

**Honourable MEC Mxolisi Sokatsha's address at  
the official opening of the Sub Office of  
Phillipstown in the Renosterbrg Municipality,  
Pixley Ka Seme District – Northern Cape 12 March  
2015**

**Programme Director**

**Mayor of the Renosterberg Municipality:  
Cllr A Kwinana**

**Ward Councillor of the renosterberg Municipality:  
Cllr Niklaas**

**Community of the Renosterberg Municipality**

**Management and Staff of the Department Led by  
HoD Liz Botes**

**Honoured Guests**

**All Media Houses Present**

**Ladies and Gentlemen**

**Molweni !!!**

It is indeed a great honour for me to be part of this gathering to officiate on this important milestone in the

history of the community of Phillipstown and surrounding areas.

The year 2015 marks the 60 years of a historic moment in our history, when South Africans from all walks of life adopted the freedom charter in 1955, in Kliptown, Soweto.

They declared amongst other things **“that the aged, the orphans, the disabled and the sick shall be cared for by the state”**.

This, Ladies and Gentlemen, was a powerful and visionary statement which in essence is finding expression here today.

Program Director, Chapter two of the Constitution containing the Bill of Rights; that clearly states that:

**“Everyone has the right to have access social security, including, if they are unable to support themselves and their dependents, appropriate social assistance”**.

In addition, the issues raised by communities in the build-up to 2009 and 2014 elections provided the basis

for social security being high on the ANC-Led Government's agenda.

This government has in the last budget speech again proved to be developmental and taking seriously its social responsibility by announcing major budgetary increases in social security reforms.

Programme Director, this facility must ensure that Phillipstown and surrounding communities receive regular visits from dedicated professionals.

But, there have been challenges to this extent and we are here to begin to address this ideal. We are alive to the fact that there are challenges or barriers to social development integration and provision as mentioned due to several operational related challenges.

However, the successful implementation of social security programs depends on effective partnerships with the institutions of civil society and government in improving the delivery of quality social protection services.

Ladies and gentlemen, the following was amongst found-out of the 1, 479 households were profiled through the Balelapa program with an average household size of 3-4 persons:

- There is a high level of number of children between the ages of 7-15 were not attending school
- That 27% of household members needed social development for substance abuse and 28% needed counselling and support services
- That close to 1800 people were at that time either seeking for employment or had given up on seeking.

The bottom line ladies and gentlemen, is that they were at that time or still are unemployed.

Unemployment is in many instances responsible for social ills like crime, substance abuse, teenage pregnancy etc.

It is therefore of paramount importance that this facility also plays the important role of being an information centre, because most of the time our

young people fall prey to social ills due to the lack of information.

Therefore, this facility is highly informed by our government service delivery mechanisms to needy and deserving communities, such as Phillipstown.

They include the intensified implementation of the substance abuse and Foetal Alcohol Disorder plan.

Ladies and Gentlemen, lets ensure that these priorities are successfully implemented, as it is imperative that, as government, we continue to enhance effective partnerships with the institutions of civil society in improving the quality of service delivery in areas under the jurisdiction local and provincial government.

Program Director; we in certain instances across the province and country experience community protests which we understand is one of the ways in which communities raise their issues. However, the sad reality about some of these protests is the fact that service delivery centres are vandalised and closed.

I therefore want to make a call to this community that we must own facilities like this one as they are our

own. We must treasure them as their existence is for the improvement of our lives.

Ladies and Gentlemen, this opening offers us an opportunity to strengthen the existing social development system and deliver a package of essential integrated developmental evidence based social services interventions to communities such as this one.

Programme Director, I want to conclude by saying that our collective resolve to respond to the plight of the poor and needy communities should serve as rallying point for our partnership to make a difference, and change the lives of the people of Northern Cape for the better.

In addition, I wish to encourage this community to make use of this facility for improvement of our outcomes.

Lastly, I wish to note that gradually step by step we are moving away from our painful past towards improving the quality of development services and ensure evidence based service excellence for all in our districts, province and country.

Whatever difficulties and challenges we face, we dare not to lose focus on the responsibility to the plight of our poor masses. If we fail, history will judge us very harshly.

In conclusion, I want to say that this facility belongs to all masses of our people in Phillipstown. It is therefore your responsibility as community members and stakeholders to take care of it and protect it from vandalism.

On behalf of the ANC led government, allow me to officially open this new Community Centre in honour of those who fought the struggle for a better life for all.

I trust and hope that services to be rendered here will meet your needs and expectations.

**Together we can do more!!!!!!**

**Siyabulela !!!**

