



MEDIA RELEASE

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EMBARGO: Immediate

Rheenendal Poverty Alleviation Project

RHEENENDAL - AS PART of her community services initiatives, Speaker and Ward 5 Councillor Eleanore Bouw-Spies, recently launched her Rheenendal Poverty Alleviation Project.

This charitable project includes a soup kitchen and a clothing depot as well as a needs and skills register - all to the benefit of the residents of Rheenendal, especially those hit hardest by the current economic climate.

Councillor Bouw-Spies says: "Making a difference in our communities is a cause close to my heart. Not everyone is blessed with an income in these tough times, and I hope the small contributions of the Rheenendal Poverty Alleviation Project will help to address the plight of our poorer residents.

"The soup kitchen will be held on a weekly basis and is funded through my social responsibility budget as Speaker, with enough funds available to run the project for at least two months. The supplies of the soup kitchen are augmented by a community vegetable garden in Rheenendal which was created in partnership with the Department of Agriculture.

"The clothing depot is stocked by donations from kind benefactors, which is especially needed with the cold winter months upon us. I have been collecting clothing items for this cause since 2015."

The needs and skills register is aimed to take stock of all the skills available in Rheenendal, with the aim of possibly employing residents when an opportunity arises. Volunteers have also visited all the homes in Rheenendal to identify the needs of the residents so that the project can provide appropriate assistance where needed.

The launch of the Rheenendal Poverty Alleviation Project on Thursday 26 May 2016 was well attended by the community. Members of the community decided that it would be appropriate to donate R5 per clothing item; through the donations R200 was raised which will help to fund the project.

"I would like to thank a few people for their contributions," says Councillor Bouw-Spies, before continuing: "Wendy Dewberry for donating a large amount of clothing, Christine Roses for donating 50 pairs of shoes, Ester Beukes for providing kitchen utensils for the soup kitchen, Grey Rutherford for assistance with the container and all other kind souls who donated towards the project.

"I urge anyone else who can donate to please do so. I would also be thrilled if businesses could get on board by donating stock that has reached the end of its shelf life - supermarkets, restaurants and other outlets. In doing so, you would help to make the Rheenendal Poverty Alleviation Project sustainable. I thank you in advance."

Good Samaritans can drop off any donations at the Speaker's office at the municipal buildings in Clyde Street. For any more information, contact 076 519 4485/ [044 302 6355](tel:0443026355) or e-mail ebouw@knysna.gov.za

ENDS

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