

# NEWS BULLETIN

## SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT MINISTER CONDUCTS OVERSIGHT VISIT TARGETING YOUTH IN THE WEST COAST AND CITY OF CAPE TOWN

**8 February 2022, Saldanha Bay** – The Minister of Social Development, Lindiwe Zulu, is this week conducting a series of oversight visits in the West Coast and City of Cape Town districts ahead of President Cyril Ramaphosa's State of the Nation Address (SONA) scheduled to take place on the 10th of February 2022.

The visits are focused on public participation programmes, primarily with the youth, where the Minister will also monitor the implementation of social services and engage communities on interventions that would improve their livelihoods.

The Minister visited Mfesane, a National Development Agency (NDA) funded youth development organisation that renders personal development, training, skills, creative spaces, economic and work opportunities for the youth between 14 – 25 years through Youth Cafés located in Velddrif and Saldanha Bay. Through grant funding of R156 817, 54 the NDA and Mfesane have established 10 mobile beauty start-up businesses for 10 youth entrepreneurs within Saldanha Bay and Bergriver. The funds were used to professionally train and purchase fully equipped start-up business kits for 10 hairdressers and nail technicians. The NDA is a government agency that reports to Parliament through the Department of Social Development. It provides grants for development programmes and capacity building for registered civil society organisations (CSOs).

Vredenburg-based NGO Mfesane, in partnership with the National Development Agency, South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and provincial Department of Social Development (DSD) coordinated youth focus groups and interviews with critical stakeholders that represent the youth sector including youth, youth forums, parents, schools, community policing forums and the municipality to find ways of improving the livelihoods of the youth within the Saldanha Bay Municipality. The Minister will engage face-to-face with the youth and respond with interventions available to the youth from NDA, DSD and SASSA.



Mfesane staff welcome Minister Zulu at Mfesane



Minister Zulu received by Western Cape PM, Ardiel Soeker and NDA Acting CEO, Mr Bongani

The issues raised by the youth in Veddrit include unemployment, substance abuse, school drop outs, no public ablution facilities and teenage pregnancy. The youth are requesting the Minister's intervention in the creation of more jobs, access to education, opportunities that could improve their lives, after school programmes, building of public toilets and that the government avails contraceptives at schools.

Similarly, Saldanha Bay youth expressed their livelihood challenges to be unemployment, safety, teenage pregnancy, lack of access to education, corruption and fraud. They have prioritised five (5) areas of interventions that they will pose to the Minister:

**Education:** more technical High Schools and lower requirements to obtain bursaries

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**Employment:** creation of more job opportunities and learnerships

**Health:** assist to equip health care facilities with staff to administer mental health as well as a school for persons living with disabilities

**GBV and teenage pregnancies:** more awareness campaigns

**Substance abuse:** expansion of youth programmes to include sports and sporting fields, parks and youth development programmes.

“I am encouraged by young people that I engaged with, who are making the changes and taking up opportunities to change their own lives and making a way to employ others and feed their families. The President will tomorrow in his SONA delivery make pronouncements, not only to unite as a nation, but also to outline what the country’s marching orders are to eradicate the threats of poverty and other challenges presented to the South African population and specifically young people. Accordingly, the Department of Social Development and its Agencies will respond to partner with other stakeholders to respond to issues raised here by young people. We will be back and youth development services will be delivered,” said Minister Lindiwe Zulu.

The dialogues also included officials from SEDA, SEFA, Department of Forestry, Fisheries and Environment and the Chairperson of NYDA Ms Asanda Lucawa who all imparted information and programmes that the youth can access to improve their livelihoods. The Minister understands that her Department alone will not make all the changes, this way she adopts a multi-stakeholder approach that allows for integrated solution for communities.

Minister Zulu gifted protective and sanitary wear to Mfesane. The CEO of Mfesane, Mrs Yolandi Afrika, has invited other NGOs within the Saldanha Bay Municipality to contact Mfesane at their offices in Vredenburg if they are in need of these supplies.



## Say “No” to Gender Based Violence