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The 16 days of activism campaign launched

The MEC for Community Safety, Security and Liaison, Mr. Patrick Ngomane has launched the 16 Days of Activism for no violence against Women and Children at Zwelisha Primary School, next to Pienaar, Mbombela. The 16 Days of Activism for no violence against Women and Children is an international awareness raising campaign which takes place from the 25th of November to the 10th of December 2018. The period includes the Universal Children's Day and the World Aids Day. This year's theme for the campaign is: Hear me too. South Africa adopted the campaign in 1998 as one of the intervention strategies towards creating a society free of violence. The campaign continues to raise awareness amongst South Africans about the negative impact of violence against women and children. The other objectives of the campaign are to attract all South Africans to

be active participants in the fight to eradicate violence against women, to ensure mass mobilisation of all communities to promote collective responsibility, to emphasise that the solution lies with all and many more related objectives. During the launch, MEC Ngomane told the crowd that the Department of Community Safety, Security and Liaison is continuing to work hand in hand with government to ensure that the campaign becomes a success. He said that government is prepared to listen to everyone who talks or report on gender-based violence and also that government is ready for any form of intervention. Moreover, he encouraged silent female victims to talk about abuse and ensure that they seek help, talk to friends, relatives and to take a stand. He explained that violence can take many forms which include physical abuse, financial abuse, domestic violence, rape, assault, the abuse of the elderly, emotional violence and

even trauma. "Women are the mostly abused and they hide it for the sake of protecting relationships rather than their own lives and children, they also do it because their abusers are bread winners," he said. He also called upon men to be part of bring about a solution than to be part of the problem. "I am calling upon all men to lift up their hands and say not in my name," he added. He also emphasized that also those who see or witness women and children keep quiet are also guilty of perpetrating violence. "Let us all ensure that we report all incidents to the police before the situations aggravate," he commented. Ms Licky Thusi, Project Manager, Greater Rape Intervention Project (GRIP), Nelspruit, said that GRIP provides confidential trauma counselling and aids and support to help rape, sexual assault and domestic violence survivors.

"Our programmes operate hand in hand with government and we continue to have constant contact with survivors," she said. MEC Ngomane continued to say that government is prepared to support youth programmes, he said that these programmes removes them away from the streets and make them to have a better focus. "We will revive them because the future is in their hands. As young people, you need to sharpen your skills so that you can lead this country. You can become teachers, councillors, doctors, or any professional you want to become and be our future leaders," he said. School uniforms, sanitary towels, health assistive devices, agricultural starter packs were handed over to beneficiaries during the launch of the event. MEC Ngomane also handed over two houses to identified beneficiaries at Zwelisha, near Pienaar.



MEC Sasekani Manzini unveiled new state of the art Renee clinic

Residents of Emjindini trust, in Barberton are celebrating full range of primary health care services right on their doorstep thanks to the construction of the new Renee Clinic by Barberton Mines. Barberton Mines is a subsidiary of Pan African Resources (PLC) and consist of three mining sections, namely: Fairview Mine, New Consort Mine and Sheba Mine. On the 28th of September 2018, MEC for Health Ms. Sasekani Manzini, Mr Jan Thirion general manager Barberton mines and Chief KM Nkosi officially unveiled the R15 million worth state of the art new Renee clinic fully furnished. The project includes five consultation rooms, waiting room, pharmacy and other Ideal Clinic related requirements.

The project was preceded by extensive stakeholder engagement and is based on a public-private partnership featuring City of Mbombela, UMjindi Royal Kraal and Mpumalanga Department of Health. The project was led by Barberton Mines Transformation Trust (BMTT), which is a legal vehicle that was established by Barberton Mines to administer and implement all registered Social and Labour Plan projects. The BMTT has begun with their internal processes to construct a similar Clinic in the Township.

MEC Sasekani Manzini said "It is not the responsibility of government alone to improve or develop our country but the private sector and all of us here, the building of this Clinic has shown what

can be achieved when we work together".

I would like to appeal to all members of the community to ensure that we guard against any form of vandalism so that this clinic continues to provide health care service for the next generation" Said Jan Thirion Manager Barberton Mines.

Representing Barberton Mines Transformation Trust, Mr Martin Peters said "A clinic is the most vital service needed in any communities, I was happy when they inform me that this Clinic meet the requirements of an Ideal Clinic. I am hopeful that the service level of this Ideal Clinic will also meet the standard of an Ideal Clinic i.e. opening in time and not close until the last patient has been assisted".



MEC's Womens Health Dialogue 2018

The Government of South Africa declared the month of August Women's month in which the 9th of August is celebrating annually as Women's Day the Department of Health has made progress in ensuring that the female employees in the Mpumalanga Province are being prioritized in terms of appointment and also in the provision of service delivery. In celebrating women and also addressing challenges of they faced at work place, on the 29th of August 2018, at Church on Hill, the Employee Health and Wellness Programme in partnership with Old Mutual and GEMS organised the 2nd

MEC's Red Carpet Dialogue which was attended by more 2000 women from the Department of Health and other departments. The aim of the event was to boost the morale of women and address psychosocial and economic issues women employees are facing.

Women are experiencing various problems and challenges at home and in the workplace. The latter causes stress and unevenness in terms of work life balance. The Employee Health and Wellness Programme attends more and more to women who are experiencing bullying, sexual assaults, divorces, HIV/AIDS and other related challenges. This

leads to them being unproductive and very angry employees. Some of the topics touched on the day are: Women Parenting and family preservation (Single women parenting), Women and Violence (Dealing with emotional abuse), Women's Health (HIV/AIDS, Cancer, TB) and Women and Finance (Types of marriages and finance Investment). It is not by mistake that one of the biggest Department in the province is led politically and administratively by women. It is time that women take their rightful place in the society "Malibongwe igama lamakhosikazi".



2018 Ploughing Season kick-started

MEC VR Shongwe has called on every household to help fight hunger by using whatever size of piece of land available to plant vegetables. He made the call in Boschfontein in Nkomazi, where he officially kick-started the 2018 ploughing season, through his Phezukomkhono Mlimi programme. He symbolically ploughed using an ox-dragged hoe and later got onto a tractor, tilling the land. The MEC

and his entourage, who included Nkomazi Local Municipality Mayor Cllr Johan Mkhathswa, Inkosi Ndlemane II, members of the Legislature and local councillors, checked progress on the Maize Mill in eMagogeni, before donating Pyramids and seedling to a group of elderly women who own a small piece of land where they produce vegetables for subsistence purposes.

The Pyramids, an innovation aimed at rescuing

households that are without space for backyard gardens, are also Climate Change friendly, because you do not need too much water nor space for your produce. MEC Shongwe also donated Pyramids to a number of selected households, including seedlings and garden starter packs. Over 2500 people from Boschfontein and surrounding villages attended the event that was entertained by gospel sensation Kholeka, and local traditional groups.

Deciduous Fruits Development Chamber (DFDC) Summit

The Deciduous Fruits Development Chamber (DFDC) Summit was launched at Ingwenyama Conference Centre outside White River on Wednesday, 24 October 2018. Held under the Theme “Transforming the Deciduous Fruit Economy”, the Summit had presenters focusing mainly on ideas to transform the industry with an aim to make it inclusive of all the people of the country. Calls have been made for the transformation agenda to be speeded up and addressed. It was revealed that the industry is export-driven, with about 70% of South Africa’s fresh fruits being exported. MEC VR Shongwe for Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs called on the leveling of the playing field in the industry, saying previously disadvantaged people, women and the youth in particular, must be incorporated in the entire value chain. The successful launch was attended by a wide variety of stakeholders, including local deciduous fruit producers and some from as far as the Western Cape. The DFDC is looking at doubling the industry by 2050, regardless of challenges like the effects of Climate Change, pests, high production costs and high costs of fertilizers.





Mpumalanga is ready to conduct the 2018 matric exams

The MEC for Education, Mr. Sibusiso Malaza hosted a press conference to inform the people of Mpumalanga and the nation about the state of readiness for the conduct and management of the 2018 Grade 12 examinations. The province has registered 58 401 candidates to sit for the examinations in the four districts of the province. MEC Malaza expressed that the Mpumalanga Department of Education was ready to manage the 2018 Grade 12 Examination which starts on 22 October and ends on the 28 November 2018 in 555 examination centres, 40 of those are independent schools.

An encouraging development is that there is an increase in the number of candidates who have registered Mathematics as a subject in the examinations. To that effect 29 538 candidates were registered to write Mathematics in 2018 compared to 28 404 in 2017.

To mitigate for risks in these examinations, resident monitors will be placed in what is identified as high risk schools, while others will be managed by departmental officials. These monitors are meant to rotate on a weekly basis.

Coming from a successful risk management process over the years, the Department has managed an incident free examination process since 2009 and every effort will be made to sustain this trajectory. The risk management strategy will ensure strict

compliance on examination administration and management procedures to ensure that the integrity and credibility of this examination is not compromised with the improvement of security and transportation of question papers at the core of it. To curb learner transgression and the integrity of the examinations, all the 2018 NSC candidates were expected to sign the pledge of good conduct on 12 October 2018.

MEC Malaza also urged learners to use the remaining time to finalize preparations for the examination while pleading with parents to assist in motivating their children and to create a favorable environment for their children to study at home.

“The examination results are going to be announced on Friday, 04 January 2019 at KaMhlushwa Primary School in Nkomazi Local Municipality at 09H30. The Department is targeting to reach the 80% pass bracket and is requesting teachers and learners to use the remaining days to cover any lost ground,” said MEC Malaza.

Supplementary Examinations will be merged with the June Senior Certificate Examination from 2019 onwards. Restrictions for supplementary exams will no longer apply but candidates must have written the end-of-the-year examination. This will allow candidates to have more time to prepare for exams and curb the high rate of absenteeism.

Candidates who failed the 2018 NSC Examination will

be accorded an opportunity to register to write in June 2019. In the event that a candidate does not make it in June 2019 another opportunity will be made available for that candidate to write in October/November 2019.

Applications for bursaries for 2019

The Department is encouraging the grade 12 learners and the youth in the Province to apply for financial assistance for the 2019 academic year before 30 October 2018.

Application forms have already been circulated to all secondary schools and district education offices.

Prospective students are required to:

- Apply for a field of study as advertised which is driven by Provincial Human Resources Development Strategy priorities.
- Submit outstanding Grade 12 results and university results for those already in various institutions.
- Learners/students with disabilities and those with albinism, who meet the requirements for university admission, automatically qualify for bursaries for fields of study of their choice.
- For international bursaries, applicants will be subjected to medical and psychometric tests. They will also be subjected to compulsory interviews.
- For more information, contact the Department at: (013)766 5380/5243/5370.

Message from the MEC for Education to the Class of 2018

I wish you the very best for the upcoming matric examinations.

All your years of learning have been a gradual build up to this point.

The National Senior Certificate examinations are the symbolic climax of the hard work that goes into fashioning a finished product from all the preceding years.

The Department and our beloved teachers have put in all the work and took all the necessary care in difficult conditions to best prepare each of the candidates for their final grade 12 NSC Examination.

The onus is now on you, learners, to summon all your knowledge, skills, aptitudes and preparations to aid you to ace the matric exams.

Those morning, weekend, afternoon, winter and spring classes will place you in good stead for the upcoming exams. All that learning and teaching must now come to the fore to see you through.

I want to make an appeal to your teachers and parents to continue to support you to ensure that the conditions for preparation and study are conducive. Please use the remaining time wisely to strengthen any areas of weakness as well as to go through revisions.

We believe in you and are hopeful that you are going to make this one of the province's best years in terms of matric pass rates. We have all worked very hard to support you in every way possible to help you to improve on the results of the class of 2018.

What is more encouraging is that you are writing this examination during a year where the people of the country and the entire world are celebrating the lives, legacy and centenary of the late founding father of our democracy, Mr. Nelson Rolihlahla Mandela and Mama Albertina Sisulu.

Courage and foresight must propel you to go an extra mile in the quest to reach the highest success.

Once more, good luck to all candidates who will be sitting for the Grade 12 exams from 22 October 2018.

Give it your absolute best and make your mark. Your future studies and career prospects depend on a good matric pass.

There are endless possibilities awaiting those hardworking learners with outstanding matric results.

We urge families, schools and communities to ensure that our learners are given all the support they need.

We urge everyone to ensure there are no disruptions during this all important point in the lives of our future leaders.

We will keep you in our prayers and we will be behind you as you prepare for your 2018 examinations.

Ngiyabonga.
MR. SIBUSISO MALAZA
MEC FOR EDUCATION

Accelerating actions for a poverty free Mpumalanga



as part of observing this day and service delivery programme undertaken build-up activities prior to the commemoration of the day in various parts of the province.

The MEC for the Department of Social Development Ms. Busisiwe Shiba and her delegates visited Nkomazi Local Municipality on 19 October 2018 at Kamaqhekeza. The day kicked started with a Human Rights Walk from Nkomazi Plaza to Tholulwazi Community Nutrition and Development Centre (CNDC) and was led by the MEC accompanied by different stakeholders of the Department.

The build-up activities that took place around Mpumalanga a week before the event was lead by the Department National Department of Social Development, stakeholders and other departments wherein all CNDCs around the province were visited. The aim was to provide advise on how to make the Centre's more effective. The CNDCs were also presented with gifts and such as aprons to mention but one, that will be used when preparing and presenting cooking services at the Centres.

The event was also aimed at teaching people what to do in order to sustain themselves and put bread on the table for their families.

Messages of support were given by various speakers who encouraged communities to live a hunger free life and tips and teaching on how to do such. Parallel with the theme "Building a Society of Universal Respect for

Human Rights and Dignity" ten identified households received donations in the form of short term social relief . Another Four families received working tools respectively that will ensure food security in their homes; these tools include a Jojo tank for garden irrigation purposes, industrial sewing machines were donated to two families who run a sewing business and salon equipment were donated to a small local business.

Moreover, leaners from different schools received bursaries so they can further their studies and have a better future. A total of 12 gardening pyramids and 168 bags of potting soil were distributed to the 10 identified households and Tholulwazi CNDC. Each household received 1 pyramid and 14 bags of potting soil and the CNDC received 2 gardening pyramids and 28 bags of potting soil.

A representative from Tholulwazi CNDC gave a testimony that the Centre serves as a home to many local community members who receive a daily meal, clothes and school uniform are also given to the needy as and when there's a need. Ms. Portia Silinda a local community member had a mouthful to say about what the Centre does and had done for her since she was at her primary school years, the Centre was there for her "I always knew I will have food every day and at the beginning of each year we would get school uniform. I have completed my matric now because of the services that the Centre provides" , said Ms. Silinda.

The International Day for the Eradication of Poverty is observed as per the resolution 47/196 of the United Nations General Assembly. This day is observed aiming to promote awareness of the need to fight poverty and destitution in all countries. The department has



National active ageing programme

A mechanism to elevating activities of older persons to a higher level Sixty years and above aged older persons from around all provinces are a living proof that age is nothing but a number as they took over Petrus Molemela Stadium in Free State during the 2018 active ageing sporting activities targeting older persons

They are 60 years and above but can run two times faster than a 36-year-old. Proving that age is just a number, older persons from across the country gathered together in celebrating a healthy life style. These aging with grace souls participated in various sporting codes in the National Golden Games which took place in Free State, Bloemfontein (Dr. Rantlai Petrus Molemela Stadium) from 22 October 2018 to 26 October 2018.

This was a week-long event packed with blissful activities, apart from the games there were other administrative and entertaining sittings such as Annual General Meeting (AGM) which took place on the first day, Diverse Culture Choir Festival on the second day and Older Persons Parliament on the last day. New members for South Africa Older Persons Forum (SAOPF) were also elected in the AGM and these are; Daniel Mhothole (Chairperson) from Free State, Mapule Phokompe (Deputy Chairperson) from North West, Mildred Nhlapho (Secretary) from Mpumalanga, Jurry Harris (Deputy Secretary) from Eastern Cape and Kedisalethe Mafube as Treasure from Gauteng. Golden games, it's an active aging campaign that covers over 17 sporting codes, done yearly and rotates in all provinces. This year Free

State Province was hosting and the games were officially opened on Wednesday and the oath of the games was read by all participating provinces. It was highlighted that these games are not for competition but for helping elderly people to live a healthy lifestyle as they grow older.

The week ended with a Parliament session for Senior Citizens on Friday 26 October 2018, where elderly people raised issues affecting them from their respective communities across the country. The Minister for Social Development Ms. Suzan Shabangu acknowledged the fact that there are transitioning challenges as far as payment of grants is concerned, moving from SASSA to the Post Office, however she guaranteed that going forth all recipients of grants in South African, will receive their money on time

Local electrical students equipped through rural project



The Department of Human Settlements has together with Tazi Investments adopted sixteen Electrical Engineering undergraduates to help fortify their skills through practical work at various building projects carried out by the Department in the Province. The students, who are currently in their second term of study with the Forek Institute of Technology, are involved in a 48 units project in Malekutu, City of Mbombela Local Municipality, where they have since

proven to have the ability to complete installation of electricity at a minimum rate of four houses a day. The Institute's Thamsanqa Masombuka affirmed that this was not the first project they worked on and they are committed to continue doing well to gain recognition which will afford the students with more exposure: "Their electrical skills are good. They follow the plan provided to them by the contractor and then start with their installations," explained Masombuka who mentioned that their goal as an institution is to

groom quality artisans across the country to ensure that they acquire the necessary skills needed to benefit both private and public sectors in the field of electrical engineering.

The Department has appointed Tazi Investment to construct 108 units in the municipal jurisdiction of which 48 are in Malekutu. Speaking of their involvement and impact, Tazi Investment Director Mr Sizwe Taitai said that they are gratified with their decision to capacitate local people with the required skills. He said, "These opportunities will help them improve their chances of getting a job when they complete their studies. We can only hope that everyone, particularly our fellow business people can adopt the culture of helping one another and transfer skills to the young and aspiring businesspersons."

The Department has committed to deliver a total of 8 266 units and 2 720 sites during the 2018/19 financial year. However, MEC Norah Mahlangu stressed that the delivery of Human Settlements depends entirely on the availability of bulk infrastructure. She however, asserted that the Department will implement the approved Social Enterprise Model maximise the involvement of communities by empowering them and to create employment.

"As directed by the Executive Council, 2018/2019 will see the Social Enterprise Development Programme being implemented throughout the Province as opposed to just the seven pilot local municipalities, as was the case in the previous financial year," she said.



Three hundred houses inject hope in Silobela

The government machinery of creating sustainable human settlements in the country in general and the province in particular is moving at a steady pace. One such good example is a human settlement project that was concluded at Silobela, a township just outside a small town of Carolina, Chief Albert Luthuli Local Municipality. Good quality, multi-colored housing project stretch towards the direction of Ermelo.

The Department appointed Delu Trading for the construction of 300 housing units at Silobela during the 2017/18 financial year. The move was fruitful because the contractor successfully completed the project within a space of four months after being awarded the building contract. The houses were constructed in a community, which comprised old structures, some which were made out of mud and sticks. In a joint effort of the municipality and the Department, Delu Trading went an extra mile to build three more houses beyond its scope and used its own funds provide shelter to beneficiaries that were in need. The Malaza family comprising 8 orphaned siblings under the care of Ms Mirriam Malaza (29), Mr Macaleni Mkhonza (54) who used to live in a shack and the Nkosi family that comprises 13 members who used to stay in a cramped one-roomed mud house.

Ms Thembi Nkosi (22), being the elder of her siblings, took charge of the household after their parents passed away. The family was in dire need of a proper house, spacious enough to shelter them but was unable to build one due to lack of employment opportunities. "The new house has brought relief to my family given the unbearable living conditions that we used to find ourselves in. We now have a

place we could proudly call home and for that we are grateful". Ms Nkosi.

The project has made a serious impact on the lives of ordinary citizens at Silobela by doing away with unstable shelters that were inhabitable and unsafe. This is one of the ways in which government continues to improve the lives of deserving beneficiaries across the province using various delivery programmes rendered by the Department

