



Media Release

SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MONTH 2008 THEME: "BUSINESS UNUSUAL: ALL HANDS ON DECK TO SPEED UP ACCESS TO SOCIAL SERVICES AND WAGING WAR ON POVERTY"

Introduction

The Free State Department of Social Development officially marked the beginning of the Social Development Month programme for the period beginning on the 1 October 2008 and extending through to December 2008, with activities that will highlight various initiatives aimed at building of a strong frontier of partnerships in heightening the war against poverty and building a caring society.

The Department is commanded during this period by the instructive national theme that guides all activities of the various spheres of government as emanating from the Polokwane Resolutions, the National and Provincial Makgotla, the State of the Nation and Province Address as well as the Departmental Budget Speech as tabled on the 21 April 2008. The noting of these various processes demonstrates the consultative nature and seamless resonance of the interaction of the different spheres of this democratic government in outlining and implementing its service delivery agenda. It is indicative also in the unbroken chain of commitments that this government is continuing with the implementation, albeit heightening and accelerating the meeting of the mandate of the 2004 general elections. Essentially, to demonstrate that Government is Working for you!

Indeed, it is business unusual and the deck has been defined as that of accelerating the pace and mode at which services are delivered to the people. The War on Poverty is taken to new heights and various mechanisms are implored to accelerate the pace of delivering a better life for all.

These mechanisms find their expression in the undertaking of the various programmes which are geared directly to waging a war against poverty, especially its effects on the

elderly; orphaned and vulnerable children; victims of rape, abuse and neglect; victims of human trafficking; people with disabilities, the women in poor rural and informal establishments; the youth and many other vulnerable groups.

1 October 2008 – International Day of Older Persons

This was the National launch of the beginning of the Social Development Month with the National Minister: Social Development Dr. Zola Skweyiya marking this in Pretoria.

In the Free State – the Office of the Premier took a lead in rallying all stakeholders to the marking of the International Day of Older Persons by officially opening the Golden Games for Older Persons.

2 October 2008 – Youth Development Session

The MEC: Social Development, the Honourable Ouma Tsopo delivered a keynote address to the Departmental Officials dealing with affairs of young people. The key message of the MEC was a call for a paradigm shift in the management of affairs of young people. The MEC acknowledged the importance of the Welfarist interventions of the past that characterized programmes of youth development, especially the conducting of awareness campaigns on HIV & AIDS, the participation in Crime Prevention Activities and Substance Abuse. The call now is for a developmental approach that brings about innovations and venturing in uncharted waters such as the vast array of technological advances and entrepreneurship programmes such as those of Umsobomvu Youth Fund and other initiatives. Information was provided on the launch of the Masupatsela Programme that will be launched Nationally by the 24 October 2008 and Provincially by the 31 October 2008.

3 October 2008 – Signing of the Cooperation Agreement with Edcon

The MEC: Social Development, Honourable Ouma Tsopo entered into a Cooperation Agreement with Edcon in Namahadi near Frankfort. This cooperation agreement will fortify the relationship between the Department and Edcon. This partnership began on the Thursday, 12th June 2008 wherein Social Development received blankets worth about R500 000.00 as a donation from EDCON. The blankets were distributed to the

Older Persons of 95 – 100 years of age and Child Headed Households in the Province as identified by Social Workers.

This partnership has identified the following areas as the most immediate and feasible areas of cooperation, namely:

Clothing Donations: Edcon will donate returned store merchandise to communities in the province, subject to availability;

Literacy: Edcon will supply material to equip school or community libraries in the province;

Breast Cancer Awareness: Edcon will be involved in a project to promote breast cancer awareness.

4 October 2008 – the unveiling of a Plaque for Meloding Day Care Centre

The MEC: Social Development, the Honourable Ouma Tsopo officially unveiled the plaque of the Meloding Day Care Centre which was established in 1979. This Day Care Centre established at the height of repression brought about struggles for social and economic justice for the people of Meloding. Established by the young women of YWCA it challenged the apartheid government into providing welfare services to the young African children in the area, thus relieving Grannies of child minding responsibilities. This remain a beacon of hope for the people of Meloding near Virginia and has brought up many of the children of this area by giving them the best start in life. This plaque although initially intended to be unveiled on the 1 June 2008, it was eventually deemed feasible to do it during the Social Development Month.

6 October 2008 – Launch of the Macufe Arts & Crafts Village

The National Development Agency and the Department of Social Development (National and Provincially) are jointly responsible for the funding of the Arts and Crafts Initiatives in the various Districts as part of poverty Alleviation Initiatives. This is whilst the Department of Sport, Arts and Culture which is mainly responsible for the development

of the arts and crafts and other government departments have brought the Arts and Crafters to the Macufe Festival for them to showcase their products to a wider than usual audiences and potential markets.

9 October 2008 – Visit to the Save the Children Network

The MEC: Social Development, Honourable Ouma Tsopo paid a special visit to the Save the Children Network in Harrismith in order to broaden the scope of interaction and collaborations in the arena of orphaned and vulnerable children.

10 October 2008 – Outreach Programme in Partnership with Education

This event to be held in Welkom is aimed at heightening the partnership between the two critical stakeholders in ensuring that the needs of the most needy and vulnerable children are sufficiently met.

10 October 2008 – Fundraising Venture by Departmental Officials

In support of the food banks initiative of the MEC: Social Development, the Officials of the Department of Social Development and SASSA in Thabo Mofutsanyana will be kickstarting a fundraising venture wherein contributions of food and clothing will be done per month. This is to be held at Leratong Children's Home in QwaQwa.

13 October 2008 – Door to Door Campaign

The Honourable Tsopo will be in the Xhariep District in the areas of Smithfield, Zastron and Rouxville in partnership with the South African Social Security Agency, the Social and Human Development Cluster Departments such as Home Affairs, Education, Health and the Municipalities. The objectives of this Door to Door Campaign is to ensure that

- the citizens of these areas have access to enabling documents for them to receive social services,
- to identify and intervene against any backlogs in access to social grants,

- to ensure that old age grants, disability, child support, care dependency and all other grants are accessed by eligible persons and intervene in instances where these grants are abused such as older persons pension grants, child support etc.
- To ensure that the age of equalization of grant for men is understood and all eligible older persons register in time
- To identify potential hidden pockets of poverty and also to see and understand the living condition of older persons, orphaned and vulnerable children and other target groups.

15 October 2008 - Social & Human Development Cluster Outreach Programme

The Social and Human Development Cluster Departments in partnership with SASSA will embark on the Outreach programme for a wider and accelerated access to grants and social services. This will be held at **Viljoenskroon starting at 10:00 a.m.** and proceed to **Steynsrus at 13:00**. This programme also privileges the most poor and needy families and those awaiting approval of their grants with the Social Relief of Distress, a food parcels programmes aimed at alleviate hunger for a period of three months.

16 October 2008 – World Food Day Commemoration

The Honourable Premier together with the Social and Human Development Cluster will be Commemorating the World Food Day and the Launching of the Tikwe Irrigation Scheme as well as the planting of trees in Hoopstad, Relekile High School

17 October 2008 – International Day for the Eradication of Poverty

The Department of Social Development will be launching the Concept of Food Banks & Clothing Banks in Marquard. This event will start at 10:00 a.m.

20 October 2008 – Social and Human Development Cluster Outreach Programme

The Social and Human Development Cluster Departments in partnership with SASSA will be further forging ahead with the Outreach programme for a wider and accelerated

access to grants and social services. This will be held at **Heilbron at 10:00 a.m. and Edenville at 13:00**

On the **21 October 2008** the Outreach will be geared for Winburg at 13:00

22 October 2008 – Signing of the MOU between Social Development and Department of Correctional Services

The partnership between these two Departments has grown stronger with various joint programmes being explored and undertaken. The Department of Correctional Services has amongst other initiatives

- played a critical role in the rehabilitation of the Matete Matches Secure Care Centre,
- the Vegetable surplus produce of the Correctional Services have been donated to the poor and most needy families during the pilot/mini- launches of the food banks programmes
- The details of other areas of partnership focused on Crime Prevention programmes will be announced as the MOU is signed at **Matete Matches Secure Care Centre at 14:00**

23 October 2008 - Outing for Older Persons

The MEC: Social Development, Honourable Ouma Tsopo in partnership with key stakeholders in the care of older persons will be outing with older persons as part of celebrating the lives of older persons.

24 October 2008 – National Launch of Masupatsela Youth Pioneering Programme

The National Launch will be held in Mpumalanga

24 October 2008 – Departmental meeting with Youth

The Department of Social Development will be meeting with Youth at Flavius Mareka FET in Sasolburg starting at 10:00 a.m.

27 October 2008 – Poverty Alleviation Seminar

The Department of Social Development will be hosting a Poverty Alleviation Seminar at the Protea Hotel, Thaba Nchu starting at 08:30 – 16:00

28 October 2008 - Door to Door Campaign in Tokologo

The MEC: Social Development, Honourable Ouma Tsopo will be conducting a Door to Door Campaign for the Municipal area of Tokologo (Boshof, Dealesville & Hertzog). This will be undertaken in partnership with the South African Social Security Agency, the Social and Human Development Cluster Departments such as Home Affairs, Education, Health and the Municipalities. The objective of this Door to Door Campaign is to ensure that:

- the citizens of these areas have access to enabling documents for them to receive social services,
- to identify and intervene against the backlog of access to social grants,
- to ensure that old age grants, disability, child support, care dependency and all other grants are accessed by eligible persons and intervene in instances where these grants are abused such as older persons pension grants

Thereafter, the MEC: Social Development will be meeting with the Youth at the Goldfields FET College for further deliberations on the implementation of the Developmental Youth Development Programmes

29 October 2008 – Prize Giving Ceremony for the Poster Competition; Session with Business People; and meeting the Youth of Motheo

The MEC: Social Development will be attending a **Prize Giving Ceremony in Parys** wherein a Provincial Winner of the Poster Competition will be crowned.

Thereafter as **Session with Business People in Frankfort** will be held;

and then the MEC proceeds to **meeting the Youth of Motheo**

30 October 2008 – Session with Business Community

The MEC will be deliberating on the role of the private sector in supporting the social development programmes.

31 October 2008 - Launch of Masupatsela Programme & Departmental Awards

The Community of Petrus Steyn will be privileged to witness the glamour of the Department as it launches the **Masupatsela Programme as well as the Departmental Awards**

Thereafter, the MEC will be proceeding to the **Childheaded Summit** to be held in Willem Pretorius Resort at 18:00

This programme is issued by the Departmental Communications & Marketing Services for purposes of media briefings and publication in the various media platforms. The specific details such as venue and time will be issued as per the hosting of the specific events.

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