



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT  
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

# COGHSTA

ONLINE  
**NEWS**



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



## THE INSPIRING JOURNEY OF MEC RODGERS BASIKOPO MAKAMU.

# EDITOR'S NOTEBOOK ....

Editor: Callies Matlala

**H**ere we are again, bringing you yet again mouth watering second quarter edition of the departmental newsletter which has all the hallmarks of quality processed news for your reading pleasure. Our team of experienced writers, photographers and graphic designers have been hard at work putting together this masterpiece.

As we enter the new 7<sup>th</sup> administration of the provincial government, we do so highly motivated to ensure that we do all that it takes to profile our

department and the MEC

to the best of our ability.

We are refreshed and

motivated by the energy

displayed by our MEC in

accomplishing the

mandate of our

department. It is in our

conviction and believe

that CoGHSTA is key to

the social well being of

the people of Limpopo

Province, because of the

impact that housing,

traditional leadership

and delivery of services

has in the stability and

peace within the

households. It is on this

basis that we shall at all

material times pull all the

stops in ensuring all our

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key stakeholders are kept abreast about the work that the department does. This we promise to do without fear, favour and contradiction.

We hope that this masterpiece reaches our stakeholders in all corners of our province, because it is our stakeholders who are very key to the existence of this newsletter. We remain indebted to all, and therefore hope that this shall unleash a critical reader in you. There is nothing more melting and sweeter to the hearts of our team than hearing from you so that in the next edition we can produce a top of the drawer edition. Enjoy the read.

**Callies Matlala**

**Editor.**





MEC: Basikopo Makamu

# THE INSPIRING JOURNEY OF MEC RODGERS BASIKOPO MAKAMU

**M**EC Rodgers Basikopo Makamu is a distinguished politician and a public servant whose career is marked by an unwavering commitment to improving the lives of the poor in his Province of Limpopo. His journey from humble beginnings to influential leadership roles is a testament to his dedication to public service and focus on service delivery. His life story is one of dedication, service, and continuous growth. Born in the vibrant region of Giyani within the Mopani District, Makamu's journey began at Matsambu High School, where he completed his Secondary Education in 1994. His passion for education and Accounting led him to Tivumbeni College of Education in Nkowankowa, Greater Tzaneen Local Municipality, where

he earned his qualification as an educator specializing in accounting.

In 1996, MEC Makamu commenced his professional career as an educator, bringing his knowledge and enthusiasm into the classroom. His commitment to education was evident, but his ambitions soon guided him towards broader horizons. Throughout his career, he has pursued further education in various disciplines, including Financial Management, Taxation, Practical Municipal Accounting, and Financial Performance Measurement for Municipal Senior Managers. His commitment to learning continues as he is currently pursuing a BCOM in Financial Management through distance learning.

### TRANSITION TO LOCAL GOVERNMENT.

MEC Makamu's career took a significant turn when he joined the Greater Giyani Municipality. Here, he served with distinction as Accountant Revenue and later as Manager of Revenue. His expertise and leadership were quickly recognized, leading to his election as the ANC Mopani Regional Secretary. In this role, he was instrumental in building the region into a vibrant and coherent part of the ANC in Limpopo Province.

### RISING THROUGH THE RANKS OF THE ANC.

MEC Makamu's exceptional service within the ANC saw him rise to the position of Deputy Provincial Secretary. His leadership and dedication did not go unnoticed, and the ANC deployed him to the Limpopo Provincial Legislature. Premier Stanley Mathabatha recognized Makamu's potential and appointed him as a Member of the Executive Council (MEC) of the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development on 26 July 2018. In 2019, MEC Makamu moved to COGHSTA, where he focused on enhancing service delivery and improving the lives of the poor. His tenure at COGHSTA was marked by numerous achievements in housing, cooperative governance, and traditional affairs. After the elections of the seventh administration on 29 May 2024, Mr. Makamu was reappointed as the MEC for COGHSTA by Limpopo Premier Dr. Phophi Ramathuba, reaffirming his critical role in the provincial government.

### IMPACT IN AGRICULTURE AND RURAL DEVELOPMENT.

During his tenure as MEC, Makamu revitalized the Department of Agriculture and Rural Development, enhancing its public profile and effectiveness. His efforts were pivotal in transforming the department into a more dynamic and responsive entity.

### CONTINUED LEADERSHIP AND DEVELOPMENT.

MEC Makamu leads the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements, and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA). Here, he is tasked with restoring the department



to its historical, award-winning excellence. He has made significant strides in enhancing service delivery and improving the quality of life for residents of Limpopo. Under his leadership, COGHSTA has implemented numerous initiatives and projects aimed at fostering sustainable development, promoting good governance, and ensuring effective service delivery. Here are some of the notable achievements:

### HOUSING AND HUMAN SETTLEMENTS.

**Breaking New Grounds:** Since 2019 under his leadership, COGHSTA has successfully delivered thousands of housing units to residents across the province. This effort has significantly reduced the housing backlog and provided secure, decent housing for many families.

**Upgraded Informal Settlements:** The department has made considerable progress in upgrading informal settlements by providing essential services such as water, sanitation, and electricity. These upgrades have improved living conditions for many residents.

**Title Deeds Distribution:** CoGHSTA has focused on issuing title deeds to homeowners, which has empowered residents with legal ownership of their properties. This initiative has fostered a sense of security and pride among homeowners.





*The MEC for CoGHSTA, Mr Basikopo Makamu with the beneficiary, Koko Ngwanakgopa Komane.*

## COOPERATIVE GOVERNANCE.

**STRENGTHENING MUNICIPALITIES:** The department has implemented various capacity-building programs to strengthen the capabilities of municipalities. These programs have enhanced the efficiency and effectiveness of local governance structures.

**IMPROVED FINANCIAL MANAGEMENT:** Through targeted interventions, COGHSTA has improved financial management practices within municipalities. This has led to better budget management, reduced wasteful expenditure, and enhanced accountability.

**DISASTER MANAGEMENT:** The Department has established and strengthened disaster management frameworks to ensure communities are better prepared for natural and man-made disasters. This includes training, resource allocation, and rapid response mechanisms.

## TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS.

**SUPPORT FOR TRADITIONAL LEADERS:** CoGHSTA has

provided substantial support to traditional leaders, recognizing their role in community development and governance. This includes training programs, financial support, and infrastructure development in traditional areas.

**PROMOTION OF CULTURAL HERITAGE:** The department has promoted the preservation and celebration of cultural heritage within traditional communities, fostering a sense of identity and pride among residents.

## COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

**Public Participation:** CoGHSTA has enhanced public participation in governance processes, ensuring that community members have a voice in decision-making. This has led to more inclusive and representative governance.

## CoGHSTA's MANDATE AND FUNCTION.

The Limpopo Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) is responsible for promoting Good Governance, Sustainable Human Settlements, and supporting Traditional Leadership in the Limpopo Province.



# MEC MAKAMU HANDS OVER HOUSES TO THE MABOYA AND KITI FAMILIES IN MOGALAKWENA.

**T**here was jubilation at Kgalakwena and Rebone in the Mogalakwena Local Municipality when the MEC for CoGHSTA Basikopo Makamu visited the area to hand over two houses to the Maboya and Kiti families on the 18 September 2024.

The two houses were donated by businessman, Mr Edgy Gumede and building contractor, Ms Violet Lekgothwane of Lekgothwane Ramasela Trading Enterprise.

Before cutting the ribbon to the newly built Maboya house, Makamu not only thanked the donors for their selfless gestures but advised the beneficiaries to take of their new home.

In response to the generosity of the two donors, Ms



*MEC Makamu and Cllr. Taueatsoala with contractors that donated houses and furniture at Kgalakwena Village and Rebone Township.*

Elizabeth Maboya could not contain joy saying “after living in a temporary one roomed structure that barely had windows for so many years, I really do appreciate Mr Gumede and Ms Lekgothwane for choosing to help us,” as she opened and admired the curtains to their new 7 roomed house.

Acting Executive Mayor, Cllr. Dipuo Moatse and Mogalakwena Local Municipality Mayor, Cllr. Ngoako Taueatsoala concluded the programme of the day by thanking MEC Makamu for visiting the district and witnessing the wonderful work of donors who are always keen in working with government to uplift disadvantaged families.





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## MEET THE FACES TO THE WELCOMING VOICES OF THE LIMPOPO DEPARTMENT OF HUMAN SETTLEMENTS AND TRADITIONAL AFFAIRS' (COGHSTA' S) CALL CENTRE TEAM.

The CoGHSTA Call Centre staff is ready to attend to your Housing queries and can be reached weekdays from 07:30 – 16:30 on 0800 687 432 and 015 284 5135/5016/5134/



**Front Row:** Mr Lucky Kgebudi (Assistant Director), Ms Reshoketswe Mottlatle (Deputy director) and Mr Ntwampe Nethononda (Assistant Director).  
**Back row:** Ms Mashego Nchabeleng (Assistant Director), Ms Rosemary Sambo (Receptionist), Ms Martha Senona (Receptionist) and Ms Faith Rantho (Assistant Director).



**Thorough housing query updates:**  
Mr Lucky Kgebudi checks for updates on the system for Housing related queries.



**At your service:**  
Ms Faith Rantho happily fielding calls from the public enquiring about Housing.





# BAKGAGA BA KOPA T/C HOSTS A SUCCESSFUL OPENING OF THE PROVINCIAL HOUSE OF TRADITIONAL AND KHOI-SAN LEADERS.



*Sergeant at Arms leading the procession into the chamber during the opening of the Limpopo House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders.*



**B**akgaga Ba Kopa Traditional Council under the leadership of Kgoshi Boleu Rammupudu in Tafelkop was abuzz as it hosted the opening of the 7<sup>th</sup> Limpopo House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders on 12 September 2024.

The event fit for royalty was graced by Human Settlements Minister, Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi, Premier of the Province, Dr. Phophi Ramathuba, CoGHSTA MEC, Mr Basikopo Makamu and Chairperoson of the Limpopo House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders, Hosi Pheni Ngove and other dignitaries .

The Opening of the Limpopo House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders marked the commencement of rolling out projects and initiatives that will positively impact the development of rural communities for the 2024/25 Financial Year.



# THE OPENING OF PROVINCIAL HOUSE OF TRADITIONAL AND KHOI-SAN LEADERS IN PICTURES.



*Limpopo Legislature Speaker, Ms Makoma Makhurupetje, Human Settlements Minister, Ms Mmamoloko Kubayi and CoGHSTA MEC, Mr Basikopo Makamu chat during the Opening of the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders in Tafelkop.*



*Kgoshi Boleu Rammupudu and the staff of Bakgaga Ba Kopa Traditional Council during the Opening of the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders.*



*Premier of the Province, Dr. Phophi Ramathuba and Senior Traditional Leaders, attended the Opening of the Limpopo House of Traditional and Khoi-San Leaders.*





*The New Raphahlelo Traditional Council Office.*

## NEW TRADITIONAL COUNCIL OFFICE OPENS ITS DOORS.

A new, State of the Art Traditional Council Office has opened its doors to the residents of Ga-Raphahlelo, Greater Letaba Local Municipality on Friday, 30 August 2024. The modern Office boasts of a guard house, palisade fencing, pavement, ample parking, a borehole, and septic tank to better serve the community.

The Official Opening of the Raphahlelo Traditional Council Office bears testament to the Province's commitment to support Senior Traditional Leaders by providing them with adequate resources to execute their duties efficiently.

Speaking during the event, the MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements & Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA), Mr Basikopo Makamu said, "This occasion not only marks the inauguration of a building but also reaffirms our commitment to the institution of Traditional Leadership as enshrined in our constitution. Let this ceremony not merely symbolizes the opening of a physical space but the

dawn of a renewed partnership between our democratic institutions and Traditional Leaders who shape the ethos of our communities. Together, let us continue to build a Province and a nation where tradition and progress work hand in hand, and where every citizen can look at the future with pride and hope".

The MEC for Public Works, Roads and Infrastructure, Mr Ernest Rachoene, encouraged members of the community to look after the office. Rachoene indicated that Traditional council offices play a special role in communities. According to Rachoene, they act as the front desks of service delivery which should be used not only by Traditional leaders but by other government departments and functionaries as well.

Kgoshigadi Raphahlelo thanked government for building the office and said it will act as a multi-purpose structure where members of the community will receive information and services.





# SEKHUKHUNE TRADITIONAL LEADERSHIP UNITE AGAINST GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE.

Traditional Leadership within the Sekhukhune District gathered at Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality to attend the Launch of the Sekhukhune Traditional Men's Parliament on 15 August 2024.

The seating served as a platform for Traditional Leaders to engage in an open dialogue and tackle issues pertaining to gender-based violence at district level.

Traditional Leadership engaged in an open dialogue on issues of Gender Based Violence (GBV) in the Sekhukhune District.

Directing the programme for the day, Kgoshi Maila listed Economical, Financial, Psychological, Sexual, Emotional, Physical abuse as the different types of gender-based violence and further went to highlight that it could be perpetuated by both males against females and females against men.

“Gender-based violence is applied by either men or women who are powerful and

it is through this sitting that as Traditional Leadership of Sekhukhune, we choose to unite and take a proactive

approach in dealing with GBV for the safety of women and children in our respective communities,” said Kgoshi Maila.

A representative from the National Prosecuting Authority (NPA), Ms Thandi Mageza advised victims of GBV who are afraid to report at the Police Station to opt for Thuthuzela Centres as they are multi-disciplinary action centres.

“Victims of GBV can alternatively report cases at Thuthuzela Care Centres because at these centres is where you will find a Clinic, NPA and Police working together in one centre for the comfort and safety of victims.

Member of the Sekhukhune Men's Sector, Mr Mohube Masha pleaded with Senior Traditional Leaders to not intervene on matters of GBV as most perpetrators get away with abuse because families of victims choose to resolve cases of abuse at Traditional Councils and not at court where perpetrators are brought to book.

“As soon as a GBV case is reported to the Traditional Councils, Senior Traditional Leaders should refer it to the nearest police station and not contain it,” Masha concluded.

# BUDGET SPEECH HIGHLIGHTS

## Program 1: Administration

- The Department is building internal capacity to ensure a stable and well-functioning organization.
- Fifty-five (55) vacant positions have been advertised, including two Deputy Directors General for the branches of Traditional Affairs and Cooperative Governance.
- The Department received an unqualified audit opinion with findings from the Auditor General.
- The Department achieved a fair presentation of the Annual Financial Statement without material misstatements.

## Program 2: Integrated Human Settlements

- The Department is committed to providing housing for all, with a focus on vulnerable groups such as Military Veterans.
- Progress has been made in eradicating mud houses and replacing asbestos roofing.
- The second phase of the removal and replacement of 755 asbestos roofs has begun, with 20 roofs replaced in the first quarter of the current financial year.
- A Principal Agent has been appointed to finalize phase four of the Tzaneen – Talana CRU project, which includes 452 units.
- The Makhado – Tshikota CRU project, consisting of 118 units, has completed 50% of the earthworks.
- The Marapong CRU project, comprising 514 units, is currently 81% complete.

## Title Deeds

- The Department is prioritizing the transfer of title deeds, marking a significant milestone in community empowerment.

## Department's Support for Mining Towns Revitalization

- The Department is actively supporting the revitalization of five mining towns: Lephalale, Thabazimbi, Mogalakwena, Elias Motsoaledi, and Fetakgomo Tubatse.
- Focus areas include essential water and sanitation infrastructure development, with an allocation of over R200 million for projects in the 2024/25 financial year.
- The Motetema Wastewater Treatment Works has been successfully completed at a cost of R26.7 million.

## Military Veterans

- Construction of 132 houses for military veterans is underway, with 22 homes successfully completed in the first quarter of this financial year.

## Land Acquisition and Informal Settlements in Limpopo

- The Department aims to acquire 20 hectares of land in the 2024/25 financial year, with R12.6 million allocated for integrated, sustainable human settlements.

- Land in Makhado and Polokwane will support PSHDA and SEZ developments.
- The Housing Development Agency (HDA) will assess and acquire these land portions.
- The Department of Public Works, Roads, and Infrastructure, in collaboration with the Housing Development Agency, is developing a valuation method.

## Formalization of Informal Settlements

- The Department plans to formalize seven informal settlements in Mogalakwena, Fetakgomo Tubatse, Maruleng, Greater Tzaneen, and Modimolle Mookgophong municipalities.
- A budget of R8.4 million has been allocated for these settlements.

## Program 3: Cooperative Governance

- The Department is focused on ensuring all Municipalities are well-governed to deliver basic services to communities.
- The Municipal Infrastructure Grant has been effectively utilized, with R3.148 billion spent as of June 2024.
- The District Development Model (DDM) is being institutionalized to enhance collaboration between all levels of government.
- Providing water to communities remains a top priority.
- The "HiNwaMatiFridays" initiative will address water infrastructure and eradicate water poverty.
- Municipalities, as the closest government to the people, play a crucial role in fostering development and inclusive economic growth. Effective local governance is essential for their provision of social services.
- Efforts are underway to improve the performance of municipalities such as Thabazimbi, Musina and others.
- The Department will engage with external auditors and the Municipal Public Accounts Committees (MPAC) to monitor progress.
- The Department is working to reduce municipalities' high reliance on consultants.

## Disaster Management

- The Province faces a series of fires, causing extensive damage in areas like Tzaneen, Waterberg, and the Modjadiskloof Mountains. The Disaster Management teams are working to respond to emergencies and promote a culture of risk avoidance. They are appealing to the public to remain vigilant, take necessary precautions, and cooperate with emergency services to minimize the impact of these devastating fires.

## Traditional Affairs

- The Department is committed to supporting traditional institutions and preserving cultural heritage.
- Plans include constructing four traditional council offices and procuring furniture for 24 Traditional Council offices in the 2024 financial year.
- The constitution and reconstitution of traditional councils have been conducted transparently and inclusively.



# COGHSTA FEMALE STAFF MEMBERS UNWIND DURING WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATION.

*Under the theme “Celebrating 30 Years of Democracy towards Women's Development”, CoGHSTA female staff members attended the Departmental Women's Day Celebration at Bolivia Lodge on 30 August 2024.*



*Get up and dance: HOD Malahlela proved that she not only makes moves in the boardroom but on the dance floor too.*



*Bright and Beautiful: DDG Makholo Kgoahla welcomed and motivated guests during the Departmental Women's Day Celebration.*



*When women meet: CoGHSTA female staff members during the Departmental Women's Day Celebration.*



*Sisterly love: Rosemary Sambo with Mpho Raphoko at the Departmental Women's Day Celebration.*



*All smiles: CoGHSTA female staff members got together at Bolivia Lodge to celebrate Women's Day*



*Happiness all round: Broad smile and happiness filled Bolivia Lodge conference hall as CoGHSTA female staff members celebrated Women's Day.*





## COGHSTA MANAGEMENT STRATEGIZE TO TAKE THE DEPARTMENT TO THE NEXT LEVEL.

*Team CoGHSTA attending the Strategic Planning Session.*



**MEC for CoGHSTA,  
Mr Basikopo Makamu.**



**HOD for CoGHSTA,  
Dr Modjadji Malahlela.**

Management of the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) attended a Strategic Planning Session from the 17<sup>th</sup>-19<sup>th</sup> of September 2024 at Zebula Golf Estate and Spa outside Bela Bela. The three-day session was aimed at according to officials of the Department an opportunity to develop the Departmental Strategic Plan 2025- 2030 and the Annual Performance Plan (APP) 2025/2026. The session was also attended by Members of Organized Labour (Nehawu and PSA) in the Department and representatives from other sector Departments. Speaking during the Session, The MEC for CoGHSTA, Mr Basikopo Makamu said: "The discussions we are having during this session are not just theoretical exercises. They are crucial steps in shaping the future of our Department. The decisions we make here will impact million lives across Limpopo. Therefore, it is imperative that we approach this task with a sense of responsibility, urgency and vision". The

MEC concluded by encouraging the officials in committing to building a Department that is capable, modern, and ethical. "We need to work towards building a Department that delivers on its promises, listens to its people and remains accountable at all times. I have no doubt that with the collective wisdom and dedication in this room, we can chart a course towards a brighter future for all". The meeting wrapped up with presentations from the two Labour Unions NEHAWU and PSA as well as from the National School of Government whose presentation was about the Ethics in the Public Service. Closing the Session Head of Department Dr. Modjadji Malahlela thanked all officials for participating in the session but also urged them to commit themselves to the service delivery mandate of the Department. She also emphasised that focus should be on the three priorities of the 7th administration which are inclusive growth and job creation, reducing poverty and high cost of living and building ethical and capable state.



# COGHSTA MANAGEMENT REVIEW THE DEPARTMENT'S FIRST QUARTER PERFORMANCE



*The MEC for CoGHSTA, Mr Basikopo Makamu.*



*The HOD for CoGHSTA, Dr Modjadji Malahlela.*

Members of the Senior Management Service (SMS) at the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) attended the First Quarter Performance Review Session on Tuesday, 06 August 2024. The meeting that took place at Protea Hotel, Landmark in Polokwane was in line with the Public Finance Management Act of 1999 (PFMA) and its amendments which stipulates that the Accounting Officer should on regular basis produce monitoring reports for submission to the MEC and the Provincial Treasury.

Branch heads of respective programmes within the Department presented on performance of the indicators that were targeted in the quarter under review as per the Annual Performance Plan.

The Session was also attended by representatives from Organized Labour within the Department. Speaking during the Session, the MEC for the Department, Mr Basikopo Makamu said: "We must continue to work together, support one another and to hold each other accountable. We must remain steadfast in our commitment to serving the people of Limpopo with integrity, dedication and excellence. Let us

approach the remainder of the financial year with renewed energy and a shared sense of purpose. The Session affords us an opportunity to overhaul the Department's performance as a whole and check whether the Department is moving towards the right direction or not. CoGHSTA can only move forward if all the relevant stakeholders are on board". The MEC concluded by congratulating HOD of the Department, Dr Modjadji Malahlela for having managed to wield Team CoGHSTA into a formidable and coherent force that has the potential to take the Department to even greater heights.

CoGHSTA HOD, Dr Modjadji Malahlela thanked everyone for attending the meeting and said it is very important to meet from time to time and discuss with all the relevant stakeholders and assess how the Department can be taken to the next level. "Our mission must be more than a statement with no bearing in the realities of our Municipalities, Traditional Leaders and the citizens of Limpopo. Our mission statement must find resonance in the plans coming out of this Session, but most importantly in our day-to-day tasks".





*Members of MPACs attending the meeting.*

# MEC MAKAMU MEETS WITH MPAC MEMBERS.

The MEC for CoGHSTA, Mr Basikopo Makamu had a meeting with all the Members of the Municipal Public Accounts Committees (MPACs) from different municipalities across the Province. The session that took place at Bolivia Lodge in Polokwane on Friday, 13 September 2024, came after the release of the MFMA (Municipal Finance Management Act) General Report for 2022/23 by the Auditor General of South Africa.

Speaking during the meeting, MEC Makamu: "MPACs will continue to play a crucial role in improving the governance of our municipalities. But for us to be truly effective, we need to ensure that our actions are decisive, our recommendations are implemented, and our oversight is



*The MEC for CoGHSTA, Mr Basikopo Makamu.*

thorough. The time for complacency is over".

The MEC urged the members to be vigilant in their duties and to ensure that the principles of transparency, accountability and good governance are upheld in every municipality. "We are all custodians of public funds and public trust, and we must never lose sight of the impact of our work has on the lives of ordinary South Africans".





# HERITAGE MONTH 2024

**Celebrating the lives of our heroes  
and heroines who laid down their  
lives for our freedom**

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