

CoGHSTA NEWS



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OFFICIAL QUARTERLY MAGAZINE OF THE DEPARTMENT OF CO-OPERATIVE GOVERNANCE, HUMAN SETTLEMENTS & TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS

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NO MORE “PLEKKE WAAR HULLE KAN NET SLAAP”



New Residential Units... (from second left to right) MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Soviet Lekganyane, Minister, Tokyo Sexwale, Limpopo Premier, Cassel Mathale and HOD, Clifford Motsepe, *more on p.4-5*

In this issue

**76
HOUSES
TO MARK
JUNE 16
p.8**

**CoGHSTA
GRANTS TITLE
DEEDS
P.11**

**ADVISORY
PANEL
UNVEILED
P.12**

**MEC
HAILS
INITIATION
SCHOOLS
p.14-15**

Integrated Sustainable Human Settlements



FOREWORD BY MEC

Mr. Soviet Lekganyane
Department of Co-operative Governance,
Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs

The month of August is dedicated to women. This is homage to the heroism evinced by South African women in the face of apartheid brutality and repression. They braved the adversities of the bitter past and courageously mobilized against an unjust system of degradation. The epitome of their resistance then was the heroic 1956 march. Women bore the brunt of oppression. In South Africa, women suffered three fold oppression, first as a class (belonging to group in society that does not influence economic relations), second as a race (being black and African) and in gender forms (oppressed for being a woman). As a tribute to this unparalleled selflessness we need to intensify our programmes for complete emancipation of women. The realities of today must sharpen our consciousness to exude more vigour.

The entire globe celebrated the first democratic President of the Republic of South Africa, Rolihlahla Nelson Mandela during the month of July. The resolution of the United Nations to declare July 18, the International Mandela Day is a testimony to the true values of humanity, integrity and morality, sacrifice and service, passion and compassion that Mandela and his contemporaries, countrymen and women embraced. We must learn from the best and do this country proud. The department will proliferate programmes of this nature to serve our people better.

We emerge from the third edition of local government elections brimming with confidence. We thank the voters for increasing the voters roll and improving the turnout from 42% in 2006 to 50% in 2011. It shows confidence by the constituencies in the ability of the provincial government.

We congratulate new councilors who have been recently sworn into office and wish them well. We expect proper conduct from them, diligence, quality programmes and services, clean, accountable and transparent administration, sound financial management and accelerated pace of service delivery. Thanks to those councilors who served proudly in the previous terms of local government.

We have re-incorporated Traditional Affairs as the third component in the department. The department will from now henceforth be known as Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA). We will continue to support this institution and continue to resolve all disputes riddling it. By the end of August, we must have constituted a Provincial Commission. We urge people with appropriate knowledge and requisite expertise to apply to be Commissioners. Most of our traditional councils 'terms of office have come to an end. This must not create chaos but a smooth process to renew the mandate. We convey our heartfelt condolences to the family

Khosi Fhumulani Kutama, the former Chairperson of the National House of Traditional Leaders. May his soul rest in peace.

The initiation school season has come to an end. We congratulate the Task Team under the stewardship of Khosi Vusani Netshimbupfe for the job well done. We commiserate with the families of two lives that were lost. We will convene stakeholders later this year to prepare for next season in order to improve on our management of the practice and find better ways of running incident free initiation season. We are getting tougher and as we go forward. We will disqualify traditional leaders and healers who offend this practice.

We extend words of thanks to all our partners, the SABC, Capricorn FM and all service providers who together always want to find innovative ways of servicing our communities better. A number of destitute families have benefited from our programmes. Thank you.

The Head of Department and the officials at all levels make us to be a reputable institution in the country. We are holding the Premier's title of being the best performing department twice in a row. Šako labo ngwanenyana ga le ke le tlaa go fihla ka maribana Mafološa –nkwe –thabeng!



From HoD Desk

Mr. Clifford Motsepe

**Department of Co-operative Governance,
Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs**

The Department is a strategic centre for service delivery in Limpopo Province as it is charged with the responsibility of ensuring that houses are built and water, electricity and sanitation are provided to Limpopo's citizens.

All municipalities in the province are service delivery agents of the department. The Department has committed to the implementation of the Local Government Turn-around Strategy with its main areas of focus being the status on the provision of basic services such as Water, Sanitation and Electricity, Good Governance, Financial Management and implementation of Public Participation Programmes, including the functionality of the ward committees.

As the Department we are able to

transform, innovate and capacitate our society to achieve its developmental goals. We have long maintained that simply doing our work the way we have always done is not sufficient to meet the challenges of our transforming society – There Is No Time! None of us denies that there remain major challenges in terms of service delivery. What we need to ensure is that we do not waiver in our obligation to change, to development and to improve.

We are confident that out of the eleven growth points identified for robust development works in the province we have managed to conclude a Memorandum of Understanding (MOU) between Lephalale Municipality and the Local Government and Housing Department. As we speak there are procurement plans to spend R318 million in this Municipality. This is the model of development we will employ for the remaining eleven growth points

identified for robust development works in the province.

We are committed to deliver quality service to the people of Limpopo. It is within this context that we have adhered to the set service standards and have registered great improvements. We maintain a professional and ethical code of conduct when dealing with our Citizens. We encourage all our citizens to call our call centre Ntshebele on 0800 687 432. It is through your inputs that our Department has improved and strengthened its systems.

Following the Municipal election all 1319 councillors were inducted and we believe that the quality material presented by our esteemed facilitators has thoroughly geared them up for meticulous execution of the municipal legislation and policies.

Enjoy reading!

From the Parliamentary

It is not everyone who has an opportunity to sit and listen as legislators in the Limpopo Legislature wrestle down issues of legislation aimed at bettering the lives and serve its citizens better. This column will be feature regularly in this publication and will keeping readers abreast with on issues of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs as they unfold in the legislature. It will also enlighten the citizens of Limpopo on the work of the legislature, the Portfolio Committee of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs as they visit communities to solicit views regarding service delivery and various bills. As

and when bills are drafted for public comment, we will bring you up to speed with such a development. Furthermore, those that have been passed and enacted into law will be unpacked for you in a language that will be understood by all. It will also reflect on the debates in the house and how they will impact on the lives of the people, their aspirations and interests within the broad framework of South Africa as a country. The column will as it appears regularly endeavor to strengthen participatory democracy over and above those that the statutory bodies and non statutory bodies of the department have entrenched. The department has for the past two years

in a row been voted the best performing department in the province and feedback from legislature with regards to such achievement will be captured for your information. These successive unqualified audit opinions and it will be in this very space that such achievement. This column will interpret what this achievement translates to in terms of service delivery for the citizens of Limpopo.



**Mr Maribe Mamabolo
Parliamentary Officer**

See you in the next edition.

Editor's Notebook...

It is with great humility that I am afforded an opportunity to reduce my thoughts to paper marking my debut editorial note! I call this a rarity – mixed feelings have been occupying my space lately not knowing where to start in articulating about a great department like ours led by great people. A multi-award winning department which has recently occupied a larger media space. If we were in a profit-making business we would refer to this media space as market share!

Experts declare that in any organization communication is crucial. However, inter communication is very crucial. A two way communication is adhesive and binds us together.

In your hands today you have the first external publication that will serve as the official stage of engagement between all of us. For it to be meaningful and relevant, your participation becomes crucial.

You can contribute in terms of opinion pieces, letters and constructive feedback.

The Communications Services attempts at all times to be innovative, creative and relevant in trying to keep in touch with developments within the department.

As Editor in Chief, I commit to bring to you a publication that will ensure that all of us have a common voice. A publication that will be fair, accurate and up to date with issues.

In this publication this quarter, we are bringing you all about parliamentary matters, Mandela Day activities, as well as the good news from the Auditor General.

I look forward in receiving your stories and ideas in making this publication a must read in the province and beyond.

Enjoy it.



Tseng Diale
Chief Information Officer

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Integrated Sustainable Human Settlements

NO MORE “PLEKKE WAAR HULLE KAN NET SLAAP”



Gone....The old Seshego Hostel being demolished to make way for new Community Residential Units in Seshego

By Jimmy Malebati

Seshego-Human Settlements Minister, Tokyo Sexwale accompanied by Limpopo Premier, Cassel Mathale and the MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Soviet Lekganyane collapsed the old Seshego Hostel and launched the Seshego Community Residential Units (CRU) project on the 11 May 2011 at Seshego Zone 06, Polokwane.

The Seshego Community Residential Units project which consists of 189 units at cost of R40 million is the first of its kind in the entire Province. The CRU is a revamped middle class residential project emanated from the former apartheid hostels. The old



Under Construction.....Human Settlements Minister Tokyo Sexwale taking part in a construction of Seshego Residential Units

tenants were given a first priority to occupy the new units. The project targets beneficiaries of an income

which is less than R3500 per month. The rentals are expected to be R400 for a room and R800 for a 2 bed units.

Continues from p4

As part of eradicating poverty this project employed 245 locals, employing skilled and unskilled labourers comprising of 59 women, 146 men and 40 youths. People employed in this project were trained in various construction disciplines during the construction of 189 units. When completed, the project will include a clinic and a recreation centre.

With the demolition of the existing hostel, a higher density construction space was maximized for housing. The 2 bedroom units which are upstairs



Completed....The new Seshego Community Residential Units colourfully standing tall



Ecstatic.....Some of the beneficiaries for the New Seshego Community Residential Units

allow for sharing between two individual tenants or a family living. Each unit gets a garden for urban agriculture and recreation.

Commending the project, Minister Sexwale said many job seekers in urban

areas are not looking to stay in a permanent home but are seeking rental accommodation. "There is an increased demand for affordable and well located rental accommodation, where whites and poor share services" he said.

The minister also affixed that government still need to address approximately 2 000 public hostels in the country. "This programme therefore provides a coherent framework for dealing with the many different forms of existing public sector residential accommodation" he added.

“People employed in this project were trained in various construction disciplines during the construction of 189 units”



Greening.....Human Settlements Minister Tokyo Sexwale planting a tree during the launch of Seshego Community Residential Units

COGHSTA HOSTS SPONSORSHIP BREAKFAST PLEDGE



Money talks....Some of the business people who took part in the sponsorship breakfast pledge hosted by CoGHSTA

By Rirhandzu Nkobyane

Polokwane-The Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs hosted a sponsorship breakfast pledge for the Youth Build at the Ranch hotel on the 20th of May 2011. The aim of the breakfast was to get sponsors to pledge for the Youth Build project.

The National Department of Human Settlements (NDHS) has decided to take its National Youth Build 2011 programme to Limpopo in commemorating and celebrating 35 years since the 1976 June 16 uprising. 76 houses will be built by youth in Molemole Municipality (Mogwadi) in the Capricorn District Municipality from the 20th of May 2011 – 09th of June 2011. The targeted beneficiaries of these houses are mainly the elderly and the vulnerable groups consisting of people with disabilities, single headed households, victims and survivors of gender based violence and orphaned households.

Both the National Department of Human Settlements and Provincial Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs have an obligation to carry the mandate of providing houses

for the poor of the poorest locally and nationally.

According to Ms Z Mkhize who was acting on behalf of the HOD said the initiative is part of the nationwide project where members of the community, sponsors, together with officials build a house for selected beneficiaries such as the elderly, the disabled and the orphans.

Most sponsors responded well in the involvement of the project by injecting money and resources. First National Bank donated an amount of R20 000, Ramatsela Construction pledged internal paint and laborers for plastering, Mahapa Mpitso Business Revolution pledged 100 of paint, Okhampa Technologies promised to donate paint, Verrani Company pledged two solar geysers, Adv Ameermia promised to donate 76 Ceres Trees, Mantramax pledged to build a fully finished new model house, Group 5 promised to pledge 76 roofs and contractors with a discount of 65%, Department of Agriculture pledged 300 trees to fight global warming, Nurcha pledged 150 yellow helmets, National Youth Development Agency

donated 200 gloves and 200 T-shirts and NHBC donated 300 overalls and 300 helmets. NHFC pledged 65 000. Our partners in construction such Dada Hardware, E.H Hassim, Rirothe construction and Reilland pledged to plaster, paint and put ceiling in the 76 houses.

Mr William Jiyana, Chief Director for Stakeholder Management at Human Settlements said "It is not good for the youth to spend their energy on strikes, so such programme will engage them in building their own community. The project is aimed to remove informal shack and to ensure that there are better houses."

The MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Soviet Lekganyane said "The youth of 1976 fought for freedom with their lives, but the youth of today have to be involved in the projects of their communities. The Department will continue to accelerate the delivery of houses and other basic services. He concluded by wishing all the sponsors and department employees well in the programme.

MEC LEKGANYANE LAYS BRICK TO KICK START YOUTH BUILD 2011

By Jimmy Malebati

Mohodi-Limpopo has been selected to host the Youth Build 2011. The MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Soviet Lekganyane laid a brick to launch the Youth Build as mark of commemorating 35 years of June 76 Youth uprising on 20th May 2011, at Mohodi New Stands, Molemole municipality.

This is an exciting programme envisaged to pull youth from their comfort zones and encourage them to develop keen interest in the Built Environment. The MEC and his entourage met at the family of a physically challenged Rosinah Maletle for the ceremonial bricklaying. The family has six members and stay in mud house. "I am so excited to be given a house for free. Now my family can have a safer place to sleep.", she said.

A team of 100 unskilled youth volunteers were recruited to participate in the building of 76 houses. The rationale of the move is to train these youth to acquire or to transfer construction skills which will assist them in future to build quality houses. The volunteers will meet timeframes and targets and thus assist in reducing the housing backlog. Young people acquire construction skills to increase their chances to access economic opportunities. This project will assist them to demonstrate leadership in their own lives and within their communities. During the Build, resources are mobilized to support the programme. At the end, the Department will acknowledge the volunteers by awarding them with



Brick laying.....MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Soviet Lekganyane launching 2011 youth build at Mohodi



Work force.....Some of the youth who volunteered their skills during the 2011 youth build

certificates will serve as a witness of the skills transfer.

The Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs is bridging the divides between the poorest of the poor and other well off classes through sustainable developmental local governance and integrated human settlement. This is done to fulfil the policy on the freedom of charter which says that there shall be houses, security and comfort.

Speaking during the event, Lekganyane thanked the National Department of Human settlements for identifying

Limpopo Province to host the 2011 Youth Build. He said this has given the department the power to do well in its sphere of governance.

"The youth must become employable and be business people to sustain their lives. The beneficiaries will also get sola panel. 76 houses will be plastered internally and externally, they will be painted, have ceilings, beneficiaries will also receive beds. These will be done for free (Mahala)". he added.

The community of Mohodi, Madikana and New stands which most are the beneficiaries and in attendance were very happy. They danced and sang happy songs.

76 HOUSES TO MARK JUNE 16



Honouring Youth... (from second left to right) Capricorn Executive Mayor, Lawrence Mapoulo, MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Soviet Lekganyane and Human Settlements Minister, Tokyo Sexwale, Limpopo Premier, Cassel Mathale during the launch of 2011 Youth Build

By Rirhandzu Nkobyane

Mohodi-A total number of 76 families who used to live in dilapidated structures from Mohodi village outside Polokwane are now proud owners of RDP houses. These houses that were handed over to the families on the 9th of June were built during the Youth Build programme that was run by the national Department of Human Settlements in conjunction with the provincial Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs and various stakeholders. The programme is an initiative of Human Settlements and aims to mark the 1976 Soweto riots. The annual programme aims to pull youth from their comfort zones and encourage them to develop keen interest in the Construction Industry.

Youth build is a programme where a team of volunteers participate to build quality houses under supervision. The volunteers meet timeframes and targets and thus assist in reducing the housing backlog. Young people acquire construction skills to increase their

chances to access economic opportunities. They also demonstrate leadership in their own lives and within their communities.

The beneficiaries of the houses that were built at Mohodi are the elderly, orphans and the disabled. One of the recipients of the houses is Ms Selina Malete (73) who could not believe it when she was told that she is one of the beneficiaries. Malete stays with her daughter Rosina who has six children. The house is under Rosina's name and gogo Selina was at a loss for words. "Now my grandchildren will have a proper house to stay at," she says. Malete's house is fully furnished and equipped with ramps.

Speaking during the handover the Minister for Human Settlements, Tokyo Sexwale was happy with the work that was done by young people. "These young people have selflessly dedicated their time to ensure that those without decent shelter will sleep in comfort today. They will not become victims of the floods we are experiencing right now. Most importantly they have

brought back the dignity of the recipients and for this we salute their dedication. It is indeed in line with the spirit of the '76 generation," said Sexwale. He said the only way to get the youth out of poverty was to provide them with skills that will enable them to find jobs, warning that failure to do so will negatively affect the government's job creation initiatives. "The young people who have volunteered their services for free to assist in building these houses will be formally trained in bricklaying, plumbing and plastering amongst other things with those successful receiving an NQ4 certificate," said Sexwale.

The MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Soviet Lekganyane also echoed Sexwale's sentiments and thanked the young people for taking part in the programme.

Sewela Motjopi (27) is one of young people who volunteered her services during the three week long Build and says she has benefitted a lot. "I am very happy for the experience I gained and the certificate. I now know a few things about building houses," she said.

MEC AND STAFF ROLL UP SLEEVES FOR 67 MINUTES

By Sam Makondo

Giyani – Limpopo MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs Soviet Lekganyane and members of the department joined the millions of South Africans and the rest of the world in celebrating Mandela Day. This they did by rolling up their sleeves committing 67 minutes building two houses and painting another at Homu 14b, outside Giyani in the Greater Giyani Municipality.

Addressing the delighted community who had converged at a site where work construction was to be done, Lekganyane said that Nelson Mandela has taught us to look after our people, respect and live together in harmony. “We will continue to build quality houses for our people that are bigger and more



On site.....Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs MEC Soviet Lekganyane (**Red Helmet**) flanked by (**Left to Right**) Israel Mhlanga, Shirley Mhlanga and Joseph Mhlanga.



My 67 minutes....MEC Soviet Lekganyane of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs building a house at 14B as part of the Mandela Day.

decent. There is no reason why we should fail our people in that regard. Dignifying our people is part and parcel of what Nelson

Mandela fought for in the 67 years he dedicated fighting for change in South Africa”, pointed out the MEC adding the importance of working together to build a caring society just after finishing

building a house for four orphans whose parents passed on three years ago. The orphans, Joseph Mhlanga, Israel Mhlanga, Shirley Mhlanga and Launda Mhlanga have been living in a one roomed shack with no privacy since the death of their parents. Shirley Mhlanga, 16, said sometimes she would sleep at her friends 'place just to give her brother some space and return early in the morning in time to prepare for school. “It is very tough. I am so thankful to the department. I will finally have my own room”, said the young Mhlanga adding that she cannot wait to move into the new house. Her brother Joseph Mhlanga, 24, smiling endlessly said the gesture is definitely a huge relief on his part and his siblings.

Mandela day is a day where everyone is called upon to spend 67 minutes symbolizing the 67 years Mandela dedicated to fighting for a change in South Africa. The 2011 theme of Nelson Mandela Day is: “Working Together to Build a Caring Society”.

Continues on p.10



Mixer.....MEC Soviet Lekganyane of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs mixing cement at Shongoane during the Mandela build up event.



In line.....MEC Soviet Lekganyane of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs positioning bricks at Shongoane during the Mandela build up event.



Rolling it up...MEC Lekganyane painting one of the houses at Shongoane

Another beneficiary, Lestinah Mbombi, as the MEC built a house the very same day as part of Mandela Day. She said: "Since 2006, I had no decent house. My house collapsed a number of times during rainy seasons. I do not have sufficient words to describe my gratitude to the MEC for coming to my rescue. I am safe now come whatever season"

Piet Shivambu from the same village,

Homu 14 B was also overflowing with joy. He said: "This is the best house I ever owned. My visitors will now have a place to sleep. I thank God and this government that cares for its people.

Meanwhile, for days before the Mandela Day, the department hosted a Mandela Day build up event at Shongoane in the Lephalale municipality. At this event, the MEC dedicated another 67 minutes of

his time to make an imprint and help change the community by building two houses and painting another. The first house was for the Serumula family. In this family there are four orphans who live with their grandparents. Their mother died six years ago. The Makgake family also had the MEC building a house for them. They live in a two room shack with three children and grandchildren.

COGHSTA GRANTS TITLE DEEDS



Granted.....Human Settlements Minister Tokyo Sexwale congratulating one of the recipients of the title deeds

By Jimmy Malebati

Polokwane-The National Minister of Human Settlements Tokyo Sexwale handed over 1 700 title deeds the 11th May 2011 to residents of Seshego and Westenburg at Nirvana, Polokwane.

The Department transferred properties to beneficiaries based on these two criteria's: first being the Enhanced Extended Discount Benefit Scheme (EEDBS) which include the pre 1994 housing stock. Second being the Registration and Endorsement (R & E) which are all properties post 1994 under the low-cost housing programme. The Westernberg community received 128 Title deeds. Other communities around Polokwane include Lithuli 9L = 846 (R&E), Polokwane Ext 44= 566 (R&E), Annadale = 17 (EEDBS), Seshego = 08 (EEDBS), Seshego A Ext = 166 (R&E). Gabriel Butana(88), is one of the

recipients of title deeds. He could not hide the joy. "I am very happy. It has been quite a while, today I have total ownership. The house is mine," he said.

The MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Soviet Lekganyane said: "The apartheid government denied them title deeds for over thirty-seven years and today under the democratic government we are restoring their dignity".

"Everyone wants to own property. Everyone has a right to property ownership. Our Constitution cannot be treated as a piece of toilet paper. It is a formidable law that comes with the dreams and hopes of the people", said Sexwale.

Prior this event the Minister, Premier of

Limpopo Cassel Mathale and MEC Lekganyane demolished the old Seshego Hostel. The newly build Community Residential Unit (CRU) was launched on SABC 2 Morning live from 6h00 until 08h00.

The Seshego CRU project is the first of its kind in the entire province at a cost of R40 million and will consist of 189 units. The unit caters lower income persons and households earning between R 800 and R 3 500 per month.



In Attendance....MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional affairs, Soviet Lekganyane with Capricorn Executive Mayor, Lawrence Mapoulo

Advisory panel unveiled

By Sam Makondo

Polokwane - Limpopo MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs Soviet Lekganyane has instated a team that will advise him on housing development in the province. Called the Limpopo Housing Advisory Panel, the body has been established in terms of Limpopo Housing Act 2 of 2006 and replaces the Housing Board. Addressing the newly appointed panel members at the department's head office in Polokwane recently, the MEC congratulated them on their appointment to serve in a body that will give housing development a much needed revamp to the benefit of all the people in the province. "This advisory panel will be central in advising government on how we should drive housing development. Gone are the days of apartheid spatial patterns," Lekganyane said.

He also called on the Advisory Panel to look into ways that will assist people to get sites free of charge but tie them to a contract. "When you give free sites to teachers, police and nurses, you will not collapse a town. These people will pay municipal services. Let us see how we can liberate our people from financial bondage associated with paying for houses for over twenty years," pointed out the MEC adding that panel is in place to enrich and sharpen the department.

The panel is expected to advise the MEC on among other things provincial housing policy and strategy, viability of all housing development plans, conduct investigations requested by the MEC and perform any housing matters which the MEC refers to the pane. Furthermore, the advisory panel will serve as a consultative forum for external role players to be involved in the policy formulation process. The



In the panel.....Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs MEC Soviet Lekganyane (**Centre**) flanked by (**from left to right**) Ntswaki Baloyi (Member), Makgoshi Masipa(Member), Makgatsi Mphahlele (Chairperson),Winston Grant(Deputy Chairperson) and Popela Maake(Member).

panel comprises five members and they are: Makgatsi Mphahlele (Chairperson),Winston Grant (Deputy Chairperson),Makgoshi Masipa M.P, (Member), Ntswaki Baloyi , (Member),Popela Maake (Member). Their educational backgrounds skills are impeccable and range from knowledge of national and provincial housing legislation, expertise in low income housing finance, technical knowledge of residential development, legal expertise regarding contracts and conveyancing and practical experience in housing development.

The term of office for the panel is three years. The conditions of service for members while in office include disclosing any direct and indirect financial interest of the member or member's family has in

housing development.

In accepting the responsibility that lies ahead, Chairperson of the Advisory Panel Makgatsi Mphahlele committed the Panel to delivering on the mandate. "We will deliver on all the responsibilities as expected. It is no easy task but we are up to challenge," assured the Chairperson.



Making a point.....Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs MEC Soviet Lekganyane addressing members of the Limpopo Housing Advisory Panel recently, seated are (**Left**) Adv Shafik Ameernia , General Manager Transversal Services and (**Right**) Senior General Manager of Integrated Sustainable Human Settlement Zesuliwe Mkhize

COGHSTA INTRODUCES TRIBUNAL BOARD MEMBERS

By Rirhandzu Nkobyane

Polokwane-The Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs held a media briefing to introduce people who are currently serving on the Limpopo Development and Appeal Tribunal Boards. The briefing was held at Fusion Hotel on the 10th of May 2011 and speaking during the event, the Senior General Manager (SGM) for Local Governance, Mr Nape Nchabeleng said the members for both statutory bodies are experts in various fields including town planning, law which make them to be very effective, capable and professional. He encouraged the board members to ensure economic empowerment, job creation, promote non racialism and social cohesion. Nchabeleng said they have to focus on the Province's growth points which include Lephalale, Musina, Greater Tzaneen, Greater Tzaneen and Polokwane. "As members of the board your core business is to facilitate urbanization in the Province," he said.

The Development tribunal is the authority responsible for decisions relating to the development of land as per Development Facilitation Act (DFA) act 67 of 1995. The Development Tribunal consists of twenty (20) members and Appeal Tribunal consists of five (5) members. Both Development and Appeal Tribunal Boards will serve for a period of 18 months and their term started on the 1st of January 2011.

The powers and functions of the Development Tribunal is to handle land development applications and registration arrangements. A Tribunal may approve in whole or part, postpone or impose conditions on any land



In place.....Limpopo Development and Appeal Tribunal Board Members



Raring to go.....Limpopo Development and Appeal Tribunal Board Members

development application. A decision, award order or determination of a tribunal may be executed as if it had been made by a Magistrate's Court. It should be noted that people who disobey legitimate instructions of a tribunal or act in contempt of the tribunal commit a criminal offence and may be jailed for up to 6 months or fined up to R2 000. The Appeal Tribunal functions include hearing of appeals against the decisions of the Development Tribunal.

It has the power to vary or set aside the decisions made by the Development tribunal and change the decisions if necessary.

Amongst its achievements the tribunal has approved the establishment of Thornhill Mall, Mall of the North, Lephalale Township (which consists of 500 units), Woodlands security Estate and other land development projects.

MEC WELCOMES THE REINTEGRATION OF TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS



Traditional Leadership.....MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Soviet Lekganyane flanked by (Left) Kgošhi Makgeru and (Right) Khosi Vusani Netshimbupfe

By Rirhandzu Nkobyane

Polokwane-Traditional affairs is once again a part of provincial Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs after almost six years of servicing its clients under the Office of the Premier. In his welcoming address, the MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Soviet Lekganyane said: "We welcome the reintegration of the component of Traditional Affairs in the department. It is our firm belief that legislation and policies passed to recognise the institution of Traditional Leadership will cement the nascent relations between Traditional Leaders and Municipalities" He added that the department will

provide targeted administrative support in terms of ensuring that the coordination processes are properly done. Lekganyane also indicated that the department aims to work closely with traditional leaders in developing a strategic framework on allocation of communal land. "This will go a long way in ensuring integrated development in our municipalities. We will embark on a capacity building intervention for Traditional Leaders on leadership training programmes", pointed out the MEC.

Head of Department Clifford Motsepe joined the MEC to welcome Traditional Affairs and gave a word of caution to the returning sub-branch when he said: "Traditional Affairs have rejoined a

department that is rated the best performing in the Province. We hope and believe that you will assist in maintaining the status that has been achieved by the department" He went further to indicate that the structure of Traditional Affairs will be re-engineered to ensure good performance and proper utilisation of the state resources. "We are aware of the challenges facing Traditional Affairs and as a collective we can thrash them out in order to render second to none services to traditional leaders in Limpopo," assured the HoD emphasising teamwork. Traditional Affairs was previously a component of the Department when it was incorporated. It was detached from the Department in 2005 to join Office of the Premier.

MEC HAILS INITIATION SCHOOLS



From boys to men.....Limpopo MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs Soviet Lekganyane welcoming Initiates at a recent Graduation Ceremony at Segopje.

By Sam Makondo

Segopje – The 2011 initiation schools in Limpopo were run successfully from beginning to end to the province's maximum satisfaction. This is according to the Limpopo's MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs Soviet Lekganyane. Addressing over 700 initiates at the graduation ceremony in Segopje, outside the University of Limpopo, Lekganyane said he was pleased with the manner in which initiation schools conducted their businesses in the entire province. He said it was clear that traditional surgeons understood that the lives of all initiates during the entire six weeks were in their hands and exercised care and caution by ensuring that everyone returns home safe and in good health.

He added that this practice where boys attend initiation schools living in seclusion for up to six weeks in a passage to manhood should be practiced without any fear given its importance. "Initiation schools prepare young men for manhood through cultural instruction regarding their social responsibilities and their conduct", stressed the MEC adding that traditional leaders must take more responsibility in order to improve and run schools professionally. He went further to say government will continue to strengthen the accountability of leaders for this practice as well as look into the general management of initiation schools and the criminalization and harsh sentencing for those found to be running illegal initiation schools. "Our young boys should be encouraged to only

attend legal and reputable initiation schools that have the blessings of traditional leaders, government and parents", pointed out Lekganyane to the loud ululations of those in attendance.

Initiation is practiced across many cultures in the world and is one of the most resilient of all traditional African practices within the urban industrialized environment and takes place every year.

Also hailing the success of the circumcision schools was the Chairperson of the Initiation School Task Team Khosi Vusani Netshimbupfe who said: "It went on very well. I am very satisfied. It is not a picnic running an initiation school. We want to better the situation by imposing more control. Enforce all the relevant legislation"

Continues on p.16

Continues from p.15



In celebratory mood.....Young men showcasing the beauty of being a graduate.



Spearheading..... MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human settlements and Traditional Affairs joined elders of the Segopje village in welcoming initiates from school

The department approved and registered 306 initiation school province wide representatives of the five districts in Limpopo. Waterberg had the number of schools while the least of schools were registered in Mopani district. The classes ran from the 18th of June to the

25th of July. The province is known for hosting these schools every winter as part of its cultural practices. These schools are regarded as cultural educational institutions where initiates are taught lessons that range from cultural values to conduct in

communities. The practice is protected by the Constitution, the Bill of Rights (Chapter of the Constitution) which guarantees cultural, religious and linguistic rights.

Modiši ke Mogoroši...writes MEC Soviet Lekganyane

Ntlo- puleng ya Bjatladi, Segopje ga Mamabolo ke ye ngwe ya mešate yeo e sa ithutego go tšwala phaga mo go tieng mefatho. Le mo sehlang se sa dikoma ba ile ba tswetša pele setšo se sa mengwagangwaga.

Ditsebe di ile tša rathwa ke legooa ge mahlo a mmogedi a be a gadima khulong tša Matlala ge di gorošwa ka kgoro. Mokgolokoane o omišitse magalagapa a putswa-gadi, ga e sa hlaba e dio bopa bjalo ka- poo mafata –diolo. Kgabubuu e thibantsha le go ya pharologanya tsebjana ya segotlane, mola ka lehlakoreng le lengwe go kwala Agegee!liuu! liuu!.Ga ba bowa!;ba boile! Wa tšwala lefšega o lobile.Masonopudi le bo nthokoane mmaborokwane kamoka lebo ma-rata-helele ba phayaphayana moo gago leihlo leo le nyakago go hlaelwa.

Mo go be go gorošwa Mahloana ma-wela - selemo .Wo ke mphato wa lesome go tloga ka Mangana a 1938. Wona o neeletšana bokoti le Marulela a 2001, Manala a 1993, Mafikana a

1985,Matladi a 1977,Mapulana a 1969,Madikwa a 1961,Madigwana a 1955,Mahlokwana a 1946.Masogana a makgolo a šupago le go feta , a apare tsoku ,a phepela bjalo ka maeba – khwibitšane a phaphasela dibaneng sa marega. A be a letetše go tlo amogetšwa moano(leina la mphato.)

Pele ga kgoro go be go eme timamollo ya Dikolobe,Kgoshigadi Mamabolo, a farafarilwe ke dijagare le dikota- maledu tša Bjatladi bja Mmamorela bo- ana-Kolobe ,ba bo Malesela peretla bo-pelo-mpe- ga a bo tsebe o rutwa ke bangwe,ba lešika la Seolwana sa Mmataladi se –kgopa- banna-matolo.“Ba ke bona Mahloana ma-wela –selemo,kgwedi le beke!” Gwa realo Kgošigadi Mamabolo.

Ge ba kwile leina la bona ,Masogana ao a ile a tsoša dihlogo go gahlanetšwa ke yona meduduetšo le ditheto- gale tšeo di bego digobelwa bjalo ka ge motho a loba babo badimo,swika le lešweu se tšwa moepong ,yona tshelete, ke ge le kgerekgetšwa le ketenketšwa kua le

kua ka lehutšo la gore masogana oa a tla bula melomo. .Obe o dio bona gore mo difahlegong tša bona go ngwadilwe le leka tšwang ganong ke la gore,“Kesa go emetse”.

Mola tše ka moka di boletšwe,go retilwe ba go retega, go lebogilwe ba go swanelwa ke ditebogo ,tlhame e ile ya tšea sa yona; mogolodi wa tšea sa wona,ya ba la mogologolo wa segologolo sa bogologolo la gore goya ka magoro ga se go tšwana melato re tla rerišana.Mongwe le mongwe a ithweša dipheta tšagwe a lebile gabo.

Ke ka fao lenaneo la go etwa pele ke mošate la koma le phethagatšwago ka gona magagešo. E tla hlagišwa gape ka morago ga mengwaga ye mehlano go iša go ye lesome. Ke ka fao masogana a Bjatladi a godišwago ka gona. Dibetlwa di betlwa bathong wa madimabe a fahlwa.

Ke nnete gore modiši ke mogoroši.Re a le lebogiša Bjatladi.

Kgaka onthute go tshetshetla nna ke tla go ruta go metša ditshetlho!

CAPRICORN HOUSE OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS LAUNCHED



Traditional Leadership..... The newly Installed Capricorn House of Traditional Leaders

By Rirhandzu Nkobyane

Ga-Molepo-People from Ga-Molepo village and surrounding communities gathered to attend the launch of the Capricorn House of Traditional Leaders on the 13th of May 2011. The event which was held at Tshebela Sports Ground saw the MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Mr Soviet Legganyane, the Executive Mayor for Capricorn District Municipality, Mr Lawrence Mapoulo, the Mayor of Polokwane, Mr Freddy Greaver and traditional leaders from different traditional leaders across the country attend.

Speaking during the event the Executive Mayor of Capricorn District Municipality, Mr Lawrence Mapoulo, said government appreciates and

acknowledges the role that is played by traditional leaders in the society. "Our communities are pleased with the progressive role that the institution has played over the years and is continuing to play in advancing service delivery programmes to better the lives of our society. As a matter of fact, we know that to a larger extent, your authority has contributed significantly, to making Capricorn the safest District it is, compared to other parts of our country," he said.

Mapoulo highlighted some of the milestones that have been achieved by traditional leaders which include:

- The degree of unity which is shared by all traditional leaders in the Capricorn District
- The harmonious relations that the institution enjoys with municipalities
- The passing of two pieces of legislation

on traditional leadership which are now being implemented, that is National House of Traditional Leaders Bill No 56 of 2008 and the Traditional Leadership and Governance Amendment Bill No 57 of 2008: a legal framework which ensures that traditional leadership functions in a manner that embraces democracy and contributes to the entrenchment of a democratic culture thus enhancing its own status and standing among the people.

The attendees were treated to performances by the gospel singer, Winnie Mashaba and traditional groups. A gala dinner was held later on during the day at Peter Mokaba Stadium and a number of dignitaries attended.

Dept Opens The Mopani House Of Traditional Leaders



Moving to the beat.....one of the traditional dance groups that entertained the crowd during the opening Mopani House of Traditional Leaders

By Jimmy Malebati

Mamaila-The Executive Mayor of Mopani Cllr Joshua Matlou officiated the opening of Mopani Local House of Traditional Leaders. The event was held at Mamaila, Ga-Phaphati Greater Letaba Municipality on the 6th May 2011.

“With the supreme law of the land recognizing the House of Traditional Leaders as a legitimate institution for governance, we are then mandated to take this to our local level and give traditional leaders the recognition that

they deserve. We are taking a step in the right direction to ensure cooperative governance between local government and traditional leaders”, said Matlou.

Matlou went further to saying that the municipality has set aside funds for the building infrastructure and local economic development in rural communities. He said that these projects can only come to their full effect in cooperation in traditional leaders and rural communities. He further encouraged traditional leadership to play a pivotal role in the monitoring and implementation of projects.

The District municipality has set aside two hundred and fifty thousand Rands (R250 00) for the efficient administration of the Local House of Traditional Leaders. The Chairperson of District Local House of Tradionational Leaders Hosi M.S Muhlava and other traditional leaders within the Mopani area attend the ceremony. “The local house of traditional leaders in Mopani has presented the united voice of traditional leaders from all corners of our five local municipalities”, concluded Matlou.

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BUDGET SPEECH VOTE

CIO, Tseng Diale Breaks it down

Capital Budget: Adjusted Budget R 1,898b 2010/11

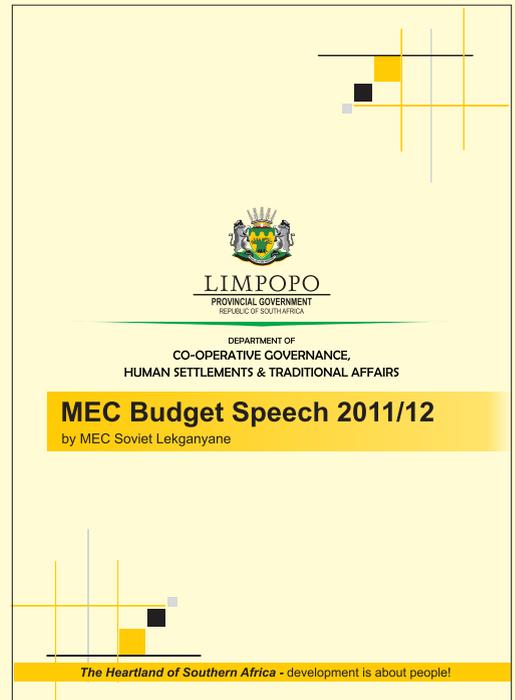
- ✓ Housing 70%- 1.325 billion
- ✓ Local government 17% 326 m
- ✓ Administration 13% 247m

Major Achievements 2010/11

- ✓ Completed 10,235 houses as at 15 January 2011
- ✓ The department has acquired 72 hectares of land for development in Bela-Bela
- ✓ The prevention of Informal Settlement Bill was presented at the legislature and awaiting proclamation/approval
- ✓ The launching of 'my RDP my Pride'
- ✓ The department has received four service excellence awards
- ✓ Terminated and blacklisted non-performing contractors
- ✓ 50% of municipal IDP's are rated highly while only 3 have received a low rating.
- ✓ Residents Accountants (CorpMD) are placed in 8 municipalities, to assist the municipalities with financial management.
- ✓ 439 ward committees are functional (85%)
- ✓ A Restructuring Draft report has been finalized and ready for presentation to Executive Management.
- ✓ **CRU: Newly Built Recreational Centre & Units** 189 CRU units were allocated, 176 Double Story Units, 4 Free standing (Disable Units), 9 Single Story Units, Recreational Centre, The project is implemented in two(2) Phases, Phase one(1) is completed, Recreational centre is completed, Phase two (2) will be completed in June 2011.
- ✓ **Major Achievements : My RDP My Pride Campaign** – Innovation, 3 families won home improvement, electric appliances, garden tools and grocery hamper prizes worth

R150,000– to care for their RDPs (Low Cost Houses)

- ✓ **Major Achievements MTAS:** Municipal Audit Outcomes, 8 municipalities unqualified, 10 qualified 9 disclaimer, 3 pending
- ✓ **Major Achievements - Municipal Infrastructure Delivery:** Provision of basic services as at March 2010, Water Current 83.6% Target 87.2% 1 084 131 HH, Sanitation Current 58.9% Target 62.3% 763 655 HH and electricity Current 82% Target 83.1% 1 051 264 HH
- ✓ **IDP Assessment Report, 15 High** –Sekhukhune, Fetakgomo, Tubatse, Ephram Mogale, Musina; Vhembe, Phalaborwa, Maruleng, CDM; Lepelle-Nkumpi, WDM, Thabazimbi, Modimolle, Belabela Mogalakwena **12 Medium** -Makhado, Mutale, Mopani; Giyani; Letaba; Tzaneen, Makhuduthamaga, Polokwane, Aganang, Molemole, Lephalele, Mookgopong **3 Low** -Elias Motsoaledi, Blouberg, Thulamela
- ✓ **Major Achievements 2010/11.....Youth Development & Empowerment**-101 Youth trained on painting skills in June 2010 at Elias Motsoaledi Municipality. A fully furnished house was built and donated to a youth headed family (Makgeru) at Elias Motsoaledi municipality in Sekhukhune District during May 2010, 132 interns and 38 volunteers were trained on project management, 12 youth contractors were appointed for housing construction.
- ✓ **Major Achievements 2010/11....Women Development and Empowerment**-8 women contractors were appointed in the financial year 2010/2011 for housing construction. A fully furnished house was built and donated to an elderly woman at Ga-



Mphahlele village during Provincial Woman's Day celebration. The Department also facilitated the issuing of the ID for the elderly woman and it was handed over by National Department of Home Affairs during the celebration. A house was also built for an elderly woman (Ms Tshifularo) in Vhembe District during the launch of 16 Days of Activism. The Department also facilitated the issuing of an ID for an elderly (Ms Mashavha) who was found to be mentally disturbed. 16 houses were donated to 16 families of which two families are physically challenged (disabled) during the Departmental launch of 16 Days of activism.

APP 2011/12

- ✓ **APP 2011/12 Outcome 8: "Create sustainable human settlements and improve the quality of household life"** Delivery Agreement: Human Settlement Ministry (Province: MTEF)

Continues on p.20

Continues from p.19

HIGHLIGHTS OF THE BUDGET SPEECH VOTE



Output 1: Accelerated delivery of housing opportunities, Build 41 439 , Output 1: Informal Settlement Upgrading , 31 200 out of (400 000 national target) households in well located informal settlements with access to basic services and secure tenure , Output 2: Increase Rental Stock , 6240 built out of (80 000 national target) , Output 3: Accreditation of 1 Local Municipality , Polokwane accredited out of (27 national target) , Output 4: National Upgrading Support Programme , no target as yet

- ✓ **National Priorities Outcome 8: Service Delivery Agreement Key Targets 2011/12** Build 13 410 housing units 1,415,153

Provincial Priorities Key Targets 2011/12 Reduction of housing backlog (*Inclusive of informal settlements*) Build 13 410 housing units , Upgrade of informal settlements with access to basic services and secure tenure Install services in 3 000 sites well located informal settlement, Rental Housing Programme (CRU & Institutional) -72 residential units,

Services incl. Geotech Investigation 11,554 units, NHBRC Enrolment 27, 018 units, Priority Projects 911 units

- ✓ **Outcome 9: “A Responsive, Accountable, Effective and Efficient Local Government System” Delivery Agreement: Cooperative Governance Ministry (Province: MTEF)**

Output 5: Deepen democracy through a refined Ward Committee model , develop a comprehensive Ward Committee framework for community participation , Put support measures in place to ensure that at least 90% of all Ward Committees are fully functional by 2014.

Output 6: Administrative and financial capability.

1. Improved audit outcomes of municipalities (100%); 2. Reduced municipal debt; 3. Reduced municipal overspending on operational expenditure (OPEX); 4. Reduced municipal under spending on capital expenditure (CAPEX); 5. Increased municipal spending on repairs and

maintenance; and 6. Support access to basic services through improved administrative and HR practices , Output 7: Single Window of Coordination , Craft a new approach to the coordination of all support and capacity-building initiatives, including national or provincial interventions that are occurring in the local government sphere. Implement provincial capacity building strategy Rapid Response Team established

- ✓ **Provincial Priorities At least 18 out of 30 Municipalities receiving unqualified opinion** , Implementation of the Community Works Programme in 8 municipalities , Provide support to achieve household supply of : 1 183 782 (91%) households to get water; 1 115 238 (86%) electricity and 872 794 (67%) sanitation,
- ✓ **Departmental Priorities- Build 14 900 housing units**, Install services in 3 000 sites well located informal settlement, 564 residential units , Services incl. Geotech Investigation 11,554 units
- ✓ **NHBRC Enrolment 27, 018 units Priority Projects 911 units**, Development and implementation of Town Master Plans for Musina & Greater Tubatse Growth Points, Annual review and assessment of 30 Municipal IDP'S, Demarcation of 5000 urban sites and land use developments

Provincial Priorities - At least 20 out of 30 Municipalities receiving unqualified opinion , Piloting of the Community Works Programme in 2 municipalities, Provide support to achieve household supply of : 1 183 782 (91%) households to get water; 1 115 238 (86%) electricity and 872 794 (67%) sanitation.

PUBLIC PARTICIPATION AND HANDING OVER OF TITLE DEEDS AT MADIMBO



In full attendance.....The Community of Madimbo positively responded to the public participation call.

By Jimmy Malebati

Madimbo-Residents of Madimbo and surrounding communities under Musina Municipality attended the Public Participation event that was held on the 13th of May 2011 at Madimbo Sports Ground. Musina Municipality.

Public Participation Programme seeks to reinforce accountability to citizens through continuous public participation events throughout the year, instead of limiting this interaction to just two weeks in a year. These events allow government to draw attention to the progress it is making as soon as implementing takes place.

Although there are still challenges around service delivery, Madimbo residents appreciate services provided to them. Over the years Musina Municipality was one of service delivery hotspots with major protests by community members

against a municipality over issues that are the responsibility of local government, such as councillor accountability, the quality and pace of basic service delivery and housing.

Millions of Limpopo residents have been residing in their areas without title deeds. During the apartheid government blacks were not given title deeds (ownership) of land they were occupying. The new government is in a process of correcting that by issuing deserving communities with title deeds.

The Department officially handed 377 title deeds to the community of Musina on the 13 of May 2011. The transferred properties to beneficiaries through two housing programmes one being the Enhanced Extended Discount Benefit Scheme (EEDBS) which include the pre 1994 housing stock. The other being the Registration and Endorsement (R & E) which are all properties post 1994 under the low-cost housing programme. These low cost housing properties are registered and endorsed to avoid sale

or letting before expiry of a period of eight (08) years from the date which the property was acquired as depicted in section 13 & 14 of the Limpopo Housing Act No 2 of 2006, read with the provisions of Section 10A & B of Housing Act No107 of 1997 as amended.

The initiative is in line with the Housing Act of 1997. "Our people were denied ownership of houses, any improvement and transfer thereof. The department has also cancelled the debts of people who were subjected to 99 years lease agreement which robbed them of their dignity", said the MEC Soviet Lekganyane

One of the beneficiaries Mrs Muleya Mufamadi Selinah said that she rented her house since 1976 and her grand children who were born in the same house are now adults. The seventy nine year old was overwhelmed with joy to receive her title deeds after more than 20 years. "I can now rest in peace knowing that my family has a proper house to stay in".

Profile of Sokolani Bongororo John Gondwe

By Mboweni Tiyani

CoGHSTA News had a chance to talk to Mr. Sokolani Bongororo John Gondwe, a Deputy Manager under Research and Legislation. Mr. Gondwe was born visually impaired in the farm of Tierpoort at Bronkhorstpruit Mpumalanga Province on the 10th of August 1973. He is the second born in the family of four siblings with two girls and two boys. Gondwe was raised by his mother after the death of his dad while he was still in Primary School. Mr Gondwe, who was happy to have a chat with the **CoGHSTA News**, attended his Primary and Secondary School in Bosele School for the Blind and Deaf where he matriculated in 1997.

After he matriculated in Bosele, he proceeded to University of Limpopo (Turfloop Campus) in 1998 to enrol LLB degree, which he completed in 2004. Consequent to his academic achievement, he registered for a Master degree in Labour Law with the same University which he has completed at the end of 2010. Gondwe thanked the support and dedication of his Supervisor, Mr. Mohale Calvin Lebea throughout his research in his Master programme. He successfully conducted a Dissertation: "The Legal Protection of People with Disabilities in South African Labour Law." He has been employed by the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional affair in 2008.

When **CoGHSTA News** asked what

influenced him to chose this research topic, he said that he wanted to understand the laws in South Africa which protect individuals with disabilities and to close the gap which has been left with other researchers under this topic. "Labour law also teaches me about the discrimination that has been taking place on employees who are from historically disadvantaged groups" said Gondwe.

His academic background was faced by many challenges which would have caused someone to quit studies. Some of the challenges he came across with at the University of Limpopo, was that sometimes it was difficult for him to get materials at time and to get a person who could scan the documents for him or to proofread his work But he strove on until he completed his studies. Now that he is a qualified Attorney, he is looking forward to register with the University of South Africa (UNISA) or to carry on with the University of Limpopo for a doctoral degree in Labour Law. "I have already submitted my proposal at the University of Limpopo School of Law; and I am currently waiting for the results, which means, any time from now, (if duly accepted) I will be registering for the newly-chosen Doctoral degree." he said.

“

Mr Gondwe also has a passion in poetry and music, stated during the interview, that he can also cook, wash and clean. Gondwe also spoke highly about his



Manager of Research and Legislation, Mr. P.M Mngomezulu whom he described as a fair and hardworking supervisor. He is also fluent in five official languages in the country indicated during the interview that as a blind person, he uses the computer with Jaws Software which reads text for him. This software programme enables him to type on his own without somebody's assistance.

The **CoGHSTA News** asked Mr. Gondwe on how is he able to identify a person because he is visually impaired, he said "The natural smell, voice, movement of a person, the touch on the face or hand of an individual, can enable me to tell that this one is Mr/Ms ..." He aspires grow within the Department; and his short term goal is to see himself as a Senior Manager, while a long term goal is to be a Member of Parliament under the umbrella of the ruling party.

Interns join CoGHSTA

By Rirhandzu Nkobyane

Polokwane- About 80 interns joined the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs for the financial year 2011/12 for experiential training. Welcoming the interns was General Manager for Strategic HRM Cyril Monyela who said the government has set up the Internship Scheme as a way to help graduates into employment through paid work placements.

He said the internships provide real world experience to those looking to explore or gain the relevant knowledge and skills required to enter into a particular career field. Monyela said the internships are relatively short term in nature with the primary focus on getting job training and taking what's learned in the classroom and applying it to the real world. The programme runs for twelve months. He encouraged them to utilize this

opportunity by taking their work very serious.

Meanwhile Pat Khunou the CFO (Chief Financial Officer), for the Department said the number of interns for this year is 80, 41 women and 39 men which include 2 disabled people. He said as the department they are obliged to place interns within the department to address unemployment rate, empower them, offer them skills and enable them to practice the theory they have learned. This information was divulged after two male interns, from Gito and Strategic services posed questions.

Khunou said they expect the interns to fit with the mission and vision of the department, to add value to the department, to cooperate, respect and uphold values of the department.



Here and ready to learn.....Some of the interns who recently join the Department.

Clarifications about job offers after the contract were made when the CFO responded by saying there is no job promises, because it is the guideline of Local government to offer skills to interns for the period of 12 months.

The Chief information officer and Advocate Ameermia Sharif from Transversal service thanked the interns for availing themselves for the event, furthermore to take their opportunity as their stepping stone to bigger things in life.

BASADI BOMME TIANG MAATLA

BY ABE MOKOENA

Komatona ya basadi e re tswaletše melomo
Komatona ya bomme e thopile sefoka tadi e amuša tatšana
Selepe sa Mmetli se theogetše ka gare ga mala a lena
Moo basetsana le bašemane ba bollago mmogo
E re ka morago ga kgwedi tše senyane
Tladi e phatlole thaba ka bogare
Rena banna bo sebedu mabina go solwa
Ra makala diphiri tša mala a basadi
Ba emeletše ka a mabedi bo Winifred Kgoare
Ba e hlabane ntwā ya tokologo bo Lilian Ngoyi
Ba e lwele ya mahlo a mahwibidu bo Helen Joseph
Ba e swere ka bogaleng thipa bo Ruth First
Ba e tlišitše tokologo bo Adelate Tambo , Winnie Mandela le ba bangwe
Basadi bomme tiang maatla
Basadi bomme le a makatša
Ye le e lwelego ke koma ya dikwenkwetla
Ye le e bolotšego ke koma ya bo komang ka nna
Le batho ba mala mabelega ditšhaba
Le batho ba mala matlala khupamarama re hwa nayo
Teng tša lena tša fahliwa metse e oma mahlakore
Lefase la palega manga
Bophelo ya ba lesitaphiri la Bophirima
Maatla ka moka a ye go basadi
Basadi baswari ba thipa ka bogaleng

Malibongwe ekama la Makhozikazi malibongwe
Wathint 'abafazi,wathint' imbokodo,uzokufa weeeena!