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Author: Lebohang Pita

NPO has hope despite financial challenges

Lebohang Pita

Despite the uncertainty brought about by the budget cuts from the Department of Social Development (DSD), Bula Monyako Projects remained steadfast in its mission to be an oasis for the people of greater Benoni.

The organisation, which turns 20 this year, held its AGM at the Benoni Central Methodist Church (BCMC) on August 23.

The budget cuts resulted in the NPO letting go of five Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP) volunteers because the DSD didn't renew the organisation's funding.

Furthermore, two workers sent the organisation to the CCMA. After the case was finalised, the NPO was ordered to pay them one month's stipend each.

This further delayed the contracts of volunteers and home visiting services were impacted negatively.

"Our doors remained open for the people of greater Benoni to be served without prejudice. The quality of services Bula Monyako delivered wouldn't be possible if it weren't for our hardworking team," said project manager Fridah Seokomo.

Some of the organisation's successes in the past year included the child care forum that taught 105 learners from Katlego Intermediate School subjects such as bullying, mutual respect and body shaming.

Additionally, they ran a support group for people with HIV in Barcelona and handed out 100 food parcels on October 1 last year.

Seokomo highlighted the



Dave Bentley is the chairperson of the organisation.

ageing building in which they operate and the shortage of food, which they provided to their HIV-positive clients, as challenges that needed urgent addressing.

"Our gratitude goes to our board and the BCMC board that remains our main source of support. We also appreciate the continuous

in providing psycho-social support to those infected by HIV. It's for their sake alone that Bula Monyako exists and serves."

In his financial report, treasurer Perkins Bayisayi said they stayed within budget despite significantly increasing campaigning expenses.

"Our doors weren't opened fully in the past financial year. That compromised the fulfilment of our mission and vision. As we continued this path to offer support

services to our community, we remained without funding to carry out our full vision and mission, but we remain hopeful," Bayisayi said.

The NPO thanked organisations and companies such as Al Saudi Bakery, Boxer Supermarket and the DSD for their continued support

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support we receive from our DSD social worker, Kamogelo Sediba."

The organisation's chairperson, Dave Bentley, thanked the staff for their hard work and commitment to those they served.

"Good work continues to be undertaken by the management and staff. We thank them all for the labour