

January/February 2017

## Public-private partnership delivers early childhood development centre for Ducats South community

To mark the start of the new school year, the Minister of Social Development Bathabile Dlamini officially opened the Siyakha Day Care Centre and handed it over to the community of Ducats South and the governing body of the early childhood society, government and business together to partner towards the development and advancement of the ECD sector.

The Minister was accompanied by the MEC for Social Development in the Eastern Cape, Ms Nancy Sihlwayi, Deputy Minister of Water and Sanitation, Ms Pamela Tshwete, CEOs of the national Department of Social Development's agencies, Mrs Thamo Mzobe (National Development Agency) and Mr Thokozani Magwaza (South African Social Security Agency), the Deputy Mayor of Buffalo City Metro, Ms Zoliswa Mathana and ward 15 councillor Mr Makhaya Bophi.

The National Development Agency (NDA)



Minister Dlamini, Deputy Minister Tshwete and MEC Sihlwayi unveil plaque at Siyakha Day Care Centre

launched the Adopt-an-ECD-Campaign in Ducats in 2013 and Siyakha Day Care centre is a recipient of this campaign which has brought together private and public sector entities partnering together to fund, resource and provide project management expertise to construct the centre. The aim of the campaign was to link ECD centres with various needs to private donors and corporates. The campaign was directly linked to government's call to make ECD a public good that urges government and private stakeholders to prioritise the sector and acknowledge the vital role played by the sector in human development. The opening of the Siyakha Day Care Centre was testament to the success of the campaign.

The NDA's contribution of R800 000 funded through civil society organisation,

Alpha Omega Youth Outreach, and R500 000 raised from sponsorship funds in the form of materials and services enabled the completion of the centre. Minister Dlamini is pleased that the call was heeded to bring civil society, government and business together to partner towards the development and advancement of the ECD sector.

The Minister thanked the companies that contributed to the construction of Siyakha Day Care Centre, "It is important for us as government to constantly engage civil society and business to respond to the developmental challenges facing our country. I am convinced today that if we work together as government, civil society and business we can achieve a lot in developing our country and ensuring our children have a better future. Your assistance has proven that by working together we can achieve more."

Siyakha Day Care Centre was a corrugated iron structure prior to the upgrade. The teaching area was not partitioned in any form for age or development stage specific teaching. The new building now consists of three fully equipped classrooms, toilet facilities, food preparation areas, a sick bay and outdoor play area. The practitioners underwent a five day on-site orientation training that focuses on the use of educational material and class areas to achieve developmental learning outcomes for the children. The school governing committee has also been trained on governance to ensure the centre's sustainability and operational compliance.

The Chief Executive Officer of the NDA, Mrs Thamo Mzobe highlighted the importance of the community taking ownership of the centre, "As we hand over this centre, we are giving it to the community. It belongs to the community. The children of Ducats South will begin their successful futures in this centre and all will benefit from it. It is important that parents and the community play an active role in maintaining this centre."

The NDA will continue to work with the business sector in the Eastern Cape and across the country to ensure that resources through partnerships are channelled to the ECD sector and that the sector can grow and accommodate more children, particularly those from poor communities.

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ECD Practitioners who underwent training

The NDA acknowledges the following sponsors who contributed to the construction of Siyakha Day Care Centre: Dingaana and Associates Architects, NPM Geomatics, Ayavelisa Consulting, BusyBee Pre-School, Betcrete EC, Carpet Max, East Coast Asphalt ,APS EC PTY LTD, Green Connexion, KC Roofing, Cape Cladding, LaFarge, Tarpaulin Factory, Kimopax Pty Ltd, CMG, PennyPinchers, Plumblink, Voltex (East London), Kaytech Engineered Fabrics, DMC Debt Management, Talisman Hire (East London), Jojo Tanks, Oribi Lawns, Rustic Jungle Gyms, Budget Office Furniture and Msamo Attorneys. ■

## A closer look at the National Development Agency's Civil Society Organisation Development Programme

Civil society organisations (CSOs) Development Programme is the NDA's overarching programme through which the Agency strives to strengthen the capacity of CSOs to effectively and efficiently provide services to the communities they serve. The NDA recognizes that CSOs are development agents that contribute to economic, social and democratic development to achieve the shared goals of eradicating poverty. The role played by CSOs in development cannot be denied.

Since CSOs bear the very immense responsibility to develop South Africa economically and socially through their

- » Organise themselves into formal structures or entities to fulfil the goal(s) that they aspire to achieve
- » Compile all information they require in order to register their structures as formal organisations such as NPOs or Cooperatives
- » Complete registration forms to register as NPOs or Cooperatives
- » Submit registration forms to any of the registration Authorities they wish to register under (NPO Directorate, Department of Social Development or CIPC)
- » Assess their needs so as to ensure that

### The Capacity Building intervention of CSO Development comprises the following:

#### Training

The NDA provides accredited and non-accredited training modules in:

- » Basic Bookkeeping and Financial Management
- » Conflict Management
- » Project Management (Managing Projects)
- » Governance
- » Resource Mobilisation
- » Compliance to registration requirements
- » Community Development Practice
- » Networking and External Relations

#### Mentoring

The NDA provides and facilitates mentoring sessions for CSOs to support their efforts in strengthening their organisational management activities. The mentoring sessions are provided within the organisation's work environment.

#### Incubation

The NDA works with established CSOs and other institutions in local areas to establish incubation centres. These centres play a key role in supporting participating organisations to strengthen their organisational management systems and processes.



programmes, the NDA has the responsibility to ensure that these CSOs are capacitated to respond to their developmental responsibilities. Through the NDA's CSO Development Programme, the NDA serves as a catalyst to harness the efforts of these CSOs.

### The programme has four interventions which aim to assist CSOs:

#### 1. CSOs Formalisation

Since starting a CSO can be a very time-consuming and complex process, the NDA through its CSO development framework, facilitates and supports CSO formalisation processes, to ensure that organisations existing in different forms can be assisted to grow and be formalised.

**This intervention will assist CSOs to:**

once registered, they remain compliant with the registration Act which they have registered under.

#### 2. CSOs Institutional Capacity Building

The CSOs institutional strengthening intervention is aimed at building and institutionalising organisational capabilities of CSOs to respond to their programmatic needs, compliance to registration requirements and reporting requirements to funders. The approach used to build capacities of organisations is training, mentoring and incubation. Before any of these interventions are implemented, the NDA conducts a needs assessment exercise to ensure that any activity undertaken responds to the organisation's capacity needs.

### 3. Resource Mobilisation for Civil Society Organisations

The NDA's Resource Mobilisation intervention assists NPOs and CSOs to identify and mobilise resources in their immediate environment and elsewhere. It links CSOs to financial and non-financial resources. This function also provides assistance in respect of referrals of CSOs to other state and private institutions, as well as local and international donors, for additional support.

#### Through this intervention the NDA provides support and guidance on:

- » Developing resource mobilisation plans aimed at ensuring sustainability of the organisation
- » Proposal writing, handling face-to-face meetings and communicating key messages
- » Designing, implementing and



monitoring resource mobilisation activities.

#### 4. Civil Society Organisations Sustainability

A sustainable CSO is one that can continue to fulfil its mission over time and, in doing so, meet the needs of its key stakeholders, particularly its beneficiaries and supporters. As such, sustainability should be seen as an

ongoing process, rather than an end in itself. **Under this intervention, the NDA provides the following services to CSOs:**

- » Grant funding, focusing on building the capacity and sustainability of programmes and projects run by CSOs
- » Facilitating creation of local, provincial and national networks for CSOs with common interest or goals
- » Linking CSOs to potential funders and

donors who have interest in community development and the CSO sector. The NDA's CSO Development programme is a critical tool for CSOs to empower themselves and respond effectively to social and economic challenges faced by the communities they operate in. ■

Contact any NDA provincial office for additional information.

## Vrede CSOs talk Sustainable Development Goals

The National Development Agency (NDA) and Statistics South Africa (Stats SA) hosted 50 Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) at a dialogue in Vrede, in the Thabo Mofutsanyane District Municipality of Free State Province. The purpose was mainly to engage and converse about the role and involvement of CSOs in the implementation of sustainable development goals and their alignment to the Provincial Development Growth Plans. The NDA is government agency mandated to contribute towards the eradication of poverty and is tasked with promoting consultations, dialogues and the sharing of development experience with CSOs and relevant organs of state in advancing development policies. Stats SA is

with information to go and seek assistance and beef up their funding models – they are likely to access funding if they give proposals that contribute directly to meeting of SDGs, says Mr Themba Guma, Stats SA Director of Statistical Support and Informatics.

CSOs gathered at the dialogue focus on various programmes related to farming, care for the disabled, civil engineering, construction, sewing, recycling, feeding school schemes and home based care activities. "Defining what SDGs and what they mean for every CSO here today would mean we have achieved our goal of localising these goals to our Province at local level. We are not able to provide responses and solution to many of the challenges faced by CSOs such as shortage of land, insufficient funds or poor infrastructure but we can provide guidelines, information and tools to empower the civil society organisations in putting together stronger proposals that respond to meeting the country's development goals. For example the CSOs here involved with the feeding of school children speaks directly to SDG Goal 1. to endina hunder and improvaing access

of the poor and vulnerable, including infants, to safe, nutritious and sufficient food all year around. All CSOs involved in community development are responding to the SDGs and they need to realise the importance of their role in changing the face of our country," said Guma.

Stats SA is mandated for international recording in Section 7, in line with Stats SA Act No 6 of 1999 and one of its core functions includes statistical reporting of the SDGs. Essentially Stats SA is the Secretariat and gathers data, performs assessment, writes reports and disseminates them to all stakeholders.

MDGs were established in 2000 with 15-year lifeline plan. Significant progress was made throughout the world, including South Africa, but not all goals were achieved. In 2011, the Rio Summit met to consolidate post MDG programme progress and to determine how development will be dealt with post 2015. A UN General Assembly was held where processes and teams were formulated.

'Not all MDGs have been achieved; we continue to monitor them continuously. However, the cause for this is the lack of data in most instances – most citizens are doing something towards the SDGs every day. For instance, the organisation that provides tourist services in Vrede holds valuable data for Stats SA to inform them on how many tourists visit Vrede, where do they come from, how much and what do they spend their money on – this may be information we are lacking that



Mr Themba Guma, Director of Statistical Support and Informatics briefing delegates

the secretariat of Sustainable Development Goals and one of its roles and responsibilities is report writing and facilitation, data gathering on the domestication of these goal in the country. The Civil Society Sector is one of the important stakeholder amongst others such as Government, Private sector and International Organisations.

The NDA as a mandated agency of Government to develop the CSOs partnered with Stats SA to take this domestication process to the local levels and engage with CSOs. "Stats SA has had challenges of CSO involvement with past research, it is pleasing therefore to have this partnership with the NDA as engaging with CSOs here gives credibility to our processes. We not only need experiences of CSOs on the ground but we also have knowledge to share with them that they can use when advancing their operations. Our participation seeks to say that development is for the people, with the people, around the people in line with the SGD motto which states "Inclusiveness - leaving no one behind". We are here not as implementers, but rather to empower CSOs



Mr Mbulawa Phil Gamede of Born to Farm, a CSO based in Memel in the Free State

tells us how we are advancing with creation of jobs," explains Stats SA Survey Statistician, Ms Manana Kgabanyane.

A series of these dialogues will be held across the rest of the provinces as follows: Limpopo, Tzaneen - 20 February 2017

North-West, Hammanskraal – 27 February 2017  
 Western Cape, Cape Town – 16 March 2017  
 Kwa-Zulu Natal – 23 March 2017

One of the organisations that attended the Vrede dialogue is Born to Farm, represented by Mr Mbulawa Philemon Gamede and he had this to share on his experience at the dialogue:

**How old is your organisation and what does it do?**

Our organisation is 3 years old, based in Meme, and produces yellow maize and sugar beans and vegetables on a portion of borrowed land.

**What successes has your organisation had and what has been the impact of your organisation within your community?**

We have achieved many good changes: we started farming on 2 hectares of land,

and currently farm on 40 hectares; we have been able to buy our own implements and fencing materials; we have a sustainable market; we have recently registered a women led cooperative and have undergone numerous trainings to advance our knowledge in running the organisation.

The impact to our community is that we have trained and employed women and young people. We are proud to have encouraged many to stay in school and avoid ills related to teenage pregnancy. We also have built good business partnerships with white farmers in the area who assist us to improve our farming methods and introduce us to new technologies and systems to reduce environmental damage. **Have you received any assistance from government departments?**

We received seeds and fertilisers from

the Department of Agriculture and Forestry in October 2016.

**What does your organisation need the most to progress to the next phase?**

We need our own land and have submitted applications to the Department of Land Reform. We also need our own tractor. Currently there is one tractor serving many other farmers, the delays mean we lose valuable production time.

Our near future plan is to build a pack house and grow the small scale turkey farming to employ many other people.

**Which SDG goal does your organisation contribute to?**

To eradicate poverty as we are creating employment. ■

## #SugarTax - Possible solution to children tooth decay crisis?

A 20% sugar tax is looming with effect from 1 April 2017 in South Africa. This follows an announcement in the February 2016 Budget Speech by the Finance Minister Pravin Gordhan following calls from consumer bodies and health experts who directly link the high rates of obesity, diabetes and stroke to sweetened sugar beverages (SSBs). South Africa is also said to be the most obese nation in Sub-Saharan Africa with 70% of women and 40% of men overweight or obese by Dr Sundeep Ruder from the Society of Endocrinology. Drinks that have sugar added during processing and preparation such as carbonated soft drinks, fruit juices, sports drinks, energy drinks, vitamin waters, sweetened ice tea, lemonade, cordials and squashes are considered and classified as SSBs.

Recent presentations included that of Professor Tolu Oni, from UCT's School of Public Health, who says that South Africa had the second highest consumption of sugar sweetened beverages in children between the ages of nine to 10. Tooth decay is serious

health issue for children up to the ages of 7 years. The Western Cape in particular has seen a rise in the numbers according to the Health Start Foundation (HSF), whose aim is to get young children to brush their teeth every day, education on good oral hygiene practices, the importance of good nutrition specifically to early childhood development centres in disadvantaged communities. "Poor oral health care impacts on the quality of children's lives as they experience pain and discomfort leaving them unable to concentrate at school and they experience bad sleeping patterns. In severe cases children undergo tooth extractions, a costly and time consuming exercise – the extraction of teeth is a traumatic experience for young children," explains HSF Executive Director, Chemeli Sewmangal.

Tooth decay is caused when sugars in foods combine with bacteria in the mouth, to produce acids that attack and corrode the enamel on teeth. Soft drinks have high concentrations of sugar and therefore can be seen to be one of the leading causes of

tooth decay. The sugar tax would be useful if it meant lesser children were exposed to bad sugars. If the sugar tax is enforced, a possible R4billion could be raised - the question is whether this revenue would be used to further entrench awareness around healthy lifestyles and good oral health care, for lasting benefits to our National Health?

According to HSF there are about 66,000 children at ECDs in impoverished areas just in the Western Cape, approximately 80% of them do not own a toothbrush. "There is much work still to be done and assistance via a sugar tax will go a long way in nurturing children to become healthy adults and healthier communities. The mouth is the gateway to human bodies, therefore a healthy mouth results in a healthy body," concludes Sewmangal.

There is an overall necessity to improve and ensure young children meet their basic nutritious diets – especially at ECD centres. ■

Website: [www.hsfoundation.co.za](http://www.hsfoundation.co.za)

### EVENTS AND ANNOUNCEMENTS

The following South African Early Childhood Development awards ceremonies were held in provinces as follows:

- Northern Cape, Kimberley – 10 February 2017
- Western Cape, Cape Town – 15 February 2017
- Kwazulu-Natal, Durban - 21 February 2017
- Eastern Cape, Port Alfred – 22 February 2017
- Limpopo, Polokwane – 22 February 2017
- Gauteng, Ekurhuleni – 23 February 2017
- Mpumalanga, Nelspruit – 27 February 2017
- Free State, Welkom – 28 February 2017
- North-West, Vryburg – 9th March 2017

Winners will be published in the next edition of iNDAba.

#### NEW SACECD NATIONAL OFFICE BEARERS ELECTED

The SA Congress for ECD held its Ninth general Meeting in Cape Town and elected new National Office Bearers for the term 2016 - 2019. These are the names of the elected members:

- President:** Matinte Radebe 0822142409, Email: [matinteradebe@yahoo.com](mailto:matinteradebe@yahoo.com)
- Deputy President:** Zamazulu Zulu 072971162, Email: [Zamazuluzulu10@gmail.com](mailto:Zamazuluzulu10@gmail.com) or [khulakahle@absamail.co.za](mailto:khulakahle@absamail.co.za)
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