



## MEDIA RELEASE

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### **Rheenendal Youth Centre hosts a successful market day**

June 16 is celebrated as Youth Day in South Africa. The day pays tribute to the learners who lost their lives during the 1976 Soweto uprising. This year youth month is commemorated under the theme "Youth Action for Economic Freedom in Our Lifetime".

Following this year's theme the Rheenendal Youth Centre in collaboration with Knysna Speaker and Ward Councillor Eleanore Bouw-Spies hosted a Youth Market Day/ Entrepreneurial Expo at Rheenendal Sports field on Tuesday, 16 June. The event aimed to promote entrepreneurial skills, provide young people with a platform to network and for them to take their first step towards being confident business owners.

Ms Bouw-Spies said, "Our young people are faced with many challenges and the biggest being unemployment, it is of great importance that we create an enabling environment for them to learn, grow and prosper. To achieve this, there is a need to encourage them and to instil a spirit of entrepreneurship from early on in life. Entrepreneurship offers pathways for young people to emerge from unemployment". She continued, "We need to foster characteristics in young people such as confidence, calculated risk-taking, creativity, organizational and tenacity in order for them to succeed in business".

The day was celebrated in good spirit and the Rheenendal Youth choir opened with an inspirational youth song. Various stalls were put up ranging from beading, food, vegetables, arts and craft, clothing, cosmetics, plant works and children's items. Community members of Rheenendal and surrounding areas came out in numbers to support the youth.

"I am pleased that we have hosted this event as it offers an opportunity for our young people to witness a dozen of new innovations and talent in our community. I am impressed with the turnout as it has exceeded the expected target, it really shows that achieving economic freedom is on the youth's agenda.

In her closing remarks Ms Bouw-Spies, "I would like to thank our Youth Advisor Devoline Koopman and her team for all the work that she has put in to ensure that this day is a success. I would also like to extend a big thank you to Homtini Guest Farm for assisting with the arrangements, Leeuwen Bosch Factory Shop for sponsoring the prize and Tamar Kahts from Wrap-It for the gifts for the participants. I hope we continue working together in improving the quality of life for the youth in this community beyond just youth month".

**ENDS**

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