MEDIAVERKLARING

<u>Menseregtedag: Voed die siel</u>

Slagoffers van die verwoestende brand ‘n week gelede in Zone 0 in Kayamandi, het gister op Menseregtedag die welwillendheid van die groter Stellenbosse en Wes-Kaapse gemeenskap in aksie gesien.

Benewens die kos en nood-boustelle wat steeds deur die munisipaliteit en die provinsiale regering verskaf word, het skenkings van kos, klere en beddegoed en selfs matrasse en hier en daar ‘n rusbank - gister ingestroom.

Conrad Sidego, die uitvoerende burgemeester van Stellenbosch, wat weer gister ‘n groot deel van die dag in Kayamandi deurgebring en self sinkplate en swaar potte sop van die afleweringsvoertuie afgelaai het, het die breër gemeenskap, groot sake-ondernemings en gewone burgers vir hul bydraes geloof.

“Mense se harte het oopgegaan en ons het ‘n gees van ubuntu hier in Kayamandi beleef. Dit gaan nie net oor die menseregte wat in die Grondwet vervat is nie, maar ook oor die welwillendheid wat ons teenoor mekaar moet uitleef.

“Mense het met hul hartstaal gewys ons is ‘n gemeenskap wat omgee. Dit gee ‘n mens weer hoop.

“Ondanks al die negatiewe wat ons in ons gemeenskappe ervaar, is die goeie veel meer as die slegte. Solank dit só is, sal dit goed gaan in ons gemeenskappe, dorpe, stede en in ons land.”

Volgens Sidego is menseregte ‘n daaglikse uitdaging én verantwoordelikheid van Suid-Afrikaanse leiers, maar in die aangesig van ‘n ramp soos hierdie is dit die uiterste toets vir die beskerming van mense se menswaardigheid en regte.

“Ewe belangrik as kos, klere en ‘n dak, is om die gees te voed – en dit is onder meer waaroor menseregte gaan. Daardie innerlike gevoel en versekering dat daar vir jou as burger omgegee word. Dat jy gerespekteer word.”

Intussen gaan die Stellenbosch-munisipaliteit volstoom voort met die aflewering van nood-boustelle aan die slagoffers. Die plan is dat al 1 357 mense wat hul huise verloor het, teen 29 Maart geholpe moet wees.

Kos word ook steeds aan die slagoffers voorsien. Dit sluit twee maaltye per dag in, asook sakke met babakos en spesiale voedsel vir diabetes-lyers.

Volgens Sidego is die plan dat die gemeenskap teen Maandag weer na normaal terugkeer, met ouers wat terug by die werk en kinders wat weer op die skoolbanke moet wees.

Hy het benadruk dat die ramp politieke partye oor partygrense heen die geleentheid gegee het om saam te werk om die Zone 0-gemeenskap by te staan.

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Human Rights' Day: Nourishing the soul

Victims of the devastating fire a week ago in Zone 0 in Kayamandi, experienced the goodwill of the greater Stellenbosch and Western Cape community on Human Rights' Day, which was celebrated yesterday.

Apart from the food and emergency building kits which are still being provided by the municipality and the provincial government, donations of food, clothes, bedding and even matresses and couches – poured in yesterday.

Conrad Sidego, executive mayor of Stellenbosch, who yesterday once again spent many hours in Kayamandi and helped to download corrugated sheeting and pots of soup from delivery vans himself, lauded the greater community, big business and ordinary citizens for their contributions.

"People opened their hearts and we experienced a spirit of ubuntu here in Kayamandi. It is not only about the human rights ensconced in the Constitution, but also about the goodwill we show each other as human beings.

"People illustrated with the language of their hearts that we are a community who cares. It creates new hope.

"Despite all the negatives we experience in our communities, the good outweighs the bad by far. As long as this is the case, all will be well in our communities, towns, cities and in our country."

According to Sidego human rights is a daily challenge for and responsibility of South African leaders, but in the face of a disaster like this it is the ultimate test for the protection of people's human dignity and rights.

"It is equally important to nourish the soul as it is to provide food, clothes and a roof – and that is inter alia what human rights is about. That inner feeling and assurance that you are cared for as a citizen. That you are respected."

In the mean time it is full steam ahead for the delivery of emergency building kits by the Stellenbosch municipality. The plan is to help all of the 1 357 people who lost their homes by 29 March.

Food is also still provided to the victims. It includes two meals per day, as well as baby food and special food for diabetics.

According to Sidego the plan is that the community should return to normal by Monday, with parents back at work and children back at school.

He emphasized that the disaster presented political parties with the opportunity to cross the political divide to assist and support the Zone 0-community.

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