



The Lomanyaneng Home Based Care Project- an Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) project...

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By Keletso Ratlhagane

MAFIKENG: The Lomanyaneng Home Based Care Project- an Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) project- continues to turn for the better, the lives of rural-based communities around Mafikeng.

More than a 100 beneficiaries reside in the nearby villages of: Utlwanang; Setlopo; Majemantsho; Matikiring; Signal Hill; Imperial Reserve and Danville location near Mafikeng.

The Community Aids project has to date created 38 job opportunities for the locals since March 2001. With all hands on deck to push back the frontiers of poverty, disease and joblessness, the centre caters for 117 aids orphans and child headed families, providing food parcels to 660 families.

It has also managed to place 50 patients on Anti-retroviral treatment (ART). Since 1997, the rural-based centre has provided 903 community members with information on health and welfare issues.

The brain-child behind this noble project was Mrs Cecilia Nkosi (45).

Lomanyaneng Home Based Care also operates from a building donated by a community member. The management of the centre has identified an adjacent site for renovations to transform it into an Early Development Centre (ECD).

Nkosi who died in June 2005, rallied around volunteers in Lomanyaneng village to help raise awareness in her community and other neighbouring villages about the scourge of the HIV-Aids.

Volunteers at the centre which is a hub of activity offer after care and Life Skills development programmes for youth and people infected with HIV/AIDS and also monitor treatment for newly infected patients and defaulters.

Project Co-coordinator for the Home based care, Ms Selina Dichabe, said they were grateful for the continued support in the form of funds which they receive from government ever since the centre was identified as one of the EPWP projects.

Since the inception of EPWP in 2004, Home Based Care Centers were incorporated into the programme under the Social Sector.

EPWP's Social Sector Coordinator in the North West Province, Octavia Modikwane said profiling of caregivers- who receive a monthly stipend- was in progress so as to improve on their qualifications.

"We need to identify specific training for care-givers so that the skill they acquire here should make them employable and marketable elsewhere when they leave the centre," she said.

The Social Sector throughout the Office of the Premier has acquired a learnership from the National Skills Foundation (NSF) that will be used as an exit strategy for EPWP beneficiaries in the Home Community Based Care Centres (HCBC) and Early development Care (ECD) facilities.

These beneficiaries (60% women and 40%men) drawn from four regions, have studied up to Grade 10 and above.

NYS beneficiaries have received National Qualification Frame Works (NQF) accredited training in a variety of trades which include: painting; carpentry; tiling and welding. An amount of R3.9 million has been set aside for a range of EPWP projects in our four regions

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