



cogta

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

Local News

Issue no. 8

Official Newsletter

Second Quarter



- . **ANGOLAN QUEEN VISITS MPUMALANGA**
- . **MEC DECLARES CAROLINA WATER SAFE TO DRINK**
- . **PREMIER MEETS NEW HTL EXECUTIVE**
- . **MANDELA DAY CELEBRATION**



TABLE OF CONTENTS

EDITORIAL COMMENT

<i>Editorial Comment.....</i>	<i>1</i>
<i>MEC's Foreword.....</i>	<i>2</i>
<i>Message from the Office of the HOD.....</i>	<i>3</i>
<i>MEC Masuku declares Carolina water safe to drink...4</i>	
<i>HTL Executive meets the Premier.....</i>	<i>5</i>
<i>Disputes and claims committee pleads for patience.6</i>	
<i>COGTA in action.....</i>	<i>7/8</i>
<i>COGTA celebrates Mandela Day by donating food to the poor and renovating public facilities.....</i>	<i>9</i>
<i>Mpumalanga establishes provincial steering committee for LGTAS.....</i>	<i>10</i>
<i>COGTA has done it again.....</i>	<i>11</i>
<i>Angolan Queen visits Mpumalanga</i>	<i>12</i>
<i>Cwp creates job opportunities in Mpumalanga.....</i>	<i>13</i>
<i>Municipalities strengthened with appointment of new leadership.....</i>	<i>14</i>

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://cgt.mpg.gov.za>. Call us at: 013 766 6572

Welcome to the second edition of Local News in the 2012/13 financial year. In line with the service delivery agreement, our department is responsible for Outcome 9, which includes inter alia: support of municipalities to produce credible IDPs for 21 municipalities, access to basic services, implementation of the Community Work Programme (CWP), Deepen democracy through a refined Ward Committee and Administrative and financial capability. A number of activities have been undertaken by the department to make this agreement a realization as reflected in this edition.

Strengthening the capacity of municipalities remains one of the priorities of the department, following the two local government summits, where a decision was adopted to fill critical vacancies. The appointment of Municipal Managers in some of our Local Municipalities marks the fulfilment of the commitment made during the two summits. A number of municipalities have already advertised vacancies which are critical and we hope that suitable candidates will be appointed as part of capacity building.

In view of these appointments, we congratulate the newly appointed Municipal Managers. We appeal to all stakeholders to give them the necessary support in the name of service delivery.

On the same breath, we also congratulate newly appointed Executive Mayors for the Gert Sibande District, Cllr Mishack Nhlathathi and Cllr Michael Ncongwane of Thaba Chweu Local Municipality. Both have the necessary experience and credentials required to take both municipalities to a higher level. In the spirit of working together, the two have the potential to turn around the fortunes of these two institutions.

We congratulate three of our Emakhosi for their coronation. Hosi Madala Nkuna of Hoxani Tribal Council, Ikosi Monnanyana Mahlangu of Ndzundza-Pungutsha and Kgosi Lehlohonolo Mashego of Thabakgolo Tribal Council. With rural development on the top of the agenda for government we hope that their coronation will complete the puzzle on rural development in areas within their jurisdiction. Bayethe!

As we reflect on the half year gone by and our service delivery achievement in this issue, we do so with pride and optimism. Former President, Dr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela once remarked: "It always seems impossible until it is done". We wish you a good reading.

MEC'S FOREWORD



MEC MB MASUKU

This 2nd edition of our newsletter comes in the wake of the recent South African Local Government Association's (SALGA) conference in Midrand in which President Jacob Zuma singled out Mpumalanga and five other provinces with serious service delivery challenges. These provinces are: Eastern Cape, KwaZulu-Natal, Free State, North West and Limpopo. Post-apartheid demarcation process, President Zuma added in his speech, left many municipalities without access to the required administrative, financial and technical capacity to function efficiently and effectively. This has hampered the delivery of services.

Despite these challenges, it is not gloom and doom as the President indicated as many achievements have been made. Of the 13 municipalities with Clean Audits for 2010/11, four of them are from our shores, namely: Gert Sibande and Ehlanzeni Districts, Victor Khanye and Steve Tshwete Local Municipalities. Over two and half million houses have been built for the poor giving shelter to over ten million people. Six million households have gained access to clean water since 1994 and electricity has been connected to nearly five million homes. These achievements are no mean feat for an eighteen year old democratic government which has the challenge of undoing damage caused over a period of three hundred decades. The President has charged us with the responsibility 'to create dignified human settlements for those who lived in dehumanising conditions before. These should be communities where residents have water, electricity, sanitation and roads as well as recreational facilities.

Part of our journey into the third quarter of the 2012/13 financial year, should be characterised by working harder towards the realization of this vision. Working together with our communities, this vision is possible.

The vision for community development can only be realized through public-private partnership. On the same vein, we wel-

come SASOL's investment plan of R25,5 million rand for the Dipaleseng Municipality. Part of the plan includes fencing of water reservoir, rehabilitation of road in Greylingstad, paving of the road in Nthoroane and the reconnection of the Greylingstad Sewage Infrastructure to the Nthoroane Waste Water Treatment Plant. This investment plan is in line with government's infrastructure development plan announced by President Zuma during the State of the Nation address, aimed at creating job opportunities. It will go a long way in creating job opportunities and stimulating the local economic development. We hope that other potential companies will emulate SASOL's example by contributing towards the development of local economies.

We have noted with applause the Gert Sibande District's initiative to empower Emakhosi by arranging for them a training course designed for rural development at the University of KwaZulu-Natal. With rural development as the buzz word, we believe that this partnership will go a long way in helping Emakhosi to study the theoretical part of development and put this knowledge into practice by developing their areas. We also believe that the training will help them to participate in decision-making structures such as municipal councils and IDP processes from an informed perspective. We appeal to Emakhosi to use this academic opportunity to the best of their ability for the benefit of the communities.

We have received numerous complaints referred to the department from Traditional Leaders, of people falsely claiming to be "Traditional Leaders" and misleading the public. We have also been informed that there are imminent or proceeding "inaugurations" organised by these bogus traditional leaders in some parts of the province. Such actions are illegal and not recognised by government.

Traditional Leaders are appointed in terms of the Traditional Leadership and Governance Framework Act, 2003 read with the Mpumalanga Traditional Leadership and Governance Act, 2005 which provide a comprehensive process which must be followed when indentifying and recognizing traditional leaders. Traditional Leaders refer to King, Queen, Principal Traditional Leader, Senior Traditional Leader and Headmen or Headwomen.

The provisions of the above-mentioned legislation provides that whenever the position of any of the above-mentioned traditional leaders must be filled, the royal family in line with its customary law of succession must identify a person who qualifies to fill the position. It should be noted that the first requirement is that the position must be vacant (due to death or removal) and secondly the royal family must indentify a person who qualifies to assume the position of the traditional leader concerned. The law further provides that after the royal family concerned has identified the person who qualifies, the royal family must inform the Premier of the Province, who will then recognize the person identified by the Royal Family, through a notice in the Provincial Gazette, and issue a certificate of recognition, and the Premier must inform the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders about the particulars of the identified person. It should be noted that the Premier may refuse to issue the certificate of recognition only if the identification was done contrary to customary law and the applicable legislation.

MESSAGE FROM THE OFFICE OF THE HOD



HOD DAVID MAHLOBO

President Jacob Zuma's synopsis about the sources of service delivery challenges facing our municipalities is spot on. "The reality of apartheid is that large parts of the country had never had any form of local government. As a result, the backlogs are still glaring. Municipalities in formerly whites only areas have relatively well-developed services and infrastructure to this day, alongside under-developed townships and rural areas which were deliberately deprived of resources", said the President in his address to the South African Local Government Association (SALGA).

Over the past few months, Mpumalanga went through an excruciating pain of unrests caused by individuals who, according to the President's analysis, are impatient and wanted to reverse three centuries of underdevelopment and racist spatial planning in just a few years and this has proven to be almost impossible to do so. The impatience of some individuals within our communities over delivery of services, has the potential to destroy the gains which we have achieved in the past 18 years due to the hurly-burly of our body politics.

With Premier David Mabuza and MEC Madala Masuku at the helm, our determination as Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs shall not be eroded by the agenda of some individuals hell-bent on taking us back to our painful past. Government's vision is to create dignified human settlements for those

who lived in dehumanising conditions before and ensure that our communities have access to water, electricity, sanitation and roads as well as recreational facilities.

In our concerted efforts to improve the functionality of our municipalities, we have established a Provincial Steering Committee to support and monitor municipalities for the realization of the Local Government Turn-Around Strategy (LGTAS). This is in line with the Local Government Municipal System's Act 2000 Act, which stipulates that "*The national and provincial spheres of government must, within the constitutional system of co-operative government envisaged in section 41 of the Constitution, exercise their executive and legislative authority in a manner that does not compromise or impede a municipality's ability or right to exercise its executive and legislative authority*". Through this committee, we are a step away to place local government on a service delivery path. It is just a matter of time before municipalities are able to utilize all MIG funds for projects in the IDPs, without rolling them over.

Our municipalities are playing their part in dealing with challenges which have bedevilled them for a number of years such as lack of capacity and revenue. Mkhondo Municipality for example has already completed a revenue-enhancement strategy. The plan includes mobilization of communities to pay for services, and the Executive Mayor, accompanied by members of the Mayoral Committee has visited various communities for this purpose. Mbombela and Lekwa Municipalities have already filled the critical positions of Municipal Managers in line with Section 57 (1) of the Local Government Municipal System's Act of 2000. Some municipalities have advertised positions considered critical, especially the Section 56 Managers. We hope that the recruitment process will yield positive results.

Our department has concluded the Integrated Development Plans (IDP) analysis process of all municipalities. This after municipal councils adopted them, in line with Section 25 (1) of the Local Government Municipal System's Act of 2000, which stipulates that "*each municipal council must, within a prescribed period after the sitting of its elected term, adopt a single, inclusive and strategic plan for the development of the municipality*". We hope that all sector departments whose projects are recorded in the IDPs will make funds available for implementation.

As a department we are encouraged by the audit outcome we have received for 2011/12 financial year. The unqualified audit outcome shows that we are well on our way to obtaining a clean audit in line with operation clean audit 2014.

MEC MASUKU DECLARES CAROLINE WATER SAFE TO DRINK

Water in Caroline is safe to drink. This was declared by MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Mr Madala Masuku after inspecting it himself. Water in the area had been a source of fear for the local community following reports of contamination. Accompanied by Executive Mayors for the Gert Sibande District Municipality, Cllr Mishack Nhlabathi and his counterpart from the Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality, Cllr Busi Shiba, including COGTA officials, the delegation visited the local water purification plant to inspect the purification process and to verify the quality level.

Since reports of contamination, Government has spent R21 million to upgrade the purification plant as an intervention measure. Other interventions include:

- **Modification of the lime dosing system,**
- **Modification of the Chlorine Oxidation Point,**
- **Installation of the Green Sand Filters,**
- **Introduction of laboratory for quality monitoring**
- **Installation of a bulk line from plant to the bulk storage reservoir**
- **Appointment of process controller and chemical analysts to improve monitoring and water testing.**

At the time of MEC Masuku's visit, the PH level was at 6.9, in line with the South African National Standards for safe drinking water. MEC Masuku expressed confidence in the quality of the water and encouraged residents to use them for household and drinking purpose. "We are satisfied with the interventions to upgrade the Water Treatment Plant and that the water is safe to drink," he said. Mr Masuku's statement was backed with action of drinking the water by him, both Executive Mayors, HOD,

Mr David Mahlobo and the Municipal Manager, Mr Vusi Mpila. Later, the entourage visited a local clinic at Silobela to assess and interact with the community, before visiting Ms Sthandi Ngwenya's house.

With the demand of water increasing, already plans are afoot to increase the capacity of the Water Treatment Plant, from 3.5 ml per to 6 ml per day, to meet the 2030 demand projection. This will be complemented by the replacement of asbestos pipes with PVC pipes. The municipality will continue to work with the Department of Water Affairs and COGTA to sustain the water quality in that area.



THIRSTY: Officials share water at the end of the MEC Masuku's visit to the Caroline Water Treatment Plant.



EMPIRICAL EVIDENCE: MEC Masuku drinks water to encourage the local community to use it. He is joined by Chief Albert Luthuli Executive Mayor, Cllr Busi Shiba and Gert Sibande District Executive Mayor, Cllr Mishack Nhlabathi.

HTL EXECUTIVES MEET THE PREMIER



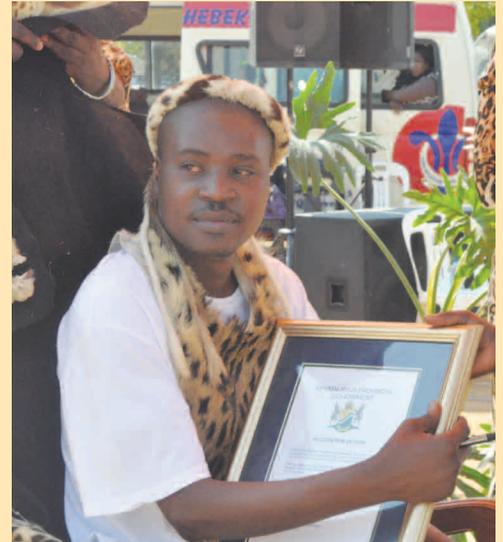
INTRODUCTION: Premier Mabuza with Executive members of the MPHTL: (L-R) Inkhosi Sandile Ngomane, Inkhosi Bheki Mnisi, Kgosi Lameck Mokoena, Ikosi Vuma Mahlangu, Ikosi Siphoh Mahlangu, Inkhosi Khokhaya Malaza and HOD, Mr David Mahlobo.

Mpumalanga Premier, Mr David Mabuza has thrown his weight behind traditional leadership institution. In his first meeting with Executive members of the Mpumalanga Provincial House of Traditional Leaders (MPHTL) in his office, the Premier told them about his allegiance to traditional leaders since childhood. "I grew up in a rural area, and I have always paid allegiance to the traditional leader in my area. I do not subscribe to the protocol of setting up specific dates for meetings with Emakhosi. When you want to see me, you are more than welcome to do so, anytime," he told them.

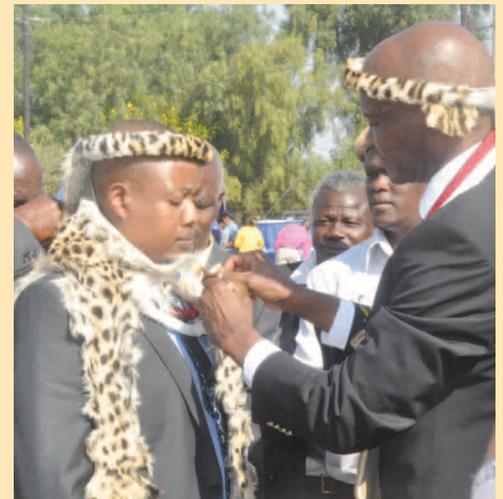
The MPHTL plays an oversight role on development issues in tribal areas, which are within the jurisdiction of Emakhosi. Apart from serving tribal communities, it also plays a leading role on customary issues. With limited budget, Chairperson of the MPHTL, Kgosi Lameck Mokoena appealed for financial support for the body to execute its mandate. "During the last financial year, we had to stop travelling and other functions due to lack of funds. We were wondering if anything can be done to support us financially?" asked Kgosi Mokoena. In his response, Mr Mabuza undertook to raise funds for them. "Last year, R4 million was raised for you. I will discuss the matter with Treasury to see if we can increase the allocation," said the Premier.

Some of the Royal Houses have no traditional leaders following the death of the inherent Chiefs. In cases where the heir-to-the throne is not yet ready to take over, most families have appointed regents. This situation has given rise to an acrimonious relationship amongst members of the families. The Premier, used the meeting to warn against the practise. "The problem here is that regents often refuse to relinquish power. They then cause problems for everybody in order to cling to the throne. And therefore we must resist the temptation of appointing regents. It causes problems for us," Mr Mabuza said. We further warned them about headmen who recently marched to the Provincial Government to deliver a petition in demand of payment. The headmen are appointed by traditional leaders. You must guard against those that bypass you and march against government. If they can march against government, what can stop them to stage a march against you?" asked Mr Mabuza.

Meanwhile, three traditional leaders have been inaugurated in Mpumalanga recently. They are: **Hosi Madala Nkuna** of Hoxane Traditional Council, **Ikosi Monnanyana Mahlangu** of Ndzundza-Pungutsha Traditional Council in Katjibane and **Kgosi Lehlohonolo Mashego** of Thabakgolo Traditional Council.



Hosi Madala Nkuna of Hoxane Traditional Council



Ikosi Monnanyana Mahlangu of Ndzundza-Pungutsha Traditional Council



Kgosi Lehlohonolo Mashego of Thabakgolo Traditional Council

DISPUTES AND CLAIMS COMMITTEE PLEADS FOR PATIENCE

The Provincial Committee on Traditional Leadership Disputes and Claims is working around the clock to finalize all 169 claims and disputes. The committee was appointed by Premier David Mabuza to resolve claims and disputes related to Senior Traditional Leaders and Headmen in Mpumalanga and has until 2015 to complete the task. The findings and recommendations of the committee will be handed over to Mr Mabuza for a final decision.

Although the committee is well on track to complete its task within the stipulated period, however, lack of patience by claimants is a cause for concern. This has precipitated the need for committee members to visit claimants with the view to explain progress made so far and the type of information required for the committee to finalize submissions without delays.

The committee has visited Badplaas, Piet Retief, Nkomazi, Bushbuckridge and Kwamhlanga to meet claimants. In Kwamhlanga, a committee member, Adv. Simon Mahlangu assured claimants that their submissions are given priority. "The committee meets daily to deal with the claims. We have been given five years to deal with claims. By 2015, we would have finalized every submission in front of us," Adv. Mahlangu said.

As part of the process, the committee conducts public hearings and make contacts with members of royal families, to formulate the outcome of the submission. During one of the sessions in Kwamhlanga, some claimants warned members of the committee about consultation with royal families in a matter already declared a dispute. "How do you determine a legitimate royal family in dispute? You must be careful because every person will claim to be a member of the royal family," Mr Sbindi Mabena, warned. In response, Adv. Mahlangu said it is the responsibility of the committee to make sure that every body affected in the dispute is consulted to arrive at a correct decision.

Senior Manager for Rural Development and Traditional Land Administration, Mr Mafikizolo Simelane appealed to the claimants to prepare information required for processing of claims and disputes. Mr Simelane told them to prepare the follow-

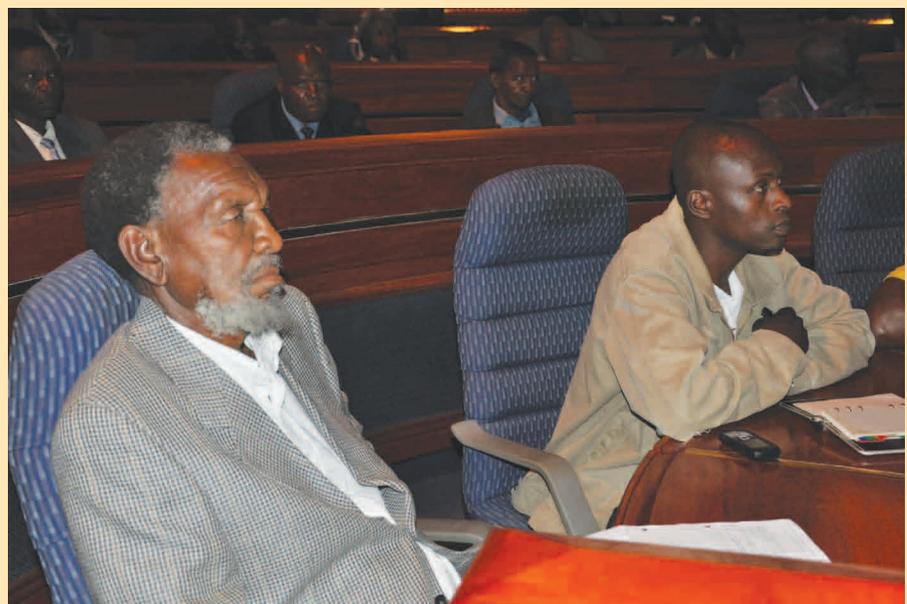
ing information to expedite claims:

- History of the Traditional Leadership,
- Culture and customary law of succession and practices,
- Culture of the people,
- The existence of the traditional leadership and how and when it was lost,
- Line of succession of the traditional leadership,
- Genealogy Profile of the claimant,
- Areas of jurisdiction of the Traditional Leadership.

The committee is mandated to deal with claims of traditional leaders whose existence can be traced as far back as 1 September 1927. At the time, traditional leadership was governed by the Black Administration Act of the former apartheid regime.



GUIDANCE: COGTA's Mafikizolo Simelane sets parameters for information required for claims and disputes in Kwamhlanga.



VIEW POINT: Some claimants are absorbed into discussions as Adv. Mahlangu explain procedures during the Kwamhlanga session.

COGTA In Action



DIPLOMACY: Premier David Mabuza shares his thoughts on traditional leadership during the first meeting with the HTL Provincial Executive in his office.



CONFIRMATION: HOD, Mr David Mahlobo and Chief Albert Luthuli Municipal Manager, Mr Vusi Mpila drink water from a tap to confirm the good quality of water in Caroline.



CORONATION: King Makhosoke II of the Ndebele nation congratulates Iksi Monnanyana Mahlangu of Ndzuzu-Pungutsha in Katjibane during his inauguration.



TRADITIONAL SUPPORT: Men in traditional gear attended the coronation of Iksi Monnanyana Mahlangu of Ndzuzu-Pungutsha in Katjibane.



CULTURAL AFFAIRS: Hosi Madala Nkuna of the Hoxane Traditional Council play host to MEC Madala Masuku and Provincial Chairperson of the House of Traditional Leaders, Kgosi Lameck Mokoena on his coronation day.



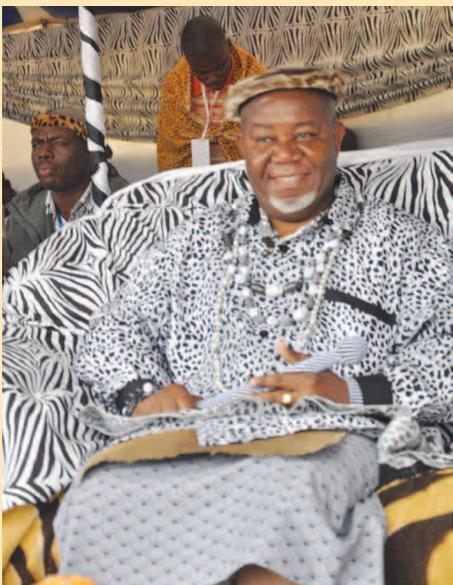
HONOUR: Chief Mashego of the Thabakgolo Traditional Council in Bushbuckridge, marvels at proceedings during his inauguration. He is flanked by Kgosi Mashego of Moreipuso Traditional Council.



REVIVAL: MEC Masuku paints the walls of the Lilydale Recreational Club as part of the Mandela Day celebration



WATERING THE ROOTS: COGTA's Mr Nhlanelhla Thobela (left) and Mr Skhathelhe Shongwe take part in the irrigation of a vegetable garden during the celebration of Mandela Day in Lylidale.



TRADITIONAL MODEL: Chief Lameck Mokoena of Mathibela Traditional Council marvels at proceedings during a traditional annual ceremony.



THOUGHT-PROVOKING: COGTA's Ms Mavis Sambo and Ms Happy Nkosi share ideas before the start of a women's celebration at the Disaster Management Centre.



MUNICIPAL SUPPORT: COGTA's Ms Michelle Fourie, Ms Phumzile Nyoni, Ms Marlene Van der Merwe and Ms Dorris Sithole attended a graduation ceremony in Middleburg after completing a financial management training for municipalities as part of capacity building.



INSTITUTIONAL MEMORY: HOD, Mr David Mahlobo makes introductory remarks during the first meeting of Municipal Managers and newly appointed Provincial Director-General, Dr Nonhlanhla Mkhize, at Ehlanzeni Municipal Council.

COGTA CELEBRATES MANDELA DAY BY DONATING FOOD TO THE POOR AND RENOVATING PUBLIC FACILITIES



WATER FOR LIFE: MEC Masuku irrigates vegetables at a local Lilydale community garden.

Vegetables seeds were also donated to the Lillydale Community, to be planted at the garden which supplies vegetable to the nearby Lillydale Clinic to provide food to patients that cannot afford to buy their own food. Mr Masuku and Cllr Khumalo planted vegetable seeds at the garden.

In Huttington, Ward 25 activities included a clean-up campaign and gravelling of roads. COGTA was joined by officials of the Department of Home Affairs, South African Social Security Agency (SASSA) and the South African Police Services (SAPS) to provide their services to the community at the local sports ground. These services included applications for birth certificates, IDs and registration for social grants.

The celebration was concluded at Huttington Community Hall where the MEC, Executive Mayor and Councillors distributed food parcels and clothes to destitute families. MEC Masuku appealed to the community to emulate the former President. "Madiba taught us to care for each other and asked that instead of giving him gifts on his birthday, we have to dedicate time to help others," Mr Masuku said. He further urged the community to protect public facilities. A cake was also cut in celebration of Madiba's birthday.

- In Caroline, COGTA's Community Development Workers (CDWs) collaborated with Department of Social Services, Pembani Mine, Eastview Mine and Local Businesses identified child headed households to donate 30 food parcels as part of the celebration.
- In the Nkomazi Municipality, CDWs Irene Ngomane and Betty Mkhabela, facilitated the construction of a house for a destitute senior citizen. The house was handed over on Mandela Day. Buoyed by the need to help, a group of COGTA officials donated money to buy food and clothes for a local orphanage at Mataffin. The group further helped fix playing facilities for the children on Mandela Day.
- In Msukaligwa Municipality, CDWs cooked food for children at Wadela Orphanage to mark the day.
- In Emalahleni Municipality, CDWs raised funds to purchase school shoes and pull-overs for needy children on the day.

Replacement and painting of broken windows and doors, planting of vegetable seeds, cleaning and gravelling of roads, distribution of food and clothes are some of the activities which characterized the Mandela Day celebration by the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA). Nelson Mandela's birthday, which takes place on 18 July annually, has since become the symbol of care for the human spirit, a value which he still stands for.

As Mandela turned 94 years old this year, the department heightened its level of care by participating in several areas in the Bushbuckridge Municipality, where the main function was held, and in various areas around Mpumalanga.

MEC Madala Masuku and Bushbuckridge Executive Mayor, Cllr Renias Khumalo and Councillors led a team of officials and local community members in Lillydale, Kildare, Mabharule, Huttington and Justicia to do their bit.

Celebrations started in Ward 26 with the painting and the replacement of broken doors and windows at the Lillydale Recreation Centre. The centre had become a white elephant due to its bad state.



MANDELA LEGACY: COGTA's Thobile Ntimane (white jersey) joins COGTA's CDWs in delivering food parcels to a local family in Caroline on Mandela Day.

MPUMALANGA ESTABLISHES STEERING COMMITTEE TO MONITOR IMPLEMENTATION OF LGTAS

A Provincial Steering Committee to monitor implementation of Local Government Turn Around Strategy (LGTAS) has been established. The establishment of the committee is in line with an announcement by Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Mr Richard Baloyi for an establishment of an intergovernmental and differentiated approach focusing on the implementation of the LGTAS Programme in 105 targeted municipalities. The purpose of the LGTAS is to ensure that all activities that are undertaken in the local sphere of government occur in a coordinated and efficient manner.

In Mpumalanga, the focus will be on 9 municipalities, namely: Bushbuckridge Municipality, Nkomazi Municipality, Thaba Chweu Municipality, Thembisile Hani Municipality, Dr JS Moroka Municipality, Dipaleseng Municipality, Dr Pixley ka Isaka Seme Municipality, Mkhondo Municipality and Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality. The committee will monitor acceleration of five key priority areas, namely:

- Accelerating service delivery;
- Enhancing Good Governance;
- Promoting sound financial management;
- Fighting corruption;
- Facilitating sustainable infrastructure development.

Recently, President Jacob Zuma told a South African Government Local Government Association (SALGA) special conference in Midrand that the country has made substantial progress in improving service delivery and extending services to our people, especially the poor who were marginalised in the past. He added: "We launched the Local Government Turnaround Strategy in December 2009 to provide further support and strengthen local government. The reality of apartheid is that large parts of the country had never had any form of local government. As a result, the backlogs are still glaring. While acknowledging progress, we also know that many municipalities, especially in the rural areas, are still struggling and are lacking capacity as well as resources to fulfil their functions. We need to work together to find a solution for such municipalities".

The core functions of the committee are to:

- Promote and foster cooperation of all role players in the implementation of the LGTAS action plan in

the province;

- Ensure the fulfillment of commitments emanating from the decisions of high level provincial forums in regard to the LGTAS Programme;
- Ensure coordination of various government support programmes that are implemented in the local government sphere in the province;
- Ensure that activities by all spheres of government in the province are supportive to address findings of the State of Local Government Report;

- Ensure that funding prioritisation of all spheres are directed to support the work of LGTAS in the province

The committee is constituted by District Municipal Managers and Municipal Managers from the 9 municipalities, Premier's Office, Provincial Departments, Provincial SALGA, while COGTA's Chief Director for Development and Planning, Mr Sam Ngubane has been appointed Chairperson of the Committee. Mr Ngubane says the committee will conduct site visits to the municipalities, Community Works Projects with the view to provide support.



THINK-TANK: National COGTA's Mr Tozi Faba and Provincial Chairperson of the Steering Committee on LGTAS, Mr Sam Ngubane refine inputs during a meeting for the establishment of the committee.



TECHNICAL SUPPORT: COGTA's Mr Fanie Ngwenyama, Ms Jabulile Maphanga and Ms Thuli Mashile think ahead before the start of activities of the committee.

COGTA HAS DONE IT AGAIN!

Statistically, over two and a half million houses have been built for the poor in the country. This amount to over ten million people provided with shelter, according to research. The number of people with access to basic services has increased. According to research six million households have gained access to clean water since 1994, and nearly five million homes have been connected to electricity.

A Nkosi family based in Mayflower, near Mpuluzi, is amongst the five million households in the country to access electricity. This follows an intervention by the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), which co-ordinated efforts to help the family access electricity after the house was left out in an electrification project initiated by the Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality in 2010. In the spirit of co-operative governance, COGTA worked together with councillors and officials from the Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality to help connect the family to a power supply.

The family referred the matter to COGTA. The department's Mr Sabelo Mathebula, took it up with the Ward Councillor. "After receiving the complain from the family we visited the Nkosi family the next day, on 3 May 2012, to investigate and establish the nature of the complain and to get more details on the matter. We convened a meeting with all stakeholders from the Ward Councillor to the Mpuluzi Unit Manager and our Community Development Worker (CDW). During the meeting we came up with a plan of action that included engaging ESKOM and the consultant appointed," says Mr Mathebula, Ward Committee District Co-ordinator.

Mr Mathebula says after several meetings, the house was connected to the power supply point, like all other households, with the help of the Municipal Manager (Mr Vusi Mpila). "We made numerous follow-ups and requested the Project Management Unit to ask the Municipal Manager to approve funds from the 2012/13 financial year. With the approval of the Municipal Manager the house was finally connected," says Mr Mathebula.

For a family which had pinned its hope on COGTA's intervention, it paid off to wait patiently until power was switched on. Mr Alfred Nkosi's wife, Ms Malinga appreciated the department for resolving their plight. The installation of a Jojo Tank, by the municipality to help the family get water, completed the family's joy.

Turning the lives of people around remains central to the department's agenda. Working with sector departments, the department's CDWs and Thusong Service Centre Managers continue to help people to access government services such as obtaining Identity Documents, Birth Certificates which enable them to access social grants and other essential services.



MILESTONE: Chief Albert Luthuli Councillor, Cllr Walter Mngomezulu punches in the correct electricity numbers.



GOOD NEWS: COGTA's Mr Sabelo Mathebula hands over an electricity card to Ms Selinah Malinga to mark the official switch on of power at the house.

ANGOLAN QUEEN VISITS MPUMALANGA



BENCHMARK: Queen Kata of Angola (Red jersey in the middle), visited Mpumalanga on a study tour. She is flanked by officials of COGTA, HTL, Ehlanzeni District and Mbombela Municipality.

The harmonious working relationship between the state and traditional leadership is a source of attraction for countries which subscribe to traditional leadership. This was evident during the Angolan Queen Kata's visit to Mpumalanga recently. Queen Kata who was appointed a special advisor to the Ministry of Territorial and Administration in the Republic of Angola visited South Africa to study the relationship between municipalities and Traditional councils, government's support to the Institution of Traditional Leadership in Mpumalanga and the promotion of culture and tradition.

During the first meeting, COGTA's Senior Manager for Traditional Institutional Management, Mr Paulos Mnisi told the Queen about the department's support for the Institution of Traditional Leadership. COGTA's purchase of vehicles for traditional leaders last year, the on-going renovation of offices for traditional councils as part of government's commitment to modernize traditional leaders and to help them develop tribal areas within their jurisdiction was eminent in his presentation.

The participation of traditional leaders in municipal councils and their roles during Integrated Development Plans (IDPs) to bring synergy in the development processes was also a highlight in Mnisi's presentation. Both Ehlanzeni District and Mbombela

Municipality focused on the usage of land belonging to traditional leaders and the relationship between traditional leaders and councillors. It was clear in both presentations that the working relationship between Emakhosi and councillors has improved.

Queen Kata paid a courtesy visit to the Head of Department, Mr David Mahlobo.

She concluded her visit in Mpumalanga by visiting the Msogwaba Traditional Council, about 40 kilometers outside Nelspruit. During her visit, Chief Nkosi of the Msogwaba Tribal Council explained in detail, the order of succession for the traditional leadership, functions of the Tribal Court and the day-to-day operation of the traditional council. This was done much to the appreciation of the Queen.



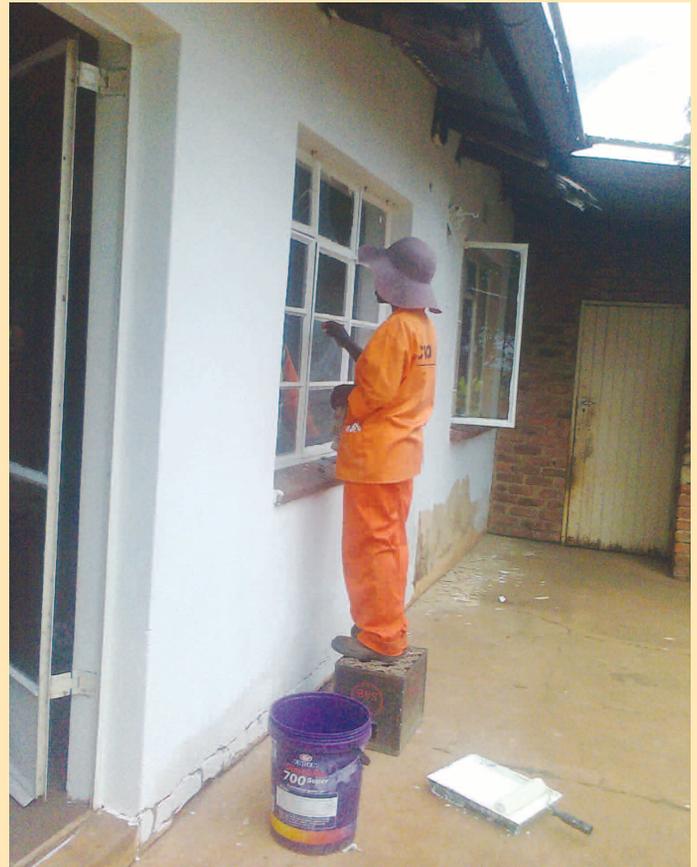
WELCOME: A local praise singer, Mr Jobe Nkosi welcomes Angolan Queen Kata at Kam-sogwaba Traditional Council during her visit.

CWP CREATES JOB OPPORTUNITIES IN MPUMALANGA

More than 6427 job opportunities have been created in Mpumalanga since the implementation of the Community Works Programme (CWP) last year. The creation of these job opportunities is in line with Output 3 of Outcome 9 of the service delivery agreement. With this Outcome, government is committed to create at least 237 000 work opportunities across the country in predominantly rural areas by 2014 in a minimum of 2 Wards per Municipality. In Mpumalanga Province CWP was first piloted in the following Municipalities: Albert Luthuli, Mkhondo, Nkomazi, Thembisile Hani and Bushbuckridge.

The South African economy is faced with a number of challenges emanating from the unstable global markets. As a result, the job market is unable to meet the increasing job demands in the country. The CWP remains one of the many programmes initiated by government to soften the negative impact of poverty and job creation. In view of the growing success of the programme, government has taken a resolution to upscale CWP to most municipalities in the country. In Mpumalanga, the programme has been extended to eight new additional sites namely: Mbombela, Thaba Chweu, Steve Tshwete, Emalaheni, Dr J S Moroka, Msukaligwa, Govan Mbeki and Pixley Ka Seme Local Municipalities. In view of the extension the projection for the total number of work opportunities to be created by March 2013 is 17000.

Not only has the programme helped provide job opportunities for the unemployed, but has also restored the pride and dignity of communities through useful work that is done by participants. The programme helps renovate public buildings and establish community gardens for food security.



REHABILITATION: CWP Participants renovate public buildings as part of skills development.



FOOD SECURITY: The CWP programme in which vegetables are produced, creates a source of income for the unemployed in Mkhondo Local Municipality.

MUNICIPALITIES STRENGTHENED WITH APPOINTMENT OF NEW LEADERSHIP

MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Mr Madala Masuku has welcomed the election of Cllr Mishack Nhlabathi as Executive Mayor for Gert Sibande District and Cllr Michael Ncongwane as Executive Mayor for Thaba Chweu Local Municipality. With them at the helm, we believe that the municipalities will be restored to their rightful place in the Local Government space and help improve the lives of communities within their jurisdiction.

Furthermore, the Department applauds the appointment of Municipal Managers in their respective municipalities and SALGA Provincial Chairperson Cllr. Mafika Nkosi.



Cllr Mafika Nkosi: SALGA Provincial Chairperson



Cllr Mishack Nhlabathi: Executive Mayor for Gert Sibande District



Cllr Michael Ncongwane: Executive Mayor for Thaba Chweu Local Municipality.



Mr Linda Tshabalala: Municipal Manager for Lekwa Local Municipality.



Mr Pat Malibye: Municipal Manager for Pixley Ka Isaka Seme Local Municipality



Mr Doctor Shabangu: Municipal Manager for Bushbuckridge Local Municipality.



Ms Minah Maredi: Municipal Manager Victor Khanye Local Municipality



Mr George Mthimunya: Municipal Manager Emalahleni Local Municipality.



Mr Mr Absenia Habile: Municipal Manager Gert Sibande District Municipality.



Mr Vela Mahlangu: Municipal Manager for Govan Mbeki Local Municipality

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VISION

Intergrated sustainable people
centred development

MISSION

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

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