Volunteers of the Office of the Premier leave smiles in honour of iconic Madiba on Mandela Day

18 July 2012

Touching, connecting with a higher soul and responding to a higher calling to help those less fortunate, were some of the words shared by two groups of officials of the Office of the Premier that gave their 67 minutes of service to the needy at the King Williams Town homes for children and the aged.

Teams of officials led by the Director General Mr. Mbulelo Sogoni joined millions of people nationally and internationally today, 18 July 2012, to observe the Mandela Day by spending quality time with the aged as well as cleaning of a home for needy children in King Williams Town. Mr Sogoni said the services rendered by volunteers of the Office of the Premier were not just a fitting tribute to “our own international icon – uTat’uNelson Mandela, but in the main it is for the grandmothers and the children we supported today’. He urged the officials to convert their experiences to have a meaning in the life of the Office of the Premier in terms of how it runs and conducts itself. “Share your experiences, ignite the spirit of volunteerism,” said DG Sogoni.

A number of officials also shared their experiences during a de-briefing session. One of the officials, Ms Madikane, said “I felt connected to a higher soul, having spent time to add value to people who appreciate even a second of what you are giving to them. Hugging them and speaking with them made me feel complete. She advised people who missed the opportunity to find time to connect with those in need and perhaps finding their life purpose.

Here are some profound expressions of emotions and experiences:

- Well done Office of the Premier (Mr Sobili)
- It was such an emotional experience (Ms Geza)
- It was touching because some senior citizens had never been visited by families (Ms Mxekezo)
- A lot can be done to address a series of constraints including a need for an electricity generator (Mr Fortune)
- I see it as a start of partnerships at individual and organisational levels with the institutions (Ms Sokutu)
- 67 minutes was not enough, the place needed more brushes and paint, the blankets did not correspond with the weather conditions (Mr Nkasawe)
- The situation was so sad, as individuals we should commit perhaps R100 per month to support them (Ms Olifant).