

Department of Home Affairs celebrates Mandela Day

Retha Nel

MALALANE - The beautiful sounds of an impromptu rendition of Johnny Clegg’s “Asimbonanga” swelled through the local office of the Department of Home Affairs on Mandela Day.

Besides honouring the legacy of Nelson Mandela, the group also paid tribute to the “White Zulu”, who died two days previously, by singing one of his hits, associated with Madiba.

The staff, with the help of a few local sponsors, handed out fruit to customers waiting in the queue when the office opened.

A community member spontaneously stood up and prayed for everyone in the packed waiting room.

Five community members who correctly answered questions were rewarded with vouchers.

Maxwell Phiri from the office said they did not want to disrupt their operations and decided to give back to the people who



Malelane Home Affairs staff sing ‘Asimbonanga’: Iris Magagula, Maxwell Phiri, Thembi Sibiya, Laura Matsimbi, Nomfundo Mkhwanazi and Susan Masilela.

sometimes spend hours in queues at the home affairs offices.

The Komatipoort office of the department, on the other hand, sent a delegation out to the Zamani Disabled Centre in Hhoyi.

They were joined by the ward councillor Deliwe Mkhonto, members of the local Ngomane tribal authority and a team from the Expanded Public Works Programme.

According to senior manager Michael Nkosi, the group brought along a variety of food parcels, raw meat and boerewors for the disabled people under the centre’s care.

The group also painted the centre’s building and provided the residents with a delicious lunch.

Nkosi said the building looks great with its new coat of paint, and that the event made the disabled people the centre cares for feel very special.

The two offices would like to thank all of their sponsors who made these special initiatives possible.



Department of Home Affairs employees, members of the local Ngomane tribal authority, the local ward councillor and team from the Expanded Public Works Programme with some of the donations Zamani Disabled Centre in Hhoyi received



Ward councillor Deliwe Mkhonto and volunteers help paint Zamani Disabled Centre in Hhoyi