



finance, economic
development & tourism
MPUMALANGA PROVINCE
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

Siyaxoxa



STAFF BULLETIN

Special Newsletter - June 2014



A warm welcome
to the new MEC for Finance,
Economic Development
and Tourism

Siyaxoxa is isiNdebele / siSwati for
"We are chatting"

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From The Editorial Desk

Given the recent developments in the Department, we felt it was important for the Siyaxoxa team to strike while the iron is still hot; hence we are delighted to present to you our Siyaxoxa Special Edition. The Special edition will focus mostly on the new political developments.

Inside this edition, Premier DD Mabuza, announced that the then Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism and the then Department of Finance will merge to form a new Department of Finance, Economic Development and tourism.

Look out for Premier DD Mabuza's highly skilled and experienced team of men and women who will serve under his administration for the next five years.

The Special Edition will also give readers information of who our new MEC, Mr Sikhumbuzo Eric Kholwane is.

Colleagues under programme six (6), Environmental Services in the then Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism will reunite with the Department of Agriculture to form a new Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs.

The siyaxoxa team would like to take this opportunity to extend a warm welcome to our new colleagues who has joined us from the then Department of Finance, and equally bid farewell to our colleagues from Environmental Services, who are leaving the department after joining us five (5) years ago.

Siyaxoxa is an interactive newsletter, so it welcomes any suggestions that you might want to share with the rest of *the dedet* family.

Happy reading

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New MEC, Mr Sikhumbuzo Eric Kholwane encourages officials to work together to fight unemployment

The newly appointed MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, **Mr Sikhumbuzo Eric Kholwane** urged the managers to spend less time in meetings, and dedicate more of their time into working towards finding solutions to the Province's challenges.

MEC Kholwane was addressing the Senior Management Teams of the former Departments of Finance as well as Economic Development, Environment and Tourism on Friday, 30 May 2014.

He said most of the solutions to major challenges of the Mpumalanga Province can be found in the collectiveness of the officials, who are entrusted with the responsibility of developing the economy and managing the provincial budget.

“We have a problem of unemployment in the country and the Province as well. We must therefore dedicate most of our time to find solutions to unemployment,” said MEC Kholwane.

MEC is one of the newly appointed Executive Council Members who were announced by the Premier, Mr. David Mabuza on Friday, 30 May 2014.

The former Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Communication, Mr Kholwane brings a wealth of experience to the merged Departments, which collectively have the additional responsibility of providing information and communication technology solution to other provincial departments in Mpumalanga.

In his role, the MEC will also lead efforts of the Department in responding to the mandate of supporting other provincial institutions to improve systems, and processes that drive delivery and accountability for financial resources.

The Department is looking forward to the leadership of the MEC in steering it to the desired level of service excellence, in executing responsibilities of overall provincial budget management; economic development and tourism; and also assisting other provincial departments and public entities to continue to improve on areas of financial governance.

Profile

Mr Sikhumbuzo Eric Kholwane

Current

- Member of the Executive Council MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism (since 30 May 2014)
- Member of the African National Congress
- Member of the Central Executive Committee of the South African Communist Party
- Provincial Chairperson of the SACP

Previous positions held

MEC Kholwane served as a Member of Parliament from 2004 – 2014. During this time he became:

- Chairperson of the Portfolio Committee on Communications
- Member of the Portfolio Committee on Communications
- Member of the Portfolio Committee on Safety and Security

Political Career

As the former student activist during the early years of his participation in the struggle for freedom, MEC Kholwane also served in:

- The Provincial Executive Committee of the SACP;
- The African National Congress as REC Ex-Officio member of ANC Bohlabela;
- Member of the Political Education Sub-Committee;

- Convener of Caucus: Administration, Finance & ICT Unit and ANC Branch Secretary.

He also participated and led the worker's struggle in various capacities such as:

- NEHAWU Provincial Secretary;
- NEHAWU Regional Secretary, and
- NEHAWU Branch Secretary.

Education

Academically, MEC Kholwane has a Nursing Diploma (Mpumalanga Nursing College); LLB (University of South Africa); Advanced Diploma in Human Resource and Advanced Diploma in International Economics (University of the Western Cape).





Premier DD Mabuza reconfigures Departments to expedite service delivery

- by Silence Mhlaba

In a bid to place a muscle behind his intentions of bolstering service delivery to the people of Mpumalanga, Premier DD Mabuza, has reconfigured some departments, coupled with appointing highly skilled and experienced men and women to serve in the Provincial Executive for the next five (5) years.

The Premier says there is a lot of work ahead to respond to the development and service delivery needs of the people of the Province. This he said during a media conference to announce his new Executive Council on 31 May 2014, in Nelspruit.

“We have split the Department of Health and Social Services into two departments with each having a dedicated MEC. We want to ensure that we give targeted focus on addressing challenges in our health care system, as well as ensuring that we are able to respond to social development challenges raised by the communities,” said Premier Mabuza.

The Premier also announced that there will be a new Department of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism.

The formation of the new Department will see the Environmental Services function in the then Department of Economic Development, Environment and Tourism being re-assigned to the Department of Agriculture to form a new Department of Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs.

Premier DD Mabuza concluded by saying “I am privileged to announce that I have assembled a team of men and women to form part of the Executive that will be tasked with leading and taking the Province to greater heights. I have confidence that their skills and experience will contribute immensely to our efforts of speeding development and service delivery.”

Walk-about by to know sta

In less than 6 hours after being sworn in as the new MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mr Sikhumbuzo Eric Kholwane did not waste time to meet staff members. He went on a walk-about from one office to another and shook hands with his team in order to know them better.

Staff members received him with warm and welcoming hands, as he was introduced to them .

The merger of the two former Departments of Finance and Economic Development Environment and Tourism augers well for future prosperity of the Province.

This was a general sentiment of the officials who were there when the two Departments were still one entity in the early 1990's, trading as Department of Finance and Economic Affairs.

Team Finance, Economic Development and Tourism says:

- Welcome!
- Wamukelekile!
- O amogelegile!

Immediately after being sworn in as the newly merged Department of Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, MEC Eric Kholwane subsequently took time to meet and greet all officials in their respective sections of work. See pictures



the new MEC staff members

- by Paul Mnisi



Know the new Members of the Executive Council



Premier:
Mr DD Mabuza (MPL)



**MEC for Finance,
Economic Development and Tourism:**
Mr Eric Kholwane (MPL)



**MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development,
Land and Environmental Affairs:**
Mr Andries Gamede (MPL)



**MEC for Community Safety,
Security and Liaison:**
Mr Vusi Shongwe (MPL)



**MEC for Cooperative Governance
and Traditional Affairs:**
Ms Refilwe Mtsweni (MPL)



MEC for Culture, Sport and Recreation:
Ms Norah Mahlangu (MPL)



MEC for Education:
Ms Reginah Mhaule (MPL)



MEC for Health:
Mr Gillion Mashego (MPL)



MEC for Human Settlement:
Ms Violet Siwela (MPL)



**MEC for Public Works,
Roads and Transport:**
Ms Dumisile Nhlengethwa (MPL)



MEC for Social Development:
Ms Nomsa Mtsweni (MPL)

Together we move Mpumalanga forward