

Reminder: MEDIA ADVISORY

23 February 2023

MINISTER LINDIWE ZULU LEADS YOUTH OUTREACH PROGRAMME IN KWAZULU-NATAL

As South Africa prepares to celebrate 30 Years of Freedom and Democracy, the Minister of Social Development, Ms Lindiwe Zulu - in collaboration with Umzansi Youth in Business (UYB), will lead a youth outreach programme in the Province of KwaZulu-Natal.

The outreach programme will commence with a Youth and Democracy Dialogue which seeks to promote civic education and active citizenship, as well as to mobilise young people to be agents of change in local their communities.

Umzansi Youth in Business is a youth business association registered as an NPO that seeks to create space for meaningful participation of young people in society through education, skills development, and youth entrepreneurship.

Minister Zulu will kick-off the outreach programme by distributing school uniform to 142 learners facing hardships and those affected by the recent floods which left many residents destitute. This provision is meant to remove financial barriers to education for learners from vulnerable households as this reduces absenteeism and the drop-out rate by ensuring that learners remain in school.

The Social Relief of Distress grant is distributed in terms of the Social Assistance Act 13 of 2004, which mandates the department to intervene through its entity, SASSA, and provides basic needs including food and blankets to families impacted by poverty and those living under impoverished conditions.

Minister Zulu will then head to Tongaat to distribute Social Relief of Distress assistance to families affected by floods. This will be followed by a congratulatory lunch for social development service beneficiaries who passed the 2023 National Senior Certificate (NSC) examinations.

Data from the Department of Basic Education shows that from the Matric Class of 2023, learners receiving social grants formed the largest number. Of the 897 775 Grade 12 learners who wrote the 2023 NSC exams, 543 786 were social grant beneficiaries, with 60 being amongst the top performing learners. Most of the learners on social grants are from KwaZulu-Natal which clinched the second spot as the best performing province.

Minister Zulu will conclude the outreach programme with a dialogue with young people who are active in faith-based organisations. During the outreach programme, young people will have an opportunity to reflect and deliberate on the Department of Social Development Youth Policy (2021-2030). The policy focusses on active citizenry and social cohesion, mental health and wellbeing, job creation and youth entrepreneurship - amongst others.

Members of the media are invited to attend and cover Minister Zulu's youth outreach programme as follows:

DISTRIBUTION OF SCHOOL UNIFORM

Date: Friday, 23 February 2024

Time: 07h30

Venue: Khalipha Primary School, Ward 85 Umlazi Z, Umlazi - KZN

DISTRIBUTION OF SASSA SOCIAL RELIEF OF DISTRESS TO FAMILIES AFFECTED BY FLOODS

Date: Friday, 23 February 2024

Time: 10h00

Venue: Tongaat Community Hall - KZN

CONGRATULATORY LUNCH FOR SOCIAL GRANT BENEFICIARIES

Date: Friday, 23 February 2024

Time: 13h00

Venue: Umlazi Cinema Hall, Umlazi - KZN

DIALOGUE WITH YOUNG PEOPLE IN FAITH-BASED ORGANISATIONS

Date: Sunday, 25 February 2024

Time: 11h00

Venue: International Christian Brethren Church, Sweetwaters - KZN

Media RSVPs may be directed to Media can RSVP by contacting Ms Sharlene Naiker on 082 673 5849/
SharleneN@dsd.gov.za or Ms Nomfundo Xulu-Lentsoane on 066 480 6845 / NomfundoLe@dsd.gov.za

ISSUED BY THE NATIONAL DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

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