

MEC visits Slahliwe Residents in Bethlehem

Slahliwe Informal Settlement residents in Bethlehem celebrated their Pre-Freedom Day on April, 26 with the Premier of the Free State, MEC for Social Development, Me Sisi Ntombela and other MEC's who visited them to witness their living conditions and for them to have an idea of how the place looks like.

Scores of unemployed women and youth at Slahliwe who saw the Premier and the MEC for the first time were delighted and the MEC for Social Development donated R1000, Jet vouchers to the 6 needy families, blankets and sanitary pads to women and girls at this informal settlement.



Me Patricia Ndaba is disabled and owner of a new RDP house. She also received blankets and Sanitary pads

One of the residents is the 22 year old Palesa Dlamini who lives with his siblings and her three children who survive with the child support grant she earns. She said they are originally from Kwazulu Natal province and her mother passed away shortly after they arrived at Slahliwe. She is now taking responsibility of all the five children in a two roomed shack divided by a curtain to

make space for a kitchen area. The MEC also gave Palesa the JET vouchers to the value of R1000 to buy winter clothes for the family, sanitary pads and four new blankets.

Slahliwe informal Settlement was also targeted for Freedom day build-up event as most families do not have proper documentation to register OVC for foster care placements and grants. The department of Social Development, SASSA and Home Affairs rendered services from 25 – 27 April to assist families who have been struggling with foster care placements due to lack of proper documentation from Home Affairs .



The 22 year Slahliwe resident who was given Jet vouchers and blankets by the MEC Social Development; Me Sisi Ntombela

The Social worker responsible for the area; Mr David Khuile indicated that most children do qualify for foster care grants but lack of documentation poses a problem. Most children are abandoned and staying with families who are not their biological parents and they have been unable to assist them as Home Affairs could not process their documents. As a result children are being disadvantaged due to long verification process that needs to be followed. Some of the foster care grants have also lapsed due to foster parents who moved from one address to the other and others end up being untraceable or not reviewing the applications on time.

The build-up event assisted the department as more foster care placement families were reached by the mobilization team which was conducted by Dhlabeng Municipality volunteers. Volunteers were deployed five days prior the Freedom day to inform residents about the three day foster care grant registration and reviews and more children were assisted by Home affairs and SASSA to apply for new documents and grants.