



GAUTENG PROVINCE

CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND
TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

MEDIA STATEMENT

ATT: ALL NEWS EDITORS

FOR IMMEDIATE RELEASE

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MEC Khumalo handing out blankets and food parcels to the elderly as part of Mandela Day celebration

18 July has come to signify the selfless spirit of service to the people which epitomize the colossal Nelson Mandela, the first President of the democratic South Africa.

The MEC of Cooperative Government and Traditional Affairs, E-Government, Research and Development, Mzi Khumalo, in the spirit of the day chose to spend his 67 minutes serving the senior citizens of Wheatlands Old Age Home in Randfontein.

The Wheatlands Old Age Home which is situated within a 4-hectare plot, is a home to at least forty-two residents. They allowed the MEC together with several senior staff of his department, the Al-Imdaad Foundation, and a large number of volunteers to be of service to them. The volunteers led by the MEC ensured that the Elderly were fed warm nutritious food, presenting them with gifts while ensuring that the Home is sparkling clean.

The gifts presented to the Elderly of Wheatlands, included food, blankets, groceries, individual toiletries, new walking sticks, garden tools and rechargeable lights to take care of those dark times during loadshedding.

"This Home has been very close to my heart since I lost my grandmother whom I was very close to," said MEC Mzi Khumalo. "When I came across this place several years ago, it warmed my heart as it reminded me of the love of my grandmother, hence during my tenure as an Executive Mayor of Rand West Local Municipality I served my sixty-seven minutes here ever since.

"It has been such a pleasure to see such joy that we witnessed today where the residents got treated to a day full of happiness. I would also like to take this opportunity to thank the Al-Imdaad Foundation who decided to partner with us in serving our beloved Elderly for the first time this year. We are so grateful that they have pledged to take over the vegetable garden which will provide fresh produce to the residents of this Home.

"They have also offered to improve the dignity of the residents by fixing the ablution facilities, the falling ceiling and other plumbing challenges that exist."

The founder and director of the Home, Ms. Pauline Mokaе, said she was at a loss for words as she never thought this day would turn out this way and also bring so much joy to the Elderly.

"I don't know how to thank MEC Khumalo, our beloved Gauteng Government, Al-Imdaad Foundation and all the volunteers that have made this such a major success. We are on the receiving end, always looking for giving hands to continue to open their hearts to assist the senior citizens - most of whom have no other place to call home and have made this a permanent home. It is therefore a very big challenge to keep it going because of the daily financial challenge.

"But I can tell you that tonight they will sleep soundly because they'll be too tired from the dancing and excitement they experienced today. They will definitely sleep peacefully," Ms Mokaе said.

Ends

Issued by the Department of Cooperative Government and Traditional Affairs, E-Government, Research and Development. For more information contact: Mr Emmanuel Cele at 0674130545 e-mail: Emanuel.Cele@gauteng.gov.za