

BEYERS NAUDE SUBSTANCE DEPENDENCY HALF WAY HOUSE (CLARENS)

Substance abuse is still a problem across the country, with Free State not being an exception. The Department of Social Development has a mandate to reduce harm that is caused by the abuse of substances. The Department therefore provides prevention services, Inpatient and outpatient treatment and aftercare.

The province did not have state owned treatment facilities including a halfway house to provide services to persons with substance dependency.

The Prevention of and Treatment for Substance Abuse Act, Act No. 70 of 2008 mandates the Minister of Social Development in consultation with the MEC to establish, manage and maintain halfway houses to provide inpatient and outpatient treatment services and a halfway house.

In response and adherence to the Act, EXCO identified an unused building in Clarens in the Eastern Free State. The centre has been named after the struggle Icon; Christiaan Frederick Beyers Naudé who was a South African cleric, theologian and the leading Afrikaner anti-apartheid activist. He was known simply as Beyers Naudé, or more colloquially, Oom Bey.

This halfway house in Clarens will provide services to persons affected by substance abuse. The interventions will be a holistic, systematic, problem solving and reality therapy approach that will also accommodate cultural diversity. Some of the services that will be offered at the centre include; counselling, skills development, care and support services, rehabilitation as well as re-integration with families and significant others

The Clientele for the centre include any persons (males or females) who are 18 years and above and are dependent on substance abuse.

The Department of Social Development will be opening this Drug and Alcohol Rehabilitation Centre in Clarens and MEC Sisi Ntombela together with Provincial and District Managers visited the centre in March this year to verify progress on renovations and to check the state of readiness for the launch of the Centre in October 2016.