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## VISIT OUR INFO HUB AND GET WISER...

*Date: Wednesday, April 23, 2008*

*By Keletso Ratlhagane*

**MAFIKENG:** Public Works staff members are urged to continue utilizing the internal Resource Centre, which has been in operation since July 2007. The Center was established to close the knowledge gap about Public Works services and to further provide wide information services to staff.

To ensure optimal usage of the Center, an Awareness Campaign was held today, April 23rd which is World Book Day at Head Office.

The day is intended to promote the culture of reading, publishing and the protection of intellectual property.

According to Deputy Director Special Programmes, Irish Jansen, a recently formulated joint venture between departmental Special Programmes and Internal Resource Center will allow employees who cannot read nor write to loan books and information brochures home so they can be read to them by their family members.

Jansen said her unit will utilize the facility as a referral base for employees to seek information on health and wellness issues.

“This Resource Centre will allow employees who have been tasked to make research after counseling sessions, to familiarize themselves with relevant interventions and therefore take responsibility for their own lives and problems,” she said.

Speaking at the event, Head of Department Mr. Obakeng Mongale hailed the establishment of this information Centre.

“Gone are the days when one had to travel to libraries to meet our information needs,” he said.

“I want to thank the committee that was formed to assist with the establishment of this centre to ensure that our Department is also in line with the information society by rendering information services to our department,” he continued.

During his address, the HoD emphasized the need for other departmental units to partner with the Resource Centre in helping achieve it's aim of closing the knowledge gap about departmental services and providing a wide range of information services.

“An example of good partnership is the HIV/AIDS seminar held in November last year by the EAP unit in collaboration with the Resource Centre, educating general workers about issues affecting their daily living,” he said.

He appealed to employees to use the centre to their advantage.

“I wish to advise each and every one of us to fully utilize the Resource Centre and encourage other colleagues to also make use of this facility to expand our knowledge base,” he said.

Sandile Sokhupha, Senior Librarian at the Resource Centre said since becoming fully operational, the Centre has acquired 160 book titles and has 126 regular users. The Center is open all Public Works officials. Staff will be assisted to register as users in order to loan material, or just to walk in to read newspapers and watch available educational videos.

The centre has subscribed to various data bases including Sabinet Online (a service that allows our department to source reading material from institutions affiliated to this service) and Succeed Magazine.

Invited guests at the event included Boquin Rantlha, senior librarian from the University of the North West and Fiona Bester of World wide Information Services (WWIS).

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