Youth Day celebrations bring new life to Buffeljags

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As the coordinators of the Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) in the Western Cape, the Western Cape Department of Agriculture, through the Programme: Rural Development, works closely with the Council of Stakeholders (CoS) in Swellendam to ensure that community development in Ward 3 takes place through an integrated and coordinated approach.

In June this year the Swellendam Municipality, with the CoS of Ward 3 and other partners, held a Youth Day event on the Buffeljags Sports Ground.

The theme for the day was “Together moving youth forward” and the aim was to take the youth out of their everyday circumstances and have a day filled with fun and entertainment.

A number of other provincial departments as well as local organisations participated and contributed to the success of this day.

Nolan Theodore, the CoS youth representative, Piet van Zyl, the CoS Health and Welfare representative, and Stalin Govender, the CoS Tourism representative, worked tirelessly with the support of their CoS chairperson, Heather Swart, to make this event a huge success.
Through the participation of a number of departments on the day, including Agriculture, Cultural Affairs and Sports, Health, Education, Correctional Services, Rural Development and Land Reform, as well as other partners such as the Breede Gourits Catchment Management Agency, the water management agency in the Overberg (BGCMA), Swellendam Tourism Organisation and the ATKV, this event was a showcase for excellent collaboration and partnerships for the benefit of a community.

Some of the departments, the BGCMA and the Bontebok National Park had information stalls at the event whilst other organisations, i.e. the Birds of Paradise, sold their famous homemade jams and individuals from the community sold cakes and other delicacies.

Community members and groups participated in sport activities, such as netball and rugby. Other activities included performances by a local vocalist, Adrian Cupido, and hip-hop dancing by Junior Botha and company. The dance group of the Birds of Paradise from Suurbraak also performed on the day and a group of children from the small village. They said events like these are brought life into the Buffeljags community, members and the youth agreed the event participation in the events. Community awareness of opportunities out there.

Although the day started off with a bit of rain, it did not stop the excitement and participation in the events. Community members and the youth agreed the event brought life into the Buffeljags community, as there are not a lot of things to do in this small village. They said events like these are welcomed as they keep the youth entertained and out of trouble and also create an awareness of opportunities out there.