



MEC Hlophe Keeps The Homeless Warm In Extremely Cold Weather



Pictures: Lawrence Mashabela

MEC Mbalu Hlophe handing over blankets to homeless at Parktown Park, Johannesburg

By Lawrence Mashabela

As the weather temperature dropped in certain parts of the country after some parts had snow for the first time since 2012, there has been a demand to help keep homeless people warm during winter nights.

On Monday, the Gauteng Social Development, Agriculture, Rural Development and Environment, MEC Mbalu Hlophe responded by distributing blankets and hot soup to homeless people who stay in and around Parktown Park in Johannesburg.

Hlophe called on all the residents of Gauteng to join government in helping those in need. She further said as homelessness is one of Gauteng Government's priority, the Department should heighten its efforts to reach out to people who are homeless and provide them with assistance they need, across all five regions. She insisted that the Department should not only provide them with blankets and soup kitchen but to also find shelters where they can stay.

"We need to upscale our efforts in assisting the homeless as this is one of our mandates as government, we need to find shelter for them and those who are on drugs should be referred to substance abuse treatment centres and later be given skills training so that they can be self-sustainable", Hlophe added.

She pleaded with community members, including government employees to volunteer by giving away clothes they no longer use.

41-year-old Selby Mogane from Kanana in the North West is one of the people who found themselves living on the street after losing his job. He said he was working for Tiger Brand in 2014 as a merchandiser on a fixed term contract for two years.

"Things just changed after contract ended", Mogane added.

He appreciated the help that government is bringing to them and told Hlophe that he is ready to turn his life around.

"It is not nice to stay here especially with this type of weather, we realize that one should fight to reclaim his life back", said Mogane.

The former Central Johannesburg College graduate said he regrets the day he was introduced to drugs as they messed up his life. Mogane completed his electrical engineering heavy current up until N6 in 2006. He said if the Department can help him with the treatment of substances and further give him a trade test or learnership, he can reclaim his life.

Building Healthy Relationships Beyond Prison



Pictures: **Kedibone Dube**

Eva Sauls (middle) and her daughters Jennifer (right) and Melissa (left)

By Moipone Matsapola

The Gauteng Department of Social Development cares about social cohesion, second chances, restoration of families, and healthy relationships.

Meet ex-convict 56-year-old, Eva Sauls from Toekoemsrus, Randfontein in the West Rand region who separated from her three daughters whilst serving four years and six months of an 8-year sentence for fraud. "Greed led to my downfall", confessed Saul who wishes to study Law.

She worked as an administrator at a Law firm and was aware of the unethical activities her superiors asked her to perform. Some of these illegal activities involved impersonating a lawyer; consulting with clients and representing them in a court of law. Being a divorcee and a single parent placed her under pressure to provide for her daughters beyond her means.

Accepting Jesus Christ as her Lord and Saviour saved her life from crime as she halted fraudulent activities a year before her conviction in August 2010, the first-time offender pleaded guilty.

Going to Johannesburg Central Prison and being recognized in numerical form was the hardest and humbling time of her life as she was overwhelmed with emotions of guilt and regret and the embarrassment and shame she brought in her family. When she was imprisoned, her first daughter, Jennifer was 25, then Melissa 27, and her last born daughter Meagan was 22. Before prison, she rarely spent quality time with her children as she was more focused was on providing for them. Given limited number of visits per year, her daughters' visits were prioritized and is one of the reasons their relationship grew in strength.

"One of the challenges was dictating to the young adults on how to live their lives whilst behind bars", she said. Jen mentioned her mistakes turned into a blessing in disguise as the sisters kept to themselves and away from substance abuse.

In 2014, the roles were changed as her daughters were the ones providing for her financially.

Sauls describes Jen as selfless, generous, and dependable, Mel as outspoken, strict, and honest. Sadly, ambitious, and introverted Meagan committed suicide in 2018 after suffering chronic depression and losing a partner to death.

"I cherish every minute I spend with my daughters and my grandchildren" glimmered Sauls.

This mother and her daughters enjoy dining out and spending time together in the kitchen. They practice open communication and that has enabled Jen to confide in her about anything as she's still emotional about losing her little sister.

Research studies on mother and daughter relationships undertook by Author, Sneha Tete, and Clinical Psychologist, Dr Chloe Carmichael revealed that:

- This relationship serves as cornerstone of the future of any relationship a woman may have with those around her and the strongest among any parent-offspring.
- The relationship holds the internal working model of attachment, which dictates a woman's connection with others; the most valuable connection a woman enjoys in her life
- Given the role of maternal figures in translating valuable emotions and life skills like empathy, kindness, and affection, can be the foundation of how society performs.

Sauls appreciates the chance given to promote healthy relationships between mothers and daughters by the Department's Women's Forum led by the Directorate of Gender, Youth & Disability Mainstreaming. Her plea is that youth and society at large, must stop all crime: "If you can do the crime, you will do the time. Crime is not worth your time, but family is".

Saul is a youth counselor volunteer at her local church and aspires to reach more people and advocate for crime prevention. Social Development offers social crime prevention programs and through various NPO also provides psychosocial support services.

15 Cholera Victims Placed In Skills Development Program



Pictures: Lehlolonolo Khumalo

Children of cholera victims attending short learning courses at Kanana Development Centre in Hammanskraal

By Tendamudzimu Goza

The Gauteng Department of Social Development in partnership with the Kanana Development Centre has placed youngsters who were recently affected by the Cholera outbreak in Hammanskraal on skills training program.

Following community profiling, about fifteen (15) young children have been identified and placed on various skills training programmes, ranging from life skills, computer studies, hospitality, and security courses.

These beneficiaries continue to receive psycho-social services from the Gauteng Department of Social Development as the most lost their loved ones in this tragedy.

According to Kanana Development Centre Manager, Nthabiseng Letsatsi, they have profiled these beneficiaries in order to determine the necessary intervention and identify skills gap.

“All these programmes are free thanks to Gauteng Department of Social Development”

“We want to help these young people by placing them on our skills programs so that in future they become self-reliant. Our goal is to see the beneficiaries employed or gain skills, so that they can be able to survive on their own and be able to assist their families”, said Letsatsi.

She said beneficiaries started their classes on the 10th of July 2023, and they are expected to finish with their courses after six months.

“All these programmes are free thanks to Gauteng Department of Social Development for making it possible for these children who have untimely lost their loved ones and source of livelihood”, she added.

Letsatsi said the department also provides the beneficiaries with daily meals when they come to attend their classes.

“Funding from the Department has helped as we are able to assist our communities with such interventions. This has made it possible for the centre to have adequate resources including education materials”.

22-year-old Bongiwe Mulaudzi, one of the affected youths said, “I am thankful that Social Development and Kanana Development Centre came to our rescue by providing work related skills and education which I can add to my CV and increase my chances of being employed”.

After completing their certificates, the fifteen beneficiaries will be placed at various companies that work closely with Kanana Development Centre for real work experience, with the possibility to be absorbed subject to their performance.

Department Presents Draft Policy For Public Comments



Pictures: Tshepo Mtholo

Disability Manager, Mariska van der Walt and Sedibeng Regional Director, Tshifhiwa Tshikalala during public hearings on Disability Policy at Emerald Resort in Sedibeng

By Lehlohonolo Khumalo

As part of the public consultation with stakeholders around Gauteng, last Friday, the National Department of Social Development (DSD) presented a draft policy on services to persons with disabilities at Emerald Resort in Sedibeng

This was aimed to seek public comments from stakeholders in the sector.

The policy desires to achieve sustainable improvement in the well-being of individuals, families, and communities through disability-inclusive programs and services for the benefit of persons with disabilities.

This will guide the Department on mainstreaming and integrating disability within social development services, and to facilitate the department's achievement of priorities.

The development of these policy dates back from 2010 and it will pave a way for the development of legislation on social development services to persons with disability.

The department was mandated by cabinet to present the policy to the public and gather feedback.

Presenting the draft policy National Department of Social Development, Manthipi Molamu said the policy highlights that disability is a human rights issue that demands equality and emphasizes equal access of services for all persons with disabilities.

Paul Hlanguza from Pelonolo Home Base For Disability, expressed his concerns regarding the policy, as a person who is blind. He outlined issues and challenges they come across as people with disabilities and what should the department do to assist them.

One of the challenges he mentioned is that people who are blind do not have privacy when using cellphones and raised the issue of guide dogs for the blind.

Hlanguza said, "People who are from informal settlements do not have access to devices and guide dogs."

He said he is happy with the presentation of the policy, but some changes need to be done in order to address some of the issues they face as people with disabilities.

Social Development Continues To Support Youthful Energy In Pursuing Entrepreneurship



Pictures: Moipone Matsapola



Pictures: Supplied by Jaylor's Beauty Foundation

Jaylor's Beauty Foundation owner Jessica Lebona attending youth entrepreneurship seminar in Kagiso

By Moipone Matsapola

Entrepreneurs wear so many caps, are problem solvers and create solutions to alleviate poverty and increase economic participation.

They are also never too young or old to learn and continue to grow as entrepreneurs.

Gauteng Government continues its efforts to support youth and start-up businesses.

23-year-old, Jessica Lebona attended the 'No Cap' youth entrepreneurial seminar at Kagiso Archive Center in the West Rand region. From the energetic discussions, she's eager to participate in job creation and increase her presence of her business in social media.

Jessica is the owner of Jaylor's Beauty Foundation, and a 3rd-year online Law student at the University of Mpumalanga who has four siblings and resides in Kagiso.

When her parents divorced in 2016, her mother and siblings relocated from Welkom, Free State Province to Kagiso. The divorce was so devastating that she failed and repeated Grade 11, her mother resigned as a temporary primary teacher and has not worked since. She could not bear to witness the pain and emotional turmoil of divorce had on her mother and decided to move in with her maternal grandmother in another section at Kagiso.

While in high school she braided hair for fun and to earn extra money, however, the ripple effect of the divorce coerced her to braid for profit to alleviate family poverty as she became a breadwinner. She dreamt of being a pilot but the exposure to family court proceedings sparked a desire to become a lawyer.

In 2021 she had no fees for varsity which resulted in her putting her studies on hold. The silver lining was the

ability to register her business with the help of government officials at the Recreation Center. This is where she learnt more about entrepreneurship and realized that hair business is profitable and has been able to live of it with her family.

Recently, she received funding of R36 000 from National Youth Development Agency (NYDA). She used the funds to purchase weaves which will be sold at Jaylor's Beauty Foundation (specializes in hair, nails and make up). She anticipates more funding to purchase office equipment. "I like to make up and see people beautiful despite what they are going through", she said.

As much as she is youthful, standing long hours as far as 15hours without a break has been strenuous on her body and realizes the need for physical and mental wellness

She plans to hire two more people to assist with the workload and improving their economic standing. Jessica plans to also tap into other social media platforms to grow her clientele and help her expand into other provinces.

Her motivational message to upcoming youth entrepreneurs and those struggling to make profit is: "No lies, entrepreneurship is not easy, but fruitful. Youth should not give up when the going gets tough, be patient, keep trying and do not give up on your dreams and make a change".

The seminar was hosted by the Gauteng Department of Social Development in partnership with the Gauteng Department of Sports, Arts, Culture & Recreation, and the West Rand Development Centre.

The government continues in its efforts to hold such seminars and ensure youth economic participation.

Siyabonga Africa NPO grateful for partnership with Gauteng DSD, a relationship spanning over 20 years



Pictures: Phetoho Maja

Siyabonga Africa Centre Manager, Sarah-Jane Brink showcasing some of the work produced by the students

By Phetoho Maja

Last Friday, Weekly Bulletin took its cameras and visited Siyabonga Africa, a Non-Profit Organisation (NPO) based in Brakpan, Ekurhuleni which is about to celebrate its 40 years of existence since it was established back in 1984.

The organisation, according to Sarah-Jane Brink who is a Centre Manager, has worked with the Gauteng Department of Social Development for over twenty (20) years in an effort to eliminate poverty by linking young people to economic opportunities.

This partnership, which spanned for so many years, has changed many lives and restored hope to thousands of young people.

Currently, the centre has two hundred and fifty (250) students in Gauteng participating in computer training, fashion design, carpentry, welding, baking, and small-scale farming as part of its skills development programme and provides meals daily to the students.

"Our students don't worry about food when they come here. Annually, we provide over eight thousand (8 000) plates of food to our students," said Brink.

"we created two hundred and forty-two (242) jobs through community projects around the country"

"We want to see a South Africa free from poverty. One of our biggest challenges as a country is unemployment. So, we are focusing our efforts at this point to address poverty by upskilling the youth and link them to job opportunities or help them start their own businesses so that they can take care of their families."

"Last year, through our efforts, we created two hundred and forty-two (242) jobs through community projects around the country. Right now, we are starting a chilli farm in KZN where we teach people how to plant, harvest and produce chilli into sauces and other agro-processed products," echoed Brink.

She added, "In Marikana, North-West Province we are training beneficiaries at Marikana Youth Development Organisation with baking skills. Currently, they are able to produce and sell over 200 loaves of bread to the community on a daily basis."

"In Tembisa, we have just set up a vegetable tunnel and a bakery at one of the schools. So, we help people set up businesses that are going to provide food to the community, provide jobs, and in turn, continue with community development," said Brink.

She further reiterated that 70% of their students last year were able to start their own businesses. Some of them will be showcasing their products during Mandela Day.

Project Coordinator at Siyabonga Africa, Carol Mabope added that the centre also supports the Department's Witpoort Treatment Centre based in Brakpan by assisting recovering service users with skills development.

"We are also going to start working with parolees as part of their community work. So, we do a lot of work to see a self-sustainable and self-dependent youth," said Mabope.

RUNNERS CORNER



"It always seems impossible until it's done."

– Nelson Mandela

the legacy lives on through you

The month of **July** is known as **President Nelson Mandela's** birthday month. As we celebrate this iconic leader, join **GDSD Athletic Club** and participate in the **Mandela day Houghton Run**.



Date: 16 July 2023

Distance: 21.1KM, 10 KM and 5km

Venue: Houghton primary school, 1st avenue, Houghton estate, Johannesburg

Start: 07h30

See You There!!!



GAUTENG PROVINCE

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THE DOCTRINE OF CLEAN HANDS/ UNCLEAN HANDS



No Reward for Those with Unclean Hands!

The Doctrine of Clean hands is a Common Law legal principle. The principle requires litigants to approach the Courts with Clean Hands. Litigants are dissuaded from approaching the Court and seeking legal recourse while his/her hands are unclean.

At times, Plaintiffs (Applicants) in a legal dispute, have engaged in unethical, unfair, illegal, or otherwise immoral behavior in relation to the case brought before the Court. In these circumstances, the Defendant may rely on the Common Law legal doctrine known as the Doctrine of "clean hands" as a defense against the Plaintiff.

The doctrine exists to keep the judicial system fair by preventing people from taking advantage of it, to get away with their own wrongdoings or unethical behavior.

In terms of this Doctrine, individuals who seek the Court's relief must enter the courtroom with "clean hands" in order to succeed. Examples of situations where a Defendant may rely on the Doctrine, include those involving or connected to a Party who has committed fraud, breach of contract, or other unethical behavior.

Example 1

A parent kidnaps their child and then approaches the Court requesting custody of said child. The Court will most likely not grant the parent (kidnapper) custody of the child because he/she approached the Court with unclean hands. An exception would be where the child was in imminent danger in the custody of the other parent.



Example 2

During a divorce or separation, spouse (B) conceals assets of the marital property to defraud the other spouse. The other spouse (A) discovers the theft/fraud. As a result of the unfair conduct, the first spouse (B), is likely to receive less than their fair share when the property is divided at divorce. The aggrieved spouse (A) could be awarded more than their allotted share of the marital property as damages.



Gauteng Provincial Government Open Day Programme at Geluksdal Community Hall

 Pictures: Phetoho Maja



For comments, contributions and suggestions please send an email to:

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