

**SPEAKERS NOTES FOR MEC SPD SKHOSANA AT THE COMMUNITY  
DEVELOPMENT WORKERS WORKSHOP; 05 APRIL 2013, CASA do SOL  
HOTEL, HAZYVIEW.**

**Deputy Minister of Public Service and Administration, Ms Ayanda Dlodlo,**

**The Executive Mayor of Ehlanzeni District, Cllr Lettie Shongwe**

**The Chairperson of SALGA, Cllr Mafika Nkosi**

**The Head of Department of CoGTA, Mr David Mahlobo**

**Senior officials from the three spheres of Government**

**Our Community Development Workers**

1. It is my great honour and privilege to welcome you Deputy Minister and your entourage, to our beautiful province. The Premier also sends his warm greetings to you. I trust that your trip has been pleasant and that you will enjoy your stay here.
2. Deputy Minister, your visit to this province and this workshop could not have come at more important time than now. As a province we have identified a gap in the programme of CDW's. We have seen that perhaps due to various reasons we might have neglected this programme and as a result they have not played the role that they were suppose to play.
3. As part of addressing this problem, the Premier DD Mabuza has recently convened a meeting with all CDW's in the province to reiterate the commitment that government has towards them and the important role that they need to play. That CDW's must be at the center of government
4. This means as a province we are putting a special focus and repositioning this programme in an endeavour to strengthen the role that must be played by CDW's. As a department we have also purchased some tools of trade for them in the form of cell phones and laptops to make sure that they are able to effectively carry out their duties. We are also looking at other measures to make their work easier such as transport allowances.

5. We have also set up an operational center in the department that is fully manned to provide support to the CDWs'. On a daily basis CDW's are providing information to the center on their daily activities and reports on government programmes and projects in the communities.
6. It is important to remember that Community Development Workers are a very special cadre of the public service. This is a cadre of the public service that is very close to people. Many a times we forget that this cadre of public service must play a very pivotal role in bringing about a better life to the people. You are our eyes and ears and at all times. When there are problems, you should be able to pick them before they explode and you should be able to advise government on the best way to deal with issues that affect communities.
7. We must also acknowledge that amongst some of our CDW's we have very hardworking men and women who served the government diligently and have worked tirelessly even without the necessary resources. We appreciate this effort.
8. I must also add Deputy Minister that in the same vain we have those CDW's who have not been committed to their work and in some cases we have found them in the fore front of the service delivery protests that we have experienced.
9. Our view is that CDW's are based in the wards that they reside in and therefore are firmly rooted in the communities. We need to see them began to play a very active part in disseminating information that will begin to close the information gap in the communities.

10. From time to time it is important that we must evaluate ourselves. We must take stock of how far we have come and if we have achieved the desired goals. Today, as we are gathered here, we must each ask ourselves whether we have lived truly to the marching orders that have been given to us by our leaders. We must ask ourselves whether we have and are still guided by the desire to work for the people and whether our being has brought about an improvement in the lives of the people we seek to serve. We must also ask ourselves if we are still guided by the principles of Batho-Pele.
11. One of the challenges that have been raised by communities is that they are not receiving information. There is a lot of under reporting to communities by government. As government we are expecting CDWs to play a central role in communicating the good things that we are doing for our citizens. As we are repositioning the role of CDWs we doing so in line with their job purpose and Key Performance Areas. The job purpose for CDWs is to liaise, co-ordinate, mobilise, inform and assist communities with access to services provided by government and to assist communities to identify and communicate their needs to government within the national, provincial and local government sphere in order to bring government closer to the people.
12. Through such workshops we will be able to empower CDW's on key national issues which are crucial to community and service delivery improvements so that they in turn can empower the communities.
13. In September 2011, President Jacob Zuma endorsed the South African government's participation in the Open Government Partnership (OGP), which is a multilateral initiative that aims to secure concrete commitments from governments to promote transparency, empower citizens, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance. In compliance with the OGP requirements, South Africa has developed a country action plan with seven commitments as concrete steps that government embarked on towards addressing the grand challenge of Service Delivery.

14. We want citizens to be informed about the OGP and the progress government has made in implementing its OGP commitments. The OGP is working and it is going to be a great consolidating factor, not only within countries where governments and civil societies will form lasting and productive partnerships, but also among countries where international cooperation will bind the world into more secure and productive environment to the benefit of all humanity across the globe. The OGP is trailblazing a way for governments and civil society to work together as partners towards a clear and shared objective of better government through openness.
15. We expect CDWs to play a vital role in Open Government Partnership Awareness Campaigns. The OGP is a multilateral initiative that aims to secure concrete commitments from government to promote transparency and accountability, empower citizens through participation, fight corruption, and harness new technologies to strengthen governance.
16. My task today is to introduce the Deputy Minister of Public Service and Administration Ms Ayanda Dlodlo. She is a member of the African National Congress and a Member of Parliament. She has been the Deputy Minister of Public Administration since 01 November 2010.
17. Deputy Minister, the floor is yours. I thank you.