

## Eastern Cape Cooperative Summit strengthens partnership with the Department of Social Development

The Eastern Cape Department of Social Development (EC DSD) in partnership with the National Development Agency (NDA) hosted a provincial Cooperative Summit at Mlungisi Community Hall in Stutterheim in January 2018 spearheaded by Minister Bathabile Dlamini.

The Summit was held deliberately early in the year as it aims to address common compliance issues experienced by Cooperatives to improve operations going forward. Identified government stakeholders, whose mandate is to assist Cooperatives, attended and responded directly to reports presented by 500 Cooperatives from all districts of the province.

The Minister of Social Development, Ms Bathabile Dlamini, and MEC, Ms Nancy Sihlwayi and CEO of NDA, Mrs Thamo Mzobe addressed the Summit and have undertaken to continue with service delivery by supporting Cooperatives focused on these commodities: school uniform sewing, crop production, animal production and catering (including bakeries).

Already many of the Cooperatives have been trained by the NDA and are actively sewing uniforms that are purchased by SASSA. Cooperatives providing food assist the department to provide daily food programmes and soup kitchens under the Community Development Programme and Social Relief of Distress where nutritious meals are provided in poor communities and at schools.

The Summit is in line with the department's contribution to radical socio-economic transformation to empower Cooperatives to benefit from preferential procurement and contribute in local economic activities to improve income generation possibilities where they are located.

Whilst all the districts made district specific presentations on success and

failures, there were similar views. They applauded the department for assisting them financially and capacitating them with skills to better manage their Cooperatives, through this they are growing and operate more efficiently.

The challenges identified included: centralization of Cooperative specific



**Mrs Thamo Mzobe, Chief Executive Officer of the NDA**

activities and regulation; funding opportunities; obtaining South African Bureau of Standards accreditation for products; continued training and mentoring; land requests; access to markets; expensive animal feeds; need for resources such as electricity, water and tractors; database of Cooperatives, establishments of functional Cooperative forums and improved communication with government officials.

"The meeting has helped us a lot, we will leave here with new knowledge that we can take back to our Cooperatives. We hope that the discussions that we had here will be raised to the next level as that will assist us to grow our businesses and employ more people so we can all live.

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## What's Inside ?

### Page 2



**Matsheng village receives new early childhood development centre**

### Page 3



**Meet a thriving Social Enterprise that is moulding a Diepsloot 2030 vision**

### Page 4



**NDA unlocks potential of young persons with intellectual disabilities in Kuruman**

We really are doing a good job in trying to advance our communities – we are happy that government has come down to hear us out”, says Mr Galaza Zezani of Masiphakame Development Primary Cooperative in Mbashe.

The following departments who support Cooperatives have opened their doors to assisting and supporting Cooperatives:

Department of Treasury (matters of CSD compliance) – available in all provincial districts. Call centre line 087 353 9944

Eastern Cape Development Corporation (matters of funding) – available in Butterworth, King William’s Town, Port Elizabeth, Queenstown and Mthatha. Head office: 043 704 5600

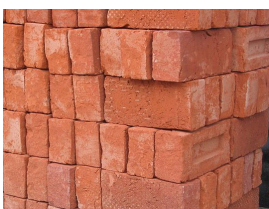
SASSA (registration of commodities/ as suppliers) – available in all districts. Provincial office: 043 707 6300

Chris Hani Cooperative Development Centre (matters of Cooperative Development) – available in Queenstown 045 838 8086 / [www.chrishanicdc.org/](http://www.chrishanicdc.org/) [info@chrishanicdc.org](mailto:info@chrishanicdc.org)



*Delegates at the Cooperative Summit*

## Below are some of the cooperatives that exhibited at the Summit



### Masiyembo Cooperative

(brick production)

King William’s Town –  
084 744 9849



### Noqhekwana Jam Making Cooperative

(marmalade, tropical, lemon, tomato, pineapple, peach and apricot jams)

Port St Johns -  
083 697 9560



### Limise School Uniform Cooperative

Ngqushwa Art Centre,  
Peddie – 060 410 7018/  
073 392 5548



### Thembekani Hand-made Shoe Manufacturers Cooperative

Langa Location,  
Uitenhage - 078 910  
3720/ 063 152 0018/078  
810 0939



### Vukashesheku Cooperative

(vegetables, fruit trees, sewing of clothing and uniforms)

Ncise, Mthatha –  
073 372 9167



### Maxomif Catering and Multi-Purpose Cooperative

(linen and bedding and traditional clothing)

Ngangelizwe, Mthatha-  
083 951 9432



### Mathawu Pottery Cooperative

Xurana, Lusikisiki – 072  
300 7300

## Matsheng Village receives new early childhood development centre

The community of Matsheng Village, Taung, in North West started the school year off on a high note as beneficiaries of a new fully resourced early childhood development centre, Kebalepile Early Learning Centre (ELC), that houses 120 children. The certified gold status centre was unveiled by the North West Social Development MEC, Mr Hoffman Galeng, following a partnership headed by his Department and implemented by the National Development Agency (NDA) to the value of R1 445 000.00. Kebalepile ELC houses four age appropriate classrooms, an administration office, storeroom, sick bay, kitchen and boys’ and girls’ toilets.

The Kebalepile Early Learning Centre prototype is part of the provincial ECD massification programme that seeks to ensure that quality early childhood development services are accessible throughout the province, and in particular, the poorest identified wards. The newly constructed structure is a cluster of four previous ECD centres in Matsheng Village namely Diphetogo Early Learning Centre, Phate ya Ngwana Early Learning Centre, Adihele Early Learning Centre and Happy Day Care.

“We support the holistic development of children in ECDs such as this one where their safety and wellness are a priority. Government is all for investing in this cause and all children are welcome at this centre. They have been certified a gold status which means that they meet all the registrations and norms and standards as prescribed by the Department of Social Development,” MEC Goleng said.

The centre has been handed over to the community for safe keeping and to the municipality to ensure upkeep and maintenance.

## APPOINTMENT OF NEW SOCIAL DEPARTMENT MINISTER



Mrs Susan Shabangu is the incoming Minister of Social Development as of 27 February 2018. The National Development Agency welcomes the new Minister and looks forward to supporting her in her new role. The Agency further acknowledges the contribution made by the outgoing Minister, Mrs Bathabile Dlamini and wish her well in her new portfolio.



## Farewell Motlapele Ntswane

*Mr Nkhensani Mthembu, Chairperson of the South African Early Childhood Development Awards*

It is with sadness and heavy hearts to announce the passing away of Department of Social Development Early Childhood Development (ECD) Practitioner, Motlapele Ntswane. She was a valued member of the national South African Early Childhood Development Awards steering committee. Motlapele will be sorely missed – particularly her guidance and knowledge of ECD in the country and her role in the development of the ECD policy. May her soul rest in eternal peace.

## South African Early Childhood Development Awards welcome new partner

The newest member to join the national steering committee of the South African Early Childhood Development Awards is the national Department of Sports and Recreation (SRSA). The South African Early Childhood Development Awards represent a partnership, led by the National Development Agency, between the following parties who have a mutual interest to advance early childhood development in the country: Department of Social Development; Department of Basic Education; Department of Health; South African Congress for Early Childhood Development and UNICEF.

The purpose of the South African Early Childhood Development Awards is to give recognition in early childhood development to the sector (ECD) for the implementation of comprehensive and quality early childhood development programmes and services in the country. The function of the national steering committee is to

take responsibility for the business associated with the execution of the awards, which include planning, budget strategies, quality assurance, implementation, monitoring and related matters.

The inclusion of SRSA will address the lack of gross motor related activities in ECD programmes as most programmes cannot afford to buy jungle gyms, swings and other play equipment that develop large muscles in children. The partnership will introduce different interventions to ensure physical activity within ECD programmes namely: **Sports Buzz** (mobile sports and recreation facilities); **Play Sport** (a training manual for practitioners on implementing physical development programmes in ECD centres) and **Sportology** (a game board that encourages physical activity amongst children).

## Meet a thriving Social Enterprise that is moulding a Diepsloot 2030 vision

*Lonwabo Ganelo*

Often, civil-society organisations work in a community with a set agenda, mandate and targets in order to gain and/or retain funding from government or corporate entities. Funding often sets the pace of social development along with the habit of looking from “outward” to “inward” to solve communal issues and challenges.

Imagine the possibility of a community's growth if it were to present its own mandates and prioritise its own needs. An example of such a wild thought can be found in Diepsloot, Johannesburg, fuelled by the Wot-If? Trust – a civil society organisation and Social Enterprise that seeks to facilitate and initiate enabling platforms for growing township economies and helping people to access the economy. Using Socio-Economic Development (SED) as well as Enterprise Development (ED) funds from corporate partners and investors, the Wot-If? Trust focuses on Business Support, Women's Empowerment, Media and Technology, Youth Development, Greening and Conservation.

Having operated in Diepsloot since 2013, the Wot-If? Trust has hosted countless stakeholder engagements to understand community needs and imperatives. Through on-going programmes and impact-driven projects that are underpinned by a Diepsloot 2030 vision, this forward-thinking organisation has been tracking its systems, processes, methodologies and philosophies as best practice for organisations serving peri-urban and rural environments. This landscape is clearly in the majority in the South African context, proving that the Wot-If? Trust's methodology could transform and uplift a community using systemic thinking and their approach. This includes community

engagement, enabling facilities and shared resources, skills development, coaching and mentoring.

This innovative approach includes an annual South African Social Good Summit. Last year, the Wot-If? Trust hosted its flagship event, which it has hosted since 2014. As part of the United Nations General Assembly week, this event encourages countries to host and participate in a global conversation on what kind of world we should live in by the year 2030. The first of these sessions in Diepsloot, resulted in the inception of a #Diepsloot2030 vision.

The Diepsloot lead up to the summit starts on Mandela Day as part of their #67Days of #DigitalActivism initiative that seeks to activate technology solutions, which are sustainable in the community.

Annually, the Wot-If? Trust attracts 200 – 250 guests to the event that usually involves dialogues, LEGO Serious Play, drumming, storytelling, hackathons, panel discussions, planting trees and keynote speeches amongst others. Last year was particularly different because the Social Good Summit programme included a Global Goals Jam. Much like the Social Good Summit, this two-day-event is hosted in participating countries and the Wot-If? Trust, once again represented Africa by being the only official host in South Africa, alongside Design Hub Kampala in Uganda.

As an international standard for the Global Goals Jam, designers, creatives, coders and programmers come together to create short-term interventions that will have a long-term impact in contribution to the Sustainable Development Goals (better known as the SDGs) which are relevant to their local communities. The Global

Goals Jam has short design sprints with a specially designed toolkit/design methods to encourage creative thinking.

In Diepsloot, with every hotly debated idea taken into consideration, one idea stood out from the rest –

“The Good Man Project”. A crucial, current, social topic of discussion is that there are no longer good men in our society. The systematic nature of patriarchy has set a stigma and standard for most men. Some men go along with this regressive normality as they are already labelled. However, there are still some good men that need recognition with their contribution to this project by being showcased. The first step for this project is to compile a survey asking what they think are the qualities of a good man. Thereafter, good men (and young boys) will be highlighted as role models to the community. This is but one example of the exciting work that the Wot-If? Trust engage in and support.

The list of examples, stakeholder engagements and initiatives activated are endless because they address an existing gap in the civil society space. This means that a greater Diepsloot 2030 vision ensures the growth of the Diepsloot economy based on communal, local and global needs. The Wot-If? Trust has recognised the power of the community and has undertaken a systems-thinking approach to implement effective change. If you would like to get involved in their programmes, you can contact the Wot-If? Trust Founder and Trustee, Gail Styger on 083 625 3929 or via email using [gail@wot-if.co.za](mailto:gail@wot-if.co.za)

## NDA unlocks potential of young persons with intellectual disabilities in Kuruman

Mukondeleli Makhwathane

The South African Government has declared the 3<sup>rd</sup> of November to 3<sup>rd</sup> of December a Disability Rights Awareness Month. The main objective of this annual month long campaign is to create awareness on the rights of persons with disabilities and what individual South Africans can do to fast track the disability policy implementation.

Mrs Cynthia Ntwaeagae and Mrs Kebuile Fredman are taking this policy very seriously, hence they saw the need to take early retirement from their teaching careers to start Ba'one Intellectual Disability Centre in 2010. "I was a teacher at Learamele Special School which caters for children with disabilities from age 7 to 18 years. It was heart breaking for me to see that children who have intellectual disabilities are not catered for after the age of 18 when they exit the educational system. At least those with physical disabilities will go to different protective workshops and even get tertiary education which enables them to participate in economic activities that uplift them and their communities", explained Mrs Ntwaeagae. The pair used their pension money and their special needs education training to start the NGO.

Ba'one Intellectual Disability Centre's main objective is to empower young people with intellectual disabilities with skills in arts and crafts as well as ensuring that there is productivity and continuous learning. After a successful four years of the programme, the center registered as a cooperative in 2014 so that learners can use the skills they learned to earn a living.

Mrs Fredman said, "We accept all learners from the mainstream schools in our centre. At their arrival, we do an assessment to

determine their intellectual capacity so that we can customize their training programme. We have various vocational training choices that are provided in the centre which are cooking and baking, knitting, needlework, woodwork, recycling, welding, beadwork, gardening, leatherwork, and arts and crafts".

The cooperative has made sterling impact in the lives of people with intellectual disabilities in John Taolo Gaetsewe District Municipality which is considered as one of the impoverished municipalities in the Northern Cape province.

"Ba' one Cooperative was formed by women who are true community builders. These women believe in the pledge made by the UN that no one should be left behind regardless of their abilities or disabilities. With the National Development Agency's (NDA) grant of R295 000, the cooperative managed to unlock funding from other organisations which saw them move from a scrapyard with only 12 learners to a bigger and conducive space with 97 learners", said Mr Lesedi Piki, NDA Provincial Manager, Northern Cape.

The women have won different awards such as Standard Bank Best Performer in 2015 amongst others. Even though the cooperative has achieved many milestones in a space of seven years, they still need assistance. Their immediate needs are palisade fencing to ensure that security is strengthened for the safety of the learners and equipment.

Anyone who would like to assist with the provision of proper palisade fencing and 24hr guards to keep the learners and the equipment safe or place an order should call Mrs Fredman on 082 345 9565/ [mmolaengisagontle@gmail.com](mailto:mmolaengisagontle@gmail.com).



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