



Press Release
23 July 2015

MANDELA DAY WELL SPENT WITH THE IMPOVERISHED
An orphaned family amongst scores of beneficiaries

Happiness enveloped an indigent child-headed family together with other 66 households in eMbalenhle, Secunda in Govan Mbeki Local Municipality when they received food parcels, school uniform, blankets and clothing during the Mandela Day Campaign organised by the Department of Human Settlement in partnership with the municipality and contractor - D R Bongani Investments - celebrated in the municipality on Tuesday, 21 July 2015. The United Nation declared campaign calls on everyone, institutions, private sector, and all role players within society to take part in improving communities.

One of the families that benefited from the Department and the sponsor was the Nkosi's who are a child-headed household. They described how harsh the realities life has been since the passing of their parents several years ago. 20-year old Mbali Nkosi who's the eldest to her three siblings said that the family depended solely on the foster grant which was organised by the Social Development Department.

Mbali who has now completed her Grade 12 said that apart from the foster grant, the family is sometimes forced to fend for themselves and seek help from neighbours. **"I have decided to also do temporal jobs so that I can save up money for my registrations to further my studies. I could not be admitted at tertiary because my symbols where not matching the requirements of the course I was willing to do"**, she charged.

Upon engaging with the family, the Department has undertaken to build a proper house for them since they are still occupying a shack. During her Policy and Budget Vote, MEC Violet Siwela pronounced that the Department is working tirelessly to tackle informal settlements in the province and that of the R1.677 billion budget there will be focus to improve conditions of people living in squalor. **"For 67 years, Nelson Mandela devoted his life to the service of humanity as a human rights lawyer, a prisoner of conscience, and an international peacemaker, amongst others. So let us dedicate time and work selflessly to improve the less fortunate"**, articulated Siwela.

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