A new currency has landed in the streets of Jozi -

Mi-Change Digital Voucher



On the 13th October, a new chapter in the fight against homelessness began at BG Alexandre Hall as MES officially launched the Mi-Change digital voucher in Johannesburg. This exciting milestone marked a fresh approach to giving, encouraging individuals and communities to make a meaningful difference in the lives of people experiencing homelessness.

Mi-Change is more than just a voucher — it is a practical way to connect generosity with essential services, helping people access necessities such as meals, showers, clothing and shelter. By choosing vouchers instead of handing out cash, the initiative aims to create opportunities for support that could contribute to a person's journey towards independence and a more sustainable future.

The launch brought this vision to life through an interactive Snakes and Ladders exhibition, which helped guests explore the realities and challenges of homelessness. The experience highlighted how the right support and opportunities can become ladders towards dignity, hope and lasting change.

Guests also had the opportunity to scan QR codes at interactive stations to discover how a R15 Mi-Change voucher could contribute towards essential services. The message was clear: every contribution, no matter how small, can make a real difference.

The event was filled with energy and meaningful conversations, with a live performance by Sfiso of The Muffins adding to the celebration. An inspiring panel discussion explored the importance of collaborative action in addressing homelessness and creating effective pathways out of poverty.

The panel featured **André Ross, Chief Executive Officer of Citi South Africa; Jon Hopkins, Chief Strategy Officer of U-Turn Homeless Ministries; Leona Pienaar, CEO of MES; and Dylon Jordaan, Mi-Change Administrator.** Dylon shared his powerful personal journey from homelessness to rebuilding his life, bringing the purpose of Mi-Change into sharp focus. His story was a reminder that, with access to support and opportunities, a different future is possible.

MES is grateful for all the partners involved with **a special thank you to the Citi Foundation** who supports the initiative financially. MES extends heartfelt thanks to **Jozi My Jozi,U-Turn Homeless Ministries and BeCause** for their partnership and commitment to making this milestone possible. We also thank everyone who attended, engaged in the conversations and continued to champion innovative solutions to homelessness.

As we celebrated World Homelessness Month, the Mi-Change digital voucher launch reminded us that creating thriving communities required all of us — businesses, churches, organisations, communities and individuals — to play our part.

The launch proved that the future of giving had arrived in Jozi, and that together, communities could change the way they gave and help create pathways out of homelessness into hope.

Those who wanted to be part of the change were encouraged to visit the Mi-Change website to learn how to purchase vouchers or become a partner.