

**DISABLED PEOPLE SOUTH AFRICA
FREE STATE PROVINCE**

**PDC PROGRESS REPORT
1 APRIL – 30 SEPTEMBER 2009**

1 Introduction

This report covers activities carried out during the first semester of 2009/2010 financial year. The first semester has been a challenging one; with limited funding leading us not being able to renew certain staff members' contracts. Nevertheless, the province was still able to implement its planned programmes. There were no major changes in the initial operational plan of the province.

2 Organisational Development

2.1 Staffing

The province currently employs a PDC, Provincial Administrator, Field Officer and Sign Language Interpreter.

2.1 Office Space

DPSA Free State provincial offices are situated in the CBD area of Welkom. The structure of the office is as follows; reception area, two offices, boardroom and a kitchen.

2.2 Governance

The PEC hasn't met in an official meeting this semester; but the Provincial Manager has been constantly liaising with the PEC either through informal meetings or through telecons. The PEC is scheduled to meet in October 2009.

3 Membership Development

There has been a decrease in membership in the province. Although there is no upfront reason, there has been a concern from members on the withdrawal of the funeral benefit and the urban-based benefit package. Our total membership is 426. the breakdown is as follows:

- Women: 217
- Men: 209
- Youth: 221
- Physical: 311
- Sensory: 57
- Visual: 55
- Intellectual disability: 3

DPSA Free State has 16 launched Branches to date.

16 Reported Deaths

4 Awareness Raising, Advocacy, Lobbying and Networking

The Province has met with the Ministry for Social Development twice to discuss funding issues. The first meeting was attended by the MEC herself including the senior managers. The second one was attended by the Head of the Ministry, SHIA delegates and departmental senior managers.

In these meetings, commitment was made by the department to increase funding for DPSA Free State and take-over SHIA programme. SHIA won't be funding DPSA as from next year. They will only fund the Impact assessment study.

A task team comprising of 3 department officials and three DPSA officials was formed to spearhead the funding negotiations. It is expected that by the end of November, the negotiations would be finalised.

4.2 HIV/AIDS Awareness

The Provincial Community Development Worker has been very instrumental in facilitating dissemination of HIV/AIDS information to DPSA members in the province.

She has conducted 6 outreach visits to six DPSA branches. She has also distributed more than 1 000 HIV/AIDS material and 600 condoms. The programme looks very successful; more disabled people are becoming more interested to know more about HIV/AIDS.

5 Fund Development

Funding remains a critical challenge in the province and we have done a lot of work around fund development. Proposals have been re-submitted to various government departments including department of health and Social development. As per PEC resolutions, a letter was written and submitted to COSATU, SACP and Provincial legislature to influence provincial government to fund the organisation, we have now just received a letter of acknowledgement from the legislature and the date for the meeting is still to be confirmed.

6 Disabled Women's' Development Programme [DWDP]

The programme is active and is following its action plan pretty well. The DWDP Chairperson has been

instrumental in speaking on behalf of disabled women in many seminars. She has also incorporated some of DWDP work into her departmental programme. She works for the Department of Tourism & Economic Affairs.

7 Disabled Youth South Africa [DYSA]

Since the passing on Mr. Tietsi Moloji and his wife, DYSA has been very inactive. The acting DYSA Chairperson works for SAPS and is office bound which makes it difficult for him to move around on DYSA activities. An AGM is planned for November where the new DYSA chairperson will be elected. In this AGM' it is expected that DYSA Acton Plan will be reviewed.

8 NDA Poverty Alleviation

Both projects that NDA funds are up and running. They have begun to plough vegetables in the gardens including sewing projects. Participants are excited about the project. We have utilised the first tranche and waiting for the second one.

9 SHIA Development Programme

The programme has seen us establishing more than 4 branches and conducting 6 road shows. Although there has been a decrease in membership, we have been conducting a lot of road shows to inform members about the withdrawal of the funeral benefit by the organisation. People are interested in joining the organisation, but the organisation lacks capacity to collect membership fees. We do not have resources to be everywhere at the same in the province and members are not willing to go banks

and deposit membership fees but rather prefer DPSA to come collect the fees.

SHIA visited the province from 29 September to 2 October. The SHI delegation comprised of 6 people. The delegations visited Hennenman and Wesselsbron Projects. They were very impressed to see disabled people trying to do things for themselves. They also participated in the meeting DPSA Free State and the Department of Social Development and later on the Office of the Premier. The Head of Ministry of the department hosted them for lunch in Bloemfontein.

10 Fund Development

5 Funding proposals have been submitted to the Department of Social Development for each of the five districts to a tune of R1.5m and we are positive to get a favourable response from the department. The DOH and Lotteries have been earmarked for CBR Programme. A funding proposal is now complete and ready for submission to the two institutions.

9 Key Challenges

- Limited human resources not allowing us to cover the whole province within acceptable periodic intervals. (outreach visits)
- Office capacity not enough to accommodate the new structure
- Decline in membership due non-renewals
- Lack of retention strategy due to limited funding

10 Conclusion

I am pleased to present the April/September 2009 Report. I hope that this report gives a clearer picture of how much we are committed to the development of disabled people in the Free State Province.