Food garden programme to alleviate poverty
By Vasanthi Naidoo: GCIS, KwaZulu-Natal

Building on the launch of the One Home, One Food-Garden and One Fruit Tree Programme in KwaDukuza Local Municipality, Enterprise iLembe rolled out the programme in Mandeni on 31 July 2020. The One Home, One Food-Garden is a poverty alleviation programme targeted at people who have been left without an income due to COVID-19. This initiative has benefitted 10 families and 58 individuals, identified by the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development in the townships of Mathonsi, iSithebe and Sundimbili in Mandeni.

Partnering with the KwaZulu-Natal Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, Enterprise iLembe provided beneficiaries with cabbage and butternut seed packs, implements, JoJo tanks and fruit trees. The beneficiaries will use the crops for self-sustenance and sell the excess to families and friends.

Enterprise iLembe, an entity of iLembe District Municipality, tasked to oversee and support local economic development in the district, will also assist the beneficiaries with access to markets should they have remaining excess produce. In this way, families will still be able to generate an income. In addition, agricultural technical officers from the entity will assist beneficiaries in the set-up of their food gardens and planting thereof.

Cabbage and butternut seeds were chosen because, August is the month for planting butternut, and cabbage can be grown throughout the year. Five hundred grams of butternut can produce a yield of approximately 2 500 butternuts and 500 grams of cabbage seeds, a yield of 15 000 heads of cabbage. All beneficiaries were also given hand sanitisers and masks to ensure their safety against the coronavirus.

All local municipalities were encouraged to roll out the One Home, One Food-Garden project in mitigation of the large number of people who were retrenched as a result of the nationwide lockdown and ensuing economic downturn. Enterprise iLembe is currently assisting various small, medium and micro enterprises affected by COVID-19 in the district’s four local municipalities.
PRIORITY 2: EDUCATION, SKILLS AND HEALTH.

Mining companies donate COVID-19 essentials
By Masego Mollo: GCIS, Northern Cape

On 7 July 2020, Northern Cape Premier Dr Zamani Saul together with the Health MEC Maruping Lekwene, received donations for COVID-19 relief from the Northern Cape Shared Value (NCSV) project, operating in the John Taolo Gaetsewe District.

The NCSV was initiated by four mining companies: Assmag, Kudumane Manganese Resources, Kumba Iron Ore and South 32, to drive greater socio-economic transformation in their neighbouring communities. Through this campaign, the mines were able to commit over R100 million towards personal protective equipment, screening and testing kits, water supply, isolation and quarantine sites.

Premier Saul said they would be able to win the battle against COVID-19. “As we move closer to the anticipated COVID-19 peak as a province, it is important that we fight this battle together as government, community and the private sector. We need to ensure that we remain safe at all times, wear our masks, avoid gatherings such as parties, and maintain social distancing,” said the Premier.
Coronavirus awareness campaign
By Tinyiko Molefe: GCIS, Gauteng

As part of the COVID-19 awareness campaign, the Government Communication and Information System in support of the Department of Health hosted an awareness activation in Ratanda on 7 July 2020. The purpose of the activation was to share information on precautions to follow towards prevention of the spread of the virus, symptoms and how to get treatment if one is infected.

Community members were given information leaflets on COVID-19 preventative measures. It is important to follow outlined guidelines to prevent and reduce the spread of the coronavirus. “It is our responsibility as citizens to contribute towards the efforts of fighting the spread of the virus by keeping social distance, wearing masks, washing and sanitizing our hands,” said Bongi Mokoena.

The community was also alerted about the symptoms of the virus and the steps to take if they show COVID-19 symptoms. More information on COVID-19 can be accessed on the website: https://sacoronavirus.co.za/ or on the Emergency Hotline: 0800 029 999 or WhatsApp Support Line: 0600 123 456.
Thuthuzela Care Centre is a one-stop shop where victims of gender-based violence (GBV) are taken care of. It also houses professionals such as social workers, police, health workers and prosecutors. Seshgo Thuthuzela Care Centre is one of the institutions in Limpopo that provides such societal services to victims who find themselves in unfortunate situations.

On 28 July 2020, Polokwane Smelter, an Anglo Platinum Mine subsidiary, donated food parcels, blankets, toiletries, face masks and sanitisers. Receiving the donations on behalf of the centre, Polokwane Executive Mayor Councillor Thembi Nkadimeng appreciated the contribution from Anglo Platinum Mine.

“This donation came at the time when we are celebrating heroes and heroines, and all those who fought for the freedom that we are enjoying today. It also coincides with Mandela Day commemoration, which urges communities to contribute the little of what they have to those who are less fortunate,” she said. The Executive Mayor urged women not to tolerate abuse in their lives. “As if the coronavirus pandemic is not enough, women also face the scourge of GBV and femicide. We all need to be activists of GBV in our respective communities,” she said.

Anglo Platinum Senior Corporate Manager, Sana Machaba said that the donation was part of their social corporate responsivity and said that as a responsible institution, it is important to assist in times of difficulties. “We are responding to the District Development Model that says one government, one plan, one budget. Anglo Platinum Mine is also assisting government in COVID-19 related projects such as health workers training at the University of Pretoria and the procurement of water tankers for needy communities in Limpopo. Our partnership goes beyond these donations you see today,” she said. Stakeholders at the centre appreciated the donations.