



cogta

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

Local News

Issue no.7

Official Newsletter

Fourth Quarter



- **HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT FOR FLOOD VICTIMS**
- **STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS BY PREMIER MABUZA GIVES A GLIMMER OF HOPE FOR MUNICIPALITIES**
- **PUBLIC PROTECTOR GIVES DIPALESENG MUNICIPALITY THUMBS UP**
- **MINISTER BALOYI'S VISIT TO DISASTER-DECLARED AREAS**
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EEDITORIAL COMMENT

Filling of critical vacancies has always been on the radar of our department. That is why the department appointed new officials including 137 Community Development Workers (CDWs) to strengthen its capacity. These appointments were biased towards service delivery Directorates, such as Municipal Infrastructure Grants (MIG), Spatial Planning and Local Economic Development. We welcome all the new officials into our fold. Under normal circumstances, new officials must be given the time to familiarize themselves with the environment. However, with so many expectations from our people on service delivery issues, we hope you will hit the ground running in your area of performance in order to meet the expectations. With your expertise, the department has in you, a service delivery cadre of a special kind. You are guaranteed of our support.

Officials in the Disaster Management Directorate have spared no efforts in saving people's lives during the recent floods. They have given credence to our commitment as a caring government. They risked their lives in mud and slippery conditions in an endeavour to save people's lives.

They co-ordinated provision of temporary shelter, food parcels

and clean water to the affected families, thereby making it easier for the families to re-organize themselves post-floods era.

You will realize that articles about floods and traditional leadership are dominating this fourth edition. This should give you the reader the danger that our communities are exposed to and the level of government's commitment to save people's lives in such circumstances. On the same vein, we appeal to communities to take heed of the dangerous weather patterns and to evacuate on time areas that have the potential for floods.

Our interventions in improving the financial performance of our Municipalities are beginning to yield positive results. Four (4) of our Municipalities have received clean audits in the 2010/11 financial audits. This is an improvement to the 3 clean audits obtained in 2009/10 financial audits. We congratulate Ehlanzeni District, Gert Sibande District, Steve Tshwete District and Victor Khanye Local Municipality.

On a sad note, we bid farewell to two of our Senior Managers, Mr Oupa Pilane and Mr Jaques Modipane. In a combined period of more than 20 years in the Public Service both Mr Pilane and Mr Modipane have resigned in pursuit of other interest. Mr Pilane has served the government with distinction, from the days as Spokesperson of the first Premier of Mpumalanga, Mr Mathews Phosa until his recent position as Senior Manager for the Integrated Development Plan (IDP) Directorate. We wish him well in his new endeavour.

Mr Modipane has served as a Member of the Executive Council, a Member of the Provincial Legislature and as a Secretary of the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders.

We hope you will enjoy reading this edition of Local News. Comments and suggestions are welcome. Send them to the Editor: gpmthethwa@mpg.gov.za

Disclaimer

Opinions expressed in this publication do not necessarily reflect those of Mpumalanga Provincial Government, the MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, neither does it reflect views of the management. Although care has been taken to verify the accuracy of information, the editorial team of this publication takes no responsibility for any inaccuracy.

We would like to hear from you

Send your comments and suggestions to the editor on the following e-mail: gpmthethwa@mpg.gov.za. Visit our website: <http://cgta.mpg.gov.za>. Call us at: 013 766 6572

MEC's FOREWORD



MEC MB MASUKU

With two years to go before Operation Clean Audit 2014 kicks in, our municipalities have improved tremendously on financial management. The four municipalities that have obtained clean audits are a result of the commitment undertaken during the launch of Operation Clean Audit 2014 three years ago at the Mbombela Civic Centre. On the same vein, we congratulate these municipalities, which are:

- Gert Sibande District;
- Ehlanzeni District;
- Victor Khanye Local Municipality;
- Steve Tshwete Local Municipality.

The four are part of the 11 municipalities with clean audits during the 2010/11 financial year throughout the country. We join the Auditor-General (AG), Mr Terence Nombembe who awarded them Clean Audit Certificates, in congratulating them. Producing clean audits cannot be a one-man's show. Working together, we can do more to help municipalities produce clean audits. The AG hit the nail on its head when he said: *"Improved municipal outcomes, require a partnership that should be led by the Mayors, but involves the invaluable inputs of Audit Committees,*

provincial structures such as the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) and treasuries".

We have made a number of interventions in line with the AG's suggestions. We have helped all municipalities to establish oversight structures, the Municipal Public Accounts Committees (MPACs) and provided them with training. This was done with the help of the Select Committee On Public Accounts (SCOPA) and the A-G's office. We have now developed an action plan with performance indicators, planned outputs and specific activities to assist those municipalities who still have challenges on their audit outcomes. With Audit Committees in place, we believe that a strong foundation for producing clean audits sustainable beyond 2014 has been established.

The Department is continuing to support Municipalities with the collection of outstanding Government debts. Municipalities have managed to collect R70, 4 million of the R72 million that was owed by government departments as of 31 January 2012. We are also encouraged that Municipalities are increasing the rate of payment for services by their communities. As at 31 December 2011 the average payment rate for Municipalities was at 57%, with Steve Tshwete at 101%, Emakhazeni at 101%, Msukaligwa at 97%, Mbombela at 89%, Goven Mbeki at 89% and Nkomazi at 76%.

We welcome the introduction of a new model for the functionality of Community Development Workers (CDWs) by the Department of Public Administration. In terms of the new model, CDWs will be expected to provide reports to the local level i.e. Ward Councillors, Speakers, Constituency Offices and Municipal Administration. In Mpumalanga, we have recently appointed an additional 137 CDWs, (increasing the number to 519). This will strengthen the structures to ensure that there is effective public participation in our communities. Tools of trade for them are being provided but the matter of office accommodation remains a challenge and we are exploring various options such as Thusong Service Centres, Constituency offices and Municipalities.

In our quest to deepen public participation, we have assisted municipalities to establish 402 Ward Committees. So far 401 are functional, except in one ward in Bushbuckridge Municipality.

The President and the Premier have both made pronouncements on the issue job creation as one of government's five priorities during the State of the Nation's address and the State of the Province address respectively. Our department is poised to make a meaningful contribution in support of this priority. We are earnestly exploring the Community Works Programme (CWP) and the Waste Management Programme respectively to address this matter. We have identified 6 sites in five municipalities for the CWP, and so far **5 621** job opportunities have been created between April and December 2011. We hope to upscale the programme to create additional job opportunities in the 2012/13 financial year. In the field of waste management, we have created opportunities for 530 youths in nine municipalities. We appeal to all our stakeholders to support our department in its quest to improve the lives of our people in Mpumalanga

MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE HOD



HOD DAVID MAHLOBO

The Public-Private Sector Partnership is just what our province needed in the wake of the recent floods that ravaged the lives of our communities in municipalities that fall in Ehlanzeni District. Just as our department, working with sector departments, were out and about putting measures in place to save lives, our partners, the Gift of the Givers Foundation and Grace Bible Church extended a supporting hand to the affected families by providing them with food, blankets and water. Their support breathed life into government's slogan "Working together, we can do more". Providing support in flood conditions for communities situated in areas difficult to penetrate, has its own challenges. However, with the support of the SAPS, the two organizations, Premier Foods and many other donors, who provided the much-needed support, we were able to reach out to the families and saved them from devastation. We commend them for their invaluable support.

Premier David Mabuza and MEC Madala Masuku have hit the right notes in their call for payment of municipal debts. The soaring figures of payment rates are a testimony that the message has been well received by sector departments and the public at large. By January 2012, an amount of R70,4 million had been collected by the municipalities. This is a giant leap from the initial R4,503 billion owed to municipalities. We commend all sectors for the positive response. Together with the Provincial Treasury and SALGA, we have developed a draft revenue enhancement strategy and have forwarded it to municipalities for inputs. We hope that this strategy (once it is approved) and

continuous payment of services, will create a source of revenue that will save municipalities from collapsing.

Our department believes that filling vacancies in municipalities is one of the panacea for their challenges. In keeping up with the spirit of both the Inaugural Local Government Indaba and the Special Local Government Iekgotla, we have moved with speed to assist municipalities to fill in critical vacancies. The number of Municipal Managers has increased to 14 while 14 Municipalities have CFOs.

Access to water by all our communities remains top on the list of our priorities. 93.2% households have access to water services, but we still have certain communities experiencing the need to have water ration and service disruptions due to infrastructure failure. A Provincial Water Master Plan has been finalised and the technical team is going through a peer review process. Sufficient spade work has been done in order to ensure that the Province emerges with a convincing Provincial Bulk Water Master Plan. The Department in collaboration with the Department of Water Affairs have crossed a milestone as a Draft Plan has already been produced. The Executive Council has provided R85 million to address the water problem in some of our municipalities. The money is being used for amongst others, upgrading of treatment plants, refurbishment and replacement of process equipment and installation.

Municipalities in the Province are still struggling to settle electricity bills with Eskom. The high increase of cable theft and other electrical equipment such as transformers is still a challenge that affects both Eskom and Local Municipalities. The cost to repair and replace some of these equipment and the non-payment by consumers lead to Local Municipalities failing to settle the accounts with Eskom.

The department will start with the process of inducting the traditional councillors. The duration of the training will be one day and they will be subjected to training on their roles and functions of traditional councils as prescribed by the Mpumalanga Traditional Leadership and Governance Act and thereafter traditional councils will be expected to submit minutes of meetings for monitoring and evaluation. The number of traditional councils to be trained are as follows: Ehlanzeni 837, Gert Sibande 398 and Nkangala 489. The traditional councils will be trained by service providers who are LGSETA accredited. We appeal to all traditional councils to support this initiative. This will go a long way in our efforts as government and the traditional leadership to improve the lives our communities in tribal areas.

The department has been saddened by the untimely death of Chief Jerry Nkosi of the Somcuba- Bhevula of Mooiplaas, in Elukwatini. Chief Nkosi passed away after a long illness. On behalf of the department, I would like to send condolences to the Somcuba-Bhevula Royal House and his community.

STATE OF THE PROVINCE ADDRESS BY PREMIER MABUZA GIVES A GLIMMER OF HOPE FOR MUNICIPALITIES



OATH: Premier David Mabuza pauses for the singing of the National Anthem before tabling the State of the Province address.

Efforts to improve the performance of municipalities in Mpumalanga have been stepped up. During the State of the Province address, Premier David Mabuza announced a plan to assist municipalities in the area of revenue and financial enhancement. With just two years before the deadline for Operation Clean Audit 2014 kicks in, Mr Mabuza said an action plan has been developed to assist municipalities improve on financial management. "At the pace we are moving, it is evident that more work still needs to be done if we are to achieve the imperatives of Operation Clean Audit by 2014 and thereby instilling public confidence in our institutions. Accordingly the Departments of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Provincial Treasury and the Office of Auditor General have developed an

action plan to support the struggling municipalities in order for us to meet our 2014 target," Mr Mabuza said.

During the address, Mr Mabuza congratulated the four municipalities which have achieved clean audits in the 2010/11 financial year. The municipalities are: Gert Sibande and Ehlanzeni District Municipalities and the Steve Tshwete and Victor Khanye Local Municipalities. The four municipalities are amongst the eleven municipalities which have achieved the feat in the country.

Insufficient revenue remains a major obstacle for delivery of services to many municipalities. The situation is exacerbated by the inability of municipalities to collect revenue and the culture of non-payment of services. Mr Mabuza said efforts to assist municipalities to collect revenue are bearing the desired fruits. "I am pleased to report that of the R72 million arrears accounts of 60 days and older owed by government departments, R70m has been settled by the end of January 2012," the Premier said to a cheering audience. The situation is expected to improve for the better. This follows the commitment by Mr Mabuza that this year a roll-out of a massive civic education campaign led by Premier, Executive Mayors and community leaders will be embarked on to instil the culture of payment and efficient use of electricity and water.

Last year, the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) in conjunction with municipalities, developed a programme of action and a delivery agreement during a Local Government Inaugural Summit and a local government special summit. Mr Mabuza says municipalities are now expected to implement the priorities. The priorities are to:

- Support the municipalities in the provision of Bulk water and sanitation infrastructure and reticulation;
- Provide support in the expansion of access to basic services and eliminating backlogs;
- Deploy technical expertise in scarce skills areas;
- Support financial viability and revenue enhancement including the roll-out of civic education campaigns to address the culture of non-payment;
- Support programme on clean towns and expand refuse removal;
- Coordinate implementation of operation clean audit 2014 plan in all municipalities;
- Support to the Institution of Traditional Leadership and;
- Prioritise public participation to close the social distance between public representatives and communities.

PREMIER MABUZA URGES EMAKHOSI TO TAKE LEAD IN THE FIGHT AGAINST SOCIAL ILLS



RECHARGED: Premier David Mabuza shares a lighter moment with Traditional Leaders during the official opening of the house. MEC Masuku joined them too.

- The Expanded Public Works' Programme (EPWP) to support job creation and skills development,
- The Comprehensive Rural Development Programme (CRDP) which focuses on basic services, agrarian and land reform,
- Masibuyele Emasimini in which government renders support services to small scale farmers in livestock and crop production.

In his address, Mr Mabuza spared no effort in urging Emakhosi to play a leading role in these interventions. "During the implementation of projects, we expect our Traditional Leaders to exercise some degree of oversight. You have to ensure that you have some knowledge about all the projects that are implemented within your areas because this will equip you better to exercise the oversight role," he said.

He further appealed to them to put together clear programmes that must talk to the issues that he has raised as areas of collaboration and partnership.

The opening of the fourth session of the fourth ordinary sitting of the house was emotional this year. It marked the end of the term of the current leadership. It was also marked by condolences to the late Chief Johannes Mahlangu of the Fene Tribal Authority and Chief Jerry Nkosi of the Somcuba-Bhevula Traditional Authority.

Mpumalanga Premier, Mr David Mabuza has appealed to Emakhosi to work with government in the fight against social ills. Mr Mabuza made the appeal during the annual opening of Provincial House of Traditional Leaders (PHTL) in the Legislature. The function was attended by Chairperson of the PHTL, Ikosi Siphohle Mahlangu, representatives of the Houses of Traditional Leaders from various provinces, Emakhosi from various tribal authorities in Mpumalanga, MECs and members of the community.

the Traditional Authorities, we can make a huge dent on this pandemic," said Mr Mabuza. He added: "Let us mobilise our communities to take HIV and AIDS tests so that they know their status. The sooner the better because medical intervention could be timeous and more lives could be saved".

Government has introduced a number of interventions in the fight against poverty. These include amongst others:

Linking the role of Emakhosi to the victorious fight against apartheid, Mr Mabuza told the gathering that social ills can be defeated in the same spirit. "As we conquered the demon of apartheid, I am convinced that we can conquer poverty, high unemployment, crime and HIV/AIDS. Working together we can do more to break the dreadful cycle of these", the Premier said.

Mpumalanga is amongst the provinces with a high rate of HIV/AIDS. High levels of unemployment, are reportedly the source of poverty in many households. With these in mind, Mr Mabuza urged Emakhosi to bring new ideas and energy that can be utilized to win the war against poverty and the pandemic. "Over the past years or so, we introduced an array of interventions to curb the prevalence and new incidence cases of this pandemic. Our efforts seem not to be yielding the desired outcome. The success rate is very minimal. We are therefore appealing to the House to explore cultural practice of circumcision, found in some of



MARCHING ORDERS: An entourage of traditional leaders make their way through to the legislature prior to the start of the official opening of the house.

STEVE TSHWETE LOCAL MUNICIPALITY OBTAINS CLEAN AUDIT FOR THE SECOND TIME IN A ROW



MOMENT OF GLORY: Steve Tshwete Executive Mayor, Cllr Michael Masina (middle) receives one of the many awards during a SALGA Award ceremony in Loskop Dam. He is flanked by SALGA Provincial Chairperson, Mr Speedy Mashilo and MEC for Finance, Ms Pinky Phosa.

Steve Tshwete Local Municipality has obtained a clean audit for the third time from the 2009/2010 financial year until recently. The municipality with its seat in Middleburg is amongst the four municipalities in Mpumalanga to obtain clean audits and joins the eleven municipalities around the country to achieve this. The other three municipalities are: Ehlanzeni District, Gert Sibande District and Victor Khanye Local Municipalities.

The achievement of the municipality is attributed to co-operation between the political leadership, the administration and residents. "We also pay special tribute to our dedicated and loyal Municipal Manager, Executive Managers, Senior Managers, Heads of Departments, Managers and officials who tirelessly deliver quality services and work as a strong team towards creating a municipal area that is conducive to future development, economic growth and providing a better life for all the residents," remarked Executive Mayor of the Steve Tshwete Local Municipality, Cllr Michael Masina.

The municipality has prioritised five key areas over the next five years. These are:

- Education and training.
- Human settlements.
- Health.
- Curbing of crime.
- Economic growth and
- Job creation.

Although obtaining the clean audits is a major achievement for the municipality, however, winning accolades has become a way of life for Steve Tshwete Municipality. This is evidence as the municipalities collected the following awards:

- 2011 National Greenest Town Competition,
- 2010 Best Learning Workplace Award,
- Six Blue Drop Awards,
- SALGA Municipal Excellence Awards on
 - Implementation of Transversal Programmes.
 - Transformation and Organisational Development.
 - Clean Audit in the financial year 2009/10.
 - Municipal Infrastructure Grant.

Steve Tshwete Municipality's good performance on financial management, earned it a place as the 11th best municipality in the country out of 226 municipalities, according to the Municipal Performance Index results of 2011/12 financial year released by a research company, Municipal IQ. The research is based on fiscal management of municipalities, poverty alleviation measures and revenue collection and expenditure monitoring. The municipality is poised to achieve even more. "We will remain committed to continuing the programmes which improve the lives of our people - by being able to meet our goals as far as delivering efficient, quality and affordable services to our residents and for the improvement of our local business sector," said Cllr Masina.

PUBLIC PROTECTOR PRESENTS REPORT ON DIPALESENG MUNICIPALITY



GLIM OF HOPE: Adv. Madonsela presents a report to the Dipaleseng Municipality in Balfour. She is flanked by Dipaleseng Mayor, Cllr Noliqwa Nhlapo (left), Minister Baloyi and MEC Masuku.

Public Protector, Adv Thuli Madonsela's investigation into allegations of maladministration and poor governance at Dipaleseng Local Municipality in Mpumalanga has revealed a number of improvements. The improvements are contained in a report which she tabled in the municipal chambers following an 18 month-long investigation. The report emanates from complaints leveled against the municipality.

Completion of and construction of new houses, repairs to the R51 road between Balfour and Grootvlei, the opening of a new taxi rank and plans to build a new police station in Siyathemba are highlighted in the report, including the Disaster Management Centre which is also now operational.

Although Madonsela noted positive developments in that area, however, she also revealed several acts of maladministration, which include failure of the municipality to comply fully with the Credit Control Policy in respect of the recovery of debts and revenue. She added: "Failure of the municipality to comply with the requirements of the Municipal Systems' Act in respect of the preparation and implementation of its Integrated Development Plan also amounted to maladministration."

The function for the tabling of the report was attended by amongst others, Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Mr Richard Baloyi, MEC Madala Masuku, Dipaleseng Municipality's Executive Mayor, Cllr Noliqwa Nhlapo, Gert Sibande District Executive Mayor, Cllr Kgotso Motloutung and Executive Mayors from local municipalities in Mpumalanga. Madonsela further urged MEC Masuku to assess the support required by municipality to strengthen its capacity and to manage its IDP and financial affairs within 30 days.

The developments highlighted by the Public Protector are in stark contrast to the area once marred by violent protests two years ago. The acts of violence in Balfour were also criticized. Public Protector's Chief Executive Officer, Mr Themba Mthethwa discouraged other communities elsewhere in the country with service delivery grievances from engaging in violent protests and rather lodge their complaints with the Public Protector.

After the presentation by the Public Protector, COGTA and Municipal Officials under the guidance of Minister Baloyi and MEC Masuku then developed an action plan to address the issues raised by the Public Protector.

MINISTER BALOYI VISITS DISASTER SITES IN MPUMALANGA



INSPECTION: The entourage was impressed by the Buyelani bridge.

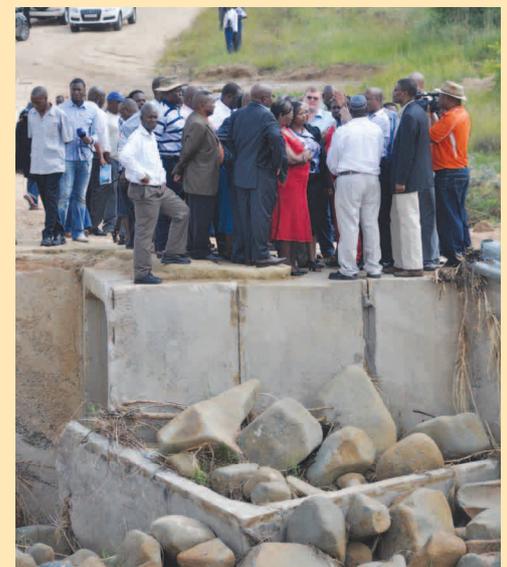
Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Mr Richard Baloyi has visited areas hit by the recent floods in Mbombela and Bushbuckridge. Mr Baloyi visited the Makoko Bridge near Kabokweni and the Buyelani Bridge near Green Valley to assess the extent of the damage and to support initiatives by the Provincial Government to fix damaged infrastructure. Minister Baloyi was accompanied by MEC for COGTA, Mr Madala Masuku, MEC for Health and Social Development, Dr Clifford Mkasi, Ehlanzeni District Mayor, Cllr Lettie Shongwe, Bushbuckridge Executive Mayor, Cllr Renias Khumalo and Mbombela Mayor, Cllr Cathrine Dlamini.

The Makoko bridge was completely washed away and is being fixed. Vehicles are directed to an alternative road as a temporary measure. The Buyelani Bridge has been fixed temporarily. The two bridges are amongst the many infrastructures badly damaged by floods.

When declaring the affected areas as disaster areas, Mpumalanga Premier, Mr David Mabuza said an amount of R460 732 million is required to fix all the infrastructure, which include roads, bridges and schools. Further assessments has put the total damage at R520 million. The extent of the damages is broken down and estimated as follows: roads and bridges R216 293 million, schools R47 571 million, agriculture R18 677 million, housing R18 million and health facilities R1 691 million.

During a meeting with officials of the Department of Provincial COGTA, Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport and municipalities in the Ehlanzeni District in the Bushbuckridge Municipal Offices, Mr Baloyi appealed for urgency in facilitating the process of obtaining the required money to rebuild the damaged infrastructure. "The process must run faster so that money can be made available.

Our people cannot afford to stay that long without using the bridges and the roads," he said. COGTA is working tirelessly with the Disaster Management Centre to finalize the process that will culminate into the reconstruction of the damaged infrastructure.



ON THE EDGE: An entourage led by Minister Baloyi inspects the collapsed Makoko bridge.

COGTA In Action



CHECK UP POINT: Radio and TV Personality, Ms Penny Lebyane inspects a consignment of goods before distribution to flood victims at Dwarsloop. Goods were donated by Grace Bible Church in Soweto.



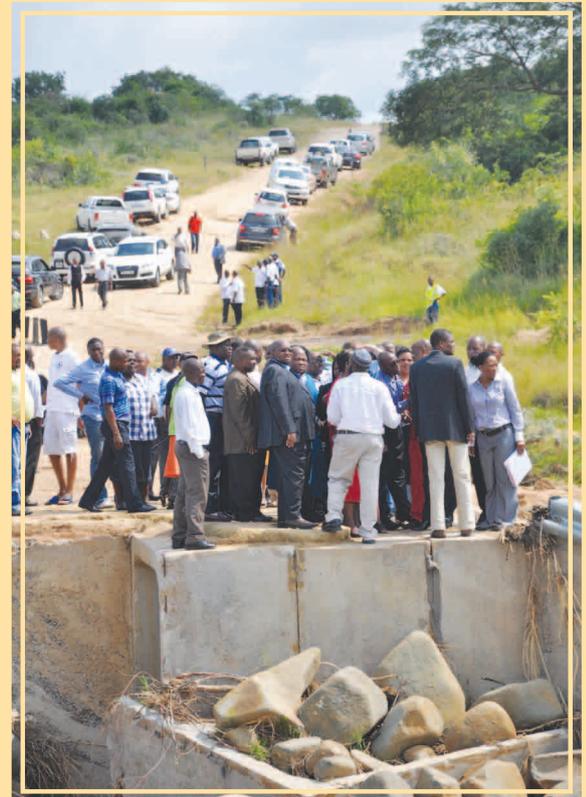
SALUTE: Speaker in the Provincial Legislature, Mr William Lubisi lead a procession of police officers and Premier David Mabuza during the State of the Province address.



SUPPORT: Ehlanzeni District Mayor, Cllr Lettie Shongwe and Nkomazi Mayor joins forces with Cllr Thulisile Khoza to distribute food parcels to flood victims at Mekemeke.



INTERVENTION: Pastor Musa Sono of Grace Bible Church in Soweto hands over food parcels donated by his church to flood victims at Dwarsloop in the Bushbuckridge Municipality. He was accompanied by MEC Masuku and Executive Mayors, Councillors and government officials.



FACT-FINDING MISSION: Minister of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Mr Richard Balozi, accompanied by MEC Madala Masuku, Mayors and senior government officials, visits the Makoko Bridge near Gutshwa to assess the extent of the damage.

COGTA In Action



TRIBUTE: Chief Koketso Mogane listens to a eulogy by one of the elders, Mr Leaders Mogane during a function to hand over a certificate of his recognition at Moremela.



INTRODUCTION: HTL Chairperson, Ikosi Siphon Mahlangu shares a light moment with his guests at the legislature during the opening of the house of traditional leaders. The guests are (L-R) MEC Masuku, Apostle Simon Mokoena, Premier David Mabuza, Kgosi Kgadi Mohlala and Chief Bheki Mnisi.



CULTURAL HERITAGE: A group of maidens entertains guests during the traditional pilgrimage of the Malele Tribal Authority in Bushbuckridge.



LEADING ROLE: Members of the Traditional Leadership Provincial Capacity building Committee share a lighter moment after the official launch of the committee at the HTL offices in Nelspruit. The committee will facilitate training of Amakhosi and Traditional Councils.



ROYALTY: Prince Makhosonke Dlamini of Embhuleni Traditional Council in Badplaas takes lead of the annual traditional pilgrimage. He is accompanied by Mr Abel Nkosi



FAITHFUL: Apostle Simon Mokoena of the Tyrannus Apostle Church dances with the royal maidens of Embhuleni Traditional Council in Badplaas during the annual traditional pilgrimage.

HUMANITARIAN SUPPORT FOR FLOOD VICTIMS



SYMPATHY: MEC Madala Masuku hands over a package of food to a local family at Dwarsloop.

Pastor Sono was accompanied by senior leaders of the church and Radio and TV Personality, Ms Penny Lebyane.

In Nkomazi, the Mekemeke and Buffelspruit rural areas were amongst the hardest hit. The intervention of Gift of the Givers Foundation could not have come at a better time in the two villages. The conditions there required a relief operation as big as the Gift of the Givers Foundation, which has a reputation of delivering over R500 million in aid to 32 countries around the world, including South Africa, as roads were inaccessible. The foundation's Ms Emily Thomas said it was in the best interest of the Gift of the Givers Foundation to 'give hope and support and acknowledge what the affected are going through'.

The heavy rains that hit areas in Ehlanzeni District Municipality have triggered sympathy from the biggest disaster relief organization in Africa and a Soweto-based church. The Gift of the Givers Foundation and the Grace Bible Church in Soweto partnered with the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) and the affected municipalities to support the victims. According to a Joint Operational Committee (JOC) report, 1452 households were damaged by the floods. With infrastructure such as roads, bridges and schools affected, an amount of R460 732 million was required for repairs. The Provincial Government together with national government invoked Sections 16 and 25 of the Disaster Management Act by declaring the affected areas disaster areas, to deal with the medium- to long- term interventions in fixing infrastructure such as roads, bridges, schools etc.

In Dwarsloop, Bushbuckridge Municipality, MEC Madala Masuku joined hands with Grace Bible Church's Senior Pastor, Musa Sono to distribute food parcels and blankets to affected families.

According to Pastor Sono the church spent 20 days praying for the affected families. "Working for communities is our mission. We minister to communities and we give to our communities. By so doing, we demonstrate the love of Christ," he said. The church loaded the donations worth about R700 000 in 6 trucks.

The villages were identified by the Police's Deputy Provincial Commissioner, Major-General Thembi Radebe. Cogta's officials, teamed up with police officers and officials from both Ehlanzeni District and Nkomazi Municipalities to distribute the donations. Ehlanzeni District's Executive Mayor, Cllr Lettie Shongwe and her Nkomazi counterpart, Cllr Thulisile Khoza were on site to help distribute food parcels and blankets.



AFTER CARE: Ehlanzeni District Mayor, Cllr Lettie Shongwe joins Nkomazi officials and councillors in the distribution of food parcels at Buffelspruit.

DEPUTY MINISTER DLODLO COMMENDS CDWs IN MPUMALANGA



DIALOGUE: One of the CDWs shares her experience during a workshop in Hazyview.

Deputy Minister for Public Service and Administration, Ms Ayanda Dlodlo has heaped praises on the sterling job done by Community Development Workers (CDWs) in Mpumalanga. Ms Dlodlo met with CDWs during a workshop session as part of a campaign to redesign the governance and management of CDWs around the country.

Addressing CDWs in Hazyview, the Deputy Minister said CDWs play a tremendous role in assisting government to communicate with communities on issues of service delivery. She was referring to the recent service delivery protests around Hazyview and Pienaar (Daantjie) where they played a pivotal role in defusing these protests. "All government stakeholders are beginning to realise that collaborating with CDWs is the best mechanism to communicate with the communities", the Deputy Minister said.

The workshops by the department come in the wake of a review process on governance of CDWs in the communities and their role as a source of communication between government and the people.

Ms Dlodlo also added that a lot of work is still to be done in the way CDWs were governed and managed. "The government has in the past struggled to deliver full services in some of the areas of our country due to lack of accurate information on issues of service delivery. "But because today we are one of the many ways of getting closer to the people, we need to make this mechanism to be more effective and functional by revisiting its governance and management", she continued.

Last year Ms Dlodlo told Parliament during her department's budget speech about the need to address provincial inconsistencies in the management, planning and reporting mechanisms of the programme. She further proposed key elements in redesigning the governance and management of the CDW model. Subsequently, the need to visit provinces to further engage on these issues was identified.

MEC for Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Mr Madala Masuku told the CDWs that public participation is

critical to sustain service delivery to the communities. "In deepening democracy, we have urged all municipalities to prioritise public participation to bridge the communication gap between the citizens and their representatives", he said.

CDWs raised several issues which they believe hinder their performance. Chief amongst them is provision of 'first hand information' about government activities. "We do not get first hand information sometimes, about government activities. You will find that an activity is taking place in your backyard and you have no idea of what is happening. It's embarrassing when members of the public enquire about such events and you are unable to give a response. That depicts us as incompetent and unwilling to do our work", one of the CDWs said.

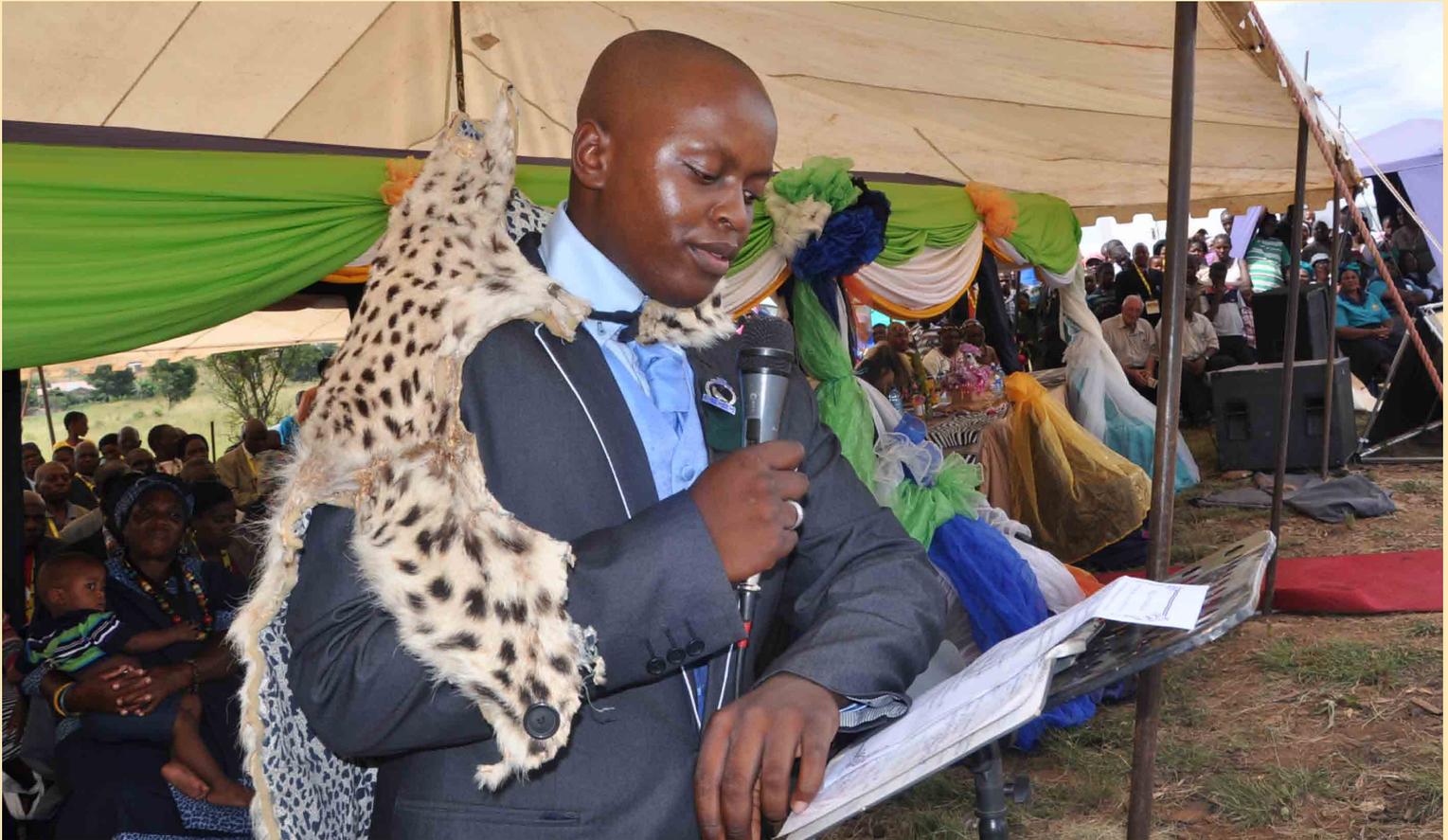
The Deputy Minister promised to attend to all these issues raised and noted that CDWs ought to have access to all the necessary working tools to do their job.

Meanwhile, COGTA has concluded the process of establishing the 402 Ward Committees and filled all the positions of the Community Development Workers in the newly established wards.



RE-ENGINEERING: Deputy Minister, Ms Ayanda Dlodlo talks to CDWs in Hazyview during a workshop.

LOCALS WITNESS INAUGURATION OF KGOSI MOGANE



IN CHARGE: Kgosi Mogane pauses as he delivers his inaugural speech.

The youngest Chief in Mpumalanga has been inaugurated in Mogane Tribal Authority at Hlabekisa in February this year. At 19, Chief Morone Koketso Fedrick Mogane was inaugurated in an event witnessed by Traditional Leaders, Councillors, Senior government officials and the local Moremela community, in the Thaba Chweu Municipality.

The function attracted traditional leaders from various traditional councils in Mpumalanga and Limpopo, who came to welcome their counterpart in the chieftaincy throne. Amongst them were Kgosigadi Phasha of Ga-Sekhukhune, who delivered a poetic speech in Sepedi and a delegation from Ga-Modjadji (the Rain Queen Kingdom).

Speaker of the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature, Mr William Lubisi handed a certificate of recognition for the chieftaincy to Kgosi Mogane on behalf of the Premier DD Mabuza. In his address, Mr Lubisi urged the community to support Kgosi Mogane and further encouraged him to always seek advice from the elders in his community.

Kgosi Mogane is currently pursuing studies at tertiary level. His mother, Ma-Kgosi Violet Mogane, is serving as a regent until he completes his studies. In his speech, Kgosi Mogane appreciated the support from his counterparts, government, the church and the community. He appealed to his community to allow him time to finalize his studies before assuming his responsibilities. His dedication to his studies was applauded as a wise move by his subjects.

The St. Engenas ZCC Brass Band, a ZCC Choir and local traditional dancers entertained guests during the gathering.



WISE WORDS: Kgosigadi Phasha of Ga-Sekhukhune praises Kgosi Mogane during his inauguration at Hlabekisa.

NEWLY APPOINTED SENIOR MANAGERS



Mr Tom Skonela
Senior Manager: Capacity
Development



Ms Ansie Jansen Van Rensburg
Senior Manager: Supply
Chain Management



Ms Nono Maribe
Senior Manager: Local Eco-
nomic Development (LED)



Mr David Awogu
Senior Manager: Spatial
Planning/ IDP



Mr Mphiwe Makhathini
Senior Manager: Financial
Accounting:



Ms Kgomotso Phofa
Senior Manager: Municipal
Infrastructure



Mr Nyiko Mchavi
Senior Manager: Management
Accounting

COGTA'S CHANGES IN MANAGEMENT



Mr Mangisi Mnisi
Senior Manager: Traditional
Institutional Management



Ms Nomzi Masawa-Dlamini
Senior Manager: Monitoring and
Evaluation



Mr Godrich Gardee
Senior Manager: Planning and
Programme Management

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MISSION

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Sustainable Integrated Service Delivery
through Public Participation and
Traditional system of governance

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