

Department of Local Government and Housing

Newsletter

December 2005 Issue

**16 Days of
Activism -
Reflect and Review**

**Accident - One of
Our Fellow Staff
Members
in Hospital**



Highlights
2005
2002



**2005 - A Great Year
for Local Government
and Housing**

From the Editorial Team



Xolani Tyilana, Director for Customer Relations and Communication and Editor of this newsletter

In this edition we highlight some of the major departmental activities that occupied us for most of the year. It's been a great year in some areas and in some areas we need to re-think some of the strategies we used to deal with certain issues. Therefore, I think we should both be proud of our achievements and at the same time look anew those areas we could have done differently.

Sixteen days of activism was a great success both internally and externally to send a strong message from government condemning violence against women and children not only during the sixteen days but as a life long exercise. Many families in De Doorns including women and children will for the first time this December have access to clean water and sanitation through your efforts. A family that has waited for over eight years for a house in Mbekeni - Paarl will for the first time sleep, eat and bath in their new home. Well done!

As we rollout the Breaking New Ground (BNG) human settlement strategy we trust that many communities will begin to understand the processes of delivering houses and infrastructure. Next year we will focus on consumer education of this very important strategy.

Some of you have burnt the candles the entire year and at the end you were rewarded for your hard work. We say congratulations and remember 'knowledge is power'.

In the course of executing our responsibilities we gained a lot of experience and simultaneously lost some of our dear colleagues. We send our deepest condolences to those affected families and we also pray that God will give us comfort in the knowledge that they indeed lived meaningful and productive lives.

GEMS has arrived. It's a great product and at a fantastic price on your door step. It's there for yourself and loved ones when you need it most. So, become familiar with it by phoning 0860 00 GEMS or visiting www.gems.gov.za.

Enjoy this festive season and remember there is more ahead.

Thanks



Seasons Greetings

The festive season is a time for loving, giving and sharing. As 2005 draws to a close, spoil yourself and those around you, relax and appreciate your days and nights.

Happy Holidays to you and your's, have a blessed, safe and Happy Festive season.



Customer Relations and Communication

Editorial Team:

Email: lghnews@pgwc.gov.za

Editor: Xolani Tyilana
Tel: 483 2686

Content: Debbie Francis
Tel: 483 4466

Sandy Godlwana
Tel: 483 4976

Design and Layout: Jacques van Wyngaardt
Tel: 483 3634

Index

Page	Content
3	TIME TO REFLECT AND REVIEW on 16 Days of Activism
6	World Aids Day
7	2005 - A Great Year for Local Government and Housing
9	Accident - One of our Fellow Staff Members in Hospital

Letters from Staff

From Disaster Management

On behalf of the Directorate of Disaster Management and Fire Brigade Services we would like to wish everyone a happy festive season and happy holidays. Drive safe and arrive safe.

Jeanetta

Only One Letter?

We'd like to encourage more letters to be published here. This is a space where you have the opportunity to give your opinion of this newsletter, the articles and other contents. We shall do our best to accommodate everyone who wishes to be heard.

Jacques van Wyngaardt

- Please note that letters will be edited grammatically without any change to the content.

Any Questions From You?

Please forward any queries and letters to lghnews@pgwc.gov.za or simply drop a letter in the box located near the lifts on your floor.

TIME TO REFLECT AND REVIEW on 16 Days of Activism

By Sandy Godlwana



As women, we have to stand up and fight against violence and women abuse. We've read so much bad news recently, the young girls killed in Klipspruit; slain kidnapping victim Leigh Matthews; another kidnapping victim 10-year-old Marissa Naidoo who was found dead in a suitcase; police woman Francis Rasuge and the latest incident where a 13 month old baby girl was raped on the 4th December 2005, at her home in the North West, isn't it ironic that this incident has happened around the time of Sixteen Days of Activism?

What's tragic is that these victims are all innocent and the killings are continuing. Child abuse is not taken seriously in society. Children aren't taught their rights and many of them don't know how to say 'NO'. I can only imagine how difficult it must be dealing with sad abused kids face-to-face. I'm also troubled by the increase in the number of local child support organisations, because it shows that the number of abused children is increasing.

It can be really frustrating when some people make light of the abuse suffered by women and children around us. We all need to do more. A tougher stance should be taken on punishing child abusers, as for giving these perpetrators bail that worries me because they go back to society and continue destroying. How can we be in the same place with these people who behave like animals. Then again, who am I to judge. At some stage, probably soon, we need a system where there's a register of known offenders.

In our November edition, our Minister Richard Qubudile Dyantyi in his message to staff on Sixteen Days of Activism mentioned the fact that discouraging women and children should not be seen as the event that should take place with Sixteen Days of Activism but should be a day-to-day, ongoing practice in our society.

In light of the above, if you believe in making a change and want to, you have a voice! Educate yourself on what abuse is, know what your rights are and stand up for them. For far too long we've sat back and passed the buck, refusing to deal with the issue and allowing crime, which is predominantly inflicted by men to become a women's problem.

Handing Over of Sanitation Facilities to the De Doorns Community

By Sandy Godlwana

As part of the 16 Days of Activism external events, sanitation facilities were handed over to the community at De Doorns. This took place on the 8th of November 2005. At 10:00am the construction site where the sanitation facilities were situated was already packed with members of De Doorns Community.

Community members were then given white ribbons to wear symbolising their support for the 16 Days of Activism. You could see the excitement written on their faces as the sanitation facilities were going to be handed over to them. Songs of rejoice were sung even a song dedicated to our Minister of Local Government and Housing Mr Richard Qubudile Dyantyi, praising him for his good work.



Mrs A L Sibeko and Mr Z Sogayise at the handover

The Mayor of the De Doorns Municipality Mrs A L Sibeko, Head of Office in the Ministry Mr Z Sogayise and Ward Councillors were present and addressed a crowd of more than three hundred people. Local media and journalists from the SABC were also there to cover this event.

Entertainment was provided by children from the community who sang and danced. After the event community members who attended this event were all given meals.



Our fellow colleagues making us proud

DEPARTMENTAL STAFF MARCH ON THE 16 DAYS OF ACTIVISM 28th November 2005

By Sandy Godlwana

Its projects and programmes like the 16 Days of Activism that raise awareness against violence on women and children. I was humbled and it was wonderful to see men and women from our department taking a stand and marching on the 28th November 2005 wearing black T-Shirts written 'MY STRENGTH IS NOT FOR HURTING' and white ribbons symbolising their support for this initiative. This clearly indicated that rape and abuse is everyone's problem, and it's up to all of us to take a stand. We need to see women and children who have been scarred emotionally and physically become strong and able to empower themselves.

Put yourself in the shoes of those people who went through the ordeal and trauma of being raped or abused. What do you say to a close friend or relative who tells you she has been raped or abused? Do you say hang in there, be strong, you'll be fine? Believe you me it is hard trying to console someone who has gone through that pain, that's when you realise, this person has lost her pride, dignity, happiness and she feels

worthless. You become speechless and feel hopeless, it's like trying to console someone who has lost a close relative.

When these issues are mentioned in the news people don't take these issues seriously until someone close to them goes through a similar ordeal. It's like HIV & AIDS people continue to have unprotected sex until they see someone close to them dying only then they start to do things differently. Some of us have sisters or daughters. Don't you sometimes ask yourself, is she safe at school or will she come home safely? We might have never been raped or abused but who knows what the future holds? That is why we need to support projects like the 16 Days of Activism, don't speak out after 10 years of being abused as if you enjoyed it, ACT NOW.

Please read this poem as a source of inspiration

I do not.....
I do not need to harm in order to be respected,
I do not need to violate in order to gain my manhood,
I do not need to abuse in order to be called a man,
I am a man because I say, "children are to be seen not hurt",
I am a man because I say "no to children and women abuse!
I am a man because I aspire to have a happy family one-day!

I am a man, and I will act against women and children abuse,
I will always encourage my friends to do the same,
I will not loose my manhood because of this,
I will just embrace women and children,
acknowledge them as equally as everyone,
appreciate and love them equally as others
I will then be called a man of men!

By: Simphiwe Ntlantsana



25 November - 10 December

Rally at V&A for Non-violence

By Sandy Godlwana

The Sixteen Days of Activism for non violence against Women and Children was launched at Sea Point and around the Peninsula including the V&A Waterfront on Friday 25/11/2005.

The day began with the 1000 men breakfast at the Cape Town International Convention Centre where the Premier addressed hundreds of men with a very powerful speech and then later on there was a Men's March from District Six to the Waterfront.

The venue was packed with children from all over the Peninsula, representatives of the city, the Metropolitan Police department and officials from the Provincial Government. Entertainment was provided by the police band and by children from Du Noon, near Milnerton, who overwhelmed the crowd, with a dance to the music of well-known band Mango Groove.



Premier Rasool leading the March



March by the Youth to the V&A Waterfront



1000 Men Breakfast at the CTICC

Ighn

A
smile
for
you



Do you know that a smile is infectious? when you get it is like the flu.

Today somebody smiled at me, and I started to smile as well.

Just around the corner somebody saw me smiling and she started to smile too.

I realized then that it can be passed along..

Then I thought and noted the size of that smile.

A unique smile, like mine, could travel around the Earth.

So, if you feel a smile coming, do not do anything to stop it.

Let's start a smile of epidemic proportions right now, it will affect the entire world!

Keep smiling and send this e-mail to your friends.

After all, everybody needs a smile!!!

World Aids Day: An Interview with Ralda Gie, the department's Human Rights Co-ordinator

By Sandy Godlwana

What does this day mean to you?

World Aids Day is commemorated around the Globe on December 1 each year. The idea behind the day is to remember those who have already died of HIV & AIDS and to commit ourselves to fighting HIV and AIDS in the future. World AIDS Day is thus a symbol of AIDS awareness and solidarity.

What programmes do we have and how effective are these programmes in dealing with HIV related issues?

The Department has a HIV & AIDS workplace programme in place. The programme has two broad objectives: Programmes aimed at prevention that includes HIV & AIDS awareness and education, condom distribution, Voluntary Counselling and Testing (VCT). Programmes aimed at treatment, care and support that includes awareness and education on wellness, Know your status campaigns (VCT), Employee Assistance Program (EAP) for psycho social support and referrals / guidance. I have been trained as a HIV & AIDS counselor through the Provincial Employee Aids Committee. Employees infected or affected by the virus, may approach myself or Nyameka Wani for assistance through the EAP. Our Departmental EAP policy is in process of finalisation.

What are the expectations of employees to these programmes? Or rather how do they respond?

The support of staff is generally good, but not ideal. However, the VCT support we get in our Department is generally better in our Department than in other Provincial Departments according to LifeLine, the service provider for the province. This shows that our awareness and education programme is paying off.

How do you deal with the confidentiality if employees discloses?

Confidentiality cannot be compromised in terms of the Transversal Provincial policy on HIV & AIDS that applies to all. Voluntary disclosure for instance does not mean blanket consent to use the information. Therefore it should be expressed consent whereby the person indicate the parameters of the consent. i.e. full disclosure with no limits, only for HR purposes, etc. The correct management of disclosure is very important because the success of the workplace programme depends on the degree of trust by the beneficiaries.

What key messages can you give?

HIV killed more people than all the wars combined in the world. Reality is that we are fighting a war. So, join in and get together to fight this WAR OF WARS!!!

lgghn



2005 - A Great Year for Local Government and Housing

By Sandy Godlwana

This has been indeed a great year for the Department of Local Government and Housing. Lets look at some of the highlights:

The appointment of our MEC Richard Qubudile Dyantyi and all new staff we would like to welcome you on board.

One New Department, the newly amalgamated department has big and exciting challenges ahead but we need to work hard in order to overcome these challenges.

In relation to this in our April edition our Head of Department Shanaaz Magiet said the main characteristic of this new ethos that defines our new department is a leadership style and an evolving organisational culture that displays Batho Pele in the way we plan, think, relate, act and serve.

N2 Gateway Project which is one of the major projects that the Department of Local Government and Housing is currently embarking on which aims at:

- Creating jobs for local communities
- Empowering Women and SMME's
- Better access to facilities like schools, clinics and public transport
- Choice to buy and own, rent now and own later or just rent
- Cultural sensitivity such as the provision of suitable initiation sites
- People living on hazardous sites will be relocated

The *Public Participation Conference* that was hosted by Former MEC for Local Government and Housing Maruis Fransman, from the 21st and 22nd July which aimed at formulating further measures to strengthen existing structures as well as

communication with communities and to accelerate service delivery and enhancing participatory governance in municipalities of the Western Cape.

The *Community Development Workers* are going to assist a lot in this regard in terms of mobilising community resources and energy to facilitate the implementation of government programmes or rather strengthening the interface between government and citizens.

The *CDW Graduation Ceremony* which was held at the University of Western Cape on the 5th of December was a great success, this prestigious ceremony was attended by the MEC for Local Government and Housing Richard Qubudile Dyantyi, MEC for Transport and Public Works, Marius Fransman and MEC for Community Safety Leonard Ramatlakane who was also acting Premier while the Premier was out of the Country, H Shanaaz Majiet, Directors, members of staff, family members who came to support.

Beyond the Brick Human Settlement Summit which took place on the 24th and 25th of November 2005 at the Stellenbosch University was such a success. Our Minister for Local Government and Housing appointed a reference group consisting of key role players in the industry to analyse the BNG plan and provide strategic advice to the Department on an appropriate implementation strategy. This Summit also created space for debate, to encourage participation of all stakeholders in the department of a Provincial implementation strategy.

The handing over of Sanitation Facilities to different communities in Cape Agulhas, De Doorns, Gugulethu, and Mossel Bay and the handing over of a house built during the 16 Days of Activism to beneficiary Mzilikazi, Florence Gxowa at Mbekweni in Paarl. The Mbekweni People's Housing Process (EPHP) project in Paarl where this house has been built, has been unblocked and it is currently under construction with 40 other show houses to be completed soon.

The first end of year function and Sports Days as a newly merged Department, this was very exciting because staff got an opportunity to meet with new staff members. We could go on and on. But for now these were some of the highlights that were on top of the agenda for 2005.

Congratulations to Officials who Obtained Qualifications since 2004

Pursuing one's goal is something very special to most of us. The effort applied in the progress requires commitment and compromise most of the times. Education does not have age limit. All age groups enjoy learning in various ways. The officials mentioned below have proved these statements right. On behalf of the Director: HRM & Administration and the Department, I would like to acknowledge the qualifications obtained by our colleagues. lggh

Name	Directorate / Division	Qualification	Year Obtained	Institution
Ms May Davids	HRM + A	ND: HRM	2004	Cape Peninsula Technikon
Mr Andre Rossouw	Rental Housing Tribunal	Masters in Public Admin	2004	University of Stellenbosch
Mr Arthur L W Hendricks	Housing Settlement	Matriculation	2004	Woodstock CLC
Mr Sidney L Stilwaney	Housing Settlement	Matriculation	2004	Woodstock CLC
Mr Michael H Collison	Housing Settlement	Matriculation	2004	Woodstock CLC
Mr Rodney C Arnold	Housing Settlement	Matriculation	2004	Bonteheuwel (Bishop Lavis)

Ms Noluvo Mqushulu	HRM + A	Dip: HRM	2004	Business Management Training
Mr Marius Theron	HRM + A	ND: HRM	2004	Northlink College
Ms Debbie Sass	HRM + A	ND: HRM	2005	Northlink College
Ms Najwa Kriel	HRM + A	ND: HRM	2005	Northlink College

Congratulations to all of you! You did it! Others will follow in your footsteps and do it! We are proud of you.

NB: This article reflects names of officials who responded to a request made. There may be more names that were not submitted.

Speedy Recovery to Ismael Ely

By Sandy Godlwana

We in the Department of Local Government and Housing would like to wish Ismael Ely a speedy recovery. Mr Ely from Professional and Project Management Services, was involved in a car accident on the 26th November where he broke 4 ribs, which then lead to his lung being badly damaged. He was then hospitalised at the Vincent Palotti Hospital. He was discharged on the 6th of December 2005 and he is now recovering at home.

To all other staff, we might have not received all of your names, but those in Hospitals and who are not feeling well during this time, we would like to tell you that we are praying for you and we wish that you all get well soon.

During this busy period, Please drive carefully, be cautious on the road. Driver's should know that when driving you don't only drive your car but you also drive for the next person as there are many reckless drivers on the road, buckle up and keep a safe following distance.

FOR THOSE WHO LIKE TO INDULGE, YOU CAN INDULGE BUT DON'T OVER DO IT. (YOU KNOW THE CONSEQUENCES)

lghn

