



Province of the
EASTERN CAPE
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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MEDI STATEMENT

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EC PREMIER TO LAUNCH POVERTY REDUCTION INITIATIVES IN LUSIKISIKI

All eyes in the Province will be in Lubala, a small village under Lusikisiki in the Ngquza Local municipal area where Premier Mbulelo Sogoni will be launching the door to door household survey on 23 September 2008. On this day the Premier will visit 30 households together with Social workers and Community development practitioners who are responsible for conducting the survey. This comes after 2005 Macro Social Analysis Research report which revealed that 64% of the Province lives below the minimum living wage level of R800 per month.

Social Development was then mandated in 2006 to co-ordinate the Provincial Poverty Reduction programme with a focus on co-coordinating interventions of all departments. The Provincial Co-coordinating Committee then took a study tour to Chile and Argentina to learn the best practices with regard to poverty eradication techniques. One of the best methods they learnt from this visit is the family based approach interventions by all departments and local municipalities in Chile which successfully helped in reducing poverty from 46% to 13%.

In 2007/08, the Provincial Poverty Reduction Programme within the Department identified 11 poorest municipalities which are Mzimvubu, Nyandeni, Ngquza Hill, Mnquma, Mbashe, Ngqushwa, Elundini, Ntabankulu, Mbizana, Intsika Yethu and Ngcobo to pilot these poverty

interventions. The Department then embarked on consultative workshops in these 11 poorest profiled municipalities.

This financial year, the Department has set aside an amount of R4 million per each municipality totalling R44 million for special interventions in both community development and developmental social welfare services. This intervention will identify specific activities that will have an impact in the reduction of poverty, help the poorest of the poor to access their rights in terms of basic services. The Poverty Reduction Programme has been allocated 55 social workers and 55 community development practitioners who will oversee the completion of a door-to-door survey in the pilot areas so that:

- A detailed database can be compiled of those living in poverty.
- Identified specific interventions in these families will be in community development and social welfare services.
- Each family is tracked over a 3 – 5 year period.

For more information contact Gcobani Maswana on 082 821 7410.

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