

# BULLETIN

## YOUTH DEVELOPMENT AT THE CENTRE OF KZN ECONOMIC RECOVERY STRATEGY



Community Development is a calling, Ms Busi Ntombela is a young woman who is passionate about the development of other youth in her community. She said her grandmother taught her that it is important to not only look at your needs but also of those around you. In 2018, Ms Ntombela co-founded an NPO called Phathokuhle NPO. The NPO advocates for Youth Development in Umlazi, eThekweni Metropole, Ward 76. The main aim of the NPO is to ensure that young people are vibrant, championing their development and participating in the local economy by providing technical skills.

Ms Yolisa Ndima, the NDA Provincial Manager said, “we saw the capacity of the NPO in 2021 when we partnered with them to implement the NDA volunteer programme.

Their passion for youth and community development is aligned with the NDA mandate of strengthening communities to eradicate poverty hence the agency granted R 127 358.00 to assist the NPO to establish the training centre for pastry and cooking chefs.

Included in the grant is training of the first 60 students. On Monday, 12 September, the first 15 students graduated as Pastry Chefs at an event that was organised by the NPO at their centre. The graduates received certificates of competence in baking of scones, biscuit, muffins, and different kinds of cake. “This is a milestone for us as an organisation, we have been dreaming of this moment.

The graduation showed us that it is possible. Our students are already baking different products and selling back in their communities,” said Ms Ntombela who is also a professional chef.

The three months training received by the 15 graduates includes health and safety standards in the kitchen, food safety and how to bake. The next group of 15 will start in October 2023. The baking equipment bought by the NDA grant will go a long way as many young people will be trained to bake and cook at the centre. The NPO also incorporate youth with disabilities. In the 15 who graduated 3 are partially blind.

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## In the other news

The Minister of the Department of Social Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu joined the Deputy Minister of the Human Settlement, Ms Pamela Tshwete to the housing Handover Ceremony to 79 destitute families identified as part of the DDM programme in the district. The event took place on Friday, 08 September 2023 in Kromhoek Village, Harry Gwala District Municipality.

As part of the event the Minister Lindiwe Zulu who was joined by the NDA Board Chairperson Ms Ruth Bhengu and the Acting CEO Ms Reekeletseng Hlapolosa handed over two cheques to the NDA funded projects in the area. The Board Chairperson encouraged the community in attendance to work together and form cooperatives so that they can develop themselves and their communities.

**The two projects that received the cheques are;**

**Wushwe Community Care**, this is an NPO that operates in Rauka Administrative area, uMzimkhulu ward 22. Although the NPO was established to offer homebased care programme they have diversified their services due to lack of critical skills for people to develop themselves to a Skills Development Institution focusing on youth, women and people with disabilities. The NDA grant went towards procurement of computers to assist young people to apply for jobs and tertiary education, material for manufacturing detergents, garden equipment and seedlings for the food garden.

**Isigubho Primary Cooperative** is an agricultural cooperative located in Kwa-Madakeni village – uMzimkhulu, Ward 20. The cooperative has five members who plant, cultivate, harvest and castor beans to produce castor oils. The NDA grant will go towards procuring of the office equipment (laptop and printer), weed poison, spray container-cp 15 and bull joint – tie rod for the tractor which connects it with the plough and for the stipends of seasonal workers during planting and harvesting.



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