



social development

Department of
Social Development
FREE STATE PROVINCE

2009 MEDIA ADVISORIES AND STATEMENTS

OCTOBER

THE FREE STATE ELDERLY PEOPLE TO BE HONOURED

29 October 2009

Premier Ace Magashule and Social Development MEC Sisi Ntombela, accompanied by other Members of the Executive Council, will honour the elderly people of the Free State.

This initiative forms part of the commitment made by government to include the elderly people in the vision of "caring for all" and the event will mark the end of Social Development month.

Government's commitment to give the elders greater care was outlined by the Premier when he delivered his first State of the Province Address in June. Subsequent to that he hosted the elderly people in Frankfort where he reiterated the importance of honouring and learning from the elders.

Tomorrow a platform will be created for the elders to interact with their leaders to express their views about their welfare and how they want government to assist them. They will also be provided with some gifts.

Your media organisation is invited to the event as follows:

Date: Friday, 30 October 2009

Time: 10h00

Venue: Boikhucho Old Age Home

Enquiries:

Department of the Premier

Lerato Jabane

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Department of Social Development

Ipeleng Morake

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Issued by: Office of the Premier, Free State Provincial Government

URGENT ALERT AGAINST A COMPUTER DEFRAUDING SCAM

19 October 2009

This urgent message is brought to the attention of all members of the public and non-profit organisations (NPOs) for immediate action.

It has been brought to the attention of the MEC for Social Development, Mrs. Sisi Ntombela that there is a potential fraud scam allegedly by a certain Mr Mokoena who is claiming to be from the supply chain unit at the national Department of Social Development. The said Mr Mokoena called an official of the department working with organisations for persons with disabilities requesting a list of organisations to whom Mr Mokoena will be donating 20 computers for them on account that they deposit the money to a banking account that has been found to be a personal account at ABSA. As part of this scam, organisations are asked to deposit R3 600 to the account as transport cost.

The MEC for Social Development, Mrs Sisi Ntombela would like to take this opportunity to denounce any knowledge of this arrangement and that extra caution be taken by our NPOs and members of the public against this scam. The department will do all it can to investigate the matter and bring the perpetrators of this scam to book.

All NPOs are instructed never to accept any instruction for them to deposit money anywhere else. Any financial arrangements with NPOs can only be done with the written consent of the Head of Department through the executive managers and district managers as our arrangements prescribe.

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19 October 2009

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MONTH

14 October 2009

Social Development MEC, Sisi Ntombela will tomorrow host media breakfast to highlight the Social Development Month programme. This as October is Social Development Month. After the briefing, the MEC will visit the hot-spot areas of street kids and the Mangaung dumping site. Your media organisation is invited to this briefing scheduled as follows:

Date: Thursday, 15 October 2009
Time: 10h00
Venue: Social Development, 4th Floor Old Mutual Building

Further information will be made available to members of the media at the breakfast or by request.

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14 October 2009

JULY

Social Development MEC, Sisi Ntombela will next week 3 to 7 August kick-start the department's 'Operation Hlasela'.

31 July 2009

This follows the premier's call for all departments to fight poverty and unemployment in our communities. The MEC, the social protection and development cluster and Mafube municipality officials will lead Operation Hlasela supported by South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), South African Police Service (SAPS), Department of Home Affairs, social workers and community development workers.

The visit is aimed at amongst others, helping out with grant, identity (ID) and birth certificate applications, visiting institutions funded by the department and identifying impoverished households with a view of effecting immediate as well as long term interventions.

Programme is as follows:

Date: 3 August 2009
Venue: Frankfort Town Hall
Time: 08h00

Venue: Cornelia, Ntswanatsatsi Ekukhanyeni Community Hall
Time: 10h00 to 15h00

Date: 4 August 2009
Venue: Tweeling, Mafahlaneng Community Hall
Time 08h00-17H00

Date: 5 August 2009
Venue: Frankfort
Time: 08h00-19H00

Date: 6 August 2009
Venue: Frankfort Villiers
Time: 08h00-19H00

Date: 7 August 2009
Venue: Frankfort Town Hall
Time: 09h00-13h00

For any media enquiries contact:
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Issued by: Department Social Development, Free State Provincial Government
31 July 2009

MEDIA STATEMENT BY THE MEC: SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT, FREE STATE PROVINCE,

19 May 2009

The Department of Social Development has learnt with utter dismay and disgust of the alleged rape of a 13 year old girl child who is in grade six in a farm school located at about four kilometres near Orangeville in Metsimaholo.

It is alleged that this innocent girl child was on Sunday, 17 May 2009 raped by her own teacher who had lured her to his house under guise that she should bring him an English textbook. This girl child whose name is known to officials of the Department of Social Development reported the matter to her parents who then opened a case with the police and the teacher was then arrested. He is appearing in court today. It is our trust that the full might of the law will take its course and justice will be served in this regard.

This horrible incident is taking place whilst we are on a build up Child Protection Awareness Campaign towards the Child Protection Week which starts on the 25 May to 1 June 2009 when we will be celebrating the International Day of Children. We wish to take this opportunity to urge members of the public, individuals, families, non-governmental organisations and all to ensure that both in our individual conduct and public actions we demonstrate the values and ethos that seek to create a dispensation of a child friendly society. We must not only condemn the uncivilised acts of brutality against children but ensure that the perpetrators of these acts are brought to face the full might of the law.

Let us encourage our people to report any suspicion or incidents of child abuse, neglect, child poverty, and child labour, the use of children as sex slaves, prostitutes, and the use of children as drug smugglers. Our children deserve better, they must be afforded the opportunity of decent living, decent education in crèches and schools.

It is our hope and trust that in this incident that the police will do all their work right to ensure a successful prosecution of the alleged perpetrator and his successful conviction. The sentence we are hoping for is a maximum one to ensure that the right message is sent to all who may be intending to commit such uncivilised acts that they too will face the full might of the law. They must be taught that our societies are no places for people like them.

The Department of Social Development will afford the child and his family the necessary counselling services to ensure that they are brought back to living a normal life.

For further enquiries, please contact:
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19 May 2009

FEBRUARY

SOCIAL RELIEF OF DISTRESS (FOOD PARCELS DISTRIBUTION), FOOD BANKS AND TOYS FOR THE NEEDY EARLY CHILDHOOD DEVELOPMENT CENTRES (ECDS)

19 February 2009

The MEC: Social Development, Mrs Ouma Tsopo is further embarking on the War on Poverty initiative which is organised in various programmes such as the Social Relief of Distress (food parcels), the food and clothing banks as well as partnerships with the private sector for a targeted intervention to mitigate the effects of poverty.

The MEC will start by distributing toys for underprivileged crèches at Ntataise Crèche, Senekal, at 10h00, 20 February 2009.

Thereafter, at 12h30 she will be overseeing the distribution of Social Relief of Distress to the 25 families in Marquard Community Hall that have been identified by the social workers and found to be afflicted by poverty and in need of government intervention and support.

District: Thabo Mofutsanyana

Food parcels deposited into the food bank: 25 food parcels

Food parcels for immediate distribution: 70 food parcels

Toys for kids in underprivileged crèches/ECD centres: 50 toys

District: Xhariep

Food parcels deposited into the food bank: 20

Food parcels for immediate distribution: 50

Toys for kids in underprivileged crèches/ECD centres: 50

District: Motheo

Food parcels deposited into the food bank: 20

Food parcels for immediate distribution: 50

Toys for kids in underprivileged crèches/ECD centres: 40

District: Lejweleputswa

Food parcels deposited into the food bank: 25

Food parcels for immediate distribution: 60

Toys for kids in underprivileged crèches/ECD centres: 50

District: Fezile Dabi

Food parcels deposited into the food bank: 25

Food parcels for immediate distribution: 50

Toys for kids in underprivileged crèches/ECD centres: 35

Total

Food parcels deposited into the food bank: 115

Food parcels for immediate distribution: 280

Toys for kids in underprivileged crèches/ECD centres: 225

The department is grateful to the Corporate Social Investment of the Mangaung Business Solutions that has donated 395 food parcels and the Nashua which donated 225 toys. These efforts go a long way in expanding the frontiers of the war against poverty and the cementing of partnership ties between the organs of state and the private sector. Through this we are confident that we are forging ahead with the effort to build and sustain circle of friends – the Friends of the Poor who are ensuring that our children have the best start in life and that they are not derailed by the effects of undue hardship.

Enquiries:

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19 February 2009