



SAFER SOUTH AFRICA

FOUNDATION



Miss Claudette Dorothy van Zyl
Provincial Coordinator: Eastern Cape

PROFILE

Claudette Dorothy Van Zyl holds a Master of Social Science Degree in Clinical Counselling and Legal Social Work from Rhodes University.

She has five years of experience practicing social work at the East London Child Welfare Society, where she practiced casework, group work and community work. Since then, she has been in the employ of the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) for the past 32 years.

In 2009, she obtained a Leadership Development Certificate at the University of Witwatersrand: Graduate School of Business Administration and was employed as the Regional Head, Corrections responsible for the Safety and Security of Offenders in the Eastern Cape from 2003 – 2006.

She was then transferred to head the portfolio of Regional Head for Development and Care responsible for programmes for inmates at 45 Correctional Centres in the Eastern Cape Province.

Van Zyl was a member of the Senior Management Service at the Regional Office, Eastern Cape responsible for the Operational Management and functioning of said 45 Correctional Facilities and the official, responsible for implementing development and care programmes in those facilities.

Possessing a sound understanding of the constitutional, legal and policy framework within which the DCS had been mandated to operate all correctional centres within its ambit, van Zyl, in her role as a senior management member was to ensure adherence to policy of those centres under her responsibility.

She has been a moderator at University of Fort Hare since 2008 assisting with course work of 1st, 2nd and 3rd year social work students.

In addition, she also mentored students of the University of Fort Hare and the Nelson Mandela Metropolitan University who studied Masters in Psychology and Honours in Health Care assisting with research related course work.

Van Zyl has attended numerous workshops and training programmes that contributed to her personal and professional development within the Department of Correctional Services, which have allowed her to progress to senior management within the DCS.

Her work has allowed her to develop various successful partnerships with tertiary institutions, business, faith communities and other organisations where she championed alternative sentencing options as opposed to punitive sentencing; promoted learning opportunities for inmates and other rehabilitation programmes to breakdown stigmatisation and labelling of rehabilitated inmates upon their release.

Van Zyl has successfully completed a course in Project Management and has conducted various projects in collaboration with many of DCS partners in tertiary institutions, Justice cluster, business and civil society to benefit rehabilitation and treatment programmes of offenders.

She forms part of the management team of a NPO that serves the community as a Homework Centre and has a youth feeding plan programme.

As a Social Worker, given her vast and broad experience, she has registered a private practice that will enable her to render a broad spectrum of specialized counselling services to communities.

Van Zyl is the Safer South Africa Foundation Provincial Coordinator in the Eastern Cape.