



## water & sanitation

Department:  
Water and Sanitation  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

### INTERNET ARTICLE

#### **DWS feeds homeless people decent food**

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Former late State President Nelson Mandela was a real man of goodwill and integrity who is missed by all and sundry.

This is according to Mr Linda Thabethe, one of the many homeless South Africans, who roam the streets of Pretoria every night looking for shelter to lay his head and rest the troubles of his daily life away.

He poignantly nodded his head holding tears back and said: "Anybody who can say he does not miss Nelson Mandela is really not telling the truth," describing him as a man for the people.

Yes, writers are not supposed to show their emotions, but it would be a fallacy from my side if I said his brave, straightforward and blunt truth statement had also somewhat affected me. I am first a human being and a writer or anything afterwards.

The fact that really affected me about this man is that he seemed little concerned about the hot meal – soup of peas and bread – that was offered to his fellow homeless comrades or companions, but he really spoke fondly about the man who was loved by all.

This occasion was when the Enforcement Unit of the Department of Water and Sanitation (DWS) held an event to feed this brave man, who together with his compatriots, ironically sleep under the veranda of the Zwamadaka building every night.

This event was well attended and the soup seemed to have worked wonders by neutralising the early morning cold spell to the delight of all those who were there.

Organiser Ms Moitseki Mathabe was all smiles to notice that the event was well received. She said the Department will look at bettering the event next year.

DWS invited South Africans and citizens of the world to use Nelson Mandela International Day and month as a renewal of commitment to making a sustainable difference in the lives of the poor.

In addition to volunteering, as has become the norm, the foundation has urged South Africans and those taking part in Mandela Day activities to continue with their efforts well beyond 18 July in the quest to make every day a Mandela Day.

"Poverty and inequality are eroding the foundations of the democratic and just society that Madiba fought so hard to establish and for which he laid the building blocks. Unless we tackle poverty, on a sustained and committed basis, Nelson Mandela's dream of a better life for all will remain just a pipe dream," Mathabe added.

**Ike Motsapi**