



NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL NEWSPAPER

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North West Provincial Government



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SCHOOL SAFETY CAMPAIGN UNDERTAKEN AT VAAL REEFS TECH

By Motshidisi Sebolecwe

The North West Department of Community Safety and Transport Management (COSATMA) has called on stakeholders to embark on a school safety campaign at Vaal Reefs Technical High School in the Matlosana Local Municipality.

The empowerment campaign engages learners on a variety of issues including crime in schools, dangers associated with hitch hiking, bullying, sexual harassment as well as acts of Gender Based Violence (GBV).

Director for Crime Prevention and Partnerships, Ms Florence Nchoe, said that "learners are also part of the community and as a department it is our mission to include you in our safety programs. Therefore I say to you refrain from hazardous behaviour that might put your future at risk".

"Safety starts with you, so it is necessary to take the necessary precautions at a young age. Equip yourselves as the speakers interact with you, giving you tools of survival, making you aware of dangers you



could come across", Nchoe said.

The Provincial Safety Forum has identified hitch hiking as a rising concern amongst learners of the school.

"We discourage hitch hiking because it is easy for predators to see an opportunity there. We do not want

a situation where learners do not make it to school or home", Ms Wendy Makhate, Member of the Mayor Committee (MMC) for Public Safety at the Matlosana Local Municipality, said.

"Yours is to learn and defocus on things that will hinder with the

production of our future leaders", she added.

The campaign was also supported by Phakama Ndoda Foundation, South African Police Service (SAPS), Department of Social Development, Thuthuzela Care Centre, and Safer School South Africa.



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RURAL HEALTH BOOSTED AS NALEDI SUB-DISTRICT RECEIVES HIGH TECH ICU BUS

By Keletso Ratlhagane

North West Health MEC Madoda Sambatha has welcomed the recent acquisition of a state-of-the-art Intensive Care Unit (ICU) Bus by the Naledi Emergency Medical Services (EMS).

The vehicle has been installed with high technology medical equipment which will allow for lives to be saved en-route to medical facilities in the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati District.

One of the key features of the bus is its space and capacity to accommodate a sufficient number of EMS personnel to attend to critical patients as well as extra on-board equipment which could previously not be transported due to vehicle space constraints.

"Whenever an emergency strikes

and the hospital is too far, ambulances save lives on the go"

"This ICU Bus gives us an assurance that we will be able to timeously preserve lives of our people by having critical medical equipment at hand", MEC Sambatha said.

MEC Sambatha added that, previously, the Department of Health's response vehicles could not fit most medical equipment and had to keep some of the apparatus in the office because of insufficient space.

He said that challenge has been addressed by the newly acquired ICU bus.

The ICU bus has been fitted with an incubator, a 12 lead ICG, a neonatal Incubator, two syringe drives, two infusion pumps, a Hamilton H1 ventilator, an electronic suction unit, a CPAP –UCL device & connections, two large oxygen cylinders, one portable cylinder as well as consumables.



FOCUS ON GLOBAL EFFORTS TO COMBAT AIDS, TB AND MALARIA

By Ipeleng Matlabe

In response to the global rise and spread of AIDS, tuberculosis (TB) and malaria, The Global Fund has partnered with the South Africa Youth Organisation to combat these diseases through numerous activations and campaigns in the North West through working with the Provincial Council on AIDS (PCA).

Established 20 years ago, the Fund operates in the Bojanala Platinum, Dr Kenneth Kaunda and Ngaka Modiri Molema Districts, with its main theme being “We have come too far to drop the ball”.

At a media breakfast meeting held recently in Klerksdorp, the Fund announced that, through their efforts, 44 million lives have been saved to date.

Focusing on adolescent girls and young women in their diversity, the Fund seeks to understand how these diseases affect them in their daily lives.

The Global Fund said that, despite great progress made against the spread of HIV/AIDS globally, adolescent girls and young women continue to be at the risk of infection.

Research has shown that 99 boys would have contracted HIV in



comparison to over 1000 girls in South Africa alone.

Speaking at the breakfast, MEC for Health, Madoda Sambatha said that the fight against AIDS, TB and malaria can only be won through concerted efforts by the private sector, government and the broader society.

He said that the root problem in society was moral decay and what needed to be addressed was the attitude of many South Africans

noting that the prevailing increase in the number of infections is caused by the level of ignorance especially amongst young people.

MEC Sambatha added that the department was already doing much in ensuring the provision of information, raising awareness and the availability of condoms yet the province alone has not succeeded in decreasing the rate of new infections, adding that the province currently records 40 new HIV-related infections

daily.

“Annually, the (health) department is procuring four million condoms yet they seem to go unused otherwise we would not be recording such numbers of new infections on a daily basis”, Sambatha said.

Emphasising the importance around intensifying communication, he said it was important to focus all available resources to drive the message of prevention to all especially to those in rural communities.

“We need to allow these young people who are here to drive the message home to their peers so that there may be impact.”, MEC Sambatha added.

Saidy Brown, a 27 year-old activist born with HIV, said she found out in her teenage years that she was born with HIV and it was extremely challenging for her to navigate her life at the time because of the stigma surrounding the disease.

Attributing her strength and acceptance to the assistance of The Global Fund, she said “It is because of the contribution made by Global Fund that I am privileged enough to access free treatment. I can live my life healthy and free.

I can look forward to pursuing my dreams and encourage other young people, especially young girls to do the same”



COGTA APPOINTS VALUATION APPEAL BOARD

By Thati Sekoboane

The North West Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs has appointed members of the Valuation Appeal Board in all the four districts in line with Municipal Property Rates Act (MPRA) of 2004.

Board members for Ngaka Modiri Molema are Advocate Nomazotsho Yvonne as Chairperson, Kole Matshidiso, Mbangatha Mzoli Mziwabantu and Nel Tinus.

Those appointed for Bojanala Platinum are Advocate Viviers Michael as Chairperson, Khumalo Joseph, Phiri Elenasani and



Serfontein Marijke.

Meanwhile, board members for Dr Kenneth Kaunda are Advocate

Mokotjo Ignatius as Chairperson, Sidia Johannah, Pretorius Ernst and Van Niekerk Reinier.

For Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompoti, Advocate Piek Petrus is Chairperson and is joined by Maubane Mmakgetse, Magau Solomon and Theron Daniel.

The board members have been appointed for a period of four years and their function is to hear and decide appeals against the decision of a municipal property valuer concerning objections to matters reflected in, or omitted from the valuation roll of a municipality.

They have been appointed based on their qualifications and experience in either the legal environment and property valuation. MPRA regulates the power of a municipality to impose rates on property with their area of jurisdiction.

The Act also makes provision for objection and appeals process.

KGOSI MAOTWE ELECTED CHAIRPERSON OF THE HOUSE OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS

By Thati Sekoboane

Kgosi Thari Maotwe of Barokologadi Traditional Council has been elected as the new Chairperson of the North West House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders with Kgosi Moefi Mabalane of Baphiring Traditional Council as Deputy Chairperson.

Other members of the newly elected executive committee are Kgosi Gobusamang Shole, Kgosi Ponatshego Mothibi and Kgosi Ramosetlho Gasebone.

The new members were elected in line with the Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders Act, 2019 and the North West House of Traditional Leaders Act, 2009 (Act 3 of 2009) for a period of five years.

MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Lenah Miga appealed to the new members to work together for the benefit of traditional communities.

She further appealed to them to



work towards strengthening cooperation with the local tier of government.

"Our people have trust in the traditional leadership and that cannot be betrayed. We have the utmost confidence in your leadership and look forward to working with you in navigating prevailing challenges facing society including unemployment, poverty and

inequality as well as various other social ills", MEC Miga said.

She advised the leadership to lead in a manner that will promote transformation of the institution and to create sound working relations with other stakeholders.

Reacting to his election, Kgosi Maotwe hailed the previous leadership for the good work done in the past five years.

He made a commitment to fully support a partnership between government and communities and as well as making sure key government programmes are communicated with communities.

The Local Houses of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders have been re-constituted as follows per district:

- Dr Segomotsi Mompoti district – The Chairperson is Kgosi Nyoko Motlhabane of Batlhaping ba ga Maidi and the Deputy Chairperson is Kgosi Thato Letlhogile of Barolong boo Tlou le Tau.
- Ngaka Modiri Molema district – The Chairperson is Kgosi Joseph Tsiepe of Balete ba ga Mokgojwa and the Deputy Chairperson is Kgosi Motsaathebe Moshoebe of Barolong boo Ratlou ba ga Seitshiro.
- Bojanala Platinum district - The Chairperson is Kgosi Tebogo Nawa and the Deputy Chairperson is Kgosi Lesedi Motsatsi of Batlokwa ba ga Bogatsu.

SHINNING THE SPOTLIGHT ON CRIME IN CHOSENG



By Lemogang Foke

The North West Department of Community Safety and Transport Management (COSATMA) recently embarked on a

crime awareness campaign at Choseng village in the Greater Taung Local Municipality to engage young people in a dialogue, get to the root causes of crime and empower them to become active citizens in their communities.

Ms Florence Nchoe, who is the Director for Crime Prevention and

Partnerships, said that they have redirected programmes within the Department to young people as crime is a societal issue and affects young people as the most.

"We do that by making services accessible to them. We have institutions which work directly with drug and substance abuse, Gender Based Violence and Feminine (GBV&F), South African Police Service (SAPS), Community Policing Forums (CPF), Department of Social Development, South African Social Security Agency (SASSA), Department of Justice, community development centres, Department of Correctional Services and many more to raise awareness on the services these communities can utilise"

Pudumong SAPS Station Commander Lt Col Ketlareng Selogiloe says assault, house breaking and stock theft are some of the common crimes that take place in the surrounding communities under the policing precinct.

"Today we specifically want to

encourage people to open cases at the police station when they experience crime.

"We have seen a trend where people do not come forward, so that justice can take its course. Amongst young people, drug and substance abuse is a primary cause of other crimes, such as stock theft, GBV and others in the surrounding villages", he said.

Young people in Choseng, Karelstad, Loselong and Sedibeng came in numbers to take part in the dialogue session.

"As a young person living in this community, I've seen how lack of job opportunities, recreational activities, limited sexual education and crime have had a negative impact on young people.

"Girls fall pregnant at a young age and as a result drop out of school, turn to drugs and alcohol and it becomes a trend. I have come to hear for myself what can be done about these problems and how we can make our community a better one", 32-year-old Mmathapelo Gomolelo said.



AN INVESTMENT OF 180 MILLION BY COUNTRY BIRD HOLDINGS IN THE NORTH WEST REPRESENTS PROGRESS- PREMIER MAAPE

By Sello Tatai

Country Bird Holdings' Supreme plant in Tigane, Hartbeesfontein, has expanded its chicken production to around thirty-five percent (35%) creating over one hundred (100) direct jobs as part of its contribution to the poultry industry master plan. This investment has further entrenched the company as the majority employer in the area, ramping up economic activity that involves over two thousand (2 000) employees.

The company's Chief Executive Officer Brendon de Boer maintains the investment forms part of a broader plan by Supreme to align its strategy with new market opportunities and demands.

"We are shifting down from about fifty percent of the output being individually quick-frozen portions to fifteen percent, using the freed capacity to deliver fresh product, which is in great demand from clients including the quick-service restaurant sector. The increased capacity also



brings down the production cost per unit, allowing us to produce more affordable chicken, and servicing a wider market. The new facility will be able to process a million chickens a week", De Boer insisted.

North West Premier Kaobitsa Bushy Maape says government is on the right track in luring investments in

the province.

Premier Maape maintains government will do everything in its power to create a conducive environment for business to thrive.

He believes this has the potential to unlock various opportunities that the province can offer.

This will go a long way in creating

jobs and fight the scourge of unemployment and poverty afflicting the province.

"The opening of the plant represents progress in the province particularly as we try to resuscitate the provincial economy. The province has suffered enormous shocks due to the pandemic and we are excited that companies like Country Bird see the North West as a viable destination for investments. We are working hard to address a number of service delivery challenges confronting the province. We are doing this to assure the private sector that we can work hand in glove with them to bring business to our province and create jobs", Premier Maape said.

In addition to directly servicing clients with fresh chicken, the Tigane plant will also deliver the raw material for the company's new processing plant in Germiston.

The Tigane expansion along with the increased production of the company's Germiston plant represents a significant contribution to the poultry sector's commitment to increase capacity and job opportunities in line with the poultry sector master plan.

COSATMA ADDRESSES GBV WITH KLIPGAT RESIDENTS

By Thabo Mohajane

The MEC for Community Safety and Transport, Sello Lehari, announced that safety gadgets will be installed for free in 20 households occupied by the elderly, children and people with disabilities at community meeting held recently at Klipgat village in the Madibeng Local Municipality.

This is part of the Provincial Government's drive to fight the

scourge of Gender Based Violence (GBV) incidents that had been reported to the local police station.

The safety gadgets are made up of an alarm and a panic button which is linked to the South African Police Service (SAPS) and could be activated should those households feel threatened.

MEC Lehari said that households that are prone to crime and are eligible for this safety device were identified through the assistance of Social Workers and Community Development Workers in Klipgat, working with representatives of the

departments of Justice as well as Social Development, National Prosecuting Authority (NPA) and Correctional Services.

A local resident, Hosia Sono, who was previously convicted for GBV related crimes, said that the Victim Offender Programme offered by Correctional Services enabled him to ask for forgiveness from his ex-wife, whom he said he had abused, as part of his rehabilitation.

He advised men to simply walk away from a relationship should they feel aggrieved instead of opting to abuse or kill women.

Sono added that he still plays a role in the upbringing of his children even if he is no longer in an intimate relationship with their mother and urged other men to do likewise.

MEC Lehari added that the Department of Community Safety and Transport Management has established a unit that deals with complaints laid against the police by the public.

Members of the community who are not satisfied with the services offered by police can lodge their complaints at the following numbers: **080 0204 992 or 018 2008 291/2**

MEC MOSENOGI HANDS OVER EQUIPMENT TO EMPOWERMENT FUND BENEFICIARIES

By Jerry Matebesi

The MEC for Economic Development, Environment, Conservation and Tourism, Kenetswe Mosenogi handed over business equipment and machinery to successful applicants of the Departmental Empowerment Fund for the 2021/2022 financial year.

This was done recently through handing over equipment and machinery to nine enterprises in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda and the Dr Ruth Segomotsi Mompati districts.

The equipment and machinery handed over in both districts is valued at R1,2million for enterprises operating in manufacturing, catering, baking, décor, cleaning, and environmental services.

"In order to reverse the impact of the Covid 19 pandemic on small businesses and cooperatives, we ought to urgently provide some support to these entrepreneurs and through this hardheaded intervention by the department, they will certainly improve their competitiveness and bring up profitability", MEC Mosenogi told the beneficiaries.

She added that through this programme, government is reaffirming its commitment to support and sustain enterprises through operational tools.

"This is also proof to all entrepreneurs in the province especially young people that department's financial assistance is not designed for a certain group of people, but for any entrepreneur who meets the qualifying criteria required for funding", she said.

MEC Mosenogi urged the beneficiaries to become agents of service delivery by communicating the work that the government is doing, "especially to the people who may say the government is not assisting small businesses".

"With this programme, we want to assist small businesses, especially those that are facing financial and operational difficulties to grow and be sustainable to prevent job losses and minimise retrenchment of workers through the provision of machinery and equipment"

"The focus is on youth, women, people with disabilities and military veterans", she said.



The empowerment fund assists start-ups businesses which have been in operation for less than a year with a grant worth R100 000.00, whilst existing businesses which have been in operation for more than a year are assisted with a grant of up to R200 000.00 to purchase machinery and equipment.

MEC Mosenogi also expressed gratitude to the beneficiaries for responding to this opportunity presented by government and for their patience and dedication bared in

ensuring that they satisfy the qualifying criteria.

"Patience is very important in business as SMMEs would usually be sent back for correction and supplement of necessary documents, just to ensure that their applications are being successful", she said.

The Department will be visiting the two remaining districts to hand over equipment to other beneficiaries before the end of the current financial year in response to the triple

challenges of unemployment, poverty and inequality.

The programme is part of the department's interventions aimed at leveraging enterprise funding through procurement of equipment and machinery for start-ups as well as growth and expansion of enterprises which will result in job creation and poverty alleviation.

The applicants must have been operating a legally registered business, and be residing in the North West Province.



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- Any member of the public who is experiencing service delivery challenges.
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What is done with your case after it has been received?

- If it is an enquiry, you will receive immediate feedback.
- If it is a complaint related to service delivery, your call will be logged and you will be issued with reference number and the case will be referred to a relevant municipality/department for resolution.

What to do follow up your case?

- Members of the public can call back to the call centre using the reference Number that was initially provided from the first call.
- The reference will assist to trace the case and its status.

When is a case deemed resolved?

- Once a report has been received by the call centre, feedback will be communicated with the complaint.
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Bojanala Platinum District

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Tel: 45 harrington Street, Brits 0250

Dr Ruth Segomosti Mompoti District

Tel: 053 928 0350

1st Floor, Mini Ga-Rona Building Gov Office Complex
Ground Floor, Block B

Dr Kenneth Kaunda District

Tel: 018 464 2300

3rd Floor, West End Building, Room 309,
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LET'S GROW NORTH WEST TOGETHER



DR KENNETH KAUNDA DISTRICT DONATES WHEELCHAIRS TO NEEDY CHILDREN IN WOLMARANSSTAD

By Oratile Mogodi

The North West Department of Health in the Dr Kenneth Kaunda District celebrated the 67 minutes of Mandela Day by identifying and donating seven wheelchairs to six poor and needy children and a parent with disabilities at the Daeraad Special School in Wolmaranstad last month.

The beneficiaries, all from different areas in and around Wolmaranstad, were also handed food parcels purchased with donations from employees and food vouchers that were donated by Pick n Pay Wolmaranstad.

In addition, seven vitality booster porridge packs were donated to beneficiaries from FEED, which is a non-governmental organisation that is in partnership with the German Federal Government.

Off the seven donated wheelchairs, four of them were donated by the Potchefstroom Hospital while the other three were donated by Dischem Potchefstroom.

In outlining the purpose of the event, Mr Mphiliso Tyatya, from the Kenneth Kaunda District Director's office said that organising the event



was a real mammoth task and the organising committee had a common purpose to ensure the delivery of good and quality services to the people of North West, especially people with disabilities in the Dr

Kenneth Kaunda district.

Tyatya added that there is still hope that more wheelchairs will be donated to the needy in the City of Matlosana and JB Marks local municipalities in the near future.

He also confirmed that two hospitals in Dr Kenneth Kaunda, Potchefstroom & Nic Bodenstein, have committed to provide ongoing care to at least four of the beneficiaries.



THREE THOUSAND JOBS ON THE CARDS AS PREMIER MAAPE ENGAGES WITH SEDIBELO PLATINUM MANAGEMENT

By Sello Tatai

North West Premier, Kaobitsa Bushy Maape has labelled the R9.4 billion investment by Sedibelo Platinum Mine, in its operations at Pilanesberg Platinum Mine near Moruleng in the Moses Kotane Local Municipality, as a vote of confidence in the North West Province. The Province experienced enormous economic shocks as a result of the Covid-19 pandemic resulting in a decline of 7,6% in the

provincial GDP in 2020.

Premier Maape said this investment is a step in the right direction in resuscitating the economy.

"The unemployment rate stands at thirty three percent in the province. As government we need to do everything in power to take these numbers down"

"We are engaging different stakeholders and in particular the private sector to work hand in glove with us to address the challenges of unemployment and poverty confronting our province and these

engagements are yielding the desired results", Premier Maape added.

The management of the mine indicated that over the next five years, up to 3000 jobs will be created by the development of an underground mine and of a Kell plant at the Pilanesberg Platinum Mine.

Chief Executive Officer, Erich Clarke, indicated that in addition the investment will create various economic opportunities for local business people. "Our plans also entail various projects such as housing and investing in Social and

Labour Plans. We will also be investing in a new Kell plant which uses new technology to extract the metals from the ore without the use of a smelter" "This technology will reduce carbon emissions by eighty percent. Sixty five percent of our workforce is from this area and we are looking at increasing it while creating opportunities for the youth and entrepreneurs", Clarke said.

Premier Maape stated that the province is on the right trajectory towards economic recovery to address unemployment and poverty alleviation.

WOMEN MUST STRIVE FOR OPPORTUNITIES AVAILABLE IN CONSTRUCTION

By Aubrey Motsurupe

Women contractors in South Africa are pushing back barriers to their recognition in the construction industry and 42 year old Agnes Kesentseng Nkosana from Lebotloane Village in the Bojanala Platinum District is one of those.

She is a woman contractor and owner of Nkomaba Trading and Projects, a company the North West Department of Public Works and Roads has appointed for upgrading of a 13km road project from Ganyesa to Austrey in the Kagisano Molopo Local Municipality.

Nkosana said established her company in 2009 and joined the construction industry in 2011.

"What prompted me to join the construction industry is the passion to make an impact in communities", Nkosana said.

She started on this project in May 2020 and currently has 42 people in her employ and for this specific project, there are ten of her employees.

"My experience in this industry is that one must strive for excellence



and be strong. It is not easy working in communities as they lack knowledge and experience in the industry and sometimes have unreasonable demands", Nkosana explained.

Although one of the barriers is the industry's masculine image, Nkosana is adamant that women can make it and succeed in this industry.

Her advice to other young women is that anything is possible.

"It is entirely up to you.

There are so many opportunities and one should not look at the obstacles, because if you believe in yourself you will surely fly," Nkosana said.

Juggling work and family life is not easy but Nkosana attributes her success to the support from her family.

She is blessed with three daughters who understand and have an interest in the business as they

normally go to site with her during school holidays.

During his oversight visit to the project, MEC for Public Works and Roads Gaoage Molapisi applauded Nkosana for the progress made so far as this is one of the roads that previously caused community uprisings.

He was also pleased that at least a woman contractor was appointed for this project.

VODACOM DONATES COLD CHAIN VACCINE STORAGE TO NW HEALTH DEPARTMENT

By Omphile Diswai

One of Africa's large mobile networks, Vodacom, has donated 8% of the R2,4 million in cold-chain equipment to the North-West Department of Health. The equipment will enable the Department to perform door to door immunizations for children and improve access to COVID-19 vaccination in the rural areas of the province.

At the onset of COVID-19, the digital Information Communications Technology (ICT) service provider donated in excess of 20 000 devices for screening and training for matters pertaining to COVID-19 and beyond. Working together with the Department of Health, the Solidarity fund, and UNICEF, Vodacom responded to the issue of immunizations and vaccinations across the continent, because as it stands only 1 out of 5 children are fully vaccinated; a statistic that Vodacom aims to improve through their donation. Andre Hoffmann, Vodacom's Executive in Supply



Chain spoke explained how their donation will ensure the integrity of vaccines especially in remote areas. "Immunizations shouldn't be compromised especially when travelling to vast areas. Our support to the department of health saw the group donate a total of R2.4 Million in cold-chain equipment, of which the North West province received 8%",

Hoffmann said. "Through the portable cold chain storage the department will be able to do door to door immunization for the young ones and also take the Covid 19 vaccination further into the rural communities", he said. With only 32% of South Africa's population vaccinated, when the initial aim is to vaccinate 50% of the South African population by 2024,

one realises the that to reach these goals it needs a collective effort.

'Further Together', a slogan that emulates Vodacom, similarly resonates together with the goal of the Department to reach vaccination objectives, as they donate cold-chain vaccine storage to Gelukspan hospital.

An appreciative Gelukspan Pharmacy Manager Jannet Ferrero expressed her gratitude.

"You have made the responsibility of our workers easy through your contribution", she said.

Responding to the noble gesture, MEC for Health in the North West, Madoda Sambatha said it is through this relationship that the department now has the ability to provide services and assistance in ensuring service delivery is not tempered with.

"What we have is the great asset through Vodacom's assistance, to ensure service delivery is not tempered with, especially in facilities which are in deep lying rural areas. This has assisted us as a department as we are underfunded by 2 billion, and with partnerships such as these we are able to feel less of the squeeze", MEC Sambatha said.

MANDELA DAY IS ABOUT MAKING LONG-TERM CONTRIBUTIONS TO THOSE IN NEED, SAY MEC KENETSWE MOSENOGI

By Tshepiso Matlhoko & Zia Cassim

As part of the Mandela Month activities, the MEC for Economic Development, Environment, Conservation, and Tourism, Kenetswe Mosenogi, led a massive programme of painting, plumbing maintenance, and tree planting at the Ikhaya la Bantwana orphanage at the Tlokwe Youth Centre for Excellence (TYCE) in Potchefstroom.

This was accomplished with the help of generous donations from sponsors such as UNICEF, Peermont, Sun City, Protea Hotels, and Ikageng Liquor Traders.

The orphanage received much-

needed donations of groceries, beds, linen, blankets, heaters, toiletries, TVs, sports equipment, furniture, and a variety of other necessities.

This year's Mandela Day was observed under the theme "Do what you can, with what you have, where you are," emphasizing the importance of making long-term contributions and being of service to those in our communities, particularly those living in vulnerable environments.

MEC Mosenogi described Nelson Mandela Day as an opportunity to recommit to upholding the values that Tata Madiba stood for and to build the South Africa to which he has dedicated his life.

She went on to say that the 67minute concept reminded her that South Africans share a common responsibility for nation-building, and

that ours is to inspire individuals to take action to help change the world so that we can overcome poverty and inequality.

"Our intention is to contribute to carbon footprint reduction by planting fruit trees and providing food parcels because we know that our communities have recently been affected by the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, and it is our duty as government to bring warmth and comfort to their hearts", MEC Mosenogi said.

The centre operates as a Non-Profit Organization (NPO) from a building that was previously used as an incarceration commando office.

Part of the building houses the Ikhaya la Bantwana Orphanage, which was founded in 2012 by Ms Joyce Ntsizi with her unwavering love for the children and dedication.

According to Ntsizi, she founded an orphanage after witnessing the rising levels of poverty, unemployment, and a scarcity of orphanages in Ikageng Location.

Currently, the orphanage houses up to 32 children.

Ntsizi expressed her gratitude for the donation.

MEC Mosenogi praised the orphanage for its selfless work in providing children with care, shelter, nutrition, and education, and pledged to support the centre's transformation into a Youth Incubation Hub.

She also expressed her appreciation to all of the sponsors who worked with the department to make this gesture possible.

Ntsizi stated that this act of kindness will go a long way toward sustaining the orphanage and ensuring the children's well-being.



NORTH WEST PROVINCIAL TREASURY REACHES OUT TO THE COMMUNITIES OF MADIBENG

By Lemogang Mayekiso

The North West Provincial Treasury recently dedicated a week to service business people in the Madibeng Local Municipality as well as any aspiring business person in the area by providing them with information on the importance of being registered on the Central Supplier Database (CSD).

Lerato Leseka, an official from Provincial Supply Chain, explained that the department recognises the need for enhanced support to small businesses and cooperatives.

Leseka said it is important for SMMEs and other community members to be educated on central supplier database as they have the potential to create and expand employment opportunities, develop entrepreneurial skills and enhance market opportunities.

"We have set aside this week to service the communities of Modderspruit, Maboloka and Hebron

because government appreciates the contribution of small businesses to the province's local economic development"

"It is our responsibility as government officials responsible for CSD to reach out to the communities and ensure that they are well informed about the system and know how to utilise it", Leseka said.

He added that it is also important for suppliers and service providers to ensure that their businesses are registered and compliant with the system so that they become active participants in providing business services to government.

The North West Provincial Government is aware that to address problems confronting our economy and to reverse the unemployment rate requires a radical policy shift that recognises the urgent need to invest in SMMEs as they are key drivers of economic growth and job creation.

In order for government to make an impact on the job creation front, it is crucial that SMMEs must be empowered and developed because the much-needed economic growth and employment opportunities will come from a practical policy that

enables small businesses to thrive and grow into profitable enterprises.

The North West Provincial Treasury recognises that SMMEs are significant contributors to job creation and can be the backbones of any economy and the main driver of economic growth.

The exercise is also intended to build a consensus and facilitate knowledge sharing to achieve positive change in development initiatives.

This kind of engagement involves dissemination of information and employs empirical research, two-way communication and dialogue among stakeholders

One of the local residents, Lebogang Petlele of Legalaopeng section in Bapong expressed her gratitude on the engagement and said she gained valuable information.

Petlele has a registered business with CIPRO but was not aware about the CSD system.

Because of the outreach initiative her business was registered on the system.

"I am eagerly awaiting to access opportunities that will be availed from all levels of government", she said.

The main benefit of registering on the Central Supplier Database (CSD) is access to government tenders.

Other advantages are that one only need to register once as a supplier and once registered the business profile can be kept up-to-date, complete and accurate.

The Central Supplier Database maintains a database of organisations, institutions and individuals who can provide goods and services to government.

The CSD will serve as the single source of key supplier information for organs of state from 01 April 2016 providing consolidated, accurate, up-to-date, complete and verified supplier information to procuring organs of state.

Prospective suppliers interested in pursuing opportunities within the South African government are encouraged to self-register on the Central Supplier Database.

This self-registration application represents an expression of interest from the supplier to conduct business with the South African government.

Once submitted, your details will be assessed for inclusion on the Central Supplier Database.

GOVERNMENT COMMITTED TO PROVIDING NEEDY LEARNERS WITH TRANSPORT TO SCHOOLS AND BACK HOME

By Lemogang Foke and
Tiisetso Thiba

The North West Provincial Government remains committed to providing reliable and safe transport services for free to all eligible school going children who are expected to travel five kilometres or more between their homes and school.

The Department of Community Safety and Transport Management (COSATMA) is responsible for ensuring that those learners are timeously and safely transported to and from schools on a daily basis.

"Currently we are providing learner transport services to 314 schools across the province, the Department of Education identify

schools that are in need of transportation services and submits requests to us", the Director – Public Transport Services at COSATMA, Mr Patrick Mohono said.

"Verification of the travel needs and requests is made and service providers who will ensure safe transportation of learners are then appointed", he added.

He further said that where learners travel distances of less than five kilometres, they are provided with the Shova-Kalula bicycles to ease their trips to school and that this is facilitated by the National Department of Transport.

"For the provision of service, a sum of R300 million has been allocated for the 2022/23 financial year which is a reduction from previous years"

"We have identified challenges in

some areas such as the increased demand for transportation services, service providers abandoning routes, acts of criminality as well as insufficient budget", he said.

Mohono further said that learners are provided with motorist and non-motorist service to ensure that they arrive at schools with no difficulty.

He also said that there is an increase in the number of learners who need to be transported annually to the rationalizing of schools and that has led to the increase in the walking distance from home to schools for those learners.

"Due to COVID-19 budget reprioritisation, our department experienced a reduction in the overall budget; this has put a strain in our service delivery efforts and the roll out of scholar transport in some parts as learners were home for a significant

amount of time and when schools reopened we had to hit the ground running, with the little allocation we had", he said.

The department has developed a standard operating procedure which will ensure that a service provider is replaced within a twenty four hour period to deal with the challenge of service providers not collecting learners and contravening their agreement with the department.

"Operators will also be blacklisted, where notice to breach contract is not given prior or with good reason", Mohono said.

"The department has also requested additional funding to deal with overloading and increased demand as this will enable operations to be expanded and ensure that all 400 schools are serviced", Mohono said.

THE GIFT OF ORGAN DONATION – TURNING TRAGEDY INTO HOPE!



By Dr Shayan Parbhoo

During the month of April this year in Tshepong Hospital, a team of doctors and other associated healthcare professionals were involved in a case where an absolute tragedy was able to provide the miracle of life for other individuals.

This is the magnitude of the impact that organ donation can have.

Early in April this year, a young man of 23-year-old was involved in a high-speed motor-vehicle accident and subsequently sustained numerous and severe injuries.

Included in these were severe head injuries requiring immediate surgery when he was admitted to Tshepong Hospital and subsequently to the intensive-care unit (ICU).

He had also sustained multiple facial and limb fractures as well as blunt lung injuries.

His care continued in ICU where he received continued intensive monitoring and medical support.

Despite the ongoing support and care, his head and brain injuries were

still of such a significant nature that a week later he was assessed to be brain-dead.

This, by protocol, requires two doctors, outside of a transplant team to perform specific tests to confirm brain-death.

However, since his blood pressure was adequate and his body, with support, was able to provide blood and oxygen to his organs, the medical team proposed that his family be approached to consider organ donation considering he was otherwise healthy prior to the terrible incident.

The family, who were expecting the worst, were nonetheless heartbroken by the tragic loss of their loved one.

The process of organ donation was explained to them, and they were extremely gracious in trying to turn this tragedy for them into hope and a second chance of life for others.

The fact that they were able to provide hope to the lives of others in their dark time provided them with a sense of purpose and a way to honour the memory of their loved one.

It was explained to them that a person's next of kin has the over-

ruling power regarding whether to proceed with organ donation, if possible.

The family came in to say their final goodbyes and thereafter gave permission for the organ donation team to take over.

In consultation with the Gauteng Provincial Solid Organ Transplantation Division, his body was successfully transported to Charlotte Maxeke Johannesburg Academic Hospital.

He successfully donated his heart, lungs, liver, kidneys and bones.

These ultra-precious gifts have had a positive and life-saving impact on four grateful recipients.

The family of the late young man were elated to hear the news of the positive impact their and their loved one's gifts had made on the lives of the abovementioned individuals.

His mother and uncle felt touched that their tragedy could positively touch the lives of so many others.

In my short career as a qualified healthcare provider, this was my first engagement in organ transplantation.

We become so hardened to the tragedy of death, that an experience like this, where so much positivity can come from such an otherwise bleak

situation really touched me.

Ms Meyer, who was communicating with me on behalf of the transplant team was extremely helpful and offered invaluable advice to make the transfer possible.

My fellow team including Dr Becerra and the relevant nursing staff in ICU were also very happy to be involved in this extra-ordinary situation and we all gained both knowledge and fulfilment from the success of this process.

And my seniors, Prof Luke and Dr Du Preez were integral in the communications with the organ transplant team as well as initiating the process.

Anyone can technically become an organ/tissue donor and one can go online and download templates of advance directives stating your wish to become an organ/tissue donor.

This in conjunction to what your relatives ultimately decide will allow healthcare providers to know if you wished to donate your organs or tissue should this be possible.

According to the Organ Donor Foundation, it is estimated that by donating your organs, you can save seven lives with your heart, liver, pancreas, kidneys and lungs.

You are also able to help up to 50 people by donating tissues like skin, bones, tendons, corneas (part of your eyes) and the valves in your heart. Once you decide to be an organ donor, you may change your mind at any time by discarding your organ donor instruction page or card and by informing your family.

This report serves to acknowledge the ultimate gift that a young gentleman and his family were able to provide to many others and to reiterate the impact that organ donation can have on people's lives.

The message should also be to healthcare workers to be able to further inform patients and families of this option and advocate for it when it can be considered.

Lastly, it serves to inform people of how exactly they can help people should they or their loved ones be struck by tragedy and remind us of the tremendous light that can exist even when situations appear to be at their darkest.



NORTH WEST HEALTH ADMINISTRATOR HANDS OVER THE FINAL SECTION 100 (1) (B) REPORT

By Keletso Ratlhagane

Former Section 100 (1)(b) Administrator at the North West Department of Health Jeanette Hunter recently handed over the final official report of the intervention to Health MEC, Madoda Sambatha.

The report is an account of just over three years of the intervention that followed a 2018 Cabinet resolution to invoke Section 100 of the Constitution in the North West, informed by a series of challenges that had affected the provision of efficient and adequate health services to communities.

Hunter thanked all key stakeholders for their support during a difficult period of intervention.

"I wish to thank the MEC for Health, Madoda Sambatha, the Head of Department, the management and all officials of the Department for working with us to turn the corner in the health service delivery for the people of North West"

"The role of the (Legislature's) Portfolio Committee on Health and Social Development, the Provincial Treasury, the Auditor General of South Africa, our governance structures and all support structures has made it possible for us to register significant successes during the Section 100 (1) (b) intervention", she said.

Reflecting on achievements of the intervention, MEC Sambatha indicated

that key management vacancies had been filled and over 5000 permanent frontline staff had been appointed to improve the delivery of quality health services to citizens.

"Many departmental officials were promoted to higher level positions, thus contributing to staff satisfaction, stability and loyalty toward the Department", MEC Sambatha said.

"The labour environment has also been stabilized and discipline is slowly returning to the North West Department of Health in both the areas of financial misconduct and dereliction of duty", MEC Sambatha added.

MEC Sambatha pointed out that the dismissal of the previous Head of Department was a strategic action that sent a strong message that public service laws and regulations must be respected and adhered to.

The report details a number of other interventions which demonstrates how the Section 100 (1) (b) intervention has directly benefitted the people of the province:

- the ratio of health professionals per 100 000 population have increased, thus rendering health facilities more responsive than they were in 2018
- operating theatres were repaired, equipment procured and specialists appointed. This move resulted in a reduction of surgical backlogs in hospitals
- more MRI scans were conducted, thus improving access to sophisticated diagnostic procedures
- the renal unit at Klerksdorp-

Tshepong was upgraded assisting the province to have more people on renal dialyses

- orthopaedic surgeons were appointed leading to reduced backlog of operations and reduced waiting periods for orthopaedic operations

- an ophthalmologist was appointed at Mahikeng Hospital and has performed more than 200 cataract operations in less than two months after her appointment in 2019, giving eyesight back to our older generation.

- additional internal medicine specialists were appointed, resulting in improved clinical management processes and the elimination of persons, in some of the large hospitals, sleeping on the floor while waiting for treatment; they also led COVID-19 management in the seven large hospitals

- other key appointments that were made to achieve a positive impact on service delivery include obstetricians, dermatologists, paediatricians, general surgeons, psychologists, speech and audiology therapists as well as family physicians

- managers were appointed for quality assurance in the seven large hospitals and this added further impetus to the hospitals' quality improvement drive

- to support key clinical processes and to ensure that our facilities live up to infection prevention and control principles, additional administrative staff, groundsmen and cleaning staff were also appointed

- space at primary health care facilities has been improved through

infrastructure projects.

According to the handover report, the Department of Health has also made strides to address shortages of medicine stock in public health facilities.

"The overall provincial medicine availability has reached 81% as per national essential list in the 3rd quarter of 2021/2022"

"The availability of anti-retrovirals (ARVs) and vaccines for the Extended Programme on Immunization has been maintained above 92%, while Tuberculosis (TB) medicines are above 82%", the report stated.

The report also states that the North West will experience shortages of specific items from time to time when there is a national problem with that specific medicine.

"However, information regarding a departmental process of lodging general complaints is available at various health facilities. Through this process, persons who experience medicine shortages can escalate their challenges should they believe they do not get cooperation from the health facilities they are visiting", the report stated.

"The remaining challenges have been converted into six directives in a protocol agreement signed by the MEC for Health in the Province and the Minister of Health"

"The Head of Department takes overall responsibility for the execution of the six directives. Monthly reports must be submitted by the MEC to the National Minister on the progress of the execution of the directives", Hunter said.

TELLING GENDER VIOLATIONS THOROUGH PHOTOGRAPHY

By Obusitšwe T. Keboneilwe

Empowering young women is one of the keys used to unlock the somewhat impenetrable wall of gender based violence and femicide, which are a blight on our national conscience.

Horrific cases of GBV continue to grow relentlessly within our communities, but this is a fight we are prepared to fight with all our might to overcome.

The Department of Social Development (DSD) has brought 20 young women across the province to be foot soldiers in eroding the spread of gender based violence and femicide.

The department has roped in an organisation called Market Photo Workshop to take the young women

through their paces in telling stories through pictures in a two-week project called Gender Violations and Violence Story Telling.

At the heart of the project is to encourage participation, whereby participants engage on pertinent social issues through photography and media.

The chosen women will engage in a public programme designed around community projects, mentorships and showcase platforms which will create a public voice and discussion around contemporary media and photography.

The women will learn to give meaning behind each picture, capturing intimate moments in time capsule.

It is difficult to open up on violence that has been inflicted on victims but a photograph can provide details that the words express.

The workshop also encourages public speaking, where these women learn to

engage the audience, picking messages via body language and facial expressions.

It focused on building resilience, self-expression, confidence and creative problem solving.

The Gender Violations and Violence Story Telling Project includes campaigns of a multi-layered agenda that seek to respond to "real" matters like Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer (LGBTIQ+) issues that arise from the contemporary political context in South Africa through photography and media, towards the development of rural regions.

The workshop is crucial to the grand plan of the department to strengthen District Gender Based Violence Coordinating structures.

MEC for Social Development, Boitumelo Moiloa had tasked the department to develop a comprehensive

LGBTIQ+ programme (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Intersex, Queer) with the aim of preventing victimisation of LGBTIQI community and promoting tolerance and social cohesion.

Moiloa says she believes that, "having young women develop the art of storytelling will enrich Orange Day activities that has seen the department making inroads in the communities".

"Orange Day, marked on the 25th of every month, is the day that government has endorsed to unite communities against gender based violence, MEC Moiloa said.

The day creates a better understanding of programmes and legislation that protects victims, while closing the gap between government and citizens in allowing a two-way information sharing on gender based violence and femicide.

MMABANA GYMNASTS TO REPRESENT SOUTH AFRICA



By Lehlohonolo Phala

A team of six gymnasts from the Mmabana Arts, Culture and Sport Foundation will form part of the national team to represent South Africa at the prestigious World Age Group Games to be held in Sofia, Bulgaria in November this year. They are Kganya Mahila, Kobamo

Keameditse, Michael Masangana Jnr, Thato Joe, Tshepang Manoto and Vuyisile George.

This follows their participation at the trials for the African Championships as well as the World Age Group Games held in the Eastern Cape recently.

Mmabana Arts, Culture and Sports Foundation is an institution that develop, foster, enhance and promote the total spectrum of arts,

sports and supporting skills.

The Chief Executive Officer of Mmabana, Itumeleng Mogorosi expressed his gratitude to the Mmabana coaches.

"I thank our staff members, specifically the coaches for their continuous hard work despite the challenges that we face on the daily basis", Mogorosi said.

Lebogang Ramokopelwa, Thabiso Moloane, Mzakhe Mandewo and

Michael Masangana are coaches from Mmabana who form part of the South African National Team, responsible for preparing the team for the games.

MEC for Arts, Culture, Sports and Recreation Tsotso Tlhapi congratulated all athletes who will be representing the province at the games and encouraged them to do their best as they have already made the province proud.

She said participation by our provincial and national teams in major sporting events such as these takes us closer to our strategic objective of nation building and social coercion.

She added that it further enhances our standing in the world and not only as a country but also as the North West province.

"As the department we are going to give these young athletes the necessary support to cover for all their travelling needs", Tlhapi said.

She urged parents to work together with Mmabana and give these young athletes the necessary support by encouraging them and ensure that they eat a balanced diet

Boitumelo Masangane, a mother of a 17 year old Michael Masangane said that parents needs to help their children learn to balance between sports, school, and other recreational activities instead of completely cutting children off sports so that they can focus at school.

"Apart from keeping children off the streets, it also has health and emotional benefits", she added.

