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Attention: The News Editor

MEDIA RELEASE

NCRST does its part for the community on International Nelson Mandela Day

The National Commission on Research, Science and Technology (NCRST) responded to the call of Ouma Maria Snyder who appeared on national television last week. Ouma Maria Snyder a resident of Havana is one of many pensioners in our community who took over the responsibility to single handily care for her 16 grandchildren.

The NCRST reached out to Ouma Snyder as part of its Nelson Mandela International Day outreach activities by donating food items, clothes, blankets and other necessities. Ouma Maria Snyder now 70 years old and cares for her sixteen grandchildren and orphans, with youngest only two years old while the oldest is 16. These are the children of her six children of which four have already passed away and the remaining two's whereabouts are unknown. Only four of her grandchildren go to school, some dropped out and others are still too young to attend school.

Because all their daily needs fall on Ouma Maria's monthly social grant, the NCRST was inspired the Nelson Mandela International Day which fell last week Friday 18 July 2014, by acting on a call Nelson Mandela made a year earlier, for the next generation to take on the burden of leadership in addressing the world's social injustices when he said that "it is in your hands now". The message behind Mandela Day is simple – each individual has the ability and the responsibility to change the world for the better.

"The baton of leadership has been handed over to us. It is in our hands now to make a positive difference. Whether it be as individuals or as a corporate organisation, we are to respond to the needs of our community and make a lasting commitment to the improvement of livelihoods." Said Ms Elzita Beukes, Head: Corporate Communication and Marketing.

"I am so grateful to God for sending you all here to help me, we are truly blessed, thank you." Said Ouma Snyder when NCRST handed over their donation to her on Monday morning.

Ends:

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