

# Post National Youth Camp

*By Tebello Tau*

The “Free State e ke ya rona” song (this Free State is ours), was sung passionately by over 60 youth representatives from all over the Free State Province at the Post National Youth Camp which started on 14-17 April 2015 at Kings Haven, Bloemfontein.

This camp put together by the Youth Development directorate under the leadership of Mr Bongo “the champ” Nazo was different from other camps. Apart from the positive energy from participants (the youth, speakers and officials) the camp brought so much hope to the youth that were in attendance.

HOD for Social Development Me Matilda Gasela welcomed everyone with a very powerful speech that left each and every one at the camp doing some serious self-introspection. She encouraged the youth to continue pressing on and never discouraged by minor things. “A matric certificate is just a mere paper, I’m however not in anyway implying that one shouldn’t matriculate, all I’m saying is that you should never be discouraged or feel any less of a person just because you don’t have one”, she said.

From the group that attended the camp, five young people who did not complete their matric will be assisted by the National Youth Development Agency (NYDA) to obtain their matric certificates and this was highly appreciated by the beneficiaries.

This was not the only good news the department had for the participants, speaking on behalf of the MEC who was unable to attend the camp, Mr Bongo Nazo revealed that all participants will be linked to a household profiling project which will go on for 3 months. They will each receive a monthly stipend based on the EPWP determination.

Using their current organizations, they will all be expected to develop a social enterprise model which will ensure that their programmes generate income. Five of the projects will receive funding from International Labour Organisation (ILO), they will also receive Business skills and management (Empretech) training which will be facilitated by SEDA and funded by the Department of Social Development, this whole process is expected to be completed by December 2015.

Fifty of the youth will be linked with the project initiated by the department for them to acquire driver’s licences. This project will be completed by February 2016. 100 young people will also be recruited for the implementation of NYS Compliance Officers capacity building programme which will assist the NGO sector with compliance and capacity building programme.



Youth Club members giving a presentation