

CoGHSTA NEWS



2nd QUARTER EDITION 2011/12



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

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

Housing Consumer Call Centre toll free number : 0800 687 432 / Disaster Management toll free number: 0800 222 111

LIMPOPO MAYORS SWORN IN



*Its official.....Limpopo Premier Cassel Mathale (centre, front row) flanked by Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs MEC: Soviet Lekganyane (Left, front row) and Executive Mayor of Vhembe district Florence Dzhombere with other local municipality mayors of Vhembe standing behind. **More on pages 4 & 5***



Capricorn District



Sekhukhune District



Waterberg District



Mopani District

Integrated Sustainable Human Settlements



FOREWORD BY MECMr. Soviet Lekganyane

The second quarter of this financial year ended on 30 September. We are now left with six months to implement all the plans that we announced at the beginning of this financial year. The department is very stable and the progress achieved thus far bears testimony that we are well on target. The auditor general has completed the audit for the provincial departments. The

department has improved from an unqualified opinion with matters of emphasis to a clean audit opinion. This is a manifestation by the department to enhance the 2014 clean audit campaign. It also shows how possible it is to run a clean, transparent and accountable government. Above all it strengthens public confidence in the ability of government.

The department received an award from the Southern African Institute of Government Auditors (SAIGA). This was the eighteenth award given to us since 2009 general elections. These awards give vote of confidence in the administration of the department. There are men and women who work indefatigably to enhance the image of government and ensure provision of quality service to our communities. This department would not have been what it is without their efforts. We thank them very

much for that.

We take this opportunity to pay tribute on the passing away of Professor Victor Ralushai, an esteemed professional, a reputed anthropologist with untrammelled knowledge and experience. He shared his knowledge with government and sectors in society. He rooted a deep insight on issues of traditional communities and traditional leadership and courageously recommended on how matters should be resolved.

It is unfair that he passed away without seeing some of his impeccable recommendations being implemented. It must be the resolve of government that his tireless efforts were not in vain. May his soul rest in peace!

We wish the people of Limpopo happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year!



FROM HOD DESK ... Mr. Clifford Motsepe

From Department of Local Government & Housing to a brand new name - Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements & Traditional Affairs – to become well known in the Province and beyond as CoGHSTA! Change is inevitable, and we must move with the tides of change.

This brand new name combined with the budget allocation of about R2 billion for the current financial year 2011/12 has now profiled the department to become a large player in the construction industry. We have got no doubt that the priorities that we have set ourselves are on course and that the centrality of the concerted efforts of ensuring that the people of Limpopo are serviced with innovative and cost-effective construction methods, such as project management, will indeed come to see the

light of the day.

It was again evident in this quarter that the commitment on the part of the staff is unyielding. We forge ahead in rendering our service with respect; honour and dedication in ensuring that quality service are delivered to the right beneficiaries at the right time within the requisite budget. No compromise! All underperforming contractors will be brought to book.

It is heartening to see everyone bringing an unparallel desire and determination in executing responsibilities aimed at bettering and making a difference in the lives of thousands needy people of this province. We must forever understand and concede that as government we are forever indebted to the people and we owe them a quality service. Excellence is one of our values and as such we always strive in that direction in fact to be the best service delivery department provincially, nationally and internationally. CoGHSTA has become synonymous with service delivery excellence awards, to that end; we have in the last quarter received the following awards:

PMR Awards

Diamond Arrow - Department that has been most effective in achieving its goals over the past 12 months

Diamond Arrow - Department contributing to the growth and prosperity of the Province

Gold Arrow - Department doing the most to accelerate service delivery

Silver Arrow - Department doing the most to eradicate poverty

Southern African Institute of Government Auditors Award

Highest Score in the Annual Public Sector Reporting for the year ended 31 March 2010 Overall Score: 688/754 (91.25%)

South African Housing Foundation Merit Awards

Special Merit - Social Housing: Seshego Community Residential Unit

Team CoGHSTA shall continue to innovate and bring cost-effective measures in the light of the resource constraints our government finds itself in. Through your support we shall continue to positively improve public confidence and enhance the hope of our people for a better life!

Happy Holidays

Editor's Notebook...

It is with great sense of pride and optimism and I welcome you the second edition of CoGHSTA News! We once again bring you the best in government publication given yet another exciting quarter that just passed. Believe you me this quarter had everybody in the department on their toes following the service delivery activities that took place and were all carried out in the name of bettering the lives of Citizens of Limpopo. This is out of a stern conviction that the mammoth task of settling our people is not yet over and should continue to spread across Limpopo's far-flung areas. We are aware that this is not a job that we can say we are done with as the need for housing is refreshed everyday with new set of challenges. We are therefore excited that the CoGHSTA News Team have delivered

yet another thrilling informative publication that will take you to all the places your multi-award winning department has been in the last quarter. It is another edition from us to our readers that will navigate them through all the success service delivery chronicles as you already know that the department does what it does with pride. And to put the cherry on top we autograph every service delivery assignment with excellence. Putting smiles, lifting up heavy burdens and giving hope to the hopeless are what the department is known for and does unapologetically. Simply put, families are changed for the better with a bottom line of living in habitable conditions fit for human beings. On a green note, building up to COP 17, we have in this quarter planted over 200 trees as we believe that every habitable space should be alive with trees



Tseng Diale
Chief Information Officer

in response and support of the climate change imperatives.

Happy reading and enjoy the festive Seasons

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Integrated Sustainable Human Settlements



FROM THE PARLIAMENTARY ...MR MARIBE MAMABOLO

The Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs like other departments in the province, has a link with Limpopo Provincial Legislature. I want to take you back to the first edition where we have promised to give our readers quarterly feedback on the issues of the Legislature. But before I do that I must indicate to you that people on the ground are puzzled about the way this department is run. People often wonder as to what the secret behind the many successes the department has achieved and ask: Who runs the department? My response is always and will always be simple and clear. The department is run by young people, not just youth, visionary, vibrant and committed young people whose goal is to be exceptional in everything they do.

The second quarter has just passed and was hectic with activities just like the first quarter.

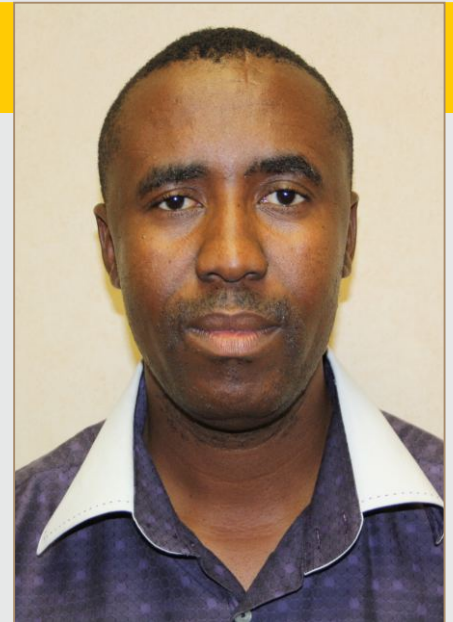
Recently we had an over sight visit by the National Council of Provinces (NCOP) at Vhembe district. The visit was all about assessing and examining the rate at which the people get the quality services that they entitled to in that part of the province. As you will know that this government has no room for complacency and takes seriously the needs of the people and the kinds of service they get on a day to day basis. The NCOP took time and visited strategic projects within the Vhembe district Such as Nandoni dam and others. The following are the municipalities visited by the NCOP during its stay in the province, Thulamela, Musina and Makhado. The visit was also coupled with Public Participation programme where

people were given a chance to raise their concerns in a manner that enlightened government as to whether or not they are on track or off track with regard to service delivery. I need to confirm to you that the majority of our people on the ground appreciated the work done by the department, and further indicated that more still needs to be done to address the housing backlog.

Taking you to the parliament .I want to believe that our lovely people understand the setting at the legislature. We have committees in the legislature whose primary task is to ensure that programmes, projects and finances of government are run and managed properly. They also monitor Annual Performance Plans of the department. Just recently we had a sitting at legislature wherein the Portfolio Committee on Local Government and Housing tabled 2010/11 3rd and 4th quarter reports and the overall annual report 2009/10. The comments and the praises which we received from the members of the august house were very humbling, encouraging and motivating. These are the issues raised by the members.

1. Incomplete Rdp houses
2. Bendor ext 100
3. Overspending of the budget

We just emerged from the briefing session which was held at Makhuduthamaga Local Municipality in the Sekhukhune District. The briefing that the department tabled was on the matter of Limpopo prevention and eradication of informal settlements bill, 2011, annual report of 2010/11 and the first quarter of 2011/12. The bill will among



other issues address the following:

1. To provide for the progressive eradication of informal settlement in Limpopo province.
2. To provide for measures for the prevention of the re-emergence of informal settlements.
3. To provide for the control of existing informal settlements.

The Limpopo Legislature recently passed the Limpopo Development Tribunal. The objective of the Act is to introduce extraordinary measures to facilitate and speed up the implementation of reconstruction and development programmes and projects in relation to land. In conclusion Chapter 7 of the Constitution stipulates clearly that the Department must promote a safe and healthy environment and to encourage the involvement of communities and community organization in the matters of local government. Working together we can speed up service delivery.

Happy Christmas and Prosperous New Year!

Limpopo mayors sworn in

By Sam Makondo and Jimmy Malebati

Limpopo – Limpopo mayors who will serve the province's 25 municipalities were sworn into office at their respective districts one after the other. This time around these inaugurations ceremonies took a different shape and each district conducted joint inauguration of its mayors in front of the public that will hold them accountable if service delivery lacks in their communities. The first district mayors to be inaugurated was Sekhukhune, followed by Capricorn Mayoral inauguration, Mopani were third in line to be sworn into office, Vhembe mayoral inauguration was the fourth to be jointly held and Waterberg closed the inauguration ceremonies. They all took oath of office and said: "I do hereby swear that I will be faithful to the Republic of South Africa and will obey, respect and uphold the Constitution and all other laws of the Republic to the best of my knowledge and ability. So help me God!"

The message from the MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs Soviet Lekganyane in these ceremonies was clearly articulated in no uncertain terms that the real work of delivering quality service should top the list of each district municipality. "We consider municipalities as strategic centres to drive forward and actualize our service delivery objectives. We are confident that in your respective municipal spaces, you will all live up to the hopes and aspirations of the many people who elected you as their public representatives. These are our people who remain destitute and who do not have



In office...Sekhukhune district municipality mayors after the inauguration. With them is the MEC for Education Namane Masemola (front row,Left) and Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs MEC Soviet Lekganyane(Front row, Right)

access to basic services such as water, electricity, health care and decent houses," said the MEC.

He called on mayors to bring a conscious desire and determination to execute their responsibilities to the best of their abilities in advancing the interest of communities they serve. The MEC challenged mayors to do things differently in local government to turn the tide ahead of the year 2014. "We must ensure that by 2014, all municipalities in the province achieve clean audits on their annual financial statements. To this end, we will be monitoring and working very closely with municipalities in ensuring that we strengthen and instill good financial management on a provide wide basis," indicated the MEC adding that excuses will not be tolerated in this regard.

Common was the message that came out of the acceptance speeches delivered by Executive mayors of the five districts.

They said in their acceptance speeches delivered at different venues and on different dates that they will listen and lead the people with dedication and honesty. Executive mayors committed themselves and their colleagues not to betray the trust of the people who have put them in office acknowledging at the same time the challenges facing their respective communities. It also came out crystal clear that these mayors are confident, willing, ready, and able to address these challenges. They also said they want to build on the achievements of the departing mayors and boldly declared that with a collective resolve they can move faster and further in realizing the common goal of a better life for all. It was acknowledged by the Executive mayors that the challenges facing local government are so enormous that they will require all three spheres of government to work together for the benefit of the people of the province.

MEET THE LIMPOPO MAYORS



MEC: Mr. Soviet Leganyane,
Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs

Capricorn District



Cllr ML Mapoulo
Capricorn Executive Mayor



Cllr FP Greaver
Polokwane Executive Mayor



Cllr SE Sekgoloane
Blouberg Mayor



Cllr MM Mokobodi
Aganang Mayor



Cllr MV Phaahla
Lepelle-Nkumpi Mayor



Cllr MP Makgato
Molemole Mayor

Mopani District



Cllr J Matlou
Mopani Executive Mayor



Cllr G Modjadji
Greater Letaba Mayor



Cllr D Mmetle
Greater Tzaneen Mayor



Cllr P Mafologelo
Maruleng Mayor



Cllr P Hlungwani
Greater Giyani Mayor



Cllr A Sono
Ba-Phalaborwa Mayor

Sekhukhune District



Cllr D Magabe
Sekhukhune Executive Mayor



Cllr A Matlala
Makhuduthamaga Mayor



Cllr M Nkosi
Greater Tubatse Mayor



Cllr Y Mankola
Ephram Mogale Mayor



Cllr W Matemana
Elias Motsoaledi Mayor



Cllr K Sefala
Fetakgomo Mayor

Vhembe District



Cllr F Dzombere
Vhembe Executive Mayor



Cllr G Mahosi
Thulamela Mayor



Cllr M Luruli
Makhado Mayor



Cllr C Phiri
Musina Mayor



Cllr T Matibe
Mutale Mayor

Waterberg District



Cllr N.R. Mogotlane
Waterberg Executive Mayor



Cllr FS Hlungwane
Bela-Bela Mayor



Cllr MJ Mojela
Lephalela Mayor



Cllr KE Lekalakala
Modimolle Mayor



Cllr Re Mothibi
Mogalakwena Mayor



Cllr Ns Monyamane
Mookgophong Mayor



Cllr PA Mosito
Thabazimbi Mayor

NEW NAME FOR DEPARTMENT



It official.....CoGHSTA MEC Soviet Lekganyane unveiling the new name to the members of the media in Polokwane.

Rirhandzu Nkobyane

Polokwane - It is official, the best performing Department of Local Government and Housing is now called Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs. The Department unveiled its new name to members of the media on the 16th of August 2011 at the department's headquarters in Polokwane.

Addressing members of the media, MEC Soviet Lekganyane who will now be called Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs MEC said the name change was no easy task. "Our department's mandate is not only to build houses, but to create sustainable human settlements. People should stay in houses that have water, electricity and sanitation. These houses have to be close to their workplaces, schools, towns and churches. The name change also accommodates the branch of Traditional Affairs that was recently transferred from the Office of the Premier to the department early this year".

Lekganyane said the department under

the new name will continue to be the best service delivery as it is renowned for in the province and beyond. "The new name does not mean changing our winning formula that has seen us winning back to back awards in the province two years in a row," emphasized Lekganyane adding that department will always strive to save costs, citing that last year alone the Department managed to save up to R11m by cutting down unnecessary expenditure. "We have managed to combine the inauguration of mayors in different districts. By doing that we were able to save costs. As a department we are always trying to find less expensive ways to run government. The R11m was given to the Department of Education to build a school", pointed out the MEC.

Following this name change, the



Briefing.....CoGHSTA MEC Soviet Lekganyane(Centre) flanked by Chief Information Officer Tseng Diale (left) and Shared Services Senior General Manager Nana Manamela at the media briefing.

department is expected to run a number of campaigns in partnership with municipalities and traditional councils to inform the public about the new name. Rebranding and marketing the name Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs will be priority in the next two years

CoGHSTA SCOOP AWARDS

By Jimmy Malebati and Lesiba Moeng

Polokwane/Cape Town- August and September saw the Limpopo Department of CoGHSTA winning five awards. First, the department received two diamond awards during the Professional Management Review-Africa (PMR-Africa) for doing most for prosperity and growth in the province. The department was also rated the best effective. At the same awards, the department also received two golden awards for the best department that has done the most in the eradication of poverty and accelerating service delivery over the past twelve months.

During September, the department was at it again and scooped a special merit award for Seshego Community Residential Unit at prestigious annual Southern African Housing Foundation awards held at Spire Stellenbosch. The awards are part of the SAHF conference on social housing held at Cape Town from 11-14 September 2011.

Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs was rewarded for its effective implementation and transformation of Seshego old hostels into Community Residential Unit (CRU) social housing project. The delighted MEC for CoGHSTA Mr. Soviet Lekganyane said the award will definitely not be the last in collection list of the department. "I am happy that our department has been awarded this Special Merit award. This shows our continued endeavors of housing and property development in the province. I would like to congratulate officials for their diligent work in building better communities", said MEC Lekganyane. The Southern African Housing Foundation acknowledges

individuals and organisations that have excelled and have made outstanding contributions to the development of sustainable communities.

The SAHF conference on social housing brings international perspective and highlight important issues related to policy, planning, the environment, construction and innovative building methods, financial models and options for public and private sector housing. Issued by Limpopo CoGHSTA.



Back Row from Left: Advocate Shafeck Ameerma-Gm- (Transversal Services), Mr. Lanny Ramothwala-Sm- (Housing Property Management), Mr. Pat Khunou (Chief Financial Officer), Ms. Kgwalalala Nkwadi Patricia-Sm-GITO, Mr. Mahlatse Matlala SM(HRD) and Mr. Rogers Monama-Sm- Human Resource Development(HRD).
Front Row from Left: (in blue) Ms. Mmakoma Makhurupetje-Gm (IGR Democratic Governance and Disaster Management), Mr. Mokgala Simon (in black)-Gm (Housing Project Management), Ms. Dieketseng Diale(Chief Information Officer), Mr. Clifford Motsepe (Head Of Department), Mr. David Shabangu(in pink)-Gm (Local Government Support), and Ms. Nana Manamela SGM(Shared Services).



Hard work rewarded.....(Second From Right) Belinda Cowden Senior Manager of Institutional Housing division and her team members holding the Special Merit award at a gala dinner held at Spier Hotel Stellenbosch.

FAMILIES 'DIRE STRAITS OVER

By Sam Makondo

Limpopo – Life and living conditions for three Limpopo families will never be same again. It has changed for the better if not for the best. This follows a timely intervention by the provincial department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs that saw these families handed over new houses to their shock and disbelief. The first family to benefit from a government that cares about its people is that of Helen Kgwale in Bakenburg, Mogalakwena municipality. This is a family of fifteen that had been living and sleeping in a tiny two roomed house. Kgwale is a pensioner and now a proud owner of a house that is spacious enough to accommodate human beings who need privacy from time to time. Speaking to CoGHSTA News Kgwale said she will forever be indebted to the department. “I have been hoping and praying for something like this and finally God has answered my prayers. We just hear about this man called Lekganyane that he helps so many people and did not think help will come to me this soon. May God bless him richly,” said Kgwale.

Another beneficiary, who is now a proud owner of a five roomed house, is the family of Moses and Agnes Ngoasheng who are orphans. They are both still at school and used to live in a two roomed shack in Ngwanallela village, Aganang municipality. A humble Moses Ngoasheng said life has been very tough if truth be told. “Since our parents passed on, our lives have been difficult not to mention the conditions themselves. I am so thankful for this house. I will have my own room where I will enjoy my privacy,” said the overjoyed Ngoasheng. Limpopo premier Cassel Mathale and MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs Soviet Lekganyane handed over the house just



Moving inThe Maluleke family at Matiko-Xikaya village being ushered into a brand new house by the Limpopo Premier Cassel Mathale with Mopani Executive Mayor Joshua Matlou looking on

before the start of the Exco Outreach .

In Mopani district, Baphalaborwa municipality, courtesy of the department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs another house was handed over to the Maluleke family at Matiko-xikaya village recently. This Maluleke family was headed by a single mother who passed on last year leaving three children namely Shine Maluleke ,17, Connect Maluleke,9, and Everin Maluleke,6. These children have been in the care of their relative and living in a single room that their mother left. Expressing her gratitude on behalf of the kids, Anna Tivani said she can now sleep in peace at night knowing that her sister's children are safe from all sorts of dangerous things. “It is a miracle from God. The department has been sent by God to come to the children's rescue. It is so unbelievable. I am so



We deliverCoGHSTA MEC talking to the family of Kgwale who will soon move from the shack in the background into something more decent and dignifying.



Inside the houseCoGHSTA MEC inside the fully furnished Ngoasheng house that was recently handed over to the family.

thankful to this government. Let this be done to other people who can't do it for themselves because of poverty. I know how it is like to suffer and will not wish such on anyone under the sun,” she said.

PARTNERSHIP DELIVERS A HOUSE



Quite habitable.....The Seabli Family proudly own this house following living in a shack for over 14 years.

By Tshepo Langa

Mohlonong – Limpopo department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs in collaboration with the Limpopo SABC continue to make the living conditions of people in the province bearable. This follows the handing over of a house through the Celebrity build a house initiative to the Seabi family at Mohlonong village, Aganang Municipality in the Capricorn district municipality recently. The initiative is part of the nation wide call which seeks to strengthen the Public - Private Partnership.

The family, which consist of eight members and has spent a maximum of 14 years sharing a one-roomed shack was very delighted when a fully furnished modern 3 bedroomed house was handed over to them. The family depended on the child support grant of two grandchildren aged 05 and 14 years old. Relying on the children's support grant, the family has strived for years after the husband and father of six died five years ago. The family also survived on money received from day-to-day piece jobs, although the money is not enough."I think it's the power of the almighty God which made everything possible, I thank the department of Co -operative

Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs for making life easier for me and my family. The Lord has answered my prayers," said the 58 years old widow and a mother of six children.

Speaking during the handing over of the house, the MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs Soviet Lekganyane applauded the partnership the department has with the SABC. "Our goal is the same. We want to make a difference in people's lives by helping the neediest in their hour of need," said the MEC emphasizing the pursuit of quality service to the people of Limpopo. He added: "If there is any family which is struggling, bring such a plight to our attention for processing and intervention. We advise community members to alert



It is not cool...Members of the seabi family with Fancinah Seabi, mother of six (middle) in front of a shack which they lived in for over 14 years



We deliver.....CoGHSTA MEC Soviet Lekganyane handing over a brand new house to the Seabi Family.

us and we will take necessary steps to assist as quickly as possible, we will continue to do so to every struggling family" he said.

DEPARTMENT OUT TO LISTEN

By Lorraine Masegela and Mosima Mashao

Phokoane – Limpopo MEC for the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs (CoGHSTA) Soviet Lekganyane believes that government and the people should help one another. To that end, the department which he leads hosted a public participation programme to listen to people tell government how it should accelerate service service and also for government to tell the people the things to do for the delivery of quality services. This was at Phokoane Stadium, Makhuduthamaga Municipality recently. The department from time to time visits communities to solicit their service delivery challenges and also to check if members of the public are happy with the pace at which services are delivered. This outreach programme is purely about the public speaking their minds and the department listens and addresses issues as raised. It is a two way process of raising the awareness of the department and that of the public by the department. Members of the phokoane village and its surrounding villages were given an opportunity to talk to the department by asking questions, make comments and give advice concerning service delivery. One local member raised an issue of health, he stressed that children in and around Phokoane aged three and above suffer from sinusitis and the community is pleading with government to investigate this issue because it is only happening in Sekhukhune hospitals and health facilities.

Another woman who is currently unemployed wanted to know what would be done by government regarding her RDP house that was destroyed by strong winds last year (2010). Manoko Shiloane who lives in a two roomed house with her 11 children said her family is also on the long list of people who are in dire need of RDP houses, another issue that was raised was of certain orphans in a nearby

village who live in a tent and are in need of an RDP house.

Pontsho Moliti also asked the MEC if these RDP houses are only allocated to special people only because she has applied for an RDP house for three consecutive years and still has not received one to date. Phokoane residents said that they need a shopping complex or mall which will also help create jobs because most of them have been unemployed for a long time. The issue of power cuts was also raised, residents say that Phokoane has had electricity for ten (10) years but during rainy seasons, they experience power cuts which damage their appliances. Phokoane does not only have housing and unemployment issues but water issues as well.

The MEC in his response assured the residents of Phokoane, more especially the ones who came forward with their complaints around Glen Cowie's RDP houses that they will be included in next year's budget (2012-2013), he then emphasized that the RDP houses are not for ANC members or supporters only but for all South African citizens and people who are in need. The mayor Ali Matlala encouraged the community to get along with their community development workers, councillors and traditional leaders so that they can as a collective thrash out issues of service delivery challenges in the area.



Another housing delivery.....CoGHSTA MEC Soviet Lekganyane (Left) and, Makhuduthamaga Municipality Alfred Matlala (Centre) before handing over a house to Motjabeng Mmotong (Orange outfit) at Phokoane.



Brand new.....CoGHSTA MEC handed over this house to Motjabeng Mmotong who lives in Phokoane.



Raising concerns.....Members of the public asking questions on service delivery and complimenting the department for a job well done.

The public participation was preceded by the handing over house build by women constructors who are making serious inroads in this male dominated construction industry. The beneficiary is the family of Motjabeng Mmotong who is a pensioner with no dependants.

MEC REPORTS ON THE PROGRESS MADE BY THE G&A CLUSTER



Briefing.....CoGHSTA MEC bringing the media up to speed with progress made in the first quarter on the G&A CLUSTER with Safety and Security MEC George Phadagi looking on.

Rirhandzu Nkobyane

Polokwane - Limpopo MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Rirhandzu Nkobyane, briefed members of the media on the progress made by the Governance and Administration cluster since the beginning of the financial year. Speaking during the media briefing that was held at the Premier's Office on the 19th of July, Nkobyane who is the chairperson of the cluster congratulated all national and provincial departments who took part during the Mandela Day held on the 18th of July at Giyani stadium. "All spheres of government are being congratulated for their cooperation and determination. This demonstrates confidence in the provincial government and its leadership".

Nkobyane said that President Jacob Zuma's recent visit to the province shows government's commitment of providing quality services to its people. "The president has announced plans to build a new R250 million hospital in the province to particularly address the critical challenges of the health system in the Siloam Community". He also congratulated the Independent Electoral Commission (IEC) for hosting local

government elections. "The province commits to working very closely with the commission in order to strengthen and deepen our democracy".

Nkobyane also stated that debt recovery process is underway for municipalities who cannot meet their financial obligations. "Tubatse municipality as part of the Rapid Assessment Support programme is receiving prudent financial management advice. It should be noted that this support programme will not be effective if the billing systems of municipalities are not well-oiled. Mkgopong municipality is currently implementing recommendations of the accounting firm employed by the Department of Local Government and Housing to re-engineer its financial management capability," he said.

On the issue of traditional affairs, Nkobyane said the province has managed to officially open local houses of traditional leaders for Capricorn, Sekhukhune, Mopani and to be followed by Vhembe and Waterberg. He said the Department will continue working with



Other clusters.....Chairperson of Economic Cluster Pinky Kekana and Chairperson of Social Cluster Namane Masemola also delivered their first quarter reports.

sector departments in ensuring that initiation schools are safe. The MEC said that the preliminary report by the Auditor General shows that the province comes out tops in terms of financial management and accountability. "This is evident that all departments have managed to spend their budgets and adhere to set service standards".

Nkobyane said that members of the community are encouraged to use platforms such as the presidential, premier hotlines and other departments' customer care programmes for reporting of complaints. "It through these initiatives that our developmental state and policy imperatives become strengthened. The Thusong centres are indeed servicing our people and that we are steadfast in ensuring that this programme is implemented vigorously", said the MEC.

OPERATION KHANYISA LAUNCHED

By Sam Makondo

Solomondale – Electricity like water, health care and decent houses is considered one of the basic services that people should access at all times. When provided to communities, there should be awareness campaigns around issues of safety, quality of supply, power supply interruptions, overloading and illegal connections. It is in this light that Eskom launched a public safety drive called Operation Khanyisa aimed at working closely with its stakeholders and creating dialogue that seeks to share meaningful ways and ideas on how to curb safety related incidences and power supply interruptions as a result of illegal connections and urge for legal power usage.

Speaking at the launch of Operation Khanyisa, Solomondale, Polokwane municipality, Limpopo MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs said it is critical for communities to be involved in this campaign to ensure that people do not lose their lives due to illegal connections and poor quality supply cause by illegal connections, tampering and vandalism. The event was attended by stakeholders such as councilors, Magoshi, CDWs, SALGA, SAPS, NERSA, NPA and the business fraternity.

The MEC encouraged members of the community to support Eskom in this drive in order to beat all these illegal connections. “Anyone stealing electricity is stealing from all of us. We know these people. Let us inform the right authorities,” said the MEC appealing to people to pay for government services.

He applauded Eskom for coming with the campaign as people will know the effects of power theft. “People should be made aware. The cost of human life and wellbeing is incalculable. Innocent people, often children pay the ultimate price for someone else’s illegal behavior. Most



Name and shame.....MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs Soviet Lekganyane appealing to members of the community to report illegal connections.



In full support.....Customer Service Area Manager Hilton Rampedi (red tie) raising awareness of the community around electricity theft.

people know that electricity is dangerous but not many realize that most deaths and injuries caused by electricity are a result of illegal connections,” emphasized the MEC.

The campaign is a comprehensive one and by its nature deals not only with

electricity theft but will also engage communities and the business and agricultural sectors on related aspects such as energy efficiency, safety, non-payment, infrastructure theft and climate change.

MEC DONATES SCHOOL UNIFORM



In uniform.....CoGHSTA MEC Soviet Lekganyane and some school teachers posing with the learners of the Zoetfontein High School where he donated school uniform

By Sam Makondo

Zoetfontein – In a move that will instill a sense of identity and belonging, Limpopo MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs Soviet Lekganyane donated school uniform to learners of Zoetfontein High school whose families cannot afford buying uniform for their children. Speaking at the handover ceremony, MEC Lekganyane stressed the importance of wearing school uniform to school. “When you wear school uniform you know that you are a learner who is at school to learn and nothing else. You are equal with other learners because of the school uniform. The uniform separates a learner from other schools,” said the MEC who used the platform to encourage learners to take their teachers and lessons seriously. To that effect the MEC said: “The only way to fight poverty is through education. Parents are looking up to you to fight rampant poverty in your communities,” pointed out Lekganyane

adding that matric is no longer enough these days and challenging learners not to be afraid to think big in their career choices.

He also used the opportunity to call on learners to conduct themselves in an impeccable and responsible manner by laying proper foundations for the future. “The country needs people who can conduct themselves in a responsible manner. Your future does not start tomorrow but it starts now. Make a decision that will make you a better person tomorrow. Each one of you has a particular mission to accomplish in life,” said the MEC.

Joseph Bopape, a grade nine learner and one of the recipients expressed his appreciation on behalf of the other recipients when he said: “This is a special



Blue and beautiful.....Zoetfontein High School learners can finally go to school wearing school uniform expected by the school.

day for the learners because one of our very own has remembered us today. We thank the MEC for his kindness. We are all proud of you. You are an example to us and by your success we see and know that everything is possible for those who work very hard”.

UNDERPERFORMING COMPANIES ON THE BLACKLIST



In Charge.....(Left to Right) Head of Department Clifford Motsepe, MEC Soviet Lekganyane, businessman Tim Tebeila and Chief Financial Officer Pat Khunou.

By Mukondi Tshifura

Polokwane – Value for money is a principle the Provincial Department of Cooperative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs lives by and practices to the letter. The Department, voted best performing in the province has blacklisted 24 companies and its respective directors/members on the National Treasury Database of Restricted Suppliers. The blacklisting of these companies is as a result of poor performance in the construction of RDP houses in the Province from 1999 to 2008. These companies include Legae Consortium CC whose members are Messrs Tom Boya, Timothy Tebeila, Eugene Masete, David Hlabyago and Mr. Selamolela.

As a result of dispute, on 04th July 2011, Mr. Timothy Tebeila acting on behalf of Legae Consortium CC approached the Northern Gauteng High Court urgently to have his name removed from the National Database of Restricted Suppliers. However, the Court struck his case from the roll with costs.

In the intermediate, Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Department of National Human Settlements and Legae Consortium realized that it is in the best interest of all

parties to opted for an out of court settlement which was finalized on the 12 July 2011. The settlement was agreed and closed based on the following that:

Mr Tebeila withdraws High Court application against all respondents.

Mr Tebeila and/or Legae Consortium will pay CoGhSTA an amount of R 1,5 million in the following terms, viz: R 125 000 payable within a period 7 days after signature of the agreement. R 125 000 per month starting the month of August until June 2012.

Mr Tebeila and/or Legae Consortium will pay the cost of the application occasioned on 04th July 2011. Each party to pay own legal cost.

The CoGHSTA undertakes, without any admission of liability and/or conceding on merits of this matter, to remove Mr. Tebeila and Legae Consortium cc from National Treasury Database of Restricted Suppliers.



In agreement.....CoGHSTA MEC Soviet Lekganyane and Tim Tebeila reaching some understanding and sealing it with a handshake.

The other companies will remain blacklisted on the National Database of Restricted Suppliers. The Provincial Government of Limpopo and National Department of Human Settlements remain committed to clean, transparent and accountable governance. “The days of mediocrity in the provisioning of services are of yesterday”, said the MEC. The Limpopo Provincial Government and National Department of Human Settlements finally expressed their gratitude to Mr. Tebeila and Legae Consortium for their cooperation in this matter.

ROLE OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS FUNDAMENTAL

By Sam Makondo

Polokwane – Limpopo MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs Soviet Lekganyane says traditional leaders are perfectly placed to play a significant role in uplifting the standards of living of people in rural areas and government is always ready to participate in such an initiative. Speaking at the sitting of the Limpopo Provincial House of Traditional Leaders where he addressed the House for the first time since Traditional Affairs was moved from the Office of The Premier, Lekganyane called for the participation of traditional leaders in municipalities, a move that will create an understanding on what service delivery challenges exist in communities. "Government believes that the envisaged partnership will go a long way in accelerating service delivery in rural areas. We must deepen the working relationship between municipalities and traditional leaders," he said at the sitting of the House held at Polokwane municipality chamber and added that traditional leadership and municipalities should speak collective wisdom. He told the House that just as the system of co-operative governance is developed in acknowledgement of the diversity of the needs and concerns of the population of South Africa, the Constitution established the rights of communities living under traditional law and customs to influence the way in which the province is run.

MEC lekanyane also addressed the House on the establishment of the Commission on Traditional Leadership that will help resolve disputes regarding the legitimacy of incumbent traditional leaders and other related matters in the

province of Limpopo.

The House of Traditional Leaders in Limpopo has been established at this level of the province to carry out an advisory role in government and will advise the MEC and the provincial government on the role of traditional leaders and further on customary law. The MEC also used the opportunity to congratulate traditional leaders for having done well with regards to initiation schools in the province. "We are perfecting our processes every year. It is encouraging and we can keep on improving," said Lekganyane adding that the department will continue to provide all it can to enable members of the House to perform their functions more effectively.

He said the Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlement and Traditional Affairs through the Traditional Affairs branch will be conducting workshops on the running of traditional authorities in a professionally manner. "We need offices of traditional leaders to be run properly. We need a

clean administration," indicated the MEC to the 36 member House.



Fundamental.....Co-operative governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs MEC Soviet Lekganyane addressing at the sitting of Limpopo House of Traditional leaders in Polokwane.



Chairing.....Kgoshi Makgeru at the sitting of Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders.



In attendanceSome of the traditional leaders during the sitting of the House.

VHEMBE HOUSE OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS LAUNCHED

Rirhandzu Nkobyane

Mtititi -Residents from Mtititi and surrounding villages gathered to attend the launch of the Vhembe House of Traditional Leaders on the 26th of August 2011. The event which was held at Mtititi Thusong Centre, outside Malamulele saw MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs, Soviet Lekganyane, Executive Mayor for Vhembe District Municipality, Florence Dzhombere, Mayor of Makhado Mavhungu Luruli and traditional leaders from different traditional authorities across the province attending.

Speaking during the event, Florence Dzhombere said the Vhembe District Local House of Traditional Leaders derives its existence from the Limpopo Houses of Traditional Leaders Act, 2005 (Act no 5 of 2005). She also said that the role played by traditional leaders is very pivotal and cannot be overlooked let alone ignored. She added that:

“The Local House of Traditional Leaders is part of the system of cooperative governance which results from an acknowledgement of the diversity of the needs and concerns of the communities living under traditional laws and customs. It provides and gives right to these communities to influence the laws of the country particularly those with direct



Royal strut.....Some of the Traditional Leaders who took part in the opening of the Vhembe District Local House of Traditional Leaders at Mtititi outside Malamulele.

influence to their lives. It recognizes and assert their being part of the people of South Africa who must govern”

Dzhombere continued in her address and said: “Let me dismiss the myth that is very much misguided: the institution of traditional leadership is not about to face demise. It is an institution that is part of us as the people of the Vhembe District, Limpopo and the rest of South Africa. No wishing away of this important societal institution will make it disappear. The

District Local House of Traditional Leaders plays a role no other institution of governance can claim to have competence and legitimacy over”.

The Executive Mayor said we all have a responsibility to protect cultural practices and the institutions of Traditional Leaders are the custodians of such practices. She indicated that as Vhembe district they are prepared to work well with traditional leaders to ensure they get all the required support to make them a force to be reckoned with in the district.



At attention and showing respect.....CoGHSTA MEC Soviet Lekganyane and Vhembe Executive Mayor Florence Dzhombere (both centre) singing the national Anthem at the function.

BENGWENYAMA INSTALL REGENT

By Sam Makondo

Schonoord - The Bengwenyama community in Tubatse Local Municipality, Sekhukhune district recently witnessed the enthronement of Kgoshigadi Thabsile Eunice Nkosi as the regent on behalf of her son Shobhiyane 11 who is still a minor. The ceremony was attended by high-profile local and international dignitaries as well as members of the Bengwenyama-yamaswazi community. Following her inauguration, Kgoshigadi Thabsile Eunice Nkosi is officially known as Lamdzando 11. She was the wife of Nicholas Msutfu 11 who was inaugurated as Inkosi in 1983 and passed on in November 2009.

The Bengwenyama community is the descendants of Inkosi Somcuba 1, of the eldest son of King Sobhuza 1 of Swaziland. They came to the then Eastern Transvaal as a result of the conflict between Mswati 11 and his brother and regent Somcuba 1, which caused the latter to flee from Swaziland to seek refuge amongst the Lydenburg district settlers. Somcuba managed to expand his following by incorporating groups of Eastern Sotho but Mswati warriors overtook him in 1985 in Nelspruit.

After Somcuba's death, his son Msutfu 1 took over the leadership of the remnant of the group and in 1859 moved north across the Steelpoort river. It was Sekhukhune (The Pedi King) who took the group under his protection and his patronage extended to allocating land on which to settle. A special and cordial relationship developed between Sekhukhune and Msutfu 1. Hence they were killed together at Tjate-Ntsoaneng in 1879. Msutfu's royal residence was at Ndwalamkhonoesikodzini.

Msutfu was succeeded by his son, Shobhiyane who had twenty five wives. The Bengwenyama moved to the Steelpoort area in the 19th century and lived on land comprising a number of farms. Shobhiyane died in 1932 and was succeeded by Somnyama (Somcuba 11) popularly known as Ngungunyane. Somcuba 11 was succeeded by his wife



All hail Kgoshigadi..... MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs Soviet Lekganyane congratulating Kgoshigadi Lamdzando 11 at her inauguration.

Alice Mamaweni 11 after his death in 1962. Namaweni 11 ruled as a regent on behalf of her son who was then a minor since 1964 to 1983. Her son Nicholas Msutfu 11 was officially inaugurated as Inkosi in October 1983 by the late Dr CP Phatudi, the Chief Minister of the Lebowa Homeland.

Delivering his keynote address at the inauguration, MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs Soviet Lekganyane applauded the royal family for the smooth transition in installing a regent on behalf of her son who is still a minor. "It is for this reason that those of us gathered here today have a duty to wish Kgoshigadi Lamdzando 11 well as she begins the long and hard journey of leading her people to the promise land," said Lekganyane adding that the institution of traditional leadership will continue to enjoy an indispensable place in the democratic system of governance.

He congratulated traditional leaders in the province who are actively participating in the governance of their municipal areas, either as elected public representatives or as traditional leaders of the people. "As always, our government will continue to rely on your wise counsel on matters of



Dignitaries..... (left to right) Kgoshi Setlamorago Thobejane, CoGHSTA MEC Soviet Lekganyane, Education MEC Namane Masemola, Kgoshi Makgeru and Executive Mayor of Sekhukhune District David Magabe at the inauguration of Kgoshigadi Lamdzando 11.

traditional leadership, custom, heritage and language as you are the rightful custodians of these values," indicated the MEC.

He called on the community to take part in their own development and desist from being innocent bystanders in the ongoing endeavour to improve the quality of their lives. "You must join hands with your Kgoshigadi and put your collective shoulders to the wheel in order to launch a sustained onslaught on poverty and underdevelopment in this area," signed off the MEC.



A group of people, including men in suits and women in traditional attire, walking outdoors in a rural setting. The image shows a group of people, including men in suits and women in traditional attire, walking outdoors in a rural setting. The group is diverse, with some individuals in formal wear and others in traditional clothing. They appear to be walking along a path or road, possibly during a community event or a formal procession. The background shows a rural landscape with trees and a clear sky.

Hosting Kgoshigadi Mposho said: “As a tribe, we value so much our rich heritage and culture and respect the leaders who have managed through the passage of history to lead the tribe up to the current state. That is why today we are unveiling a stone with the history of Setshaba sa Bjatladi bearing the names of all the traditional leaders who led before me. It is for the future generations”.

WOMEN'S DAY CELEBRATED IN LIMPOPO



Grand entrance.....President Jacob Zuma (second from left) at the recent Women's Day celebration accompanied by Premier Cassel Mathale(left) Minister Lulu Xingwana at Peter Mokaba Stadium, Polokwane.



Colourful and diverse.....One of the traditional dance groups that entertained revelers during the Women's Day Celebration at Polokwane's Peter Mokaba.



By Jimmy Malebati

Polokwane - It was in 1956, when more than 20 000 women from all walks of life marched to the seat of power to protest against the introduction of pass laws by the apartheid regime.

2011 marks the 55 years anniversary of woman's march to the Union Building to protest against women oppression. This was a turning point in the role of women in the struggle for a non-racial, non-sexist and democratic South Africa.

The Premier of Limpopo, Cassel Mathale

welcomed all guests in the Province. "We are more than pleased to be the host of the 2011 Women's Day Celebration. It is encouraging to note that we are celebrating this women's day under the theme: *working together to enhance women's opportunities for economic empowerment*", said Premier Mathale. The event was celebrated on the 09th August 2011 at Peter Mokaba stadium.

Premier encouraged people to continue to actualize all efforts of promoting and respecting the rights of women in the society as equal partners. Speaking at the Peter Mokaba was President Jacob Zuma. "Today we salute South African women for their relentless struggle for

liberation, democracy and human dignity. This important day enables us to review how far we have come with regards to the emancipation and advancement of women in South African society", said President Zuma.

President Zuma saluted women patriots for taking up the fight for gender equality and freedom which includes the likes of Lillian Ngoyi, Helen Joseph, Rahima Moosa and Sophia Williams-De Bruyn who were at the forefront of the march to union Building. The day was filled with ululations of various women from all over the country.

MAKE SERVICE DELIVERY A PRIORITY - MEC



Prioritize.....CoGHSTA MEC Soviet Lekganyane (Centre, front row) flanked and surrounded by Vhembe District councillors during the councilor meeting in Thohoyandou.

By Sam Makondo

Thohoyandou –Limpopo MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs Soviet Lekganyane says programmes of service delivery should be a priority for councillors than managing their personal characters at the expense of members of the community. Lekganyane was speaking at Vhembe councillors meeting attended by Vhembe District Executive mayor Florence Dzhombere and her local municipality mayors, chief whips and speakers.

He called on the district leadership to run a clean and transparent local government and should be the kind that is in touch with the material conditions of the people they serve. "How we communicate with our people matters most. We must communicate with our people in a manner that will give us good image and in the process we shall enhance public participation in our service delivery programmes," said the MEC. He



Quality programmes.....CoGHSTA MEC Soviet Lekganyane addressing Vhembe councillors in Thohoyandou recently.

emphasized at this meeting the importance of working together as the leadership of the district. "Know your role and play it. Respect one another. Put aside ambitions and focus on issues of service delivery in this district.

In line with achieving clean audit by 2014, the MEC said the district municipality must find a best way to account for each and every cent used in the municipality. "Come to work with a new determination to work towards getting a clean audit. The campaign for clean administration is for

everyone," appealed Lekganyane emphasizing the hiring of qualified people to do the work. On the provision of housing in the district, the MEC said people should be given houses because they are truly needy and there should be compelling reasons for a person to get a house. "Councillors responsible for housing should facilitate the registration of beneficiaries. The list should start with older persons to the youngest and not the other way round," indicated the MEC adding that a beneficiary must have a site where such a house will be built.

TRIBUTE TO KHOSI FHUMULANI PETER KUTAMA

PERSONAL HISTORY

The late Khosi Kutama was the first-born son of the Dzekiso wife (principal wife to bear heir to the throne), vhakoma Vho Masindi Kutama and Khosi Vho Nnzobi Johannes Kutama. He is the grand son of Khosi Alilali Ravele Kutama Ramabulana and the great grand son of King Makhado Tshilwavirusiku Ramabulana of the Venda Tribe (The Lion of the North).

He was recognized and inaugurated as a Khosi (Senior Traditional Leader) of the Kutama Traditional Community in 02 June 1989 by the Kutama Royal Family and was appointed as such by the Limpopo Provincial Government.

EDUCATIONAL QUALIFICATION

The late Khosi Vho Kutama completed his matric studies at Khwevha High School in Shayandima (Thohoyandou). He undertook law studies at the University of Zululand (1987) and the University of South Africa.

EXPERIENCE IN GOVERNMENT

From 1990 – 1994 he worked in the previous Venda Transitional Council (Homeland Government) as a Minister of Education.

From 1995-1997 he served as a member of Advisory Committee for Commissioners of Traditional Leaders.

From 1997 – 2002 he was elected Chairperson of Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders

From 2002-2006 he was elected Deputy Chairperson of National House of Traditional Leaders.

From 2006 to February 2011 he was elected the Chairperson of the National House of Traditional Leaders.

From 2007 February 2011 he also served as the Interim Chairperson of SADC house of Traditional Called Khotla.

ACTIVITIES IN THE LIMPOPO PROVINCIAL HOUSE OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS

He served in the Provincial House of Traditional Leaders from 1997 – 2002.

From 2002 he was elected Chairperson of the Limpopo Provincial House of Traditional Leaders, a position he held until 2004.

ACTIVITIES IN THE NATIONAL HOUSE OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS

In 2004 Khosi Kutama led a delegation of three representatives from the Limpopo House of Traditional Leaders to serve in the National House of Traditional Leaders.

As a Leader of Limpopo House delegation he also served in the Executive Committee of the NHTL

In 2005 he was elected Deputy Chairperson of the National House, a position he held until 2006 when he was elected Chairperson of the NHTL.

He served as Chairperson of the NHTL until end of January 2011

He continued to serve as a member of the NHTL in the following Committees:-

Internal Arrangement Committee
Constitutional Development Committee
Land and Agricultural Committee
He was the Chairperson of the Constitutional Development Committee

ROLE IN THE SADC HOUSE OF TRADITIONAL LEADERS.

He was the co-founder of the Regional House of Traditional Leaders in 2007 (SADC KHOTLA), together with the respective Chairpersons of the Houses of Traditional Leaders from Botswana, Lesotho, Zambia and Zimbabwe;

Led and represented the SADC KHOTLA in international forums such as the PAN AFRICAN FESTIVAL in Ghana in 2007 and 2009;

Made presentations on behalf of the NHTL in many international and locally; and

Served as the Interim Chairperson of the SADC house from 2007 to 2011.

FACILITATION OF RELATIONSHIPS BETWEEN THE NHTL AND OTHER STRUCTURES

Led the NHTL in the establishment of formal relationship with partners of the National House of Traditional Leaders, e.g.

Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with UNISA (Centre for Renaissance Studies) in 2001 regarding a compilation of a Think Tank to give expert advice to the National House of Traditional Leaders on matters affecting Traditional Leadership;

Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the South African Local Government Association in 2008



that deal with the issues of relationship between Traditional Leadership and Local Government, including partnership, development and service delivery;

Signing of a Memorandum of Understanding with the Health Policy Initiative (HPI) regarding capacity building programmes for Traditional Leaders on HIV/AIDS.

Represented the NHTL and the Traditional Leadership Sector in the South African National Aids Council (SANAC);

Led the NHTL in addressing critical issues with the President of the Republic of South Africa (during the official opening of the NHTL and the debate of the President Speech rendered during the official opening of the NHTL)

Having a legal background, Khosi Kutama interacted with various government departments, such as the Department of Justice and Constitutional Development, with regard to matters of policy and legislation affecting Traditional Leadership and Communities.

ACHIEVEMENTS

Establishment of the Lesheba Venda Arts and Culture Trust

Establishment the Kutama Community Trust

Establishment of the Kutama Traditional Council

Establishment of the Sinthumule/Kutama Development Forum

Involved in many infrastructure projects such as the establishment of Community Clinics and Schools.

CREATE SPACE FOR ONE ANOTHER – SAWIC TOLD



Leadership..... (Left to right) SAWIC President Dr Thandi Ndlovu Molokoane, MEC for Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs Soviet Lekganyane and Chairperson of SAWIC Limpopo Violet Lekgothwane.

By Sam Makondo

Polokwane – Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs MEC Soviet Lekganyane gave a free advice to the South African Women In Construction (SAWIC), the Limpopo branch, to create space for one another to do construction business in the province if they are to make strides in this male dominated industry. MEC Lekganyane was speaking at the launch of SAWIC Chapter in Limpopo at Polokwane Royal Hotel recently and called on women in construction to be involved to make a meaningful contribution and not for enrichment purposes. “You must be involved in construction to make a contribution and not to enrich yourselves. Be compassionate and assist one another. Pick one another up and move forward,” said the MEC challenging them to know that the greatest ability in business is to get along with others and to influence their actions.

SAWIC is an initiative founded in 1997 to empower women to gain access to contracts, training, finance and networks in the construction industry. It is a National Association with branches in provinces, of women entrepreneurs, including women employed in all areas of construction, from skilled trades to business ownership, with international Affiliation to the National Association of Women in Construction (NAWIC) in America and Australia. It

currently services more than 2000 women contactors country wide.

The MEC indicated at this launch that the department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs is far ahead with regard to empowerment of women in the construction industry. “It is still our intention to expand the representation of women in the construction business,” pointed out the MEC adding that other departments should follow suit in supporting women in construction.

He said in no uncertain terms that incompetence when doing construction work on the part of women is something that his department does not allow let alone tolerate. “We are in government to deliver quality services to the people. We want people who do the job within the specified time frame,” warned the MEC. He used the platform to also encourage women contractors to enroll for project management courses in order to manage building contracts and projects with precision and professionalism.



Attentive.....(left to right) Senior Manager Rodgers Monana, Senior General Manager of Integrated Sustainable Human Settlements Zesuliwe Mkhize and Senior General Manager of Shared Services Nana Manamela



In attendance.....Some of the women in construction during the launch of SAWIC Chapter in Limpopo

Chairperson of SAWIC Limpopo Violet Lekgothwane said that they want to see themselves as SAWIC Limpopo in the forefront contributing meaningfully in the construction industry. “We want to increase the membership base by increasing representation, build capacity of members in technical skills and facilitate construction opportunities for members,” said Lekgothwane who chairs a body that continuously strives to be a key strategic partner in the implementation of economic empowerment initiatives for women

CALL CENTRE STILL RUNNING

By Kate Ratladi and Lorraine Masegela

Polokwane – Limpopo Department of Co-operative Governance, Human Settlements and Traditional Affairs through its call centre ensures that 100 housing queries are being resolved through the established free housing call center. The department's Housing Consumer Call Centre toll free Number is 0800 687 432 and was launched on the 6th February 2007 at Peter Mokaba Stadium and is proving to be a serious investment yielding second to none dividends..

Limpopo's community complaints and challenges experienced on housing is ultimately a thing of the past. The call center mainly assists the Department in decision making and also in improving service delivery. Customers' complaints serve as a bench mark in enhancing operational plans too. This Call Centre serves as a one-stop-shop "for all housing enquiries for the citizens of Limpopo."

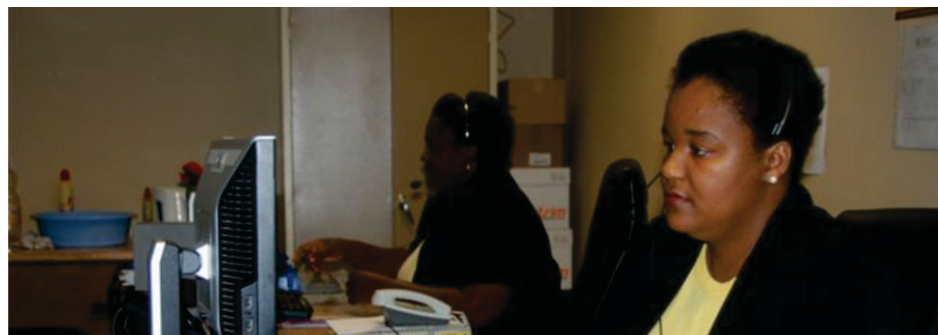
The department has become more accessible to communities. Housing Consumers accesses services without incurring any telephone or travelling costs. The call centre goes a long way in ensuring that the Department adheres to the principles transparency and redress.

One of the people who got help from the Call Centre is Mabatle Boitumelo Edna of Polokwane Extension 76. She had been approved on the Housing Subsidy System but upon checking where her house or site was allocated she found that there is a beneficiary who is already occupying the house. It means that the same site or house had been allocated to two different people. The call centre agents contacted the Polokwane Municipality to allocate an alternative site for Mabatle. The matter was resolved in no time. She was allocated site 15430 at Polokwane Extension 76 and the same day she got an approval letter and the keys to the house.

The call center also addresses issues on



Taking calls..... Peta Joseph, Help Desk Practitioner hard at work at the department's call centre.



How may I help you?..... Faith Rantho Help Desk Practitioner responding timeously to some callers who call the centre everyday of the week.



Helping with a smile..... Justine Moloto, Help Desk Practitioner is also part of the team that helps callers with a smile.

application status, incomplete houses and houses with structural defects, orphans without proper shelter, beneficiary waiting list and battles over houses of the deceased.

Housing call center is only free when using telephone lines. Customers have to supply their identity numbers in order for their particulars to be accessed on the system.

The department's image was then set to a very good performance standard through the call center. It scooped lots of awards such as the first runner up nationally during the CPSI (Centre for Public Service Innovation) awards in the category of Innovative Use of Information Technology for Effective Service Delivery. The best support team of the year 2008 in Limpopo,

The best service delivery team 2010 and best innovative and support group (Departmental) 2010.

The call centre operates for 8hrs during weekdays and they receive 50 to 100 queries per day of which some can be resolved shortly and some take a lot of time to be resolved. The timeframe to resolve these queries is 30 working days and when there are delays explanation must be given as to why a deadline cannot be met.

The housing consumer call center has recently established an **sms**(Social Media Service) toll free number which is in full operation. In this way clients are able to send their queries at any time.