

Birthdays

NDUNGWANE PV MA-
BELA KL MR
MKHABELA A MR
NDHLOVU SS MR
NHLAMBO NE MS
NGWENYA RN MR
NDLOVU SS MS
SITHOLE MN MS
MADONSELA SH MS
MASHIGO PC MR
MKHATSHWA MR MR
NKOSI NE MS
MADALANE GS MS
MABILA MC MR
MNISI DJ MS
KHUMALO SV MR
MASILELA S MR
MBETHE ID MS
MASHIGO DM MR
NCONGA SC MR
MAKHANYA NP MS
SIMELANE SB MS
MTHIMUNYE JF MR
LUTHULI FL MS

NKOSI NA MR
NTULI VM MR
NDIMANDE CS MR
MABONDA JK MR
MABENA SA MR
RADEBE LL MS
MAHLANGU LN MS
NKOSI SB MR
SIKOSANA SJ MR
MABONA B MS
MTHIMUNYE P MR
MAKHUBELA PZ MS
NKOSI TJ MR
NKAMBULE KM MS
SIBITANE ME MS
MAHLANGU JT MR
MATHIBELA SD MS
MTHIMUNYE TS MS
MAHLANGU ZJN MS
NKUNA DI MS
SHIBA MC MR
MTHEMBU ST MR
SHONGWE LM MS
SEGODI SI MS

NDLOVU GT MS
LUSIBA LDL MS
MASHIGO NE MS
THEMBA WM MR
VILAKAZI E MR
CHILOANE IP MR
MAHLANGU LH MS
NKOSI IZ MR
MKHABELA PM MR
MBATHA TS MS
SIMELANE BA MR
MARULE SW MR
BAKER J MS
MOKWENA MA MS



RADIO TALKSHOWS:

Ligwalagwala FM:
Thursdays 19:15 - 19:30

Ikwewezi FM:
Thursdays 20:00 - 20:55



Promotions



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cogta

Department:
Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs
MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT



AUDITOR-GENERAL GIVES COGTA THUMBS UP FOR FINANCIAL STATEMENTS

The Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) has received an unqualified audit report for the 2009/10 Financial year. This has been confirmed by the provincial office of the Auditor-General. This will be the second year running in which the department has received a clean bill of health. News about the unqualified report were delivered by the Senior Manager for the Auditor-General's office in Mpumalanga, Ms Sibongile Lubambo.

Head of Department (HOD), Mr David Mahlobo welcomed the report. He congratulated officials of the department for the outcome of the report. However he expressed concern about issues raised by Ms Lubambo. "Information Management has to be tightened in the department. We could not find some files required to support information on expenditure. We could not get evidence on projects which are reportedly 90% complete," Ms Lubambo said. She added that there is no consistency in the quarterly reporting systems. "The department planned for putting 75 boreholes. However, in your reports, you have reported about 56 boreholes.

So some programmes changed the figures which appear on the Annual Performance Plan," she said.

In his remarks, Mr Mahlobo said the report will be used to enhance the performance of the department. He added that few lessons can be learned from the auditing process. "We were educated on a number of issues. Where gaps have been identified, we will fix them, moving forward," he said. He added that although the department has made this remarkable achievement, what appears in the report should also match what is happening on the ground, in relation to service delivery.

The achievement gives the department an edge to support municipalities, state owned enterprises and sector departments as a signatory and champion for Operation Clean Audit 2014, which was signed last year. Printed copies of the Annual Report have been submitted to the Legislature for compliance.



THUMBS UP: Officials of the Auditor-General's office break the news about Cogta's audited financial statements. (From L-R) HOD, Mr David Mahlobo, Ms Sibongile Lubambo (A-G Office) and Mr Keshav Varshney (A-G Office).



WORK IN PROGRESS: Cogta's Mr Mafonko Mashao designs the department's Annual Report.

EDITORIAL COMMENT

It's business as usual, following the recent public service strike. The strike has been suspended and parties are back at the negotiation table. With the end of the third quarter in sight, there is a lot of catching up that has to take place.

The Department has once again been given a clean bill of health, with regard to the spending of the public purse. Confirmation by the Senior Manager of the Auditor-General, Ms Sibongile Lubambo was enough for us to celebrate the achievement. We all worked hard to make this a success, notwithstanding the challenges of balancing the figures, but a special mention should go to the Chief Financial Officer and his team for managing the process hands on to the end. We can now provide the necessary support to all the municipalities, other government departments and State Owned Enterprises for them to produce unqualified reports, knowing very well that our house is in order.

The Department is going out in full force to establish a responsive, accountable, effective and efficient local government system. The awarding of bursaries to students is a step towards that direction in view of government's decision to make education one of its top priorities. For Mpumalanga, which continues to hemorrhage over lack of skills, the decision could not have come at a better time. We wish the 23 successful bursary holders success in their chosen careers and hope that they will use this rare opportunity to work

hard in their studies and return back to the province to plough back what they have learnt.

Plans are afoot for the completion of the Department's Human Resource Plan. The committee has held a number of meetings to craft and finalize it before handing it over to the Head of Department for approval.

The Department has begun the process of preparing the 2011/12 implementation plan. Colleagues are urged to ensure that they make their inputs in their directorates, so that the plans are owned by the collective. We must remember that there is no input too small or insignificant.

Customary marriages are now recognized. In view of this, the Government Employees Provident Fund (GEFP) urges its members to register them in the Department of Home Affairs. This would assist greatly in ensuring that there is no dispute as to the validity of their marriages. The GEFP deals with many family disputes regarding the validity of customary marriages that usually emerge at the time of a member's death. This dispute usually delays the payment of benefits and the most vulnerable family members suffer while payment of pension benefits is delayed. GEFP urges all employees married under customary law to register with Home Affairs for future benefits.

COGTA UPSCALES TRAINING AS PART OF SKILLS DEVELOPMENT

The new context for public service delivery requires a significant investment in skills development to improve service delivery, enhance performance and productivity quality and cost effectiveness of the public service. In view of this, the Human Resource Management (HRM) Section has organized a number of training courses for officials of the department. Recently, three officials from the Communication and ITS Section attended training on Development Communication at Wits University in Johannesburg. The officials are: Mr Simphiwe Kunene, Ms Mary Sibande and Ms Lindiwe Msibi. Eighteen officials attended a Project Management training offered by the University of Pretoria. The officials are: Mr Jabulani Mayindi, Mr Mimi Ntuli, Ms Portia Mthimunya, Ms Smangele Sekgobela, Mr Pat Nkosi, Mr Sifiso Nxumalo, Ms Jabulile Madonsela, Ms Nombali Lubisi, Mr Slykie Dhludhlu, Mr John Sikhosana, Ms Daphne Sithole, Ms Noma Mnisi, Mr George Mthethwa, Mr Solly Mabunda, Mr Musa Lubhede, Mr Sam Ngubane, Ms Charlotte Nyalungu and Mr Rex Regenstein.

The demands of a complex and changing economy which is characterized by increasing use of information and complex technologies require higher levels of skills and competencies, is the driving force by the HRD's initiative to organize the training courses. For the Third and Fourth Quarters, the following training courses have been organized:

- Geographic Information System (GIS)
- Supply Chain Management
- & Contract Management

- Code of Conduct
- Security Management
- Bid Committee Training
- Induction
- Conflict Management
- Land Use
- Code of Conduct



JOINT EFFORTS: Cogta's Mr Pat Nkosi leads a group discussion during a Project Management training. (Clockwise) Mr Sam Ngubane, Mr Jabulani Mayindi, Ms Noma Mnisi, Mr Musa Lubhede (obscured) and Ms Jabulile Madonsela make inputs.

COGTA AWARDS 23 STUDENTS WITH BURSARIES

The Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (Cogta) has awarded 23 students from Mpumalanga with bursaries to further their studies at several tertiary institutions. During a function to congratulate them by MEC Norman Mokoena, the students could not contain their excitement. Ms Boitumelo Phatlane, studying for a Bachelor of Science Degree (Maths and Stats) at the University of Johannesburg, told MEC Mokoena that the group is elated by the prospect of studying with the support of the department. "We are committed to do well in our studies so that you can be proud of us. This support will go a long way to help us finish our studies," Ms Phatlane said.

Skills shortage is cited as one of the impediments of economic growth in South Africa. For this reason, government has placed education in the top five priorities, as one of the interventions to deal with the problem. The decision by Cogta feeds into the bigger plan of government's intervention, while at the same time assisting the previously marginalized communities whose impoverished background prevents them to pursue studies at tertiary institutions. MEC Mokoena to the students: "We have placed education and skills development at the core of our work. We are very cognizant of the fact that education and skills development are critical for us to achieve the rest of the priorities including the millennium development goals," he remarked. He also urged the students to seize the opportunity presented to them and not to be destructed by the bright lights of where they are studying.

The successful students are:

- Chicco Tivana: Diploma: electrical engineering
- Nozipho Mhlanga: Electrical Engineering
- Ruth Thela: Degree : Graphic Design
- Palesa Lepphoto: Degree: Graphic Design
- Boitumelo Phatlana: BSC Maths and Stats
- Juaid Khoza: Mechanical Engineering
- Tebogo Sidell: Bcom Accounting
- Judas Makhubedu: Degree: Town and Regional Planning
- Noxolo Lubisi: Diploma: Architecture Technology
- Elvis Mashabane: Diploma: Nature Conservation
- Mashele Refiloe: Diploma: Civil Engineering
- Sakhumuzi Nkosi: Diploma : Civil Engineering
- Eric Nun: Degree: Mechanical Engineering
- Sibusiso Ndlovu: Degree : Civil Engineering
- Mduduzi Mbatha: Diploma Civil Engineering
- Thabang Malapane: Diploma: Graphic Design
- Siboniso Mlambo: Diploma: Electrical Engineering
- Advocate Gumbi: Diploma :Graphic Design
- Nomncebo Ubisi: Degree: Environmental Science
- Gift Dlamini: Diploma: Electrical Engineering
- Nelly Mahlangu: B. Development
- Eugene Ngoben: Diploma: Electrical Engineering
- Surprise Khoza: Diploma: Electrical Engineering



IN CLASS: Students meet MEC Norman Mokoena.