

Floral achievements

Top: Keen would-be 'florists' in action

Below: The course attendees proudly showing off their handiwork

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As part of the 50th anniversary celebration on 26 June this year of the adoption of the Freedom Charter at the 1955 Congress of the People, the City of Cape Town encouraged the various directorates to work towards achieving the vision of the Freedom Charter:

These extracts from the preamble of the Freedom Charter were emphasised during the second quarter of the year:

- ✘ the people shall share in the country's wealth
- ✘ the land shall be shared among those who work it
- ✘ there shall be work and security.

The focus was on getting people empowered to combat unemployment. As part of the Social Development Directorate, and part of a community structure, Eersterivier Library made the community aware of learnership, employment and training opportunities under the extended public works programme. One such programme was a basic flower arrangement course presented by one of the local women of the community.

The course commenced in the beginning of June and ran over a period of six weeks. Eight women joined the first course which was held in the library hall and all completed the course with enthusiasm and commitment.

At the end of the course an evaluation and a certificate ceremony was held. The deputy mayor of Cape Town presented the certificates and praised the women on their achievement. She dedicated the following song by Peter Seeger, *Where have all the flowers gone*, to the people of the community and encouraged them to become skilled and to rise above the negative memories of the past. Well done to all.

The second flower arrangement course started on 1 September 2005 with a total of 26 women. One of the women who attended the previous course found employment at a florist three days after she received her certificate. Others were asked to do arrangements for a function and earned an income.

The moral of the story... public libraries of the 21st century **can** make a difference in our communities!

