



MEDIA ARTICLE

For immediate release 25 APRIL 2014

20 YEARS OF DEMOCRACY ARTICLES:

THE LIVES OF KGATLA RESIDENTS IMPROVED FOR THE BETTER FOLLOWING WAR ON POVERTY PROGRAMME

The lives of residents of Ga- Kgatla village in ward 6 of the Blouberg Municipality have been changed for the better following tremendous progress subsequent to the launch of the war of poverty programme. Rural development is one of the government's five priorities .When the war on poverty initiative was initially launched for Ga Kgatla village in 2008, the baseline survey identified unemployment, water and sanitation, poor housing conditions, seasonal flooding, school dropping out rate, high levels of teenage pregnancy, lack of early childhood development facilities, lack of food security and poor access roads as the major priorities requiring urgent attention.

Now residents are smiling following intervention by the government of the day. Significant achievements include the roll out of social security services such as social grants, social relief distress and health screening food gardens.

Electricity supply through private –public partnership and the establishment of an early childhood development centre servicing 150 toddlers rank amongst major milestones achieved. Water supply has been restored. The Department of Water Affairs also installed water tanks at every household for water harvesting during rainy days to assist them in dry seasons.

Families now have food gardens which have significantly improved food security & nutrition in the area. The village has also been electrified and low cost houses built for the needy. All children of school going age have been taken back to schools and more than 21 youths were sent for skills training at various centers, while others were absorbed in various employment fields including EPWP, Community Works Programmes (CWPs)and other initiatives.

23 years old Matome Sebetha thanks the government for eradicating poverty in his Kgatla village which is historically an area with no development. Now there is service delivery and residents acknowledge that there is pre-schools food gardens through the assistance of government. A significant number though much still needs to be done of people are currently employed.

In his penultimate visit to the area in 2011 Deputy President Kgalema Montlante said that the implementation of war on poverty programme will help transform communities like Ga-Kgatla's and others countrywide. He further called on all South Africans to play their part in the desperate move to communities out of poverty towards sustainable rural development.

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