

LOCAL

NEWS

ISSUE NO:13 ● OFFICIAL NEWSLETTER ● THIRD QUARTER ● ● ●

DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS



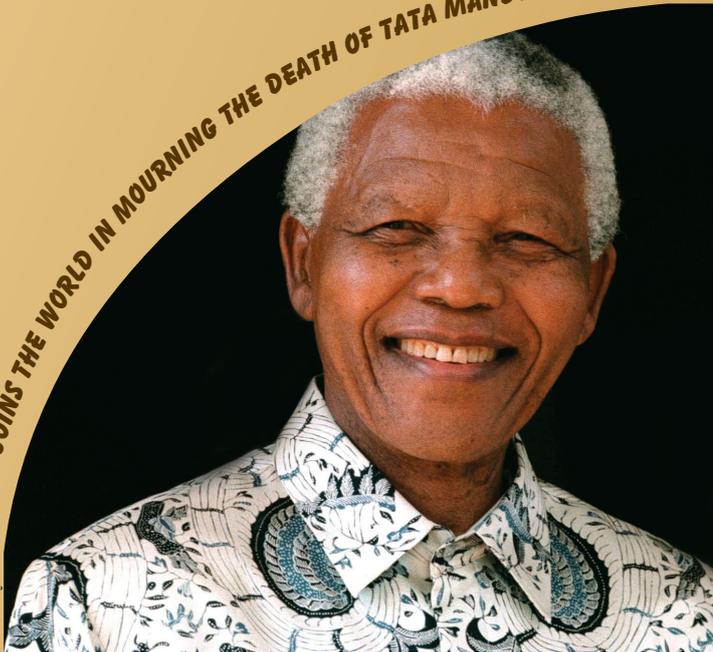
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Department:
Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs
MPUMALANGA PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT



Mpumalanga Provincial
House of Traditional Leaders

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MEC's FOREWORD



MEC SPD SKHOSANA

We are in unison with the global community in mourning the death of the global icon, Dr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela. As we mourn his death, we take cue from President Jacob Zuma, Premier David Mabuza and the ANC to celebrate his achievements as a struggle icon, our liberator and our internal peace icon. His leadership, which saw South Africa's transition into a democratic dispensation is a beacon of hope for many countries in transition. His reconciliation crusade has made the world to realize that it is possible to work peacefully with your enemies who orchestrated your incarceration for 27 years.

The responsibility to keep Mandela's legacy alive lies with us. We can do so by making his dream for a better life for all, a reality. May his soul rest in peace.

The establishment of the University in Mpumalanga could not have come at the right time. In our quest to deliver Outcome 9 of the service delivery agreement, we cherish the hope that the University will, in addition to the variety of courses offered, become a training ground for local government practitioners. In Mpumalanga, we have been on the offensive in the implementation of training programmes for municipalities, from Local Economic Development (LED) to Financial Management training programmes. These initiatives are in line with Capacity Building. So the establishment of the new university will help us to take training programmes to another level.

We salute the Chairperson of the Mpumalanga House of Traditional Leaders (MPHTL), Kgosi Mathebela Mokoena and the Executive for their initiatives in assembling all role players to discuss invasion of land. Land ownership remains a sensitive issue in the country, and any initiative to deal with the challenges related to land ownership, such as invasion, is highly commended. With security agencies in attendance, we believe that resolutions adopted during the summit, will not be in vain, but will be backed up with action. Emakhosi are the right voice to fight the issue of land invasion.

A study conducted by the South African Local Government Association (SALGA) and the University of South Africa (UNISA) in 2012 raised the need for more land to provide for cemeteries. Pertinent arguments came out of the study. For example Human Rights organizations argued for the need to acquire more land for burial to prevent violation of individuals' constitutional right to observe cultural practices and rituals. On the other hand, the study revealed that the prevention of cemeteries on unsuitable soil and on slopes with steep gradients landscapes has a potential risk for underground water contamination and other hazards. We commend SALGA for undertaking the research on such an emotive subject. As SALGA explores possible solutions, we must bear in mind that the final decision will impact on generations to come.

Our journey towards operation clean audit 2014 is still on. Difficult as it is to achieve them, the improvement of municipalities from various stages of audit findings over the years gives us hope that we can make it. The improvement could not be possible without the support of the former Auditor-General (A-G), Mr Terrence Nombembe and his support staff in the Nelspruit office. His desire to see municipalities producing clean audits was evident when he visited us from time to time, sharing his innovative ideas during his tenure. His passion for the daunting job was unparalleled and we hope he will take it with him to his new position as Chief Executive Officer (CEO) of the South African Institute of Accountants (SAIA). We wish him success in this new position. We also welcome his successor, Mr Kimi Makwetu. We assure Mr Makwetu of our commitment and hope that his experience of working with us will be an enjoyable one.



Message from the HOD's office



The late former President, Tata Nelson Mandela has taught us to be modest. His modesty of mobilizing our people for the purpose of unity in diversity found expression in the good conduct of the masses who attended the five memorial services organized to mourn Mandela's passing on. We consider the good conduct as one of the steps to keep the Mandela legacy alive. Mpumalanga, under the leadership of Premier David Mabuza made an indelible mark to honour Madiba.

We salute President Zuma for honouring Madiba by erecting the statue at the Union Buildings, unveiled on reconciliation day. The Union Buildings is where generations of apartheid heads of state signed many of the racial laws Mandela spent most of his life, fighting against, but also where he was inaugurated as South Africa's first black President in 1994. We salute Tata Mandela for his unwavering spirit.

My recent study tour to China deepened my appreciation for South Africa's plan to develop rural areas. Rural development is one of the five key focus areas of government in the financial year under review. China has made great strides in this area and we can learn a thing or two in our endeavour to expand the economic gains to the rural areas, since the democratic dispensation in 1994. One of the lessons I learnt is that all government institutions and the private sector, have a role to play in rural development, a lesson we can emulate here in South Africa.

It is encouraging to see that while national and provincial government is working hard to improve rural communities, municipalities are also doing their bit, since the majority of them are

located in rural areas. Govan Mbeki Local Municipality with its seat in Secunda, is one of them. The municipality is spending R260 million on capital projects in the 2013/14 financial year. By spending this amount, the municipality will stimulate economic growth which in effect will create jobs for people in the rural areas. With an unemployment rate of 20,25%, according to the 2011 Statistics, this stimulus will go a long way to improve the lives of rural communities. By the end of the financial year, more than 1 600 jobs which are Community Works' Programme (CWP) and Expanded Works' Programme (EWP) compliant would have been created through this initiative. By spending this amount, we hope that the private sector will come on board to join forces. We congratulate the Executive Mayor, Cllr Lettie Masina and her council for these initiatives.

The third quarter is a signal that we are a step away from the fourth quarter, which marks an end to the financial year. I am confident that by the end of the financial year we would have achieved our targets as tabled by MEC Simon Skhosana during the Policy and Budget speech in July 2013 in the legislature. In the light of austerity measures by countries in Europe, and the subsequent call by both President Jacob Zuma and Minister Pravin Gordhan of Finance to do more with less, we have applied austerity measures in our own way in the department by prioritizing service delivery. We have taken heed of Mr Gordhan statement in which he said: "Debt levels are too high and are thus a threat to further growth. Austerity is best, since high debt levels are the cause of uncertainty".

We have been prudent in our spending and will continue to do so even with the additional R19 801 million allocated to our department announced by MEC Madala Masuku of Finance, during the Provincial adjustment budget in September. In our endeavour to provide service to our communities prone to disasters, part of the allocation will be utilized for that purpose. As Mr Masuku indicated, part of the allocation will be utilized to support municipalities with a challenge on service delivery, such as water and sanitation.

The December-January period is often characterized by natural disasters such as floods. Since we have no control over disasters, we are concerned about people in low-lying areas close to the rivers and the dams. We appeal to such people to vacate them to avoid any risk. We have lost lives previously and would not like to have a repeat of the same fate.

PRESIDENT ZUMA PAYS TRIBUTE TO MANDELA



SEND OFF: President Zuma attended Mandela's funeral in Qunu. He is flanked by Mandela's former wife, Ms Winnie Madikizela-Mandela (left) and Mandela's widow, Ms Graca Machel.

President Jacob Zuma paid tribute to the first democratic President of South Africa, Dr Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela during a farewell function at the Waterkloof Airbase. The function marked the final journey of Mandela to Qunu where he was laid to rest. In his address, President Zuma described Mandela as a leader who believed in unity. "Madiba believed in unity. This is what he preached. This is what he worked for, to unite people in the country, in the continent. His wish was that if only people in the world were united," Zuma said.

Born on the 18th of July 1918 in Mvezo, in the Eastern Cape, Mandela became one of the prominent leaders of the ANC sentenced for life to the Robben Island in 1963 for treason. A law graduate from Wits University, Madiba rose through the ranks of the ANC to become the President of South Africa in 1994, after the first democratic elections held on 27 April 1994.

His negotiating skills, which led to a peaceful transition after the democratic elections, earned him the Nobel Peace Prize bestowed on him in 1993 alongside his predecessor, Mr F.W De Klerk. In 2002, an Honorary Doctorate of Law was also conferred on him to add to a number of accolades bestowed on him, including the ANC's highest honour, Isithwalandwe. His reconciliation efforts between blacks and whites, further earned Madiba international reputation, as alluded to by President Zuma: "He believed in reconciliation and worked for it as he began the negotiations. But also, he believed in forgiving those who did wrong to us, who had wronged him. Thus, this country was lucky to have a man of that calibre who could negotiate very strongly and at the same time remember that all that we're doing was to bring about peace, freedom and democracy in our country."

President Zuma appealed to the mourners during Madiba's send off

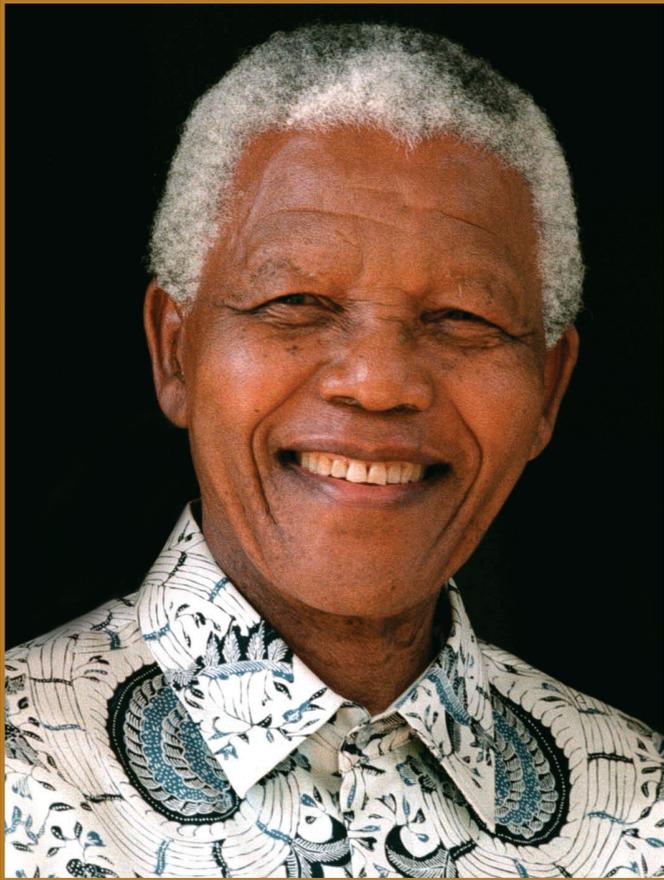
that the country needs to reproduce people to emulate Mandela. He said the challenges which led Mandela to stand up, are different from today's challenges facing the country. "Madiba was produced by the ANC under different circumstances. We need to ponder and say how can we do it today given the conditions of today, because we need more Madibas so that our country can prosper. Yes we are free but the challenge of inequality remains. The problem of poverty remains. Unemployment remains. And therefore the challenge to us, to think and remember Madiba is to be more committed and dedicated to do what Madiba did," the President said.

Madiba's reconciliation efforts were further honoured by the building a statue representing him at the Union Buildings. The 9 metre statue was unveiled on reconciliation day, a day celebrated annually in the country. President Zuma said the unveiling of the statue is a fitting tribute to the contribution he (Mandela) has made to the country, Africa and the world. He added: "It is the least we can do for a man who dedicated his entire life to this country and its people."



EULOGY: President Jacob Zuma honours Mandela's widow, Ms Graca Machel with Mandela's framed picture after delivering a farewell speech for Mandela at the Waterkloof Airbase in Pretoria.

COGTA JOINS THE WORLD IN MOURNING THE DEATH OF TATA MANDELA



Tata Madiba was held in high esteem as a struggle icon.

The 5th of December 2013 marked the end of an era when the first President of democratic South Africa, Dr Nelson Mandela passed on. It marked a chapter in the history of South Africa in which the world joined the nation to mourn the death of this global icon, Dr Nelson Mandela. His death, which culminated into a series of mourning activities and subsequently his burial in Qunu, in the Eastern Cape, was announced by President Jacob Zuma.

Mandela earned international support for his revolution for justice, freedom and equality which saw him incarcerated by the former apartheid regime for 27 years in Robben Island and Polls Moore Prisons, until his release in 1992. His memorial service held at the FNB Stadium in Soweto, attracted Heads of States, including President Barack Obama of the United States, accompanied by two of his predecessors, George W Bush and Bill Clinton, Cuba's Raul Castro, Tanzania's Kikuyu Kikwete, Malawi's Joyce Banda, Zimbabwe's Robert Mugabe and many more.

In Mpumalanga, Premier David Mabuza became the first to sign one of the many books of condolences at the Mbombela's Civic Centre. Subsequently, the provincial government established more than 80 mourning centres where communities signed condolences books in honour of the international statesman, which was followed by a provincial mourning day held at the Mbombela stadium, addressed by Premier Mabuza.

In his address the Premier paid tribute to Mandela for his contribution in the liberation struggle and peace-making efforts. "We have indeed lost a colossus, an epitome of humanity, equality, justice, peace and the hope of millions; here and abroad and I am saying there is no grave so big to bury this African elephant. His mortal material may have given up, but he will live with us in our memory. His spirit shall be with us forever, guiding us through the tribulations of life and celebrate with us the gains achieved as we follow his footsteps," Mr Mabuza said.

A task team comprising of MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Mr Simon Skhosana and his counterparts, MEC Dikeledi Mahlangu of Public Works, Roads and Transport (PWRT) and Mr Madala Masuku of Finance, Provincial Director-General, Dr Nonhlanhla Mkhize and Heads of Departments organized the main and regional memorial days held in Mbombela, Ermelo, Mkhuhlu, Driekoppies and Middleburg. The task team further arranged transport to ferry mourners to the venues for memorial services.

COGTA's Head of Department, Mr David Mahlobo was deployed to Qunu in his capacity as a member of the ANC's National Executive Committee (NEC) to assist in the logistical arrangements for Mandela's burial.

As a province we salute Tata Madiba and celebrate a life dedicated to all of us. We must always uphold the values and lessons given to us by Tata Madiba.



FINAL MOMENT: COGTA's Chief Director for Corporate Services, Ms Helen Shube addresses officials during one of the prayer services in honour of Mandela.

PREMIER MABUZA PAYS TRIBUTE TO THE FALLEN HEROES OF TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP IN MPUMALANGA



EMOTIONAL: Premier David Mabuza honours the late Kgosi Mafoko Mokgoko of Bakgatla ba Mmakau by handing over his portrait picture to a member of his family.

Mpumalanga Premier, Mr David Mabuza has paid tribute to Mpumalanga's Traditional Leaders who have passed on for their role in the society. The Premier was addressing the inaugural function to commemorate fallen heroes in Nelspruit. Mr Mabuza declared that the commemoration will be held annually as a provincial day and will be funded by the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA).

In his address, Mr Mabuza narrated the establishment of the Mpumalanga House of Traditional Leaders (MPHTL) as one of the major milestones since the democratic dispensation. Mpumalanga was the first to establish the house for Emakhosi with

Inkhosi Bheki Mnisi of Mantjolo Tribal Authority as the first Chairperson. He further paid tribute to Mnisi's successors, amongst them Inkhosi Mlambo II, Inkhosi Mgiyeni Khumalo and Inkhosi Mzingeli Mthethwa. "We thank all the Chairpersons who led the house, including their families. We have seen your contributions. Inkhosi Mthethwa, whom I worked with closely, was never arrogant and spent most of his time with the people," said the Premier in remembrance.

In his tribute, Premier Mabuza made a contrast of the relationship between traditional leaders and government, with reference to the late Ndebele King Mayitja of the Ndzundza Mabhoko Royal Kraal. "At first he refused to

talk to me. At the time I was the youngest MEC in (former) Premier Mathew Phosa's cabinet. He (King Mayitja) was aggressive in his approach. However, his attitude changed with time. He called me at some stage, and we had progressive discussions," Mr Mabuza recalled. My interaction with him deepened my understanding about the institution.

Mr Mabuza echoed government's commitment to restore the dignity of Emakhosi. "My first assignment is to improve your status. We have two Kings (Tingwenyama) in Mpumalanga. I visited them at some stage and was not impressed with the state of their royal houses. I will fix them (houses). I will attend to your issues," Mr Mabuza promised.

Mr Mabuza appealed to Emakhosi to make a meaningful contribution to the development of Mpumalanga. "I would like to see Emakhosi initiating programmes on health, HIV/AIDS, agricultural for example. Our people are dying of AIDS. With your programmes, we can win the fight against the deadly disease. Maybe it is a sign that there is something wrong we are doing. Together, we can fight poverty in rural areas. So give us proposals on what you want to do," he urged them.

He warned Emakhosi about the growing trend of disputes in royal families, which he says are a source of fighting which tear apart families and their subjects. He recommended that any dispute should be dealt with by the inner house of the royal families and advised them not to appoint regents even if the heir-to-the throne is not yet ready to ascend to the throne as this creates problems later.

COGTA IN ACTION



SYMPATHY: Premier David Mabuza signs the book of condolences at the civic centre in honour of Mandela.



HAMBAKAHLE MADIBA: Chairperson of the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders (HTL) Kgosi Mathibela Mokoena writes a message of support for the Mandela family in a book of condolences in Mkhuhlu during a memorial service.



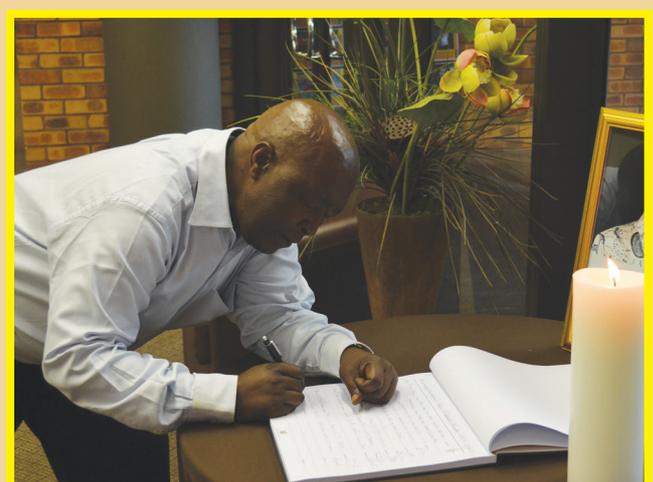
HOMAGE: A local resident in Mkhuhlu post condolences to the Mandela family on a condolences book at the Mkhuhlu Sports Ground



CONTRIBUTION: MEC Skhosana expresses sympathy for the Mandela family by writing a message of condolences in the book of condolences at the Mbombela Civic Centre.



MANDELA'S VISION: Pastor Thamsanqa Ndimande shares his thoughts about the late Mandela during a service by COGTA's officials to honour the late statesman.



BEREAVEMENT: COGTA's Mr Dan King joins his colleagues in the signing of a condolences book for Mandela in Building 6.

COGTA IN ACTION



ACKNOWLEDGEMENT: Head of Department, Mr David Mahlobo tables a report about the state of municipalities in Mpumalanga during the annual South African Local Government Association's (SALGA) provincial conference in Badplaas.



BENCHMARK: MEC Skhosana pays a visit to the Eastern Cape's House of Traditional Leaders to study their best practices. He was accompanied by members of COGTA's Senior Management.



SYMBOLIC: MEC Skhosana attended the unveiling of a statue for Chief Nyabela in Rossenekal.



HISTORICAL MOMENT: Premier David Mabuza hands over a framed picture of the late Prince James Mahlangu of Ndzundza-Fene to his family during the commemoration of fallen heroes in Nelspruit.



IN PRISON: HTL Provincial Chairperson, Kgosi Mathibela Mokoena is led into the Nelspruit prison cells by Correctional Services' Ms Zodwa Mthethwa prior to a start of an indaba.



HERITAGE: Ingwenyama Mabhoko II delivers a key note address during the unveiling of Chief Nyabela's statue in Rossenekal.

Government accelerates water delivery in Victor Khanye



ENVIRONMENTAL FRIENDLY: Premier Mabuza waters a newly planted tree in one of the 25 new houses in Delmas. Minister Tsenoli waits for his turn to put soil during the bucket eradication programme.

The construction of water delivery networks is being accelerated in Victor Khanye Municipality to improve the capacity of water supply in the old and newly established settlements. This was announced by Minister of Water Affairs, Ms Edna Molewa during a programme to eradicate the bucket system in Delmas.

The function was attended by Premier David Mabuza, Minister for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Mr Lechesa Tsenoli, MEC and Head of COGTA, Mr Simon Skhosana and Mr David Mahlobo respectively, MEC for Human Settlements, Mr Andries Gamede and Victor Khanye Executive Mayor, Cllr Zodwa Makhabane.

Minister Molewa says R18 million will be spent to install boreholes for the supply of water. The plan to supply water to a new location in Victor Khanye is in line with a decision to relocate people from three informal settlements, namely: Mandela, Mawag and Nkanini. The will be relocated to a new location at Extension 5. The decision was announced by Mpumalanga Premier, Mr David Mabuza. "The process to relocate people will start in December 2013 and will be com-

pleted by March 2014. Once we have relocated you, we don't want to see any new shelter there," Mr Mabuza said during an imbizo held in Delmas. He threatened with arrests those who will defy.

According to the Water Affairs' Minister, Ms Molewa, 66% of the people

in South Africa has access to clean water. She says the construction of water networks in Victor Khanye will increase the number of people with access to water in the country since 1994.

Molewa said government is committed to accelerate delivery of services such as water. The plan to accelerate the provision of water to the new and old settlements in Victor Khanye Municipality is aligned to the Premier's commitment to supply water to all residents in Mpumalanga by the end of January 2014. Recently, eight municipalities with water challenges, including Victor Khanye signed a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) with the Premier and the Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA) to provide them with the technical expertise, financial support and other mechanism for the acceleration of water services. The municipalities are: Nkomazi, Emalahleni, Dr J.S Moroka, Mbombela, Bushbuckridge, Them-bisile Hani and Mkhondo.

By November 2013, a number of processes leading up to the delivery of water, such as advertisement of tenders, adjudication and appointment of service providers, had been concluded.



INTERFACE: Premier David Mabuza leads a delegation of Minister Tsenoli (COGTA) and Minister Molewa (Water Affairs) and Victor Khanye Executive Mayor, Cllr Makhabane in a visit to local households in Delmas to check the sanitation programme.

MEC SKHOSANA REAFFIRMS COGTA'S SUPPORT FOR MUNICIPALITIES

Municipalities are seen as a vital cog of service delivery in the country. They are the first port of call for communities in distress, especially on issues of service delivery, even if some issues are the competency of provincial and national spheres of government. Their proximity to local communities makes them vulnerable for criticism and attacks even if the matter at hand is outside their mandate.

The need to support municipalities is crucial for them to navigate through the myriad of challenges facing them such as limited budgets (which leads to poor service delivery), low revenue base, poor leadership, lack of expertise, high vacancy rate and turn over. Over the years, several interventions, such as the Local Government Turn Around Strategy, Operation Clean Audit 2014, etc have been implemented with positive outcomes.

In Mpumalanga, the Department of Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA) has initiated various interventions in support of municipalities, according to the MEC, Mr Simon Skhosana. "Local government remains a very important sphere of government. We have an obligation to support this sphere of government so that service delivery to our people is efficient and effective," Mr Skhosana said this when delivering a key note address to the members' assembly of the Provincial South African Local Government Association (SALGA) in Badplaas. The function was attended by Executive Mayors, Speakers, Chief Whips of all 21 municipalities and the private sector.

Public confidence is at stake and municipalities are aware of this. Municipal audit outcomes, which have the potential to boost public confidence, are improving, even though municipalities fall short of achieving clean audits, in line with Operation Clean Audit 2014. Only two municipalities, namely: Steve Tshwete and Ehlanzeni District have produced clean audits during the 2012/13 financial year.

As Mr Skhosana noted, municipalities are still struggling on issues of planning, delivery of basic services, financial viability, leadership and management and public participation.

The commitment by MEC Skhosana will complement the support which SALGA provides to municipalities.

The organization has already supported municipalities to put in place business plans and to finalize their budgets which have been adopted by their respective councils. In addition, SALGA is putting in place systems for effective governance, legal support and establishment of ward committees for all municipalities.



SPELL BOUND: Victor Khanye's Executive Mayor, Cllr Ntombizodwa Makhabane and her counterpart of Thembisile Hani Municipality, Cllr Ndaweni Mahlangu attended the SALGA summit in Badplaas addressed by MEC Skhosana.



JERKING UP SUPPORT: SALGA's Ms Gugu Langa gives direction to proceedings during the summit in Badplaas.

Upgrading of water delivery capacity in Albert Luthuli Municipality underway



WATER FOR ALL: A water pump station in Eersterhoek will be upgraded as part of Albert Luthuli Municipality's plan to provide water to the local community.

The struggle for water for several communities in the Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality will soon be a thing of the past. Three water schemes are to be upgraded for an adequate supply of water in Eerstehoek, Lusushwane, Empuluzi and Carolina. The decision was announced by the Executive Mayor, Cllr Busi Shiba during a function to table a budget speech.

The Chief Albert Luthuli Municipality has set aside **R39 284 800** to improve the capacity of the three schemes. Cllr Shiba says the municipality has committed this amount of money to provide water to affected communities in line with a noble call by the Premier. "In this financial year, we will start a process of gradually phasing out the contracted water tankers and switch to drilling and equipping of electric boreholes in various wards that have a problem of water supply. This will enhance our capacity of supplying sustainable clean and drinkable water," she said.

The municipality is amongst the eight municipalities to sign

a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) with the Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA) and the Premier for the delivery of water. The plan to improve the capacity of water is also in line with Premier David Mabuza's call to provide all communities with water by the end of January in 2014.

Cllr Shiba says the commitment to provide water and other amenities is signal enough that the ANC-led municipality cares. "The provision of basic services like water, sanitation and electricity to our people remains a non-negotiable and we shall fight for it till the end of our term. We will do this because we know very well the pain of mother's who have to walk kilometres with a bucket on their back get water or with wood on their heads to make fire to be able to cook. We dare not fail in this task because we would have failed to restore the dignity of our people which was taken away from them for more than 300 years," Cllr Shiba added.

GOVAN MBEKI MUNICIPALITY'S QUEST TO REDUCE UNEMPLOYMENT YIELDS RESULTS



HANDS ON DECK: Govan Mbeki's Executive Mayor, Cllr Lettie Masina.



SOURCE OF INCOME: A Community Works' Programme in Secunda has created 1200 job opportunities for the locals.

The Govan Mbeki Municipality has been identified as one of the four municipalities with high economic drivers in Mpumalanga. The other three are Mbombela, Steve Tshwete and Emalahleni. The Govan Mbeki Municipality's economy is coal mining-based and is home to South Africa's fuel giant, SASOL. Despite this, unemployment remains the biggest challenge to the municipality located in the Gert Sibande District.

According to the 2011 Statistics unemployment rate has since increased to 25%. With job creation as one of the government's five focus areas in the 2013 financial year, the Govan Mbeki Municipality is pulling all stops to address the matter. Working with the Provincial Government and partnering with the private sector to address the unemployment. Already a number of projects have been initiated and are contributing to a source of income for beneficiaries, namely:

- The Expanded Public Works Project (EPWP) which created **415** employment opportunities.
- The Community Works Project (CWP) which created **1200** employment opportunities.
- The Phezukomkhono Projects which created **32** employment opportunities.

The number of employment opportunities is expected to increase. According to the Executive Mayor, Cllr Lettie Masina, two major projects are to be established. "A URIA (Fertilizer) in Secunda and a FEEDLOT Plant in Embalenhle will be established. The Mpumalanga Economic Growth Agency (MEGA) is establishing the plant in line with the BRICS (Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa)," she told a council sitting in Secunda when tabling the municipality's budget. She expressed hope that 1000 people will be employed in the two projects. Cllr Masina said business plans for both projects have been submitted to the relevant Provincial Departments and service level agreements are in place.

The municipality is on a quest to curtail the rate of unemployment through a number of capital projects aimed at improving the lives of the people. A capital budget of R260 million has been set aside for water and sanitation. Cllr Masina said Millan Park and First Street Pump stations are currently under repair. She added that Embalenhle Ext. 22 sewer network is undergoing a rectification process, while 18 windmills are being installed in rural areas. All faulty water meters, according to the Mayor, are being replaced to ensure proper billing and revenue collection. The projects are aimed at increasing access to water for 1071 households without water and 665 without toilets. Currently 68 096 have access to water, while 68 502 have access to sanitation.

Emakhosi and DCS forge a working relationship



JUSTICE FOR ALL: Acting Area Commissioner, Ms Zodwa Mthethwa of the Correctional Services describes correctional facilities in Nelspruit during a tour of facilities by Emakhosi, led by the HTL's Provincial Chairperson, Kgosi Mathibela Mokoena.

The decision by President Jacob Zuma to grant a special remission of sentence to specific categories of sentenced offenders, probationers and parolees in April 2012 caused jitters in the country. The decision was opposed on the basis of a potential risk to the society. The President's decision was in line with the country's celebration of 18 years for freedom and established international practice, in terms of Section 84 (2) J of the

Constitution. Offenders considered to be a risk to society, particularly those declared to be dangerous criminals and offenders with life sentences were excluded from the remissions.

The concern raised by members of the communities re-inforced the importance of education by the Department of Correctional Services (DCS) for the public about the the Integrated Criminal Justice System, which allows

offenders with a parole, back into the society. During an indaba between the two institutions, DCS officials emphasised the need for Emakhosi to play a role in the rehabilitation and re-integration of offenders.

The parole system, in which an offender, subject to completion of a minimum period of sentence inside the correctional centre and subject to certain criteria being met, may be allowed to serve a part of his/ her sentence in the community, was explained. Acting Area Commissioner of the Barberton Cluster, Ms Zodwa Mthethwa appealed to Emakhosi to assist Correctional Services in the rehabilitation of offenders. "They come from our own families and communities. Therefore we must work together in their successful integration. We believe Emakhosi have a role to play there," said Ms Mthethwa.

The functions of the Parole Boards also came under discussion. The Board is established in terms of Section 75 of the Correctional Services Act, 111 of 1998 and consists of a number of members from the community, a member from the DCS and may also co-opt members from the South African Police Services (SAPS) and the Department of Justice. Chairperson, Kgosi Mathibela Mokoena asked if it is not time for Emakhosi to form part of the Parole Boards: "Emakhosi can sit in the Parole Boards sessions for inputs and leave later to allow members to take decisions".

Emakhosi visited various prison cells and units at the Nelspruit Correctional Services where Kgosi Mokoena addressed the inmates. "You must consider this as an opportunity to correct your wrong behaviour. Your family expects change from you. Your community expects change from you. So you must improve in your conduct to be integrated back into the society," he advised the inmates.

The entourage was also entertained by the inmates with music dances.



REHABILITATION: Some of the offenders entertain Emakhosi at the end of the DCS/HTL indaba in Nelspruit.

Public protector attends Hhoyi's cultural pilgrimage to reach out to rural communities



OVERSIGHT ROLE: MEC Skhosana and the Public Protector, Adv. Thuli Madonsela discuss cultural practices during the annual cultural festival of Inkhosi Sandile Ngomane at Hhoyi.

Cultural festivals are annual functions hosted by all the 59 traditional leaders of Mpumalanga in their royal kraals. The functions are platforms which bring together tribal communities to be addressed by Emakhosi. With rich cultural backgrounds, the functions are a perfect opportunity for Emakhosi to address societal challenges in line with cultural values. Traditional dances are the epitome of entertainment for guests.

Cultural functions are a source of attraction not only for local communities but for state institutions with a desire to broaden their services for rural communities. One of them is the Public Protector, one of the Chapter 9 institutions. The Public Protector, Advocate Thuli Madonsela attended the Hhoyi cultural pilgrimage, hosted by Inkhosi Sandile Ngomane. Cultural functions such as the Hhoyi cultural day brings

hope to the Public Protector that her office can reach out to many people as possible with the view to provide its services. She joined MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Mr Simon Skhosana, Chairperson of the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders, Kgosi Mathibela Mokoena, Nkomazi Executive Mayor, Cllr Thulisile Khoza, amongst others.

During her address, Madonsela told the local community that the cultural day provides her with an opportunity, not only to join the celebration, but to spend time with the Hhoyi community and the people of Ehlanzeni District. "We would like to work with you and Emakhosi in this area. From next year, we will be spending time with you in all the cultural functions," she said.

Her investigations are often a subject of great interest to the media. In most cases the investigations are brought about requests from interested parties and individuals. However, Madonsela says her mandate to investigate is not confined to requests. "The Constitution requires us to investigate service delivery issues for people even if they have not requested us to do so. We normally intervene by investigating if services are not properly provided," she indicated.

Madonsela further appealed to the local community to stick to their cultural practices. "One of the values of our cultures, whether Swazi or Zulu, is ubuntu, which is respect for human dignity. Respect is steeped in our cultures. Our cultures help us to know where we are coming from and where we are going," she concluded.

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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

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
Nkangala District	
Nkangala Disaster Management Centre	013 249 2024/ 013 249 2004
Dr JS Moroka Disaster Management Centre	013 973 1101
Victor Khanye Disaster Management Centre	013 665 6005/ 013 665 2913
Steve Tshwete Disaster Management Centre	013 249 7000/ 013 249 7263
Emakhazeni Disaster Management Centre	013 253 1121/ 013 253 7628
Thembisile Hani Disaster Management Centre	013 986 9100/ 013 986 9115
Emalahleni Disaster Management Centre	013 690 6911/ 013 690 6208

