



| REGULATING LOTTERIES – FUNDING FOR IMPACT |

# Funding for Impact

The National Lotteries Commission (NLC) lives up to funding a wide range of organisations in the fields.

**T**he charities that the NLC funds improve the lives of both the young and old in some of the most impoverished communities in the country. Umbono Service Centre for the Aged in Debe Nek outside Dimbaza in the Eastern Cape operated from a shack for 12 years, making it nearly impossible to cater for those who needed its services.

In 2019, the organisation was approved for funding to build a new facility.

The centre now employs 10 people and services 132 elderly people from four surrounding villages – Ngcamngeni, Magibela, Rhabe and Trust Number One.

The centre, established in 2003, provides meals and stimulating activities while ensuring access to quality care for the elderly in the villages.

According to the centre's manager, Nomalinge Mlindi, the NLC funding for the construction of the new service centre has made a huge difference in the lives of the elderly.

"We used to operate from a shack which was unsafe and uncomfortable for elderly people – extremely cold in winter and very hot in summer. Our new centre, which was completed late last year, has a big hall that is wheelchair-friendly, offices, a kitchen and flushing toilets – something none of the villagers had access to."

The activities at the centre are tailor-made for the elderly, starting from the age of 60 and above. They include physical exercise, hand-work and music.

Mlindi says: "We have a variety of sports suitable for their age which help strengthen their arms, legs and increase mobility. The most popular among them are pass the ball, rugby ball show and hula-hooping."

They have entered national competitions called the Golden Games, spearheaded by the Department of Social Development, which afforded them opportunities to travel to other provinces.

"Most of them are lonely and have no one to take care of them, so spending time with their peers at the centre brings them love and healing. "The funding has also allowed us to provide meals for them and deliver food parcels for those who are housebound."



Umbono Service Centre for the Aged in Debe Nek outside Dimbaza in the Eastern Cape was approved by NLC for funding to build a new facility.



The new building will be unveiled soon.



Members participate in the Golden Games.



The centre operated from a shack for 12 years before the centre's complete transformation.



Keeping fit and healthy form part of the activities at Umbono Service Centre.