



SERVICE DELIVERY PARAMOUNT!!!

EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK

In this issue

Once more one is pleased and delighted with the release of another edition of the COGHSTA News. This edition comes at a time when the provincial government department is showcasing its first 100 days in office of our MEC following the recent national and provincial elections.

As we showcase these 100 days of our government and our MEC in particular in office, we remind ourselves of the commitment we made to our people in realizing the vision of Integrated Sustainable Human Settlements.

Plans have been put together with clear time frames to realizing this vision. During the budget vote presentation, MEC Makhurpetje outlined these plans for all of us to work around in the coming three-five years.

My office re-commits itself to strengthening communication and information work as all programs get implemented. We have finalized



Mr MOTUPA SELOMO
Chief Information Officer

our communication strategy for the next five years. At the centre of this strategy is giving out information of value to the improvement of the lives of our people. Indeed as we will be doing so, we will be working together, to move South Africa forward.

Thank you.

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CoGHSTA NEWS TEAM

Publisher:
CoGHSTA

Editor-in-Chief:
Motupa Selomo

Editor:
Sam Makondo

Researchers/ News Gatherers:
Rirhandzu Nkobyane
Malatji Masasanya
Khutso Mabokela
Tommy Mmatli

Photographers:
CoGHSTA Team

Layout & Design
Clement Makwana

Contact us

CoGHSTA
Get in touch

**Co-operative Governance,
Human Settlements & Traditional Affairs**

20 Rabe Street, Polokwane,
Private Bag X9485
Polokwane
0700
Tel: 015 284 5000

Website: www.coghsta.limpopo.gov.za

Housing queries, Toll free: 0800 687 432

Disaster Toll free: 0800 222 111

PROFILE OF CoGHSTA MEC: Mme MAKOMA MAKHURUPETJE

Born and bred in Ramotshinyadi village in Letaba valleys of the present day Mopani region. She hails from the world respected Modjadji dynasty which is renowned for its rainmaking skills. She joined the struggle for liberation at a tender age of 16 while she was student at Khesetshwane High School. She was instrumental in the establishment of Merekome Youth Congress an affiliate of South African Youth Congress (SAYCO) predecessor of the African National Youth League. Due to her political activism, she could not escape the brutality and callous harassment of the security forces.

After the unbanning of political parties in 1990s, Mme Makhurupetje became one of the key activists to establish ANC Tzaneen branch. Realising that she has the responsibility to build strong ANCWL structures on the ground; she is the founding secretary of the Ramotshinyadi branch.

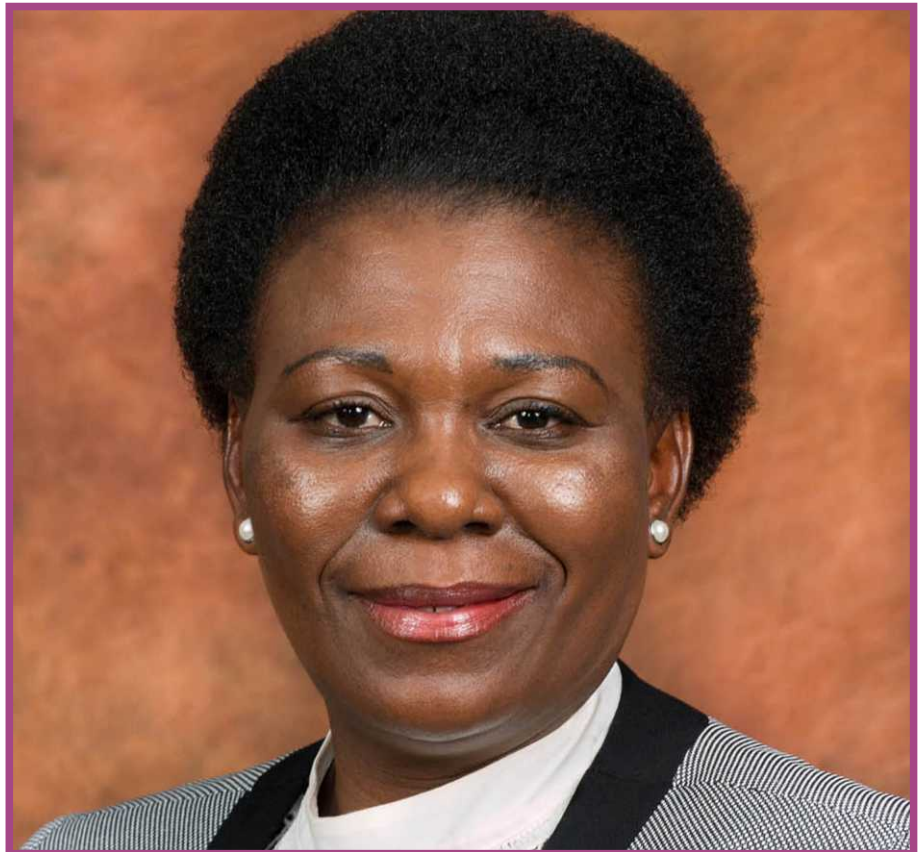
Mme Makhurupetje has since never looked back and has since then served the ANC and ANCWL in various capacities as follows;

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS

- 1991- 1993 = Deputy Secretary (Ramotshinyadi Branch), 1995- 199, Secretary (Ramotshinyadi Branch), 1995-1997 = Treasurer (Letaba North Sub-Region), 2000- 2002 = Chairperson (Ramotshinyadi Branch)
- 2002- 2005 = REC Member (Mopani Region)
- 2005- 2008 = PEC Member(Limpopo Province)
- 2011=2014 = BEC Member Bramfisher Branch)
- 2013-2014 = PTT Member
- 2014 February to date =Deputy Secretary PEC Limpopo)

AFRICAN NATIONAL CONGRESS WOMEN'S LEAGUE

- 1991- 1994 = Secretary (Ramotshinyadi Branch), 1995- 1997 = Secretary (Letaba North Sub Region)
- 1997- 2000 = REC member North East Region



MEC: MAKOMA MAKHURUPETJE

- 2001-2002 = Regional Chairperson(North East Region)
- 2003-2010 = Regional Chairperson (Mopani Region and EX-Officio member of the PEC

Mme Makhurupetje is scholar of note which is confirmed by the following impeccable academic achievements;

- Holds two (2) Masters Degrees i.e. Master of Business Administration (MBA) from Milpark Business School and Master of Development (MDEV).
- Bachelor of Administration Honours with University of South Africa
- Bachelor of Administration with University of Limpopo

Mme Makhurupetje also distinguished herself as a seasoned servant by occupying various senior management positions including;

- Project Development Officer : Mvula Trust
- Chief Executive Officer : LEDET Capricorn District
- Senior manager : Supply Chain Management LEDET
- General Manager :Intergovernmental Relations and Disaster: COGHSTA

Cde Makoma is a veteran in governance matters;

- She served as the ANC Proportional Representative Councilor in the LetsiteleGravellote TLC
- She also served as Deputy Chairperson of the council
- She also represented the TLC in the Lowveld Regional Local Government Association
- She was elected as PR councilor for the Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality
- She served as Speaker of the Council

In May 21.2014 when the Premier , Honourable Chupu Stanley Mathabathe was sworn in as the Premier of Limpopo province, he constituted the Executive Council and appointed the Honourable Makoma Grace Makhurupetje, MEC responsible for Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs(COGHSTA). This is a responsibility she treasures as a call of duty by being a loyal and disciplined cadre of the glorious movement to selflessly serve the people of Limpopo province.

FROM THE MANAGEMENT DESK

Welcome to the CoGHSTA News, the first edition in the second quarter of the financial year 2014/15. The Department of Co-Operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA), welcomed Ms Makoma Makhurupetje as its new MEC. This appointment was welcomed by many people as Makhurupetje has worked in the Department as a General Manager (GM) for Democratic Governance, Intergovernmental Relations and Disaster Management. So it's safe to say that she knows the Department like the back of her hand. Under Makhurupetje's leadership CoGHSTA will definitely reach new heights. With the assistance from our relevant stakeholders and business people, the Department was able to handover a house to the Mohlabafatse family at Sehloamotheka village at Greater Letaba Municipality. The handing over was made possible by the private sector coming to the party and extending a helping hand. This is proof that when the public sector works hand in hand with business people, more can be achieved. CoGHSTA took home the ministerial award for the Community Residential Unit (CRU) at Seshego Township and Polokwane Municipality was awarded Municipal Accreditation level 1. These achievements

made Limpopo shine and show that CoGHSTA is a cut above the rest. During the second quarter the Department and the entire world celebrated Mandela Day. Mandela Day is a good initiative and it should be celebrated not on a specific month but throughout the year. CoGHSTA would like to thank all the sponsors who made sure that we host this year's Mandela Day Celebration. The Department also hosted the annual Govan Mbeki Awards that seeks to award contractors who go all out in ensuring that the people of Limpopo have proper houses. The work done by Traditional Leaders can never go unnoticed as they play a pivotal role in the development of communities. CoGHSTA would like to thank the continued support from the stakeholders and together we will definitely deliver more services.

Highlights

- The launch of the Departmental Youth Forum
- The Makgobatlou family in Bloodriver received a house during Mandela Day
- A total number of 320 title deeds were handed over to beneficiaries at Lebowakgomo
- Performing contractors received Govan Mbeki Awards



Ms Mkhize Zesuliwe
Acting Head of Department

- Mohlabafase family in Sehloamotheka received a house
- Received the Women of Excellence Awards from Black Management Forum
- PMR Award-1st Overall Outstanding Diamond Arrow Award Provincial government Department doing most to accelerate service delivery
- The Clean Audit
- The SAIGA Award

We look forward to more editions as we continue to render quality service to our communities, both internal and external.

MOHLABAFASE FAMILY GETS PROPER SHELTER



Here we go - MEC for CoGHSTA Mme Makoma Makhurupetje cutting the ribbon together with the beneficiary Mme Regina Mohlabafase

By: Khutso Mabokela

Ga-Modjadji- Days of hardships are over for the Mohlabafase family. This after the MEC for the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) Mme Makoma Makhurupetje restored the dignity of the Mohlabafase family after it endured many decades of hardships and poverty. Regina Mohlabafase, a single mother of four was handed over a newly built and fully furnished house on the 28th August 2014 at Sehlomamotheke; which is a small village 30km outside Tzaneen. Scores of community members graced the occasion with their presence and rejoiced with the Mohlabafase Family.

CoGHSTA in partnership with Hoxani Construction Company Rapitsi Brickyard were actually touched by a destitute Mohlabafase family which did not have a habitable shelter at Sehlomamotheke, Ga- Modjadji. CoGHSTA which adopted the Celebrity Build a house, with an objective to rally individuals especially the ones in the media industries and celebrities to be involved in the provision of human settlements.

This programme resulted in the lives of many orphans and other destitute families receiving good quality homes. It also allowed the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs to mobilize various stakeholders and partners to support its other programmes.

The MEC for CoGHSTA, Makoma Makhurupetje and other political principals embarked on this life changing campaign and were available during the handing over proceedings. "It is quite pleasing that we have gathered to empower yet another woman just as we wrap up the activities of a month dedicated to celebrating women of this country. We have been saying since the beginning of the month that we must continue to provide opportunities for women to reclaim their rightful position in society. Gone are the days when a woman would not own a proper house where she can happily raise her children. Today we are witnessing the fruits of freedom and democracy", said Makhurupetje.

During the event Regina Malehu Mohlabafase, the beneficiary said that she still cannot believe her eyes and everything that happened feels like



Home sweet home - Mayor of Greater Letaba Municipality, Cllr Godfrey Modjadji handing over the beneficiary keys to her new home

a dream. She added that she would like to thank Makhurupetje and her team for all the contributions. "Rainy seasons will never be the same again", emphasised Mohlabafase.

COGHSTA AND POLOKWANE MUNICIPALITY SHINE AT THE GOVAN MBEKI AWARDS

By: Rirhandzu Nkobyane

Sandton- The Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) and Polokwane Municipality respectively placed Limpopo on the map during the annual Govan Mbeki Awards that were held at Sandton Convention Centre on the 14th of

August 2014. CoGHSTA took home the ministerial award for the Community Residential Unit (CRU) at Seshego Township and Polokwane Municipality was awarded Municipal Accreditation level 1.

Ms Lindiwe Sisulu, Minister of Human Settlements for the second time around, said the awards seek to celebrate the people who go all

out in ensuring that ordinary South African have proper roofs over their heads. She also encouraged those who did not get awards to try their luck next year. Sisulu also thanked the Mbeki family who allowed the Department in 2006 to name the event after an outstanding stalwart Govan Mbeki.



Holding a trophy, is Cllr Thembi Nkadimeng, Polokwane Executive Mayor winner of the "Best Accredited Municipality (Level 1)" flanked by MEC for CoGHSTA, Mme Makoma Makhurupetje winner of the "Best Community Residential Units (Seshego Project)", next to her is Acting HOD, Ms Z Mkhize, NHBR Regional Manager, Ms N Chabalala, Members of Executive Management for CoGHSTA, Polokwane Municipality and some of staff members.



BROUGHT TO YOU BY MULTI-AWARD WINNING DEPARTMENT

COGHSTA AWARDS HUMAN SETTLEMENTS EXCELLENCE



[From L-R], MEC Mme Makoma Makhurupetje, Mr Nazeen Ahmed from Rirhothe Construction that scooped the “Best Informal Settlements Upgrading Programme” award. Next to him is the Mayor of Mutale Municipality, Cllr. Sarah Rambuda and the Mayor of Greater Tubatse Municipality, Cllr. Ralepane Mamekoa

By: Malatji Masasanya

Polokwane-Various role players in the housing value chain were honoured for the sterling in human settlements development at the annual Govan Mbeki awards hosted by the Provincial Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs. The awards named after the icon Govan Mbeki, honoured developers, contractors, banking sector, community based organisations, mining sector, building material suppliers and professional associations that have committed themselves to partner with government in building sustainable human settlements in Limpopo.

The awards celebrate unselfish human commitment to the plight faced by poor people in the terrain of housing. They seek to motivate all stakeholders in the housing industry to harness human and other resources in accelerating housing delivery to improve the lives of millions of poor people by building sustainable livelihoods, communities and human settlements, providing choice of quality housing, opportunities with secure tenure and access to social amenities. The Govan Mbeki Awards seeks to highlight all the strides/efforts made by the government especially the Department of Human Settlements since South Africa became a

democracy in 1994.

Speaking during the glamorous event that was held at Bolivia lodge in Polokwane, MEC Mme Makoma Makhurupetje said: “The awards we are handing out tonight are the kind that will make any recipient very proud to be associated with as they bear a name of one of struggle icons, Oom Govan Mbeki. He would himself feel no shame at being associated with these awards, but very proud given what is happening here tonight. As we honour our men and women on this occasion, we do so because we strongly believe that they exude rare qualities of selflessness and utter devotion to the plight and cause of the oppressed and exploited thousands of our province”.



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF
**CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE,
HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS**



5th Annual Govan Mbeki Awards 2014 Winners



[From L-R], holding a trophy is Ms. Merriam Moetlo of Tshamaano Construction CC winner of the "Best Women Contractor in the Subsidy Market" flanked by MEC for CoGHSTA, Ms. Makoma Makhurupetje and Cllr. Rosinah Mogotlane the Executive Mayor of Waterberg District Municipality. Looking on with appreciation is the Executive Mayor of Capricorn District Municipality, Cllr Gilbert Kganyago



[From L-R], MEC Mme Makoma Makhurupetje, Mr George Mashamba of MGM Nkutu Trading & Projects receiving the award for Best Youth Contractor in the Subsidy Market, the Executive Mayor of Waterberg District Municipality, Cllr Rosinah Mogotlane and the Executive Mayor of Capricorn District Municipality, Cllr Gilbert Kganyago.



[From L-R] MEC Mme Makoma Makhurupetje, Ms. Ria Cronje of Limpopo Apex Building Construction cc received the award for Best Contractor in the Non-Subsidy Market, the Chairperson of the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders, Chief Malesela Dikgale and Deputy Chairperson of the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders, Chief Eric Chauke



[From L-R], MEC Mme Makoma Makhurupetje, Mr Nazeen Ahmed from Rirhothe Construction that scooped the "Best Informal Settlements Upgrading Programme" award. Next to him is the Mayor of Mutale Municipality, Cllr. Sarah Rambuda and the Mayor of Greater Tubatse Municipality, Cllr. Ralepane Mamekoa



[From L-R] MEC for CoGHSTA, Ms Makoma Makhurupetje, the Executive Mayor of Polokwane Municipality, Cllr Thambi Nkadingem, Ms Confidence Mathusa, winner of the "Best Student Award", Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District Municipality and Chairperson of Salga, Cllr. David Magabe.



[From L-R] MEC Mme Makoma Makhurupetje with Mr Jake Letsapa from Anglo American Platinum Ltd with a trophy for the "Best Finance Linked Subsidy Programme" and the Mayor of Molemole Municipality, Cllr. Paulinah Makgato



BROUGHT TO YOU BY MULTI-AWARD WINNING DEPARTMENT

320 TITLE DEEDS HANDED OVER



In attendance - Lebowakgomo residents came out in numbers to celebrate with the beneficiaries

By: Khutso Mabokela

Lebowakgomo-As part of guaranteeing ownership, the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA), on the 31st of July 2014 handed over a total of three hundred and twenty (320) title deeds to the residents of Lebowakgomo Zone S and Zone R. The ambience of the event was filled with festivities from the residents who felt honoured to be part of the ceremony.

The MEC for CoGHSTA Mme Makoma Makhurupetje was there to hand over these title deeds to deserving beneficiaries. While addressing a large crowd, Makhurupetje said: "Today we are here because we are inspired by the rallying slogan that working together we can move South Africa forward. Together we can continue to expand access to housing and basic services and building integrated human settlements. The ANC led government is still resolute in this aspect and remains unwavering as we get into the third decade of our democracy."

MEC Makhurupetje added that the government is aware of the fact and does not need anyone to tell it that the welfare of its people across different races, classes and genders has improved drastically from what it was in 1994. The twenty years they celebrated as government and the country, demonstrated improvements in



Rightful owner - MEC for CoGHSTA Makoma Makhurupetje handing over a title deed to Cynthia Itukisheng Maisela at Lebowakgomo Zone R

housing, access to basic services, health care, education, infrastructure development, job creation among other changes that have taken place under the ANC led government since 1994. She also emphasized on that they must celebrate as a district that over 58 000 houses were built in Capricorn District since the dawn of democracy, some of which are endorsed today here in Zone R and S.

One of the beneficiaries, an unemployed Cynthia Itukisheng Maisela (39) from Stand 918 Zone R,

has been staying there since 2006 was flabbergasted at the efforts taken by the MEC to personally hand over the title deed at her doorstep." I am very excited that my children will now have a place to call home. I never expected a visit from the MEC, it was a pleasant surprise. I feel honoured". Residents from Lebowakgomo felt gratified to be amongst the 58 000 beneficiaries and wishes that more houses could be built for the multitude of homeless people in the surrounding villages.

NKGADIMA FAMILY GETS A HOUSE



Settling a family..... From left to right, Thobela FM Station Manager Mosh Maseta and CoGHSTA MEC Makoma Makhurupetje handing over a house.

By: Sam Makondo

Rietfontein, Ngwaritsi - In her first assignment following her appointment, Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs MEC Makoma Makhurupetje in partnership with the Limpopo' SABC and Jane Furse Builders Supply have put a dignified smile on the faces of the Nkgadima Family. This follows the handing over of a seven roomed house that replaced a muddy shelter they used as a shelter for a number of years.

The family can now relate to the Freedom Charter slogan that says "there shall be houses, security and comfort". The house they received boasts spacious comfortable bedrooms, dining room, kitchen and a bathroom with running water and geysers to warm the water in the house. They now live in a secure structure thanks to the SABC for spreading the word about the family's plight and also soliciting sponsors to come on board in changing the lives of the Nkgadima Family around and for the better. Speaking at the

official handing over of the house, the MEC for CoGHSTA praised the sterling work done by the SABC and the Sponsors. "We are pretty aware of the housing backlog our province faces. We also know that the responsibility of changing the lives of our people for the better cannot be the work of government alone. We appreciate efforts from everyone and our business community for coming on board in our fight to restore the dignity of our people through housing" said the MEC appreciating the efforts towards building of the house which was handed over on the day fully furnished.

Thobela FM, the station that led this project from the beginning to the end was represented at the ceremony by its Station Manager, Mosh Matsena. She said the station's work towards community development will not end with the Nkgadima Family but they will continue to lend a helping hand to families that are in similar dire straits such as the family of Nkgadima. "We know that you are not the only family facing such despicable conditions that take away your dignity and safety. There are other families all



From shack to big house..... the newly built house for the Nkgadima family.



No more...The shack that the Nkgadima family used before their plight changed for the better.

over the province and we shall partner with government to dignify our people in need" said the station Manager Mosh Matsena

COGHSTA LAUNCH YOUTH FORUM



Youth at the forefront -CoGHSTA MEC Makoma Makhurupetje (Front row, Centre) and the Youth Forum team during their youth forum launch.

By Portia Machete

Polokwane - Youth represents the future and CoGHSTA takes its youth employees and their aspirations seriously. The Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) has since launched a forum that will champion the aspirations of its youth employees. The forum was launched as the department celebrated the Departmental Youth Day on the 19th of June 2014 whose aim was to commemorate Youth Month in the country. The forum seeks to obtain youth inputs on specific areas of concern or issues of key importance to youth development and policies in the Department. It will also increase participation by young people in the Department by establishing partnership between management and the forum.

Mr Joel Seabi who is the Chairperson of the

Forum said he is happy with the initiative of setting up the forum as it will go a long way in ensuring that young people participate in Departmental programmes. He further said that youth are the future and it is important for them to be involved. Speaking during the event, MEC Mme Makoma Makhurupetje said that June 16 is the most significant date in the calendar of the liberation struggle against white in South Africa. "We are gathered here with people who know and do not easily forget their history. Because if we have forgotten, we will be betraying the sacrifices of the children of Soweto, Alexandra and many other townships that raised their black power fists in 1976 and said enough is enough. Without the gallant actions of those youth of 1976, it is difficult to see how we as a nation could have arrived at a place where we are at present and achieved the freedom we are enjoying today".

She further said that youth are still faced with a lot



Impressed - CoGHSTA Youth Forum Chairperson Joel Seabi addressed the youth on his first speech

of challenges, among them is unemployment. People under the age of 34 make up about 72% of the country's unemployed. "Our youth are our future. In your hands is the key to make South Africa a great country, to make our society a prosperous and caring nation".

MEC Budget Speech

2014 - 2015

ADDRESS BY MEC MAKOMA MAKHURUPEPTJE ON THE OCCASION OF THE BUDGET VOTE 11 OF THE DEPARTMENT OF COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS TO THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL LEGISLATURE, 12 AUGUST 2014, LEBOWAKGOMO LEGISLATIVE CHAMBERS.

Madam Speaker,

I consider it a great privilege to be delivering my first Budget Vote Speech in the fifth democratic legislature of our province, just 3 days after the celebration of Women's Day across the country under the theme "celebrating 60th Anniversary of the women's charter and 20 years of freedom: Moving women's Agenda forward". As a woman myself, leading a multi award winning department and a department that last week received a clean audit report for 2013/14, the feeling is quite overwhelming.

Madam Speaker, before I proceed, allow me to take this opportunity to thank my Predecessor MEC for Health Mr. Ishmael Kgetjipe for the solid foundation laid in the department as well as TEAM COGHSTA for warm welcome I have received in the department. THANK YOU.

Madam Speaker,

We are proud that many of our South African women have made a mark for themselves and continue to do so by proving that given the opportunity, nothing can stop those who have determination, passion and are themselves hardworking.

We have travelled a long way since August 1956 and we will never forget the inspiring examples set by countless heroines of our struggle such as Charlotte Maxeke, Lillian Ngoyi, Sophy Debruin, Ruth Mompati, Albertina Sisulu, Helen Joseph, Berta Mkhize, Ruth First, Florence Mophosho, Adelaide Tambo, Amina Cachalia, Tiny Nokwe, Regina Nzo, Dorothy Nyembe, Maristella Segwale Mabitje, Sophy Mogotlane and many others.

These gallant women have undoubtedly started the important work and we must continue to pursue our goal of a united, non-sexist, democratic and prosperous South Africa which prides itself on the values as enshrined in our Constitution.

Kgonthe ke gore mala a basadi a rwala dikgolo, bagale le bagaleadi. Mmago ngwana o swara thipa ka bogaleng.

We are happy with the progress that is being made in terms of women's representation; we however still have to do more, so that sooner than later we become a leading province with regard to this important aspect of empowering our women.

At the local government level, Waterberg,

Mopani and Polokwane municipalities are led by Woman Executive Mayors which is 50% representation of executive mayors in the province. We see this improving gender representation not just as making up numbers, but as a deliberate act of gender empowerment informed by the historical imperative of creating a truly representative, democratic and equal society.

Madam Speaker, this coming Thursday of the 14th August, our best woman contractor in the province Mme Merriam Moetlo as recently awarded in our Provincial Govan Mbeki Awards will be competing with the rest of the country's women contractors at the National Govan Mbeki Awards in Gauteng Province. We say to you good luck to you mam, go and represent Limpopo well. We wish goodluck.

Madam Speaker,

The Premier of our Province reminded us, in this very House, when he delivered the State of the Province Address on 26 June 2014 of the real meaning of the mandate we received from the people of Limpopo. The Premier said:

"The overwhelming mandate that we received on the 7th of May is humbling. It has reaffirmed the trust and confidence of the people of Limpopo in the ruling party to continue to govern. As public representatives in this legislature, we therefore have a mammoth task to ensure that we do not disappoint our people"

He went further to say: **"They want us to redouble our efforts in addressing the challenges of poverty, unemployment and inequality as identified in the National Development Plan. We should know that poverty, unemployment and inequality have the potential to risk the democracy and stability we are enjoying today"**

Madam Speaker,

As I present this budget for the Department of Coghsta, I want to remind this House that, South Africans of all colours, in 1955 gathered at Kliptown, Johannesburg and agreed in no uncertain terms that "there shall be Housing, Security and Comfort". Fifty Nine (59) years this year, South Africans having made this commitment, I am pleased to present a budget in vigorous pursuit of this Freedom Charter stipulation.

Human Settlement Development is at the centre of the work of this Department. Central to this work, is the realisation of integrated and sustainable human settlements. This is, as we always say, where you live, is where you must work, recreate, go to church, do shopping, get entertained and so on.

In this regard, we are moving from disintegrated ways of settlements to comprehensive ways of settling our people. The Manifesto of the ruling party, the African National Congress, summarises this as "to ensure decent living conditions and sustainable human settlements". In giving effect to this manifesto provision, the Department of Human Settlements prioritizes the building of cohesive, caring and sustainable communities.

Madam Speaker,

Since 1994, the Department built and handed over 250 000 housing units to our people. These houses benefited no less than 1 million

households in our province.

We have already finalised our MTSF for the delivery of housing opportunities in the next five years. In terms of this plan, the housing backlog is expected to be reduced by not less than 80,000 housing opportunities through implementation of different housing programmes by 2019 in this province. In this financial year, we will build 10 500 of these houses.

It is a well-known fact that the housing procurement process for 2013/14 was halted in March 2013 due to allegations of supply chain irregularities. Flowing from this situation, the Human Settlement Grant for the Province was withheld for the whole of the 2013/14 financial year, a forensic investigation took place to verify the allegations, and disciplinary processes ensued against certain implicated officials. To this end 4 senior officials were found guilty and dismissed from the public service.

One major condition of the release of the Human Settlement Grant was that the NHBRC, the Provincial Treasury, the Section 100(1) (b) Administrator, the National Department of Human Settlements, as well as the National Treasury (Office of the Chief Procurement Officer) should be part of the "new" procurement processes.

The condition stated above inadvertently resulted in undue delays in the procurement process for 2014/15, to an extent that only 1,500 units have since been awarded by August 2014, with the procurement process and the award for the balance of 9,000 units due to be completed by the beginning of October 2014.

Despite these delays, we do have the capacity and commitment to complete the construction of all the 10,500 housing units during the current financial year. We are quite confident that we will be able to deliver on this commitment as we have been able to address all the challenges brought by the awarding of the human settlements tender for the construction of low cost houses (RDP) for the financial year 2013/14 as recommended by the forensic audit commissioned by the Treasury Department.

In the same breadth, we are finalizing the processes of the appointment of other service providers for the current financial year and contractors for the 2015/16 financial year. This,

Madam Speaker, is done to ensure forward planning to unravel all challenges relating to under-expenditure of the human settlements development grant.

Whilst we are increasing delivery of houses as alluded to earlier in this speech, let me hasten to indicate that we are mindful and take full cognisance of the fact that, there are some of the housing projects that remain incomplete from the previous years. We have finalised the audit of all these projects and have the structural integrity assessment status report of each of all the affected housing units. In this regard, 1822 housing units are expected to be rectified by the end of March 2017. In this financial year, 700 of these housing units will be rectified at an estimated amount of R58 million.

Madam Speaker,

In this financial year, we have planned installation of services on three thousand one hundred and thirty one (3 151) sites at an amount of R96 million for Upgrading of Informal Settlements. According to the Stats SA: 2011, a total of 56 945 households in Limpopo live in informal settlements. Of this figure, the Department has identified and verified (audited) a total of seventy four (74) informal settlements.

This figure represents 23% of audited informal settlements and are at various stages of township establishment. To date, these informal settlements house an estimated number of 186 386 people. Indeed **Madam Speaker;** we would have failed in our responsibility if we do not address this challenge. In terms of our plan, a total of 21 informal settlements will be upgraded and formalised by March 2016. A total of 41 826 families is set to benefit from these developments.

Focus in respect of this upgrading and formalisation, will be done through the installation of basic infrastructure such as water, sanitation and other housing opportunities. In terms of the informal settlements upgrading programme, 9739 informal settlements will be provided with basic services by March 2017.

Of this figure, work on 2500 informal settlements will be done in the current financial year. Four (4) catalytic projects were identified (Altoostyd, Polokwane Ext 86 & 121, Marapong CRU and Bela-Bela Ext. 25). These projects are aimed at correcting the effect of apartheid spatial planning.

Madam Speaker,

We have planned 514 sites for affordable rental at R47 341 000. This is for both site preparations and top structure development. 23 projects at an estimated delivery of 10 025 rental units have been identified in 8 municipalities at an investment requirement of R1,1 billion.

The Department will build 2121 rental units (Community Residential Units and Social Housing Projects) by March 2017. One hundred and twenty (120) of these rental units will be built this financial year, 2014/15. Market surveys are concluded and confirm demand across all income groups.

We have put aside an amount of R6 million for the demarcation of 5 000 sites for residential purposes in both rural and urban areas.

The funding requirements for top structure cost (excluding bulk services) are estimated at R2 billion for the afore-mentioned projects. Structural assessments have been completed in three hostels, and these projects are ready for development. One hundred and eighty nine (189) Community Residential Units have been completed in Seshego and will be handed over to beneficiaries before the end of this financial year. Funds have been allocated for top structure construction of Marapong Community Residential Units in Lephalale.

Madam Speaker,

In the last five (5) years, we were able to purchase strategically located land for human settlements development of about 663 hectares at R1,1 billion. The Province has a target of acquiring 10 000 hectares of well located land that has to be rezoned and released for new developments, targeting poor and lower middle income households.

The Department will be acquiring 132.5 Ha of land for the building of houses in the coming three years. An estimated Medium Term Expenditure Framework funding allocation of R225.3 million will be required based on the previous valuations

and acquisitions. (This represents an annual average requirement of R75.1 million)

In this financial year, R14 459 000 has been put aside for the acquisition of 50 hectares of land. This land is expected to be acquired in strategic economic areas of mining towns. Madam Speaker, we do this as a way of heeding to a call made by the President, in his State of the Nation Address about this issue, when he said: **“we will implement the undertaking to build housing and other services to revitalize mining towns, as part of the October 2012 agreement between business, government and labour”**. The mining areas in our case that the President mentioned are in Sekhukhune and Lephalale. They include towns like Burgersfort, Musina, Lephalale, Fetakgomo and Groblersdal.

Madam Speaker,

Over 12 000 houses were given to our people through the Enhanced Extended Discount Benefit Scheme programme. The purpose of this programme is to reverse the system by which our people were subjected to a 99 year lease during apartheid. We are pleased to have successfully registered these houses at the deeds offices in the names of these people, handed over title deeds and thereby giving them full ownership of these housing properties free of charge. In the next five years 17 500 housing units will be transferred to qualifying beneficiaries in this regard.

Madam Speaker,

The Department will transfer 350 housing units through the Enhanced Extended Discount Benefit Scheme in the next year three years. 150 of these units will be completed in this financial year, 100 during the 2015/16 financial year and 100 in 2016/17. In addition to this, we will register and endorse 10 500 title deeds in the next three years. 3000 of these will be done in the year under review, 3500 in 2015/16 and 4000 in 2016/17.

Madam Speaker,

As we were implementing all these programs, we managed to create 14 074 job opportunities in the past five years through the Extended Public Works Programme. In the same breadth, we are planning to grow this figure to 16 500 by March 2017.

In the Province, Seventeen (17) municipalities

are participating in the Community Works Program with 19 000 participants. The program is funded by National Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs

Madam Speaker,

Local Government is the most important sphere of government in the realization of our quest for a developmental state which is aimed at achieving a responsive, accountable, effective and efficient government. It is a strategic sphere of government focused on growing local economies, providing infrastructure and delivery of basic services. It is indeed one area that has to be pursued with vigour and purpose with special emphasis to service delivery, governance, financial management, infrastructure development and most importantly fighting corruption.

Madam Speaker,

As we present this budget, 86% of households have access to portable water in the Province, 87% have access to electricity, 38% of households have access to sanitation and 22% have access to refuse removal. Much still has to be done Madam Speaker. Close monitoring of Water and Sanitation provision at Ward level for sustainable provision remains critical and a key area of focus.

As government, in 2009 we signed a pledge committing the three spheres of government to achieving clean audit outcomes 2014. This commitment has been hard to achieve.

With the recent audit outcome report by the AG, Our municipalities have regressed and this is a matter of great concern. We have identified the challenges that gave rise to this poor performance by our municipalities.

These challenges include among others, non-compliance with Supply Chain Management processes, unauthorized, irregular, fruitless and wasteful expenditures, accounting for assets in terms of the new accounting standards which requires municipalities to account for all movable and immovable assets in their asset registers, lack of supporting documents, ineffectiveness of governance structures, and In addition, there are two (2) key transversal issues which affected all municipalities in the province, i.e., roads classification (powers and functions) and the wage curve.

Madam Speaker,

As if is not enough, Our municipalities have the highest backlogs in basic services, are financially distressed and some have the highest number of informal settlements and are under-spending on their infrastructure grant. As at the end of May 2014 an amount of R952 million (out of R2.6 billion) remained unspent in the province where by:

- 3 municipalities have spent above 80%
- 6 municipalities have spent between 70% - 80%
- 10 have spent between 60% - 70%
- 6 have spent between 50% - 60%
- 4 have spent below 50%

Madam Speaker,

The Minister of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs, Pravin Gordhan committed all of us to the implementation of what he calls the "non negotiable", when he said " We must all agree on a set of "non-negotiables" and commit ourselves to perform our basic responsibilities diligently' These "non negotiables" as outlined by the Minister are :

- Put people and their concerns first;
- Cut wastage, spend public funds prudently;
- Good governance;
- Constant contact with communities;
- No failures in services – or restore with urgency;
- Hire competent staff; and
- Use Community Works Program – create job opportunities and use the programme to improve the area.

As a Department responsible for providing support and oversight to municipalities in this province, we indeed have to gather and engage both the political and the administrative leadership of our municipalities on these aspects. We have to reflect on facts relating to the state of affairs in our municipalities.

Madam Speaker

I would like to take this opportunity to call upon all colleagues in our municipalities, Executive Mayors, Mayors and Councillors to join hands with us , to be relentless and work towards the implementation of all these issues as raised the

Auditor-General. This is long overdue and we really can't wait to get these implemented.

In this financial year, we will do an assessment of Municipal Performance in order to have targeted intervention in respect of capacity building, support to municipalities and monitoring and evaluation. An amount of R1.2 Million has been budgeted for this purpose. This Madam Speaker will be done through

- profiling of all 30 municipalities in the province by team of experts who will give the report on the state quo, success and challenges per municipality which will help to develop a short term, medium term and long intervention mechanisms required for municipalities to stabilize and focus on their mandate to deliver basic services
- Establish provincial Response Team with necessary capacity jointly with Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs that will be readily available for the intervention in municipalities.
- Support the team established by president led by the Minister and the Provincial task team established by the premier on water interventions.

We have already established the Provincial Audit Outcomes Oversight IGR Forum co chaired with the MEC for Provincial Treasury. This structure includes all five District Mayors and the twenty five Local Mayors. The primary mandate of this structure is to provide political leadership and guidance towards achieving clean audits in all municipalities. The forum compliments the Auditor General's work on governance and financial management areas. We have a firm believe that, with all the efforts put on achieving clean audit, we will be able to overcome all these challenges.

We will be putting more efforts to ensure improved response to community complaints. This will amongst others include:

- Strengthening the client service unit in the Department,
- Effective coordination of the work of Community Development Workers in the

Province and

- Maximizing the use of the Departmental toll-free number by the public

As we do this, we will be preparing our municipalities towards planning for the next term of municipal councils, post 2016.

Madam Speaker,

The Department hosted a Traditional Leadership Indaba during the 2013/14 financial year. At this Indaba, Traditional Leaders raised and discussed common challenges affecting the Institution of Traditional Leadership and proposed to government some possible solutions. The challenges to be confronted by the Department regarding the institution are amongst others the following:

- Recognition of 631 Headmen/Headwomen who could not be processed due to financial constraints
- Lack of proper offices for some Traditional Councils also due to financial constraints
- Reconstitution of Traditional Councils in terms of current legislation
- Replacement of vehicles for Traditional Leaders
- High number of disputes on traditional leadership
- Protracted legal battles on traditional leadership disputes and claims
- Full implementation of the TOOLS of trade

Madam Speaker,

With regard to Chieftaincy Succession Disputes, the Department has since appointed a commission of enquiry (led by Commissioner Kgatla) to investigate these matters. The said commission started its work in May 2012 and is expected to complete the exercise by December 2015. The commission is currently dealing with 522 cases whose claims were lodged on or before 31 August 2010. The commission is registering progress in resolving the chieftaincy disputes and claims and we are happy to report to this august house that already 104 cases has been concluded.

In an endeavor to translate the practical steps in implementing Tools of trade for traditional leaders, the department has processed all the salary arrears for the last financial year for all traditional leaders.

We will be embarking on an aggressive programme of refurbishment and construction of offices to create a conducive working environment. An amount of R 20 million has been set aside for this assignment by the Provincial Department of Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure and an additional R22.8 million which is augmented by the National Department of Cooperative Governance and Traditional Affairs as an intervention measure.

Madam Speaker,

During the 2013 Initiation School season, the Department successfully coordinated a total number of 142 Initiation Schools in the Province with an enrolment of 24 326 initiates without any death case.

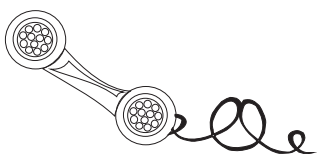
In the year under review, Initiation Schools commenced on the 20th of June and ended on the 18th July 2014. The scheduled dates were aimed at ensuring that the custom does not interfere with the Schools' Learning Calendar. We received three hundred and eleven (311) applications to conduct Initiation Schools across the Province.

Of this figure, two hundred and seventy five (276) applications were approved and thirty six (36) applications were declined. We lost two initiates this year (Tshepo Makofane in the Sekhukhune District and Amos Ndlovu in Mopani District).

I would like to take this opportunity to express our heartfelt condolences to the two families for the loss of their loved ones. May their souls rest in peace.

Madam Speaker,

The challenge of Illegal Initiation Schools



0800 NTSHEBELE
HOUSING CONSUMER CALL CENTRE

remains with us. Together with the House of Traditional Leaders, we are confronting this challenge head-on. We hope the Limpopo Initiation Schools Bill will as well, on enactment, go a long way in addressing this challenge and in giving effect to customary and cultural practices and rituals of traditional communities as enshrined in section 31 of the Constitution of the Republic.

Madam Speaker,

The Executive Council of the Province resolved in 2008 and 2010 to relocate the Community Development Workers and Traditional Affairs Programme back to CoGHSTA, respectively. This decision led to the Department doubling of our staff compliment from about 800 employees to over 2000 thus tremendously increasing the Departmental wage bill. However, the two programmes continue to play a critical role in forging relations especially in public participation and Integrated Development Plans.

Madam Speaker,

The total appropriated funds for the Department increased from R1, 5 billion in 2009/10 to R2, 5 billion in 2012/13. On average, the Human Settlement Development Grant constitute 60% of the total allocated funds, the remainder is distributed among compensation of employees and goods and services, in the main. Budgetary constraints negatively affect the speed with which we can deliver services to our communities. We are continuously engaging our colleagues in Treasury on this aspect and hope to find a lasting solution to this challenge.

Madam Speaker,

The Department is committed to ensure that the goal of having a developmental state is realized by addressing the capacity gaps that have negative effect on delivering quality services to our people. The Department has advertised

vacant posts at both Senior Management and operational levels in order to improve effectiveness and efficiency. This will go a long way in ensuring that the core mandates of the Department are realized. Department has appointed 110 youth as interns during 2014/15 financial year as compared to 90 youth who were appointed during the previous financial year of 2013/14. This will address the challenge of youth unemployment whilst also enhancing their skills so that they could be employable.

Madam speaker,

As I move towards concluding, I would like to assure this august house that, as CoGHSTA, we will continue to work with our strategic stakeholders, partners and all of you as we build our integrated sustainable human settlements. This should be our collective responsibility. We will again shift to a higher gear in our drive to support and enable our municipalities to restore trust in local government's capacity to deliver services to citizens.

Let me take this opportunity to thank the Portfolio Committee, my colleagues in the Executive Council led by the Premier, Members of the Legislature, Municipal Mayors and all Councillors, as well as Traditional leaders for their continued unwavering support to the Department. Together we surely can move this Province forward.

My gratitude goes to the Acting Head of Department, the Executive Management and the entire staff for the sterling work and hard work put in everyday they report for work. We are in the right direction and we must not lose the momentum.

Madam Speaker,

I therefore table the 2014/15 budget for the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs.

I thank you.



COGHSTA AND THE WORLD CELEBRATES TATA'S LEGACY



At home.....From right to left: MEC for CoGHSTA Makoma Makhurupetje, Zorha Khan Developers Owner; Zorha Khan and NHBRC Regional Manager; Nurse Tshabalala with some of the children who now have a place to call home

By Khutso Mabokela

Blood River - Nelson Mandela Day is a day that is recognised and celebrated internationally on the 18 July 2014 in honour of Madiba's contribution towards South Africa's freedom and peace. The Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) also took part in the global celebrations by gracing the people of Blood River with its presence.

The MEC for CoGHSTA Makoma Makhurupetje was honoured to welcome the Makgobatlou family into their new home. In the spirit of giving, that Nelson Mandela was renowned for,

Makhurupetje said as she handed over the house: "It is a great honour for me to be welcoming these orphans into their new home. Nelson Mandela was a selfless man and we should also learn to share the little that we have with the disadvantaged. Madiba's legacy should be treasured". The MEC also emphasised on the fact that 67 minutes was not enough and that Mandela Day should be commemorated every day. She added that Madiba shared his wealth with South Africa after his death, this expresses great leadership skills.

Florence Makgobatlou (29), the eldest and a

mother of one was overwhelmed with emotions as she and her seven siblings were welcomed into their new home. She could not help but weep for joy, after a long time of not having a place called home. "I still cannot believe that we have a home of our own. No more suffering, no more relocating, we will now have no worries. I am so grateful for all that the department has done for me and my other siblings".

The home was built in partnership with National Home Builders Registration Council (NHBRC) and Zorha Khan Developers. The 58 square metre house has three bedrooms and is valued at R170 000.00.

GENDER FORUM LAUNCH!!



Launched - Members of the recently launched Departmental Gender Forum with members of organised labour and executive management of the department

By Malatjie Masasanya

Polokwane- 20 years into democracy issue of gender equity must be pursued by all means possible to ensure gender representation in government departments. In line with this call the Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA), has launched Forum that will champion issues of gender in the department. Launched in the month for women, the main objective of the forum is to celebrate women in the department and afford equal opportunities to female employees in a manner that will address gender equity and further discuss and raise awareness around issues of gender in the workplace.

Speaking during the launch, the Acting HOD of CoGHSTA, Ms Zesuliwe Mkhize who spoke on behalf of the MEC, said that August is women's month and it would have been an injustice for CoGHSTA not to join the rest of the country in commemorating one of the enduring landmarks of our country's history. "In this department, the MEC is a woman, the acting HoD of department is a woman but we know that the legacy of

oppression still weigh heavily on women".

"That is why we must gather like this every August to remind each other of the gaps that still exist when it comes to women empowerment in this country and what we need to do as a department to contribute in addressing this apartheid legacy. Today women occupy significant positions in government, private sector and in other mass based organisations".

She continued by saying that the employment equity is one of the many national policies that we must pursue in terms of implementation in order to increase the number of women who must actively take part in decision making more especially in Senior Management positions. If women played a significant role in the fight against oppression, they can equally play a remarkable role in the fight against poverty, unemployment and inequality.

"We must remember that we still have many female headed families with no source of income, living below the poverty line. It is our responsibility as women to stand up and give those families the necessary support moving



Gender sensitive - Acting HOD Ms Zesuliwe Mkhize addressing CoGHSTA workforce on behalf of the MEC for CoGHSTA Mme Makoma Makhurupetje during the launch of the Departmental Gender forum.

forward. Our women should no longer be seen players of roles such as housekeeping and child minding but as people who are actively involved in the various economic activities in this country".

BMF AWARDS COGHSTA MEC



From right: BMF Provincial Chairperson of Limpopo, Sam Maloka, holding the award is Makoma Makhurupetje and Communications Minister, Faith Muthambi, Deputy Chairperson of BMF, Koko Khumalo and BMF-Managing Director, Themba Dlamini.

By Khutso Mabokela

Polokwane- The Limpopo Black Management Forum has honored the MEC for Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Mme Makona Makhurupetje by awarding her the Women of Excellence Award. The Award is named after Tracy Malatji, who died in August 2006. Tracy Malatji worked as a Municipal Manager at the Capricorn District Municipality. The MEC received her Award at the Annual Tracy Malatje Women of Excellence Award hosted by the BMF Limpopo on 23 August 2014 at Protea Hotel.

The purpose of the event was to recognise and celebrate excellence on women leaders creating enormous contribution in service delivery. The awards also meant to identify and encourage women who changed lives in their locality, without expecting any reward from their

communities.

Amidst the guests was the Minister of Communication Faith Muthambi, the Executive Mayor of Polokwane Municipality; Thembi Nkadimeng, the MEC for Social Development; Joyce Mashamba; the Deputy Chairperson of BMF Koko Khumalo and national BMF board members. Executive Mayor of Polokwane Municipality, Thembi Nkadimeng spoke fondly of Tracy Malatje, "It was a privilege for me to be in the same space as Sethobane, besides being a woman of suspense; she was a sister and a wonderful mother to her daughters. She possessed great leadership qualities and one quality that stood out the most was her hard work. We have big shoes to shoes as we lost a person with a tremendous calibre. These awards are not named after her by accident".

Other remarkable women honoured for their excellence that night were; Communications Minister, Faith Muthambi, MEC for Social



MEC Makoma Makhurupetje welcoming the keynote speaker during the awards ceremony

Development, Joyce Mashamba, Executive Mayor of Polokwane Municipality and our very own MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Makoma Makhurupetje.

ROYAL FAMILY CONGRATULATES MAKHURUPETJE ON APPOINTMENTS

By: Tommy Mmatli

GA-Modjadji- The Modjadi Royal Family hosted a gala dinner to celebrate the appointment of Mme Makoma Makhurupetje as the MEC for the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA). The dinner which was held on the 6th of June 2014 at the tribal office saw MECs and leadership of the Limpopo House of Traditional leaders attending.

Speaking during the event, the Senior Royal Council Member, John Malatji outlined the history of the Modjadji clan, which Makhurupetje comes from. He indicated that Ga-Modjadji is known as a place of peace and friendship. He also highlighted that the relations that exists between the clan and the Vha-Venda people.

He further praised the ANC led government for recognising Makhurupetje for the outstanding job she is doing for the community by appointing her as the MEC for CoGHSTA, something that is regarded and hailed as an achievement for the community of Balobedu. He pointed out that government must fast track service delivery particularly basic services such as water, electricity and the provision of sanitation

MEC for the Department of Economic Development and Tourism, Mr Seaparo Sekoati Seaparo, who was one of the MECs who graced the prestigious occasion, said he appreciated the gesture the Royal Family for recognising one of their very own. He also praised Makhurupetje for proving herself as good and loyal member of the community who always committed herself and energy to serving the people who could not serve themselves.



Other MECs who headlined this royal event included Nandi Ndalani of Sport Arts and Culture, Thembi Nwendamutsu of Education, Jerry Ndou of Public Works and Joy Matshoge of the Department of Agriculture. They were also joined by the Chairperson of the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders Kgoshi Solomon Dikgale.

Makhurupetje was at a loss for words and

thanked the royal family for arranging the event in her honour. She said that it is an indication that the work that she does is not going unnoticed. She also spoke about the role played by traditional leaders in the society. Makhurupetje concluded by stating that if government and traditional leadership join hands, a lot will be achieved.

SEKHUKHUNE COMMEMORATES KGOŠIKGOLO SEKHUKHUNE I



Sekhukhune Day Celebration was a hive of activity in honour of the Warrior King

By Khutso Mabokela

Mohlaletse- The windy and overcast weather conditions did not halt the people of Sekhukhune to celebrate their annual Sekhukhune Day event. Revelers from all over country joined the Sekhukhune nation on the 16th of August 2014 to commemorate the legacy of Kgošikgolo Sekhukhune I; who was the first king of Bapedi/Marota a Bopedi after the passing of his father, Kgošikgolo Sekwati, in the year 1861. MEC for CoGHSTA, Mme Makoma Makhurupetje was in attendance and also paid homage to the remarkable warrior king.

Sekhukhune was King of the Marota people (commonly called Bapedi) who originated from the Bakgatla of the Western Transvaal. Sekhukhune, like Moshoeshoe, King of the Basotho people, was an illegitimate ruler who came to power using military force. As a result, his half-brother, and legitimate heir, Mampuru was forced to flee from the Kingdom. As a result of lack of legitimacy, he built his power by entering into diplomatic marriages with various royal dynasties, by incorporating other societies into his empire, and by military conquest. This increased his support base and gave him legitimacy.

The MEC for CoGHSTA Makoma Makhurupetje was the acting Premier of Limpopo for the day and delivered her message and said: "This year marks the 132nd anniversary of the death of Kgoshi Sekhukhune and 200 years since he was born in 1814. He was also a fearless warrior who prized the independence of his people above anything else. He was an African democrat who believed as we all should, that no government or leadership unless based on the will of the people should enjoy any legitimacy. Kgoshi Sekhukhune I was a vanguard figure in the battles of resistance against White settlers".

AN APPROPRIATE PERSON TO LEAD COGHSTA -SAYS ACTING HOD



The mandate is clear - CoGHSTA MEC Makoma Makhurupetje addressing the staff during her first speech as MEC.

By Abel Modiba

Polokwane-The Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) held a function to welcome the newly appointed MEC, Ms Makoma Makhurupetje. The event was held at the Department's headquarters on Friday, 23 May 2014. Speaking during the event, the then Acting HOD, Mr Nape Nchabeleng said Makhurupetje is an appropriate person to lead the Department because she was central in conceptualising and implementing the "Turn-Around Strategy". "The Premier's decision to appoint the MEC is profound, conscious and calculated. This will indeed accelerate the implementation of the "Turn-around Strategy" within the overall principle of "Continuity and Change". We shall continue to implement all priorities and targets as outlined in the Annual Performance Plan, while making the necessary adjustments and innovations under the leadership of the MEC".

Addressing the staff members, Makhurupetje thanked the ANC, her organisation, the premier of Limpopo Province, Ntate Stanley Chupu Mathabatha for having entrusted her with the responsibility of steering the department (CoGHSTA) into a service delivery trajectory that should deliver in line with its constitutional mandate. "I come to the Department just 5 days after my resignation of which I have served as a general manager from the 1st April 2006 until 14

May 2014". Makhurupetje went on to thank all who had supported her and showing the good relationship with her throughout. "Today I do remember Ausi Mihloti Hetisani, she was a star indeed to me "May her soul rest in peace". Makhurupetje went further to thank her predecessor, now her colleague in the Executive Council, the Honorable MEC for Department of Health Mr. Ishmael Kgetjepe for the solid foundation he has laid during his tenure. "I thank him for his sterling leadership and stewardship, wish him well in his new assignment" She said.

Makhurupetje highlighted and shared some of relevant areas of the ANC manifesto, the ruling party, which will continue to guide their work in the next five years:

- Ensure all the South Africans have access to adequate human settlements and quality living conditions through programmes that provide 1 million housing opportunities for qualifying households over the next 5 years and providing basic services and infrastructure in all existing formal and informal settlements.

- National and provincial government will oversee the performance of municipalities and ensure that communities are empowered to hold public representatives and public servants accountable

- We will strengthen existing forums of people participation and enable our people to play a greater role in development through partnerships with a range of community and social organisations.

- Forge a disciplined, people centred and professional public service.

"As we start this term of government we need solutions to those challenges that continue to plague our communities. Our municipalities are the sphere of government closer to the people and we cannot be happy as a Department with analysis that suggests that they are in a state of paralysis. The Mogalakwena debacle is a case in point and we need to assist by providing solutions within the legal framework as of yesterday. We cannot take a backseat not after twenty years of freedom and democracy. This democracy elected government must have a good story to tell as we are entering the second phase of radical transformation".

She encouraged everyone within the department to continue working cordially with the traditional leadership in the province "Our traditional leaders and government are partners in the delivery of services in our communities. As I speak to you, winter is upon us and with it comes the season of initiation school/dikoma. Our province is one province that follows the practices every year. Last year, because of hard work and working with strategic stakeholders, we had a death free season and the question is how ready are we right now to defend such a feat or achievement that saw other provinces coming to this province to learn best practices".

EVERY GIRL CHILD DESERVES A CORPORATE EXPERIENCE



Work experience - Learners from Todani Secondary School and Thengwe High School during the Take A Girl Child To Work at held Mutale Municipality.

By: Khutso Mabokela

Mutale- Cell C together with Mutale Municipality celebrated its annual Cell C Take A Girl Child to Work Day campaign on Thursday, 29 May 2014 at Mutale Municipality. Todani Secondary School and Thengwe High School located on the outskirts of Mutale, were the two schools chosen to participate in the campaign. Sixty (60) girl learners in Grade 10 and Grade 11 respectively were selected from both the schools. The criteria for choosing these girls were based on exceptional performance in Mathematics and Sciences.

The campaign aims to remind young girl learners that they have every power to accomplish their greatest dreams. Cell C also wants to encourage

these young women to remember that they can inspire, influence and lead others to greatness. More than 50 000 young learners are expected to benefit this year as hundreds of companies around the country participate in this groundbreaking project.

The Department of Co-Operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) contributed in the campaign by educating the learners on careers platforms like Spatial Planning and Town Planning that the department offers. A representative from CoGHSTA, Ms Ramatsela Digomo addressed the girl learners by encouraging them to take pride in their qualities in order to break the glass ceiling. The Acting Mayor of Mutale Municipality Ms Sarah Rammuda delivered an inspiring key

note address and mentioned the importance of uplifting women at an early age so that they transform into well informed adults who can face the world regardless of their background and gender. She added on by urging the government to be forcefully involved in the Bring Back Our Girls Campaign, and reprimanded the actions of Boko Haram as barbaric and totally uncalled for. The learners from both schools were represented by Rohula Bilankulu, a Grade 11 learner from Thengwe High School. "It is an honour to be part of such a great occasion as this will indeed motivate us as girl learners to strive for a better and fearless approach to life. We need more campaign like this to regularly push us and remind us of our purpose and abilities," confidently said Bilankulu.

STAKEHOLDER ENGAGEMENT

