

We Are //

Our Communities: Standard Bank Comes to the Aid of Swakopmund Fire Victims



SWAKOPMUND, 22 JULY 2021 - **Standard Bank has announced the donation of food parcels, blankets, washing buckets, and immune boosters to victims of a fire that destroyed shacks at Swakopmund on 16 July 2021.**

A total of 19 families were left homeless when a fire ravaged their shacks at the DRC informal settlement, destroying all their possessions, including food, national documents, and clothing.

Gerhardus Cloete (Branch Manager: Standard Bank Swakopmund) handed the donation of the parcels to the Honorable Neville Itope (Governor of Erongo Region) on Thursday, 22 July, which were in turn handed to the affected families

Speaking on behalf of the Bank, Cloete said the donation was in line with the Bank's stated objectives of helping those in need during difficult moments; "Standard Bank is not only a truly Namibian Bank, but it is also a caring Bank. We are deeply concerned about the plight of our people, and we gear most of our CSI initiatives to ensure that we make a meaningful contribution to the lives of our people. We put meaning to our tagline that 'IT CAN BE'; that means whatever we think, dream, and hope for CAN BE," said Cloete.

He expressed hope that the food parcels will reduce the pressure on the families who are already saddled and have to look for alternative accommodation. "These parcels, valued at N\$30 000, are Standard Bank's humble contribution to lessening the burden on our people. Nutrition is an important

element of life because, without food, you will not have the strength to do anything. That is why we decided to support the affected families with food parcels, so they have the willpower to pick up the pieces and rebuild their lives. A blanket to keep them warm during this season, and immune booster packs to prevent exposure to COVID-19 and other opportunistic diseases," said Cloete.



Standard Bank is no stranger to lending a hand to needy communities at the coast, especially over the past year and six months when COVID-19 hit Namibian shores. In April last year, Standard Bank donated food parcels and immune boosters to Kuisebmond communities who were considered more prone to contracting the Coronavirus.

A few months ago, when a fire destroyed the Twaloloka informal settlement at Walvis Bay, Standard Bank mobilised funds through its Buy-A-Brick Initiative to build 20 houses at what is now known as Otawafika at the harbour town.