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LOCAL NEWS

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OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER

FOURTH QUARTER

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- **Government restores Mahlobo Chieftency**



- **Dipaleseng Municipality has improved the state of its road in Balfour**
- **COGTA and Msukaligwa Municipality put interim measures to address water shortages**
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COGTA WELCOMES MR SIKHOSANA AS OUR NEW MEC



MEC SPD SIKHOSANA

The Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) welcomes the Hon. Simon Skhosana as our new MEC. He was appointed by the Premier, Mr David Mabuza during a Cabinet reshuffle recently.

The decision to reshuffle Cabinet, according to the Premier, is part of an effort to strengthen capacity where it is needed. In a statement, the Premier said ‘Cabinet reshufflings are normal procedures of government which leaders utilise in strengthening capacity after assessing weaknesses and the challenges pertaining to performance of their administrations’.

Mr Skhosana is amongst three new MECs to be deployed to three departments. The other two are: Hon. Andries Gamede (Human Settlements) and Hon. Violet Siwela (Agriculture, Rural Development and Land Administration).

Mr Sikhosana replaces Hon. Madala Masuku who has served COGTA with distinction. His commitment to steer the department towards supporting municipalities and the institution of Traditional Leadership has become a legacy.



MEC MADALA MASUKU

Our department commit itself to continue where he left off in line with the service delivery agreement. We wish Mr Masuku success in his new role as MEC for Finance.

We further commit ourselves to support Mr Skhosana and his support staff in a quest to make the mandate of the department a reality.

MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE HOD



HOD DAVID MAHLOBO

The department warmly welcomes our new MEC, the Hon. Simon Skhosana, who takes over the reigns from the Hon. Madala Masuku. As a former Executive Mayor (of the Nkangala District), Mr Skhosana comes with a wealth of experience in the local government sphere which the department needs to provide municipalities with the necessary support. We look forward to work with him closely in amongst others supporting municipalities on Integrated Development Plans (IDPs), implementation of the Local Government Turn-Around Strategy (LGTAS), Spatial Development Plans (SDPs), and an array of service delivery challenges facing the 18 municipalities.

Mr Skhosana has served the Legislature with distinction, as former Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Human Settlements and Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs. As our municipalities prepare for Operation Clean Audit 2014, and the effective functionality of Municipal Public Account Committees (MPACs), we believe that Mr Skhosana's knowledge in government's oversight role, will put him in good stead to steer our department towards the success of our interventions in municipalities and in the scope of traditional leadership.

As we bid the Hon. Masuku farewell, we do so in acknowledgement of his sterling leadership. Our main responsibility now is to

ensure that his quest to make municipalities a centre of excellence and the modernization of the institution traditional leadership is not in vain. We wish him well in his new position as MEC for Finance. As we work with Provincial Treasury in supporting municipalities we will continue to call on his expertise.

We congratulate both the Ehlanzeni District and the Steve Tshwete Local Municipalities for producing clean audits and other municipalities which have improved on their previous poor audit positions. We have noted with regret those municipalities which have failed to improve or regressed in their audit positions. Our department has already put an intervention plan in place to deal with issues as raised by the Auditor-General. Together with the District Municipalities and Provincial Treasury we are committed to work harder to turn the situation around.

The areas of concern as raised by the A-G are:

- Supply Chain contravention
- Poor service delivery reporting
- Poor human resource management
- IT Exposures
- Material error and omissions on financial statements.

Together with the District Municipalities and Provincial Treasury we are committed to work harder to turn the situation around.

We commend the Mbombela Local Council and the Management of the Mbombela Stadium for the resounding successful hosting of the 2013 AFCON matches. The sterling leadership of the Executive Mayor, Cllr Cathy Dlamini, along with the Mayoral Committee and the Technical team ensured that the games were hosted successfully. We also commend other stakeholders who contributed to the success, such as emergency services, the South African Police Services (SAPS), the transport sector and volunteers.

As we hit the last stretch of the 2012/13 financial year, we are confident that we have done our bit as a department to deliver on our mandate, despite budget cuts due to unfavourable economic conditions faced by the country. We have taken heed of President Jacob Zuma's call to be prudent in our spending. We are committed to do so even in the new financial year.

Government provides CDWs with tools of trade to work for communities Effectively



THOUGHT-PROVOKING: Premier Mabuza addresses CDWs during a special meeting.

access to information at the Operational Centre, and will be expected to respond on matters as soon as possible.

The provision of lap tops and travelling allowance for CDWs is in line with government's commitment to improve the capacity of all structures for service delivery. The tools for trade are expected to help CDWs to do their work better in alerting government about the progress in the construction of RDP houses and other related government's public infrastructure projects. In his address, Mabuza said he has discovered lack of progress in projects which should have been completed. We gave people work to build houses, schools and clinics and it took them years. You [CDWs] kept quiet until I personally went there to find out what the problem was, when you had been given this opportunity of working with the people. You should have alerted us long time ago about the housing problems and government would have intervened. With these laptops, we are expecting you to give us information on a weekly basis," said Mabuza.

He added that those who were computer illiterate should be trained urgently in order for them to be able to work effectively. "We now want a different type and a special calibre of CDWs, those who are passionate about community development and technologically skilled. You must be able to tell us as to how many people deserve government houses in your wards, do not hide the incompetent contractors, because by doing that you will be delaying the freedom of the people.

They also destroy the future of our children when they do not finish building schools," said Mabuza.

The Premier asked the CDWs to visit all sectors in the communities and report progress especially on government projects. He appealed to them to be passionate about the people they were working for by presenting themselves professionally. He explained that in order for communities to have confidence on them, they needed to have the best character, and should appear in a respectful manner in order for people to respect them back.

"You now have a very complex exercise to do. You are like teachers and priests, your character must be the best in your communities. You are now my police officers; we want reports on everything that impacts negatively on our people. As from today onwards, you will earn your money because you would have worked hard for it. Go out to the people, humble yourselves and be their servants", he added.

One of the challenges for the "slow pace" in building the RDP houses was that the department of human settlement had outsourced the identification of the beneficiaries of the houses.

It will now be the sole responsibility of the CDWs to identify such beneficiaries which is a requirement before a RDP house is built. The Premier also considered to give the CDWs travelling allowances since some wards are vast and require extensive travelling.

Community Development Workers (CDWs) serve communities as catalysts of change and development. They serve as a link between communities and government. They are community-based resource persons to help fellow community members to obtain information and resources from service providers with the aim of learning how to progressively meet their needs, achieve goals, realize their aspirations and maintain their well-being. Through the CDWs government is meant to reach to the people and improve their experience with government. However lack of working tools has been an obstacle for CDWs not to do their work effectively. These include alerting government on matters of service delivery and issues affecting communities in their areas.

The situation is about to change following a decision by Mpumalanga Provincial Government to provide them with tools of trade. During a special meeting with CDWs at Ehlanzeni District Management Centre, Premier David Mabuza made an announcement that the 497 CDWs in Mpumalanga will be provided with laptops, cell phone and travelling allowance in order for them to work effectively.

With laptops, CDWs are now expected to send information daily on development initiatives including infrastructure projects to the Operational Centre in order for government to respond speedily on matters of concern. The Operational Centre which will be staffed with officials from the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), will be based at the Head Office and will interact with CDWs directly by responding to the people's concerns. The entire provincial government will have



PRACTICAL SOLUTION: Premier Mabuza (middle) shares his ideas with Provincial Director-General, Dr Nonhlanhla Mkhize and MEC for Finance, Mr Madala Masuku.

A-G APPEALS TO MUNICIPALITIES TO IMPROVE ON AUDIT OUTCOMES

The Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) has congratulated Ehlanzeni District and Steve Tshwete Local Municipalities for producing clean audits during the 2011/12 financial year. COGTA's Head of Department, Mr David Mahlobo applauded the two municipalities for the achievement and those which have improved on their audit outcomes. He however, expressed concern about municipalities which have regressed.

During a meeting with Executive Mayors, Municipal Managers and Senior officials of the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Ms Sibongile Lubambo of the Provincial Auditor-General's office cited poor record-keeping and lack of co-operation as some of the factors which contributed to municipalities failing to improve their audit outcomes. "Some municipalities could not produce the required documents during the auditing process due to poor record keeping. We also discovered poor quality of financial statements submitted for auditing. In some instances officials were not available during the audit process," Ms Lubambo said.

She appealed to all municipalities to learn best practices which produced clean audits. During the meeting, Mr Mahlobo said that the department along with the Provincial Treasury will continue to support municipalities to improve their audit outcomes by closely monitoring critical areas on a monthly basis. Mr Mahlobo said municipalities will be further supported in the implementation of local government competency with effect from 1 January 2013, skills audit and training for all critical departments, implementation of Performance Management System (PMS) and the deployment of financial advisors to struggling municipalities.

COGTA's support for municipalities is in line with Operation Clean Audit 2014, aimed at restoring public confidence about government's handling of public funds.



ACHIEVEMENT: Steve Tshwete Executive Mayor, Cll Mike Masina rides a crest wave of success following the municipality's clean audit outcome for 2011/12 financial year

A NEW CHAPTER BEGINS AT UMJINDI MUNICIPALITY AS NEW MUNICIPAL MANAGER TAKES OVER



New Umjindi Municipal Manager, Mr Pat Msibi

The appointment of a new Municipal Manager at Umjindi Local Municipality has opened a new chapter for improvement of service delivery and development. Mr Pat Msibi, a former Director of Community Services at Ehlanzeni District Municipality (EDM) replaced Ms Sibongile Mnisi, who left the municipality when her contract expired.

Mr Msibi is credited for amongst other achievements, leading the district in the IDP, Disaster Management, GIS, Performance Management System, and Municipal Health Services, which led to the district securing a second place in the National Awards of the Centre of Public Service Innovation (CPSI) on Performance Management System. Working with architects, civil and electrical engineers in the planning and execution of the construction of the EDM Disaster Centre, Msibi is also credited for the establishment of the EDM Disaster and Conference Centre, completed before the start of the 2010 FIFA World Cup.

Like many municipalities, Umjindi has a shortage of job opportunities and service delivery for farming communities remains a major challenge. Provision of RDP houses further compounds these challenges. With Msibi at the helm, the municipality has the potential to address these challenges. He has already committed himself to play a leading role. "One of our main focal points, along with the economic upliftment of our communities and our mandate is to create an enabling and conducive environment for the private sector to invest and grow in," says Msibi. Recently the municipality embarked on a campaign to attract investments, in line with a municipal lekgotla held in January this year.

Msibi's experience in the local government sphere will be useful in a municipality whose economy centres around gold mining, forestry, agriculture and tourism. Umjindi Municipality, is the geographical location for the Makhonjwa Mountainland, listed as a World Heritage site.

The municipality is in the process of completing the R40 road which links Barberton and Swaziland and the upgrading of the R38 leading to Kaapmuiden.

COGTA PROVIDES WATER SOLUTION TO COMMUNITIES HARD HIT BY LACK OF WATER



MILESTONE: COGTA and municipalities have installed new water infrastructure as a solution to the water problems.



PRE-CURSOR: The signing of a Memorandum of understanding between Premier David Mabuza and Executive Mayors for water-delivery has resolved the shortage of water in Mpumalanga.

The commitment by Premier David Mabuza to prioritize water solution is gaining momentum. In his State of the Province address last year, Mabuza told the nation: “Our efforts will be geared towards increasing the storage capacity of the reservoirs, expand the bulk water treatment works, expanding the water source and increase the capacity of waste water treatment works”.

An initiative between the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) and various municipalities has resulted in the provision of water to communities in six areas. The water projects were funded through the Municipal Infrastructure Grants (MIG) in five municipalities, namely:

- ✓ Water reticulation at Mafambisa, Tonga C (Nkomazi Municipality).
- ✓ Provision of bulk water supply and reticulation to Kanana (Thaba Chweu Municipality).
- ✓ Upgrading of Bulk Water System in Ekulindeni (Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality).
- ✓ Installation of Package Plants in Mooiplaas and Aventura (Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality).
- ✓ Water Infrastructure for Daggakraal & Hlanganani Trust (Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Municipality).
- ✓ Water reticulation Ga-Morwe (Dr J.S Moroka Municipality).

The Mafambisa water reticulation project provides water to 5184 households, while the Kanana project provides water to 3866 households. The Ekulindeni and Mooiplaas projects provide water to a combined 7354 households. 2450 households in both Daggakraal and Hlanganani Trust have now access to water. The water reticulation project Ga-Morwe provides water to 300 households

Provision of water to these communities is a major milestone in COGTA's plans as Mpumalanga is facing challenges such as aging, neglect of operations and maintenance of the infrastructure required to provide water. The province is also experiencing a high demand of water which, according to the Premier, far exceeds the available water and lack of investment on bulk infrastructure. The problem is further compounded by poor workmanship, lack of technical capacity and water wastages as a result of illegal connections.

The completed water projects in the five municipalities include drawing water from the rivers and dams to the water reservoirs such as tanks before distributing to the households. In Daggakraal, installation of boreholes was considered a solution to address the water shortage problem.

The provision of water to the households is expected to increase the 93.2% number of households with access to water in Mpumalanga by the end of the 2012/2013 financial year.

GOVERNMENT RESTORES MAHLOBO CHIEFTENCY

The Mpumalanga Provincial Government has taken a historic move by restoring the Mahlobo-Ntombela Chieftaincy in KwaNdwalaza, outside Piet Retief. The Chieftaincy suffered disposition during the apartheid era when the erstwhile government attacked Inkosi Mandlenkosi Andries Mahlobo, accusing him of terrorist acts. A certificate to recognize the Chieftaincy was handed over to Inkosi Mahlobo by MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Mr Simon Skhosana during an inauguration function at the KwaNdwalaza Royal Palace between Piet Retief and Pongola.

The restoration of the Chieftaincy is in line with government's commitment to restore traditional leaders whose leadership was dismantled as part of the monstrous 1913 Land Act. Research and public hearings conducted by the Provincial Committee on Traditional Leadership Disputes and Claims culminated into the restoration of the Chieftaincy. For Inkosi Mahlobo, who survived several attempts in his life, the restoration of his Chieftaincy marks the beginning of a new era. He told his nation and guests about the importance of working together for development and in the fight against social ills. "Our area is one of the poorest in Mpumalanga. We must work together to develop this area. Poverty should be our number one enemy. Together, we can win the war against HIV/AIDS. Cases of rapes against our children must stop," said Mahlobo. With his body riddled with fourteen bullets during an attack by government forces at the time, Inkosi Mahlobo expressed gratitude to the new government for restoring his Chieftaincy. He said it was God's grace to live long to see the restoration of his Chieftaincy.

The restoration came at the time when South Africa led by the ANC is marking the centenary of the 1913 Natives Land Act. The defunct act was characterized by forceful removal of blacks

from arable land.. MEC Skhosana said the decision to restore Chieftaincies such as the Mahlobos, is in line with government's efforts to restore the dignity of Emakhosi. "We have just concluded a Provincial Cabinet Lekgotla. Our Premier, Mr David Mabuza charged us with the responsibility to treat traditional leaders with respect. The Premier expects us to treat you with respect and we will do so. This inauguration to mark your restoration is an example of what we will do as government," Mr Skhosana said.

Prince Mthokozisi Zulu, who represented Zulu Monarch, King Goodwill Zwelithini said the restoration of the Mahlobo Chieftaincy should be marked by peace and stability. "Anyone who will defy this confirmation that we are witnessing today, should be treated as a rebel," he warned.

The inauguration was attended by MECs, Executive Mayors, members of the various royal councils, Senior government officials and were entertained by traditional dances.



RECOGNITION: Local regiment of KwaNdwalaza sings traditional songs of celebration following the restoration of Inkosi Mahlobo.



DIGNITY: MEC Skhosana (right) hands over a certificate of recognition to Inkosi Mahlobo during his inauguration at KwaNdwalaza Royal Palace. Prince Mthokozisi Zulu of the Zulu Kingdom and Provincial Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders, Kgosi Lameck Mokoena witness proceedings.

COGTA IN ACTION



CAPACITY BUILDING: Provincial Director-General, Dr Nonhlanhla Mkhize and Premier David Mabuza have improved the functionality of Community Development Workers by providing them with cell phones and lap tops to do their work efficiently.



Ready to serve: CDWs pay attention to Premier Mabuza's announcement of providing them with tools for trade such as lap tops and transport allowances during a special meeting at Ehlanzeni's Disaster Management Centre.



REHABILITATION: Local residents at Khumbula village near White River fetch water from one of the 128 jojo tanks rehabilitated by COGTA. Several jojo tanks were damaged by floods and COGTA utilized Disaster relief funds to rehabilitate them.



GROUND WORK: COGTA's Mr Eric Masango, Ms Zandile Sokweba and Ms Meldah Marule collect information from Community Development Workers (CDWs) at the newly established operational centre as part of government's strategy to address service delivery challenges.



Specifications: Msukaligwa's Executive Mayor, Cllr Siphongwe leads a delegation of officials from COGTA and the municipality during the assessment of the road construction project in Ermelo's Ward 9.



Housing for all: HOD, Mr David Mahlobo visits an incomplete housing project in Ermelo's Extension 17 during the assessment of projects. He is accompanied by Msukaligwa Executive Mayor, Cllr Siphongwe (brown jacket) and officials from both COGTA and local municipality



AGREEMENT: Chairperson of Disabled Persons of South Africa (DPSA), Mr Robert Masambo (seated from left) and Chairperson of Provincial House of Traditional Leaders, Kgosi Mathibela Mokoena (seated in the middle) share ideas at the end of a meeting of the two structures in Nelspruit. They are joined by officials of both structures.



Point is : Thembisile Hani Municipal Manager, Mr Jabu Sindane makes inputs during the Auditor-General's presentation of the 2011/12 municipal audit outcomes at Ehlanzeni District Council Chambers.



MUNICIPAL STATE OF AFFAIRS: Dipaleseng Municipality's Mr George Masengu presents a status quo report during COGTA's Municipal Mid-year term review session in Ermelo.



JUBILATION: Inkosi Mahlobo of KwaNdwalaza displays a certificate of recognition handed to him by MEC Skhosana during the inauguration function.



WITNESSES: MEC Skhosana and National Department of Traditional Affairs' Dr Masenjana Nsibandze marvel at proceedings during the inauguration of Inkosi Mahlobo of KwaNdwalaza.



DANCING FOR THE KING: Women in traditional gear entertain guests during the Mahlobo inauguration.

DIPALESENG MUNICIPALITY HAS IMPROVED THE STATE OF ITS ROAD IN BALFOUR

The Dipaleseng Local Municipality has completed the construction of roads in Balfour. The poor state of roads in the town precipitated the need to initiate the road construction project which entailed the following:

- **Reshaping of side drains,**
- **Replacement of old edge beams,**
- **Reconstruction of edge breaks,**
- **Patching of pot holes,**
- **Paving of road island.**

Balfour links Mpumalanga and Gauteng Provinces. It is the gateway of goods transported between the two provinces. The high volume of trucks contribute to the poor state of the road, causing potholes. Patching of potholes became the hall mark of the construction project. The scope of work was also extended to reseal the Sifiso Zwane street and the Johnny Mokoena Drive as well as the Frank street. By paving the road island in Pertunia street the municipality has increased the life span of the road for many years to come. Road traffic signs have also been improved. The total cost of the project is R 857 000 and has contributed to the improvement of internal roads in the Balfour CBD, linking the supermarket and the taxi rank.

The construction of the road provided the much-needed income relief to the local communities facing an acute shortage of jobs and training opportunities. Although sixteen job opportunities were created, however, it is still below the 258 target set by the municipality as a contribution to the Expanded Public Works Programme (EPWP). The number is expected to increase in view of the number of projects underway, which include the expansion of the Balfour Sewer Treatment Plant, the construction of a new Landfill site in Balfour/Siyathemba, upgrading of water reticulation and expansion of the sewer works in Grootvlei.



ROAD WORKS: Paving of the road island at Pertunia street became part of the road construction in Balfour.



EFFICIENCY: A completed part of the road in Balfour.

COGTA AND MSUKALIGWA MUNICIPALITY PUT INTERIM MEASURES TO ADDRESS WATER SHORTAGES



Intervention: Construction of a base for a Jojo tank in Ward 5, in Wesselton is underway to roll out jojo tanks in areas hit hard by water shortages.

A high-powered delegation led by MEC Madala Masuku, Provincial Director-General, Dr Nonhlanhla Mkhize and Head of Department, Mr David Mahlobo met with the Msukaligwa Municipal Council, led by the Executive Mayor, Cllr Siphongwe to discuss intervention measures to the shortage of water in Wesselton and surrounding areas in Ermelo. The meeting was attended by councillors from Gert Sibande District Municipality and officials from the Department of Water Affairs. A faulty transformer, aging infrastructure, theft and vandalism of electrical cables as well as fire hydrants, have been identified as the causes of the problem.

The decrease of water levels in both the Brummer and Douglas Dams compounded the problem. Water levels decreased just below 30 percent of normal capacity in both dams. A joint Operative Committee, consisting of officials from the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Msukaligwa Municipality, Department of Water Affairs and Gert Sibande District Municipality was established to provide an urgent intervention. Distribution of water to affected areas with water tankers was considered as one of the contingency measures.

In addition, the committee further considered the following:

- **Provision of Jojo tanks in the affected settlements,**
- **Implementation of water restrictions, to prevent waste of water by using hose pipes when washing cars and irrigating of gardens.**

- **Reconstruction of the elevated water tank in Wesselton to increase the capacity of the water network in the reservoirs.**

Although contingency plans were put in place, the meeting concluded that long term plans should also be in place to prevent similar water challenges in the future. It was agreed that a feasibility study for the implementation and provision of the bulk line to abstract water from the Jericho Dam supplying through Usuthu-transfer pipeline must be concluded by September 2013.

Provision of water to all communities in the province, is high on the list of priorities of the Mpumalanga Provincial Government, as announced by Premier David Mabuza during the 2012/2013 State of the Province Address.

This was followed by the signing of a Memorandum of Understanding initiated by the Premier between the Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEG) and municipalities affected by water challenges. COGTA has established a water service directorate, headed by Mr Jackson Nkadimeng, to provide capacity to municipalities for the delivery of water.



Solution: Msukaligwa Executive Mayor, Cllr Siphongwe (right) visits one of the water projects in Ermelo to assess progress. He is accompanied by COGTA's Mr Jackson Nkadimeng.

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DISASTER TOLL FREE

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VISION

Integrated sustainable people
centred development

MISSION

Facilitate and co-ordinate Intergovernmental
Structures and Developmental Agencies for
Sustainable Integrated Service Delivery
through Public Participation and
Traditional system of governance

DETAILS

Disaster Management Centres

Disaster Management Centre	Contact Details
Provincial Disaster Management Centre	0800 202 507
Ehlanzeni District	
Ehlanzeni Disaster Management Centre	013 762 4000
Mbombela Disaster Management Centre	013 759 9141/ 013 753 3331
Umjindi Disaster Management Centre	013 712 2222
Thaba Chweu Disaster Management Centre	013 235 7304
Bushbuckridge Disaster Management Centre	013 797 1367
Nkomazi Disaster Management Centre	082 806 1611
Gert Sibande District	
Gert sibande Disaster Management Centre	017 801 7000
Govan Mbeki Disaster Management Centre	017 620 6143
Lekwa Disaster Management Centre	017 712 9661
Musukaligwa Disaster Management Centre	017 801 3412
Pixley ka Isaka Seme Disaster Management Centre	017 734 6100
Chief Albert Luthuli Disaster Management Centre	017 843 4011
Dipaliseng Disaster Management Centre	017 773 0055
Mkhondo Disaster Management Centre	017 826 2211
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Nkangala Disaster Management Centre	013 249 2024/ 013 249 2004
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