these fearless women whose courageous action gave voice to many who were fighting for social justice and equal rights.

Important historical occasions such as the Women's Month presents opportunities for us to take stock, to ask ourselves-how far have we come and where are we headed? We come a long way, but women struggles are not over. Today's generation of women face a different form of oppression. The pandemic of Gender Based Violence and Femicide continues to claim the lives of our daughters, mothers, sisters, aunts and friends. It is time to condemn all forms of gender-based violence and call on all men to respect women's inherent dignity.



Now, more than ever before, we see young women standing for their rights and the future they want. We hear their loud and clear voices, we see their actions and we support them. To bring peace, change, justice and equality, we need to continue to empower women.

Today, I want to salute our women. I salute them for their strength, their courage, their ability to rise above their challenges.

Happy Women's Month and Stay Safe!

Minister Lindiwe Zulu

DESTIGMATISE COVID-19

Deputy Minister's Message on Surviving COVID-19

From the day I received my COVID-19 results, I realised that I was waging a war with the unknown. A disease feared by so many because there is little knowledge about it. The moment you receive your results; your heart skips a beat. Thoughts of every other symptom you have heard of starts finding a way to your thoughts. Then slowly the power of your thoughts starts manifesting.

COVID-19 is a lonely disease. I felt the loneliness even though I was in isolation with my family as we all tested positive. This made me wonder how those who were alone in isolation had gone through this process. It is a lonely time.

The mental state of loneliness and the stigma that engulfs the positive diagnosis is difficult. As I was in self-isolation, it dawned on me that the stigma associated with COVID-19, was no different from the HIV/AIDS stigma we have been battling over the years.

We need to work on a stigma reducing strategy for this pandemic. The secrecy that surrounds one's status is a cause for concern. One questions themselves if they would still be treated the same or if society will have some reservations in welcoming them back into the work force or society in general. The battle is whether you still belong.

Overcoming COVID-19 has become a very commercialised activity from the lemons for that hot water and lemon concoctions, the ginger, and all other remedies you get offered on all concerned texts. Then what happens to those members of our

society that do not have the disposable funds for this added expenditure?

We need a human face for COVID-19, not just those videos we see on social media of someone in isolation battling the disease. Where are the thousands of South Africans who have overcome the disease? We need them to speak up and let it be known that this disease can be overcome. And if a person has completed the 14 days community members should not fear the person.

"Congratulations you are COVID free!" What is meant to be a sort of victory trophy, only turned out to further stigmatize those with the virus.

During Women's Month, we pay tribute to women in the liberation struggle and the women of today. We commemorate this year's Women's month under the theme "Generation Equality: Realising Women's Rights for an Equal Future."

We are grateful for selfless acts of the many women in the liberation struggle, South African women have taken their rightful place in parliament, government, and civil society.

Sithi igama lama khosi kazi malibongwel!



MESSAGE FROM ACTING DIRECTOR- GENERAL OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

BY MR LINTON MCHUNU | ACTING DIRECTOR GENERAL

1. Update on the Implementation of the Risk-Adjusted Strategy (Number of infected and recovered personnel).

Firstly, I must update the DSD family about the latest news about the implementation of the Department's Risk-Adjusted strategy in the fight against the spread of COVID-19. As required by the Disaster Management Act, the Department is working with diligence to mitigate the risk and spread of COVID-19 pandemic in the interest of staff members. Let me also reassure you that the health conditions of affected employees and their families are of paramount importance.

Being alive to the threat and health risk posed by this pandemic, we continue to sanitise our work

premises/stations as we did recently when a COVID-19 case was reported at the sixth floor of the HSRC Building. This we do as part of the required compliance with COVID-19 guidelines.

On a positive note, our COVID-19 recovery rate is now at 63%. In translation, this means that out of the 40 positive cases reported, 25 of the employees have since reported back to work while some are working remotely.

Employees in need of COVID-19 related assistance are advised to contact the Department's appointed PHS Counselling Services Service Provider on 0800 017 178 which is available 24 hours of the day.

2. The Discussion on Basic Income Grant



The provisions of the South African Constitution emphasise the right to social assistance which finds its expression in Chapter 11 of the National Development Plan (NDP). The NDP commits the country to establish a social protection floor below which no South African should fall through.

Amid the COVID-19 storm, we continue to engage with various stakeholders regarding the monthly R500 Basic Income Grant (BIG) which for now remains a policy proposal. The Department acknowledges the demand for income to reduce poverty and inequality gap which remain high for unemployed South Africans who are severely affected by the pandemic.

To this end, it is vital to mention that the value of BIG cannot be discussed without zooming into its cost implications which could range from around R100 billion to over R400 billion. This, therefore, poses another question of how we are going to fund the Basic Income Grant. As much as BIG will serve as a poverty alleviation

measure, we are still looking into possibilities of linking it with other income support measures such as training opportunities, particularly for the youth aged between 18 and 35 years old who are not in employment, education or training. The majority of this age cohort continue to bear the brunt of high unemployment, poverty and other social ills.

The Department is working on the policy options for consideration, and will as part of the process, engage various stakeholders including the NEDLAC Task Team on Comprehensive Social Security, to finalise the policy options for Government consideration.

As I conclude, I would like to remind all employees that they remain the most important human assets of the Department. Continue to apply safety precautions at all times by always sanitising your hands, maintaining social distance and avoiding handshakes. The Department will continue to implement all COVID-19 related protocols, which include closure, isolation

contact tracing and sanitisation of the workplace.

The Department is obliged to play its part in providing solutions to the social impact of this pandemic, with treatment, care and support during and post COVID-19 recovery being paramount in ensuring our colleagues and their family's mental health. We salute our front line workers, especially, our social workers and mental health practitioners who continue to serve as mediators between the patients and their families while their loved ones are recovering from this pandemic.

STAY SAFE AND SAVE LIVES!

I thank you.

THE IMPACT OF CORRUPTION ON THE PROVISION OF QUALITY SOCIAL SERVICES BY SOCIAL SERVICE PRACTITIONERS

The recent reports of corruption around COVID-19 funds across all levels, in particular in the public sector is a call for concern. Corruption has been an issue for some time now and it is more disturbing that people take advantage of the dire situation and redirect much-needed resources meant to save lives for selfish gains.

This is disheartening and inhumane and I share the majority of the South African citizens' sentiment that corruption should be seen and treated as a crime against humanity.

The scourge of corruption and other forms of maladministration of public resources not only robs the vulnerable communities of quality life but it also deprives social service practitioners of the opportunity to provide quality social services. Amongst others, practitioners need to be provided with tools of the trade and a safe and conducive working environment which are consistent with and encourages compliance with the South African Council for Social Service Professions Code of Ethics. This is part of ensuring the restoration of the dignity, prestige and status of the noble social service professions and that clients are treated with respect and

dignity. Social service practitioners are at the face of service rendering and communities look up to them for hope.

I note and commend leaders of society, in particular, government leaders' consistent and necessary message in condemning corruption. However, people want to see action and those responsible being held accountable. Corruption is a behavioural and societal problem and there must be consequences where there is wrongdoing.

This reflection is inspired by selfless social service practitioners, who despite all odds

ensure they sacrifice the little they have to promote quality social services to our people. I salute you for your humanitarian spirit. Though giving back or doing charity work is and will remain part of the orientation of the social service practice, it should be voluntary and most definitely should not be fuelled by a lack of provision or distribution of resources as a result of corruption.

Despite these discouraging events, I encourage all social service practitioners to remain resilient and put clients first at all times. We should continue to advocate for the fulfilment of basic human needs and promote social, economic and cultural values and institutions that are compatible with the realisation of social justice. We should use our networks and different forums and platforms

to highlight the impact of corruption on the provision of social services and basic human needs, as part of our ethical obligation to advocate for resource allocation procedures that are open and fair.



THE IMPACT OF *corruption*

WHAT LEVEL 2 MEANS

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Level 2: Restaurants

Restaurants may remain open, with a curfew between 10pm and 4am

Alcohol may be served in all licensed restaurants

The **number of guests** at any time **remains limited** to prevent the spread of the virus

South Africa will move to Level 2 from Tuesday 18 August 2020

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Level 2: Hotels and Accommodation

Hotels and accommodation facilities may reopen for **leisure travel between provinces**

The **number of guests** at any time **remains limited** to prevent the spread of the virus

South Africa will move to Level 2 from Tuesday 18 August 2020

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Level 2: Public Places

Parks, beaches and nature reserves will be open for outdoor activity

Restrictions on all social gatherings remain in place to prevent the spread of the virus

Sporting events will be allowed **without spectators** to prevent the spread of the virus

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Prevention measures are working

The number of **active cases** is declining

The proportion of **positive test results** is declining

The number of **admissions** to healthcare facilities is declining

South Africa will move to Level 2 from Tuesday 18 August 2020

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Prevention measures are working

Hospital capacity is adequate in all provinces

We have **sufficient supplies** of medical equipment and therapeutic drugs

Additional **field hospital beds** have relieved pressure on healthcare facilities

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We need to prevent a "second wave"

Continue to **wear a mask** at all times that covers your nose and mouth

Wash hands regularly with soap or sanitiser

Keep a **safe distance** from other people

Limit the number of people you are in contact with daily

South Africa will move to Level 2 from Tuesday 18 August 2020

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ALERT LEVEL 2

The **sale of alcohol** is permitted from Monday to Thursday, 9am to 5pm, and alcohol may be sold for consumption in licensed premises

The sale of **cigarettes and tobacco products** is permitted

Cyms and fitness centres will **reopen** with strict health and safety protocols in place

South Africa will move to Level 2 from Tuesday 18 August 2020

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Level 2: Travel

Travel between provinces is allowed for any purpose

Visits to **family and friends** are permitted in small groups

It remains **mandatory to wear a mask** in public

South Africa will move to Level 2 from Tuesday 18 August 2020

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Level 2: National State of Disaster

The **National State of Disaster** has been **extended to 15 September 2020** to allow necessary precautions to remain in place

South Africa will move to Level 2 from Tuesday 18 August 2020

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Restrictions that will remain in place

All **gatherings** are limited to a maximum of **50 people**

A **curfew** remains in place from **10pm to 4am** except for essential workers

The **number of people** allowed in a retail store, restaurant, cinema or other public space **remains limited**

Current restrictions on **international travel** remain in place

South Africa will move to Level 2 from Tuesday 18 August 2020

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REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

NDP

VSS Bill by Government

a step in the right direction

By Nande Fayo

The introduction of the Victim Support Service (VSS) Bill by government is a step towards the right direction in combating the escalating rate of Gender Based Violence. The COVID-19 Pandemic has had a negative impact on everyone, women and children have been the hardest hit.

This is according to Ms Faith Roberts, a Deputy Director responsible for Intergovernmental Relations in the office of the Eastern Cape Head of Department. Roberts, who has been, on her own, at the forefront of fighting the scourge by conducting awareness programmes with the aim of educating, motivating and inspiring GBV survivors in Buffalo City district. Roberts is using community radio and TV stations to get her message across. She says while the social conditions that contribute to gender-based violence in our country are complex and rooted in our divided past, the greater empowerment of GBV survivors goes a long way to strengthen the fight against abuse.

"In most cases, the rights of the victim are side-lined, more emphasis is put on various ways of trying to rehabilitate the perpetrator. These are some of the reasons I decide to take it to the podium to give hope and find ways for GBV survivors to "speak out" and seek help. She says, as a survivor of a six year long domestic abuse, is lucky she is still alive. "I regard myself as GBV Survivor because during my years in my previous marriage to my ex-husband, I endured physical abuse from the very early stages of it. The abuse would mostly happen during weekends when my ex-husband was coming from his joyous outings with friends. He would come back drunk and provoke

an argument in front of our children or sometimes in front of his friends or neighbours. But I must say, despite the physical abuse I endured, I had hoped that he would come to his senses one day and stop it, but it never stopped".

She says it's hardly a day passes without being exposed to heart-wrenching stories of women and girls who have suffered violence and abuse. "Often, these brutal acts are perpetrated by someone they know in the sanctity of their homes or behind closed doors. Working for a department that has a mandate of leading government efforts in the fight against GBV has also given me experience on empowering the vulnerable groups of our society. Also, the employment of Social Workers focusing on the enhancement of services rendered in adding psychosocial intervention is another step in fighting the scourge.

In the first week alone, the South African Police Service (SAPS) has recorded 2300 complaints of GBV. Reports suggests that the number of GBV cases has risen by 500 percent since the start of the Covid-19 lockdown. The VSS Bill seeks to put the victim of gender Based Violence at the centre of criminal justice system to ensure

that the rights applicable to the perpetrator are also the rights entitled to the victim. The Eastern Cape department has a budget allocation of R38.9million

for Victim empowerment and GBV programme for 2020/2021 financial year.

The gazetted VICTIM SUPPORT SERVICES BILL (VSS) is open for public comment

WHAT IS THE VSS BILL?

The VSS Bill seeks to **fight the scourge of GBV** by putting the victim and their rights at the centre of the criminal justice system and giving the victim the same rights as the accused.

The **VSS Bill** will be supported by other Government Strategies, including the **National Strategy Plan on GBV and Femicide, (NSP on GBV)**.

The **VSS BILL** will be driven through the four pillars of the **NSP ON GBV**:

- Response
- Care
- Support
- Healing

THE CRIMINAL JUSTICE SYSTEM CURRENTLY:

- Puts an emphasis on the rights of the **ACCUSED**.
- Provides various services for accused persons.
- Leaves room for **SECONDARY VICTIMISATION**.

WHAT THE BILL PROPOSES:

- The protection of victims.
- The provision of legal representation for victims.
- The provision of various **services** for victims.
- The State to carry the legal costs if victims wish to sue the accused for damages.
- The vetting of persons against the **Child Protection Register (CPR)** and the **National Register for Sex Offenders (NRSO)**.

SUBMIT YOUR COMMENTS:

BY POST: The Director-General Department of Social Development, Private Bag X901, Pretoria, 0001
 VIA E-MAIL: Ms Siza Magangoe on Sizam@dsd.gov.za, or Luyanda Mtshothisa on LuyandaMt@socdev.gov.za, or Ms Anna Sithole on Annas@dsd.gov.za

Submissions close on 15 September 2020.

Building a Caring Society Together.

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 Save Lives Prevent

review of

DSD PROMOTION OF ACCESS TO INFORMATION ACT, 2000 (ACT NO. 02 OF 2000)

BY MICHAEL MACHUBENG

The Promotion of Access to Information Act, 2000 (Act no. 02 of 2000) commonly known as PAIA is the law that gives effect to Section 32 of the Constitution. It provides a statutory right of access to information held by the state, as well as by private bodies. PAIA, entitles a person to any recorded information that is in possession or under the control of a public or private body.

PAIA bestows certain responsibilities and obligations on public or private bodies. The Department of Social Development (DSD), as an organ of state and a public

body, must comply with the provisions of PAIA.

Amongst other PAIA obligations to organs of state, DSD must compile a PAIA Manual in terms of Section 14 of PAIA. The PAIA Manual is a public document which contains information relating to the structure and functions of DSD.

The Department is currently in the process of reviewing the PAIA Manual. Once this process is complete, our PAIA Manual will be printed and published in eleven official languages including Braille. The printing of PAIA Manual in 11 official

languages and in Braille further supports the implementation of the Use of Official languages and White Paper on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities particularly Pillar One with an emphasis on Access to Information and Communication.

The PAIA Manual further augments other efforts done by DSD to inform the public about our services. This build and strengthens good working relationships with communities that we serve and stakeholders that we are working closely with in our fight against the triple challenges i.e. poverty, unemployment and inequality faced by our country.

The participation of all officials in the process of reviewing the PAIA Manual is key in this regard. DSD PAIA Manual will be very relevant and accurate.

What type of records can be included in the PAIA Manual, the records? We need to list the records that are created and received from stakeholders in our PAIA Manual. It is important to indicate the level of classification i.e. restricted, confidential, secret and top secret on the PAIA Manual. For the records that are not

classified, we will issue section 15 through Government Gazette thus indicating the records that are automatically available.

It is important to note that failure to compile a PAIA Manual will result in the Information Officer (Director-General) liable to a fine or imprisonment not exceeding two years.

We also report to the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, and South African Human Rights Commission. With the recent Protection of Personal Information Act, 2013 (Act no. 03 of 2013), the PAIA function will be transferred to the Information Regulator.

We hope that all of us will contribute to this process and continue to make our communities more informed about DSD services.



DEPUTY MINISTER CONTINUES TO CONDUCT COVID-19 COMPLIANCE

BY EVANS MOLIMI

The COVID-19 pandemic has put significant pressure on South Africans living on the streets which have led to the Deputy Minister of Social Development, Hendrieta Bogopane-Zulu conducting COVID-19 compliance at Akasia temporary shelter for men and Leamogetswe Safety Home around Pretoria.

The Akasia temporary shelter hopes to champion change in the livelihood of homeless men because society has branded them badly.

Deputy Minister Bogopane-Zulu described the lockdown regulations, coupled with social distancing and wearing of masks as some of the reasons the homeless people run away from temporary shelters provided by the Department.

"Behavioural change is the key to fight the spread of the virus. This pandemic teaches us to champion change in the livelihood of the homeless. They never choose to be on the streets. Circumstances made them homeless.

"Research has shown us that 90% of the homeless are on the streets because of drugs and alcohol abuse. It is our obligation that we care, love and protects homeless people," Deputy Minister, Bogopane-Zulu said.

She further explained that the COVID-19 pandemic calls on us to ensure we address matters related to drugs and substance abuse as it plays a significant role in the lives of people living on the streets. One of the 47 homeless at Akasia temporary shelter, Mr Tumelo Tseu said despite limited resources at the centre, they are always trying to observe level 3 of lockdown by wearing masks and they practice social distancing amongst themselves.

"This pandemic teaches us to champion change in the livelihood of the homeless."

"We need to ensure that even after the pandemic and lockdown regulation, it is our departmental mandate to ensure that as a Department we need to continue to provide shelter to the homeless. Because they also need government basic services," Bogopane-Zulu concluded.

DEPARTMENT LENDS A HAND TO

FAMILY

THAT LOST ALL TO FIRE

BY MOIPONE MATSAPOLA

The house the Kgasi family called home for over 24 years in Zone 1, Meadowlands, Soweto is now a sooty shadow of its former aqua-green self. This painful incident was caused by a midnight fire that resulted in the death of a 72-year-old woman.

The deceased, Gogo Nkele Kgasi survived the blaze but later succumbed to her death due to excessive inhalation of carbon monoxide.

According to her pain-stricken daughter Mpho Kutu (48), residing in Braamfisherville, the incident was sparked by a 4-bar-quartz heater. Gogo Kgasi resided with her three grandchildren aged 9, 12 and 20 years old in the 8 bedroomed house.

Gauteng MEC for Social Development, Nomathemba



Mokgethi, visited the Kgasi family to offer her heartfelt condolences. The family was provided with psychosocial services; mattresses; blankets and food parcels.

MEC surveyed the burned house and committed to demolishing a certain structure of the house that could be fatal if left unattended.

GDSO Supervisor Social Worker, Phathutshedzo Mukona and Social Worker Raynel Maluleke will continue to offer the Kgasi family counselling. Also, the GDSO will liaise with the children's school and Home Affairs to re-issue vital documents, secure school uniform and provide access to a foster care grant.

"The children are not coping at all, we are all heart-broken" she choked. "I am depressed. Losing a house is big but losing a mother



too is devastating," said Kutu.

She also expressed gratitude towards the assistance provided to her family by her neighbours and the GDSO.

"We are very relieved that the department came to our rescue. I am hopeful that the MEC's influential position will help us get sponsors to rebuild and restore our burned house because the kids need to have a home," Kutu expressed.



TEARS OF JUBILATION AS ORPHANS GIVEN A BRAND NEW HOME

Former President Nelson Mandela's birthday month closed off on a high note for the Khathi orphans when KwaZulu-Natal Social Development MEC, Mrs Nonhlanhla Khoza handed over a brand new house to three family members.

The community of Springvale's Ward 09 of Ubuhlebezwe Local Municipality, southern KwaZulu-Natal, burst into ululation when MEC Khoza descended on the village to officially hand over the house. This marked

a new beginning for the three orphans who have spent years in a dilapidated rondavel. Thobisile Khathi and her brothers ecstatically received a gift that has been described by many locals as something that will change their lives forever.

When Thobisile received her furnished home, she remarked:

"I never thought that when our parents left us someone will be touched by our

plight and ensure we have a proper safe house."

"Our dignity has been restored. From today we will be able to point our home with pride. We have a comfortable shelter in which to live. We will always have fond memories in our hearts about what Mama Khoza and the entire community of this area did for us," said Thobisile.

She said as a young person she was happy that the unfortunate situation of her home never drove



KwaZulu-Natal MEC for Social Development, cuts the ribbon, marking the official handover of the house to the Khathi family.



her to do wrong things that would destroy her life. MEC Khoza said the Khathi family situation inflicted pain in her, hence the decision to build the house, using her personal resources.

"These children lost their parents while they were still very young, but they opted to stay together in the mud house they were left with. As the community, we came together to assist these children to make life even much more

meaningful and enjoyable. With the little I get, it was proper for me to share with the needy in my community. We cleared the site using our bare hands and I offered to build the house from the foundation to the roof," said MEC Khoza.

She said building a house for the Khathi family was inspired by Madiba's teachings. She said Madiba lived true to the principle of bringing change to the lives of

people throughout the world.

"As leaders, we should always strive to change the lives of communities where we come from. To share with the needy should be our daily behaviour. We completed the house and we are grateful that some private businesses donated furniture. All of us as leaders, we must uphold the ethos of selflessness, sacrifice, and patriotism espoused by Nelson Mandela."

KILLING OF WOMEN

RIFE IN KZN

The community of KwaZulu-Natal is still reeling from shock after three separate incidents of the macabre murder of women rocked the Province.

Bakhiphile Jane Ngema (71), who stayed alone in KwaGqikazi, Nongoma, north of the Province was shot dead, while Zodwa Makhaza (41) of Shayamoya village in Ntabamhlophe, in the midlands, was allegedly assaulted to death by her boyfriend. Meanwhile, police made a grisly discovery of charred remains of a pregnant Hlengiwe Ndaba in a gumtree plantation in Bergville, in the midlands.

The continuous killing of women in KwaZulu-Natal is an indication that people have lost humanity, said MEC for Social Development, Mrs Nonhlanhla Khoza during a visit to pay homage to the Ndaba family.

"We call on all communities not to tolerate such heinous crimes and cowardly acts against women and children. Communities must work closely with the police and provide them with the necessary information to ensure convictions. We are also making an earnest plea to the justice system to ensure that suspects are given lengthy sentences," said MEC Khoza.

All family members of the victims are receiving psycho-social support.

MEC Khoza and her Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) counterpart, MEC Siphon Hlomuka, had earlier led a delegation of women and DSD officials to Ezakheni Township's B Section, outside Ladysmith, in the KwaZulu-Natal midlands, to pay homage to the Hlubi family who lost three children and their grandmother in a horrific fire incident. The three children included eight-month-old baby; Enzo Mabaso, Xolile Mabaso (7) and Angel Mabaso (10) who met their gruesome deaths when their home caught fire in the early hours of the morning. Their 58-year-old grandmother, Philisiwe Hlubi, died in hospital.

The tragic incident has left behind the children's mother and her brother, Mr Mdu Mabaso. Another child is in the Intensive Care Unit at the local hospital. A visibly heartbroken Mabaso said the distraught family were puzzled as to what the cause of the fire was, describing the deaths as a serious blow.

During the DSD team's visit, neighbours were busy clearing rubble from the yard and taking it to a nearby dumpsite.

MEC Khoza urged people to take extra care of their children to avoid such tragedies.

"We are deeply hurt that children died like this. These children could not escape the fire

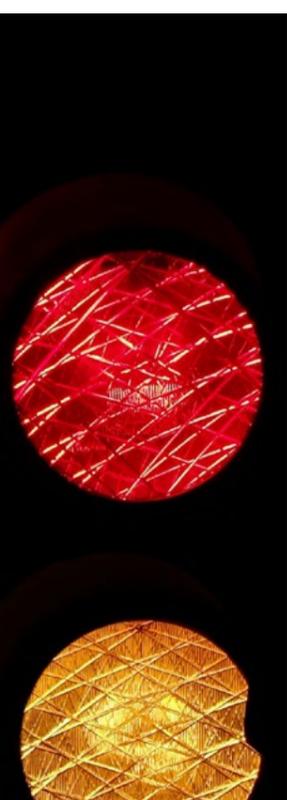
**"IF THE INCIDENT IS
A RESULT OF HUMAN
ERROR, POLICE NEED
TO ENSURE THAT
PEOPLE ARE HELD TO
ACCOUNT..."**

because they had no means to rescue themselves. We call on parents and those who take care of children to put the lives of children above everything else to avoid such painful occurrences," she said.

MEC Khoza also wished the injured person, who has since been hospitalised, a speedy recovery. She called on law enforcement agencies to give priority to the case to ascertain what caused the fire.

"If the incident is a result of human error, the police need to ensure that people are held to account. Children remain the pillar of our nation's future and it is all our responsibility to protect them," she added.

The incident is still subject of a police investigation. Social workers are providing psychosocial support to the family which has also been provided with social relief distress packs, including blankets.





FREE STATE DEPARTMENT COLLABORATES WITH NGOS TO FIGHT SUBSTANCE ABUSE AT SHELTERS

Homelessness is a global phenomenon and according to the information obtained by the Departmental Research and Population Directorate, there are about 150 million homeless people globally.

It is in the face of such statistics that the Department of Social Development in the Free State province established 11 shelters to get homeless people during the COVID-19 pandemic off the streets and dumping sites and into the safety of shelters.

Placing the homeless in shelters is a new programme in the Department, which has been assisted by the Provincial Joint Operation Centre (Provjoc).

Through these shelters, the Department reunites family members with their loved

ones.

Beneficiaries over 60 years are placed in government-funded old age homes especially those whose families are untraceable.

Shelters also offer more than mere accommodation to those destitute, they also offer training and a sense of home.

The Heidedal (Boet -Troskie) shelter based in Bloemfontein caters for homeless women and offers them skills such as sewing, making of bath salts and knitting.

Meanwhile, at the Tierpoort shelter for the homeless, the youth are trained in plumbing; farming; building; welding; maintenance; behavioural modification and rehabilitation. These young people are also trained in agricultural skills and participate in sports activities within the shelter.

For those that displayed an interest in going back to school, the Department of Social Development is in contact with institutions of higher learning to facilitate their possible registration at the various institutions.

The Department of Home Affairs assisted those without Identity Documents (IDs) and the re-issuing of IDs, while SASSA contributed food parcels.

Through partnerships with the private sector like Spar, Fashion World and Old Mutual, the Department continues to provide the shelters with blankets; mattresses; food parcels; groceries; toiletries; vegetables and meat for daily use.

One of the main challenges faced by homeless people is their dependency on illegal substances such as drugs and the withdrawals associated with their reliance.

The Makwane temporary shelter in QwaQwa is one of those shelters where some beneficiaries are affected by substance abuse withdrawals. The Department partnered with the local NGO - **Anti**

Drug and Alcohol Abuse Forum (ADAAF) to assist those suffering from withdrawals.

The Anti-Drug and Alcohol Abuse Forum held a substance abuse presentation at the shelter to assist those using drugs to kick the habit. The residents thanked the Department of Social Development for giving them hope and self-empowerment.

Another vital partner in the fight against drug dependency for shelter beneficiaries is the Department of Health which assists those struggling with withdrawal symptoms to better handle their journey to sobriety.

As part of the reintegration programme, where residents are assimilated back to their communities, some beneficiaries are now able to continue with their daily jobs and only return to the shelters in the evenings from their jobs.

DSD LAUNCHES G2G TO COMBAT *behavioural change* AMONGST TEENAGERS

BY EVANS MOLIMI

To combat the high rate of risky sexual behaviours exhibited by young people, the Department of Social Development (DSD) in partnership with the United States Agency for International Development (USAID) have launched the Government to Government (G2G) programmes.

Through USAID, the United State government has made funds available to the DSD to implement two departmental programmes; ChommY and You Only Live Once (YOLO). ChommY and YOLO encourage young people to reduce social ills and risky sexual behaviour among teenagers.

The G2G programme is aimed at implementing social behavioural change schemes amongst young people between the ages of 10-24 in Gauteng and Kwa-Zulu Natal.

“Working together with community members, social activists and departmental stakeholders we can shape and create an atmosphere where young people especially young girls feel proud of themselves. We need to teach and guide young girls not to depend on older men who use money, alcohol and drugs to destroy their future,” Deputy Minister Bogopane-Zulu said.

DSD Minister Lindiwe Zulu said the Department will mobilise community members to work collectively to help each other to understand the impact of behavioural changes amongst teenagers.

“We need to invest our energy to impart our experiences onto the youth because young people lack the knowledge and this often results in them engaging in early sexual debut through unprotected sex which leads to teenage pregnancy,” Minister Zulu said.

During the virtual launch, YOLO participant Mpho Nokwa said the programmes have lifted her self-

esteem and that of her peers to be able to speak out on the risky behaviours they are exposed to as the youth.

“Through YOLO activities I have learned how to express myself around young people about the dangers and risks associated with early engagement into sexual activities. I am knowledgeable and I am hoping to share the knowledge with my peers so they make informed choices about risky behaviour to avoid substance abuse which leads to new HIV infections and teenage parenting,” Nokwa said.



LIMPOPO MEC HANDS OVER WHEELCHAIRS



MEC Nkakareng with the beneficiaries of the wheelchairs. She is flanked by Mr Selbi Manganye (left) and Cllr. Dowelani Nenguda, Executive Mayor of Vhembe District Municipality.

Limpopo MEC for Social Development, Ms Nkakareng Rakgoale has continued her campaign of donating wheelchairs to identified recipients, with a visit to the Thanduluo Rehabilitation Centre in Thengwe, Vhembe District, where she handed over five wheelchairs generously sponsored by a Limpopo Businessman.

There were emotional moments in the multipurpose hall at the centre, as the wheelchairs were handed over officially, amongst others, to three children with special needs during a small official ceremony.

In her address, MEC Rakgoale thanked the parents

of the children for lovingly caring for them and not hiding them away from the community. In response to the beneficiaries, represented by one of the parents, Ms Avhashoni Nekhavhambe, thanked the generous donor, citing how much easier the wheelchairs will make their lives.

Praises were heaped onto Mr Selbi Manganye of Ramatlaohle (Pty) Ltd, the donor of the wheelchairs, food parcels and blankets. In turn, he challenged more members of the business fraternity to follow his example and give back to the community, as he says, “from the bottom of my heart and with love”.

SEED FOUNDATION - GBV AWARENESS FOR YOUNG BOTSHABELO WOMEN AFFECTED BY VIOLENCE

The Social Education and Economic Development (SEED) Foundation is a registered NPO (Non-Profit Organisation) based in the Free State province, Botshabelo C Section.

The organisation was founded in 2004 by Mr Mojalefa Tutubala to change and transform the lives of individuals and the Botshabelo C Section community with a special focus on young people driven by a passion to serve.

The foundation consists of members dedicated to enhancing the quality of life and bringing positive change through developmental programmes that aim to fight social ills that harm the lives of people in their childhood or adulthood.

On July 03, the founding members; Mojalefa Tutubala and his colleagues hosted a Gender-Based Violence (GBV) awareness event. The event took into consideration COVID-19 protocols to keep everyone safe. Young people were also invited to raise GBV awareness among young men.

According to Mojalefa, young people are the perfect audience as some of their school mates have been affected by the violence in question. The event aimed to provide support and motivate

those experiencing violence to speak up and get help before it was too late.

Speakers from Lenyora la Thuto and the Save Botshabelo Champions (SABOCHA) were also present and advised young men to dispel the myth surrounding men not seeking help or crying when in pain.

Young people were further counselled on being selective of the relationships they got into. The SEED Foundation was tasked with creating more programmes that support young people who are dedicated to bringing change into the lives of their peers.

The event culminated with a poetry performance and the lighting of candles in memory of the young women who have lost their lives because of GBV. The SEED Foundation also gave out food parcels to 20 needy families from the community of Botshabelo in Section C1&C2.

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PAYMENT OF COVID-19 GRANT MADE EASIER

By Zethu Khoza

In an effort to address challenges faced by some beneficiaries of the COVID-19 SRD grant when collecting their grant at the Post Office, SASSA will be opening up its system to enable approved applicants to update the channel through which payment should be made.

Clients will have an opportunity from the 3rd till the 9th of August 2020 to update their banking preferences and to change from using the Post Bank account to another account of their choice or even to choose a cash send option.

This option will be available 24/7 for the week by visiting <https://srd.sassa.gov.za>. If a client is an approved client they just need to provide their ID number and after the validation confirmed their status they will receive a SMS message with a link to the website which enables them to capture their banking details on the SASSA website.

Steps to follow to change banking details:

Visit the website <https://srd.sassa.gov.za>

- Provide ID Number
- Receive a SMS with a link to provide bank details

- Client will have to click on the website link provided on the SMS
- Insert ID number
- Indicate if he/she has a bank account
- Provide full names as per ID document
- Provide surname as per ID document
- Choose Bank name
- Choose Branch code
- Choose account type
- Provide account number
- Click Submit button

If Client does not have Bank account and prefers to receive cash via the Banks:

- Visit the website <https://srd.sassa.gov.za>
- Provide ID Number
- Receive a SMS with a link to provide bank details
- Client will have to click on the website link provided on the SMS
- Insert ID number
- Provide full names as per ID document
- Provide surname as per ID document
- Choose Bank name for cash send option
- Click Submit button

The Agency is working tirelessly to ensure that all qualifying applicants receive their deserved grants on time. When clients are

approved for the month, they receive a SMS with a link to the website which enables them to capture their banking details on the SASSA website. The client needs his ID number when visiting the website. It is very important that clients ensure that they capture their personal details exactly as per their Identity document, as registered with the Department of Home Affairs.

Clients must also take great care to ensure that their banking details are correct – especially the bank account number and branch code, as well as the account type (savings or cheque or transmission account). Clients must also ensure that the bank account is registered in their name (SASSA cannot pay money for one person into the account held by another).

Likewise, when the client chooses a money transfer option, he should ensure that the cell phone number provided is correct and is registered in his name. Just like with a bank account, SASSA cannot pay the grant into a cell phone which is registered to another person.

The payment of the special grant is quicker if paid into a bank

account. Citizens without bank accounts are thus encouraged to open an account – “there are many entry level, inexpensive options in the market – some of which can be opened online”, said Ms. Dianne Dunkerley, Executive Manager Grants Administration.

Citizens who do not update their information during this window period, or who do not provide correct banking details will have their payments for the remaining months paid into an account with Post Bank and will have to visit the Post Office when receiving a SMS to collect their money.

Furthermore, SASSA verifies all banking details provided by the client with the bank, before payment is made. In order not to delay the payment of the grant, it was agreed that when a client provides incorrect bank details, or the bank account does not belong to the client, or the client did not provide SASSA with banking details within 5 days of a SMS being sent, an account will be opened for the client with Post Bank. The client will then be directed to the Post Office to receive a cash payment. In this case the client will receive a SMS from SASSA (with surname, date of birth, application ID) to inform the client when to collect their money at the Post Office.

A SMS is sent to ensure that not all clients go at the same date and time to the Post Office to try and curtail the spread of Covid-19. This schedule also ensures there is sufficient cash at the Post Office to assist all clients. Unfortunately many of the SASSA clients visit the Post Office before receiving a SMS and then there is not sufficient

cash available when the scheduled clients arrive at the Post Office.

With regards to cash send clients, unfortunately SASSA and the Banks could not finalise the agreements in time for the May payments. The Minister of Finance also had to provide his concurrence for SASSA to open bank accounts with the various banks and to make use of the cash send option. Not to inconvenience these clients any further, a Post Bank account was opened for them and their May R350 was paid into this account.

All cash send clients have been paid and a SMS was sent to most of them to collect their money at the Post Office.

SASSA is currently concluding agreements with organisations who will assist in verifying the cell phone numbers of clients to ensure that there is no fraud in the system. “Clients are reminded that SASSA will only pay through a cell phone number if that cell phone is registered to the client. Clients are urged to ensure that their cell phone numbers are registered in their name”, added Dunkerley.

It is foreseen that the June and July grants for the clients who opted for cash send will be paid through their cash send option should they still qualify.

All clients who are declined in a specific month will receive a SMS message with the reason for their decline. The most important Rejection Reasons include the following:

- Clients currently qualify for UIF as per the Database provided to SASSA.

- Clients currently receive a social grant from SASSA.
- Clients currently receive NSFAS stipend as per the Database provided to SASSA.
- Clients are currently registered on the IRP-5 database with SARS.
- Clients are currently registered on a Government salary database such as Persal.
- Client details do not match their details as registered on the Department of Home Affairs National Population Register database.
- Clients on the database of citizens in Correctional Service facilities.

There are also a number of other databases where people receive Covid-19 assistance such as Sportsmen and Farmers.

Should the client wish to dispute the outcome of the application or update personal details, client must send an email to covid19srdappeals@sassa.gov.za

For information clients could visit the following platforms for Frequently Asked Questions (FAQs) about this crucial grant: the WhatsApp line 082 046 8553, SASSA website (www.sassa.gov.za) and SASSA SRD Grant website (<https://srd.sassa.gov.za>)

farewell LINDA VAN STADEN



* Linda Van Staden has been in the public service for 40 years working for different Departments, having worked for both the apartheid government and the democratic dispensation. At the end of July, Van Staden went on her retirement. She opens up to Lumka Oliphant on her journey in the public service.

It is a Tuesday morning and I decide to give Ms Linda Van Staden a call to give us an account on how it has been for her to serve South Africa for so many years.

I introduce myself, she was not expecting my call. Van Staden has just begun her retirement and she tells me that she is honoured we decided to feature her story in this month's edition of DSD News.

I break the ice by asking her what she is doing with herself now that she is at home because, from personal experience, I know DSD

can get very busy.

"I was meant to be on a month's cruise to Japan you know but it was postponed because of COVID-19. The cruise was going to start in Dubai then sail to Malaysia, China, Taiwan and then dock in Japan. I was taking my sister with me but now we have to wait," Van Staden tells me.

She's opting to catch up on her reading and just relax at home until she can embark on her cruise.

Van Staden's career in the public service started as a teacher but she has always had an interest in sociology and psychology. When she was still a teacher studying at the University of Pretoria, Van Staden took up the two subjects. This is where she was introduced to population studies.

Her introduction came just in time for the beginning of the population programme in

the country. Van Staden after resigning from her teaching post took up a job as a Liaison Officer in the population unit for what was then the Department of Welfare Services.

As an employee for the old Government, she was responsible for educational programmes, working with the public broadcaster, the South African Broadcasting Corporation.

Van Staden was in the Department of Social Development when the country's first democratic elections took place and a new Government was voted in. She recalls that time "as a tough time" for her as there was a lot of uncertainty.

When the new Government came in, the employees at DSD had to reapply for their posts and some of her colleagues accepted the offered severance packages, Van

Staden was lucky enough to get her job back.

"It was fantastic to work with former Minister Geraldine Fraser-Moleketi, she pulled us all together and taught us the new perspective and the new way of doing things," Van Staden recalls.

She said by staying in the Department, she realised there were a lot of things she was not aware of as a white child who had grown up in apartheid South Africa.

"I started to learn about all the horrible things that were happening in the country. I remember how Mikondzo, the community programme introduced by former Minister Bathabile Dlamini, took me back. I saw the hardships of the people, the substance abuse and gangsterism. We were sitting in Pretoria, oblivious to the realities on the ground," says Van Staden.

She realised that South Africans were yearning to provide for themselves.

"What I heard and saw from people was that they wanted to work," says Van Staden.

Even though she knows* she will miss DSD, Van Staden wants to relax and going back to playing the piano. When she gets back from her cruise, she is considering supporting the Early Childhood Development Centres around her area.

Thank you for the 40 years of dedication, sweat and devotion. You will definitely be missed at DSD Linda.*

*Good
byes*

Linda Farewell MESSAGES

FROM COLLEAGUES



I've worked with Linda for more than a decade. She willingly shared her experiences in the Public Service with all of us and we have learned so much from her. When things seemed impossible, she would always say, "Nee man, you can do it." I wish her nothing but the best in her retirement.

Eunice Nchoe

In the 21 years I worked with Linda, she has proven to be one of the most loyal & hard working

employees. Among many other things, she also developed the Intergenerational and Communication on Adolescent Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights Programme which reached ordinary community members. Linda was a mentor and advisor to many people and as she now retires, I hope she finally puts herself before her work. She deserves many vacations and time with family.

Jacques van Zuydam

Ms. Linda has been an integral part of Population & Development for many

years. Her immense knowledge & experience has been a strong driving force to us as her team. I have learned many lessons from her over the years and now it is time she eases down and enjoy. Linda, you will always have friends here.

Papi Koekoe

Thank you for being a tireless professional, supervisor and good friend, Mama Linda. You will always be remembered for your many years of hard work and dedication. Congratulations on your retirement.

Rendani Musolwa



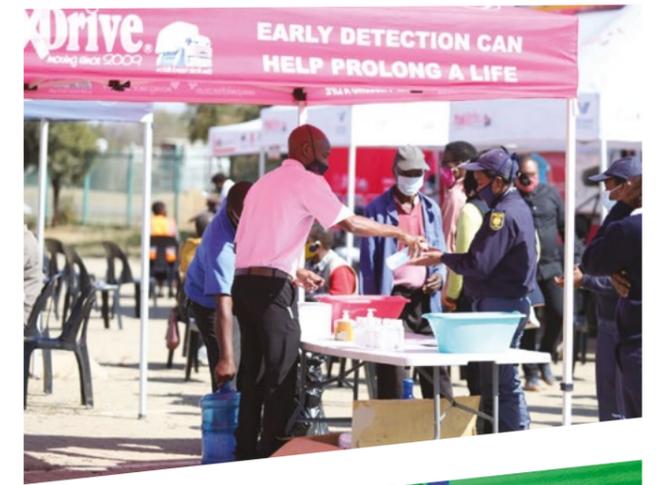
Good Byes

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PROTECT SOUTH AFRICA

TOGETHER WE CAN BEAT THE CORONAVIRUS