Bakubung community takes a positive step in the right direction

Article by Zanele Sithole

It was a jovial mood at a meeting held at the tribal office in Bakubung-Ba-Ratheo on Saturday 31 October. The mood was created by the belief held by many in the community that positive change is finally around the corner. The community welcomed a memorandum of agreement for reconciliation, creation of sustainable peace, unity and socio-economic development. The hunger for positive development in the community has won out, and an end to the fighting from within has eventually come to an end. Concern to uplift and end riots in the community led to the establishment of the Peace Agreement. The agreement will see a commitment to working together by the community, Moses Kotane Local Municipality (MKLM) and the Royal House, Ledig Community Task Team, BCDC, BED, Kgosingadi Margaret Monnakgotla and Kgosi Solomon Monnakgotla.
Bakubung community takes a positive step in the right direction (cont.)

The agreement will see service delivery issues in the local community being tackled thoroughly from this point onwards.

For many in the community, the meeting brought a much needed sigh of relief and a sign of better things coming their way. Ward 30 Councillor, Chonko Monnakgotla, said that it was indeed time for change. She urged the community to refrain from pointing fingers and instead to start searching for ways to make positive development a reality.

"We have been fighting amongst ourselves for too long. We have been pointing fingers at each other for too long. Accusing each other in the community of things we are not sure of. Let's accept the peace and move forward," she said.
Progress continues at a pace on the Wesizwe crop agricultural project

Article by Timothy Neongwane

The first group of beneficiaries on Wesizwe’s Crop Agricultural Project has completed its first year on the project. In the Build, Operate and Transfer (BOT) philosophy, this represents the first group currently undergoing the Operations phase. Members of the group undertake their daily activities which include harvesting, crop maintenance, spraying, fertilizing and irrigation, all of which is part of the Operations phase. Part of this phase also focuses on continuous agricultural training (NQF level 1) which includes both theory and practical work. It has also seen them start to harvest their crops and sell them to the market.
Progress continues at a pace on the Wesizwe crop agricultural project (cont.)

The second group of beneficiaries on Wesizwe’s Crop Agricultural Project is also nearing its first year on the project and members of the group have commenced with their planting of the first crop of spinach, which they have already started harvesting. They have also planted lettuce and will be planting chillies and cabbage in structure 2B. General upkeep of the farm is critical as it will assist in decreasing the amount of weeds and pests in the structures. All structures should be planted by the first week of November.

The third group of beneficiaries is already in its fifth month of the Build Phase. They are nearing completion of the structure and have commenced with hanging of the nets on the structures.
Wesizwe livestock project update

The Wesizwe Livestock Beneficiaries have registered their Cooperative. A local Service Provider workshopped the constitution and general governance of the Cooperative, with all beneficiaries. The beneficiaries have commenced with training (Animal Production NQF level 1), which occurs every first week of each month. The barn structure is 99% complete, of which the paving and the supporting outside wall, together with the fire wall, were all completed by a local service provider.

The Holding Pen for the Cattle Handling Facility is nearing completion, and awaiting the installation of the gates. Holes for the wiring of the holding pen through the poles have been completed. The procurement process for the Cattle Handling Facility and the Administration block is nearing completion. A site meeting for both structures was held on the last week of October and the successful companies will commence work in November.

Article by Timothy Ncongwane
Commemorating 16 Days of Activism

The 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children is an international awareness-raising campaign. It takes place every year from 25 November (International Day for the Elimination of Violence Against Women) to 10 December (International Human Rights Day). The period includes Universal Children’s Day and World AIDS Day. The campaign continues to raise awareness amongst South Africans about the negative impact of violence against women and children.

Objectives of the campaign
The objectives of the 16 Days Campaign are to:

- Attract all South Africans to be active participants in the fight to eradicate VAW&C;
- Expand accountability beyond the Justice, Crime Prevention and Security (JCPS) cluster to include all government clusters and provinces.
- Combine technology, social media, the arts, journalism, religion, culture and customs, business and activism to draw attention to the many ways VAW&C affects the lives of all people in all communities around the world.
- Ensure mass mobilisation of all communities to promote collective responsibility in the fight to eradicate violence against women and children.
- Encourage society to acknowledge that violence against women and children is NOT a government or criminal justice system problem, but a societal problem, and that failure to view it as such results in all efforts failing to eradicate this scourge in our communities.
- Emphasise the fact that the solution lies with all of us.

What is violence against women and children?
Violence takes many forms, for example:

- Physical violence in the form of domestic violence, terrible violent crime such as murder, robbery, rape and assault.
- Emotional violence and trauma at many levels caused by many factors. Women and children in their homes, at work, at schools, on our streets, in our communities suffer this form of violence for various reasons.
- Another terrible blight of our democracy is the violence of poverty, starvation, humiliation and degradation, especially against women and children. Poverty, inequality and unemployment are conditions under which violence thrives.

What can you do?
Together, let us take actions to support the 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children campaign.

- Support the campaign by wearing the white ribbon during the 16-day period: A white ribbon is a symbol of peace and symbolises the commitment of the wearer to never commit or condone violence against women and children.
Commemorating 16 Days of Activism (cont.)

What can you do? (cont.)

- Participate in the various 16 Days of Activism events and activities.
- Volunteer in support of NGOs and community groups who support abused women and children: Many organisations need assistance from the public. You can volunteer your time and make a contribution to the work of institutions. Help plant a garden at a shelter, sponsor plastic tables and chairs for kids at a clinic or join an organisation as a counsellor. Use your skills and knowledge to help the victims of abuse.
- Speak out against woman and child abuse.
  - Encourage silent female victims to talk about abuse and ensure that they get help.
  - Report child abuse to the police.
  - Encourage children to report bully behaviour to school authorities.
  - Men and boys are encouraged to talk about abuse and actively discourage abusive behaviour.
  - Seek help if you are emotionally, physically or sexually abusive to your partner and/or children. Call the Stop Gender Based Violence helpline (0800 150 150).
  - Talk to friends, relatives and colleagues to take a stand against abuse of women and children.
  - Try and understand how your own attitudes and actions might perpetuate sexism and violence.
  - Spread the message on social media

During these 16 Days of Activism, play your part in stopping violence against women and children.

Where to get help

- SAPS Crime Stop 08600 10111
- Gender-Based Violence Command Centre
- 0800 428428/0800 GBV GBV
- STOP Gender Violence Helpline
- 0800 150 150/*120*7867# from any cell phone
- Childline- Report child abuse
- 0800 055 555