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Mpumalanga Premier David Mabuza with the beneficiaries, representatives from Standard Bank and councillor Makhathini at Amsterdam, Mkhondo Local Municipality.

Premier Mabuza commits to build 13 houses at Mkhondo and Dr JS Moroka Local Municipalities

Mpumalanga Premier David Mabuza committed to build 13 houses for indigent families including elderly persons, child headed families and persons with disabilities during his visits to Mkhondo and Dr JS Moroka local municipalities this month. His commitment to build the 13 houses is part of the Premiers Housing Legacy Project in partnership with Standard Bank. Standard Bank has committed to build the

houses that will include, two bedrooms, a kitchen, a living room and a bathroom. Premier Mabuza further committed to build special four bedroom houses according to the needs of those families. The Premiers Housing Legacy Project is a personal initiative by Premier Mabuza who is passionate about improving the lives and the future of those in need. He mobilises the private sector and individuals and make sure that the donated resources reach destitute persons such as the elderly, persons with

disability, needy mothers and children identified by local councillors in the municipal areas to benefit from the project. To date, many families in the province have benefitted from this initiative. Standard Bank's Lindiwe Magagula, who is a Senior Manager for Business Banking, said that the bank was very proud to be part of Premier Mabuza's Housing Legacy Project. **(Cont. 2)**

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Mpumalanga Premier David Mabuza with the community members of Amsterdam, Mkhondo Local Municipality

“As a corporate company with social responsibility, we agreed to partner with the Premiers Housing Legacy Project. “It feels very good to make a difference in people’s lives, especially because as a Bank, we also benefit from these communities. There is still a lot more work that has to be done,” Magagula commented. Not only did Premier Mabuza commit to build houses for the beneficiaries in these municipalities, but also further committed to give bursaries to learners from these families so that they can finish their matric and also further their studies at tertiary level. He further committed to buy artificial limbs, wheelchairs, school uniform and groceries for the identified beneficiaries. Ms Mamnguni, a beneficiary who has amputated legs, requested Premier Mabuza to buy her proper legs to make life easy. She has been longing for a long time to see Premier Mabuza, “I thank God that I managed to see you eye

to eye. From today, I am a happy woman, may you also continue to do good unto others and may God continue to bless you,” she said. During his visit, business people from the local areas also committed to donate furniture, groceries, wheelchairs and other needs for the families. After visiting families at both Mkhondo and Dr JS Moroka Municipalities, Premier Mabuza also met with the community members. He acknowledged to residents in both municipalities that we were still faced with the triple challenge of poverty, unemployment and inequalities. He further urged them to continue putting the ANC led government forward who will continue changing their lives and addressing their needs. Meanwhile Dr JS Moroka, residents highlighted that they were faced with a challenge of water shortage. Premier Mabuza promised to resolve the matter as soon as possible.

“I am not happy with the living conditions in this area, you do not have water and you need water to survive in your everyday lives. I will ensure that government treats this matter with urgency,” he said. Due to the high rate of unemployment, Premier Mabuza suggested to residents of Mkhondo and Dr JS Moroka Municipalities that they should initiate self reliant projects such as farming with cows, projects that will assist them in generating their own income. He promised to return and support them by donating two cows and farming tools to family units in order for them to improve their lives. “You can do business with meat, develop your client base and employ yourselves. I will bring tractors and seeds for planting vegetables that you can also sell, let everyone begin to work and create opportunities for themselves,” Premier Mabuza concluded.

Legend Ray Phiri accorded a Special Provincial Official Funeral



The South African Police Service saluting the late Ray Phiri during his funeral at the Mbombela stadium.

The Mpumalanga Provincial Government accorded the late internationally renowned legend and artist Ray Chikapa Phiri with a Special Provincial Official Funeral and was laid to rest at the Heroes’ Acre in Mbombela, Mpumalanga. The late Phiri, passed on at the age of seventy (70) in a hospital in Mbombela.

The Special Provincial Official Funeral of the late Phiri was presided over by the South African Police Service. During the funeral, different speakers including musicians, actors, politicians, paid a tribute to the late legend, who mostly described the late legend as an artist, philosopher and a struggle stalwart. Arts and Culture Minister Nathi Mthethwa said that

the late Jazz legend demonstrated to the whole world that local talent can fit on the global stage. “Phiri strived to change the world, he did not allow the world to change him. He lived his time to the fullest, and that he lived honestly and infringing, he was true to the place and the people, that bettered him true to those who courted him, and taught him everything he knew. He grew up with music surrounding him.” Minister Mthethwa said. His son Akhona, described how well determined his father was. “Should you ever read his paper before him, he would basically tell you that look, go buy another one, I do not read old news”. While an internationally renowned poet Don Mattera described him as a brainy person. “Everyone spoke about him, but I have never heard them mentioning the word, genius, and that is how he was, he was a very intelligent man” Mattera said. His friend and a musician Siphon “Hot Sticks” Mabuse said Phiri’s work will be celebrated by generations to come. “Your exorbitant laughter be light not pain, as explained in all the songs you wrote, where did we go wrong, why we could have not felt the fire, and pain I will not manufacture the truth, did we not hear you, did we not heed the call, of high land drifter,” Mabuse commented. Other people who came to pay their last respect included the speaker of the parliament, Ms Baleka Mbete, former Mpumalanga Province Premier, Thabang Makwetla, Former MEC Pinky Phosa, and some artists such as Babsy Mlangeni, Dolly Rathebe, the Black Mambazo, Mercy Phakela, Duma Ka Ndlovu, Pastor of the Church on the Hill, Lephoko and many many more.



Mashego donated 2 500 sanitary towels and school shoes to 67 learners.



MEC Mashego donates school shoes and sanitary towels to learners of Sabie education circuit

As part of celebrating Mandela Day, Mpumalanga Department of Health in partnership with Graskop Parliamentary constituency office under the leadership of the MEC for Health Mr Gillion Mashego hosted a “Career Expo”. The expo was held at Matibidi Cultural Centre in Thaba Chweu Municipality on towards the end of July under a theme: “Bringing the University to a Poor Child”. The aim of the event is primarily was to create an opportunity for poor children to interact with

different universities face to face, where proper career guidance is provided and further ensures early application at the universities or Further Education and Training. Learners from Sabie circuit were supported by their educators and principals were excited to get information about application to higher learning education on their door step. The MEC donated 2500 sanitary towels and school shoes to 67 learners at the department’s career expo. The MEC Mashego also committed that 317 girls will receive free sanitary towels until December 2017 and pledged to donate cash to the

nine schools of Sabie education circuit.

Addressing the Career Expo MEC Mashego said: “I know that when schools closes on 29 September, the matric learners will go on camp for their extra classes. For each of the nine schools in the circuit I will donate R5 000 towards these camps. I will further pay for a full year tuition fee at an institution of higher learning to one learner who will get distinctions in all subjects in the circuit,” Mashego. Meanwhile it was also announced that Career Expo will be conducted on annual basis.



Dr G Vilakazi-Nhlapo addressing community members of Bushbuckridge.

World Hepatitis Day used to educate people more about the deadly disease

The Mpumalanga Department of Health on the 28th July 2017 joined the world in commemorating the World Hepatitis Day. This year’s commemoration was held at Arthurseat sports grounds in Bushbuckridge. This was done in order to raise awareness about this liver disease. The commemoration was under the theme “Prevent Hepatitis and stop Hepatitis. The event was also attended by Dr. N. Prabdial-sing (National Institute for Communicable Diseases) NICD, Dr G Vilakazi- Nhlapo from The National Department Health, Prof.W. Spearman and Prof.M.Sonderup both from the University of Cape Town (Technical Working Group on Viral hepatitis), Mrs Dudu Mdluli Acting Chief Director

Primary Health Care and Mr Mandla Zwane Deputy Director Communicable Diseases in the Mpumalanga Department of Health. Hepatitis is an inflammation of liver due to a viral infection. It can be caused by a several types of viruses that ultimately cause viral hepatitis. There are 5 main hepatitis which are type A, B, C, D and E. Health Practitioners used the event to highlight the dangers of this virus and that treatment is available at government health facilities. Dr. N Prabdial-sing (National Institute for Communicable Diseases) NICD said “Hepatitis can be caused by toxic substances (e.g. alcohol, certain drugs) and autoimmune diseases can also cause hepatitis. Hapatitis A and E are caused by ingestion of contaminated food or water or content with infected

body fluids.

Hapatitis B,C and D mostly caused by infected body fluids such as semen, saliva and blood and for hepatitis B transmission from mother to body at birth from family member to child, and also by sexual contact.

The symptoms of this deadly virus “a person with Hepatitis can be identified by the yellowing of the skin and eyes (jaundice), dark urine, nausea, vomiting and abdominal pain. To prevent Hepatitis people should wear surgical gloves when in contact with blood and other body fluids, use protection during sexual intercourse and Boil water before drinking,” she concluded.

Delmas SMME owners receive funding from NYDA

On the 9th of June 2017, NYDA partnered with other stakeholders in the official launching of the NYDA office in Botleng. The official opening was part of the 2017 National Youth Month calendar celebrated under the theme “The Year of OR Tambo: Advancing Youth Economic Empowerment”. Through the establishment of local youth offices, the NYDA extends its footprint and reach beyond the existing 15 NYDA branches and more than 200 local youth offices nationwide.

During the event the identified SMME beneficiaries, ranging from laundry, recycling, catering and others, received grants in a form of cheques to establish and further develop their small businesses others received certificates for completing short courses in business plan processes.

The Executive Chairperson of the NYDA, Sifiso Mtsweni delivered the keynote address alongside the Executive Mayor of Victor Khanye Local Municipality, Cllr Eva Makhabane who was absent but represented by Councillor Yeko. The event was supported by representatives from Department of Agriculture Rural Development Land Administration and Environment, Independent Electoral Commission, NYDA, South African Youth Council, EXXARO and other community based organizations. EXXARO, a mining company in the area availed themselves for partnership with interested stakeholders in working together towards improving the lives of young people in the area.



SMME beneficiaries, ranging from laundry, recycling, catering and others, received grants in a form of cheques to establish and further develop their small businesses.



Emalahleni Correctional centre celebrated youth month with 200 youth offenders.

Entrepreneurial opportunities for Nkangala Correctional Centre

Witbank Correctional centre celebrated youth month with 200 youth offenders. NYDA, GCIS and other stakeholders joined together to bring hope to the Youth in conflict with law (offenders). The programme started in 2015 after realising that the ex-offenders are not getting much support when they are released from correctional centres after serving their sentences. It was noticed that most of them regress and end up committing crime again as they feel that communities are not welcoming them. In celebrating 41 anniversary of youth month NYDA saw the need to train the offenders in Entrepreneur Development programme (EDP) while they

are serving their sentences at Correctional services to prepared them with entrepreneurial skills so that when they released they can also apply for grants from NYDA to start their own businesses Ex-offenders who are now NYDA ambassadors were also part of the event to share of their successes from the skills they acquired when they were still at the correctional centre. NYDA handed over the grant which they applied for to enhance their business. Ms Jabulile Mkhwanazii, NYDA branch manager said “We don’t have much as NYDA but we felt that we have to give the ex-offenders their Grant cheque here in front of you so that you know that there is life after jail”.

Mr Nkabinde from Correctional services encour-

aged the society that rehabilitation, correctional services is a societal responsibility and community must not discriminate the offenders when they are released, he also encouraged offenders to participate more on the skills that the DOC provides, e.g. mechanical, plumbing, carpentry and many more, so that when offenders are released they can able to work on their own. Media houses were also present to cover the event. Mr Croswell Libazi from EYASA Youth centre thanked the stakeholders and media houses and encouraged them to do more to change the life of young South African and also encourage the offenders to have Respect, Discipline and Perseverance (RDP) so that they will be able to rehabilitate.



MEC VR Shongwe addressing emerging farmers and youth during the branding and tattooing of livestock.

Farmers should assist in curbing livestock- MEC Shongwe

Mpumalanga MEC for Agriculture, Rural Development, Land and Environmental Affairs, Vusi Shongwe has encouraged livestock farmers to curb livestock theft. MEC Shongwe was speaking during one of the Nelson Mandela activities that were held at Paardekraal Farmers Coop in Perdekop, in the Dr Pixley ka-Isaka Seme Local Municipality recently. The MEC led a team from that was there to do among others dehorning of calves, hoof trimming, tattooing, ear tagging and hot iron branding. Livestock that was branded on the day include cattle, goats and sheep. “As a Department we condemn stock theft because it robs many communities of their livelihoods. We are aware that most people especially in farming areas rely on livestock farming for their livelihoods. Communities should play their part in addressing,” the MEC said. The MEC went on to say that positive identification of livestock will assist in the investigation of livestock theft cases. He explained that it will be easy to

identify stolen livestock thereby bringing perpetrators bringing livestock thieves to book. “These permanent markings will ensure the positive identification of your livestock, and help in bringing perpetrators of stock theft to book. Every farmer should do this to their livestock”, said MEC Shongwe. On the other hand MEC Shongwe called on the farmers to inculcate a culture of livestock farming in their children and the youth so that when they grow older the next generation takes over from them. The farm Paardekraal is a communal property, measuring 600ha, of which 70ha is arable land and 530ha is for grazing. It was given to the Perdekop community in 2007 by the local municipality. This was done in order to alleviate poverty and create job opportunities through agricultural activities. MEC Shongwe has further called on DARDLA officials to fastrack developments around the farm. The MEC complained about the state of affairs in the farm especially assistance given to the farm residents. The MEC said further noted that the access road

was not in a good state. He pointed out at the lack of fence around the boundary of the farm saying that the situation exacerbates overgrazing. Another matter, the MEC observed was the non-fencing of the dam and how it endangers children’s lives on the farm. MEC Shongwe appealed to farmers to stop waiting for handouts. He insisted: “You must come to the party; you must help government in its efforts to help you.” The Chairperson of the Paardekraal Project, Mr Simon Mazibuko acknowledged that amid all the challenges faced, there is a noticeable role played by the DARDLEA officials through extension and advisory services. Mazibuko also bemoaned overgrazing on the farm, saying the number of cattle keeps growing. The MEC called on the DARDLEA officials to work with their Rural Development and Land Reform counterparts, and the local municipality to come up with a tangible plan that will help improve the situation at the project and develop the farm.

Moving Violation Recorders to enhance road safety in Mpumalanga

In line with the pronouncement by Community Safety, Security and Liaison MEC Pat Ngomane during the Policy and Budget Speech presentation earlier this year, the department has completed equipping nine of its vehicles with Moving Violation Recorders (MVRs). The MVRs enable law enforcement officers to record moving traffic violations such as dangerous overtaking, reckless and negligent driving, excessive speeding or any other violations that are normally recorded by a camera while patrolling. MVR fitted vehicles are also able to assist with bringing drinking and driving suspects to book by recording any suspicious movement of a vehicle. The law enforcers will be able to stop the vehicle concerned and investigate if its driver is not under any influence and accordingly bring the suspect to book. MEC Ngomane has welcomed the development saying since the beginning of the year numerous high profile cases of excessive speeding were successfully concluded as a result of MVRs. The successes were recorded in various areas along the N4 Toll Road in Nkangala and Ehlanzeni regions. “This project will further boast gains that are also being achieved by ordinary law enforcement activities done by traffic officers. We have already seen results with the three vehicles that are already operational in both Ehlanzeni and Nkangala regions. With the addition of more MVR fitted vehicles, the scope of roads to be covered will increase and more impact on road safety will be made,” Ngomane said. He also mentioned that vehicles are part of many efforts to address road crashes that take many people’s lives. Ngomane insisted that other normal road safety education campaigns such as road shows and law enforcement activities will be intensified by the department. The nine vehicles will be operational throughout the province, deployed to work on routes that statistics indicate that are problematic routes.



Moving Violations Recorders (MVRs) as fitted in some of the traffic law enforcement vehicles.

Scholar transport changes the lives of learners



One of more than 60 000 learners who are benefiting daily from Scholar Transport programme.

Since the inception of a democratic government system, a plethora of legislation and policies have been introduced to redress the injustices of the past and most importantly to restore human dignity as a foundation for an equal and cohesive society. Education has always been at the apex of Government's priorities as one of the most critical tools to address socio-economic challenges facing the Country. However, access to the wealth of wisdom is still a challenge in most parts of the country including the province. As a result, the Mpumalanga Provincial Government introduced the Scholar Transport programme spearheaded by the Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport in order to improve access to education. To date, the Department is transporting more than 60 119 learners across the Province on daily basis who reside more than five kilometres from the nearest school. The policy framework is that all learners who travel more than five (5) kilometres to the nearest school, should be provided with a free transport in order to lessen the burden and negative effects of walking long distances. If a

new school is built within the radius of beneficiaries' residence, the service is then discontinued in order to create room for other learners.

The Scholar Transport programme is only a temporary intervention of ensuring easy access to the doors of learning. The permanent solution is also within the core mandate of the Department which is the provision of public infrastructure such as schools and libraries to cater for all learners within close proximity of their residence since education can never be postponed to another day.

Public Works, Roads and Transport MEC Sasekani Manzini echoed this sentiment during her Policy and Budget Speech presentation when she said: "Mpumalanga is characterised by spatial patterns which force many learners across the province to travel long distances to school every day. The caring ANC led government introduced a system to ferry these learners to and from school, especially those who reside outside a 5km radius from their schools. This mammoth and important task was then given to our Department to carry out and I can safely confirm that in the recent past we have done it well albeit some challenges."



MEC Kholwane celebrating with the elderly after giving them blankets as part of his Mandela Day projects.

MEC Kholwane celebrates Mandela Day with the elderly

About hundred elderly people from Coromandel farm outside Mashishing in the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality received blankets and cosmetics bags from the MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism, Mr Sikhumbuzo Kholwane. The activity was part of Mandela month celebrations taking place throughout the province. The programme started at Enjabulweni Day Care Centre where MEC Kholwane donated electrical appliances and a DVD player that were requested by the centre. The MEC later engaged the elderly people about issues affecting them on daily basis at speaking at the same event, MEC Kholwane said the government values the contribution made by senior citizens in

liberating the country, and committed that the state will always be on their side. "Government will continue supporting you (senior citizens) by ensuring that the pensions are paid on time, adjusted annually taking into consideration your roles and responsibilities in the society and your families," said the MEC. Meanwhile, MEC denounced the ongoing of abuse of elderly people by children and those close to them who take advantage of their love and vulnerability by stealing their grants, and abusing them physically and emotionally. He urged the community and the leaders to report any form of abuse of the elderly to the social workers and law enforcement agencies. MEC Kholwane also pointed out that civil society has

a huge role to play in ensuring that senior citizens that benefit from government projects such as RDP houses and all deserving citizens receive their pension grants as well as access free basic services such as water and electricity.

MEC's sentiments were echoed by Member of Parliament, Ms Freda Nkadimeng who urged community members to show constant love and appreciation to the senior citizens by supporting them in their moments of need.

The event was coordinated by the Lydenburg constituency office, in partnership with the Thaba Chweu Local Municipality, Mpumalanga Gambling Board and the office of the MEC for Finance, Economic Development and Tourism.

Superior subsidised houses for military veterans



MEC Mashilo cutting a ribbon accompanied by Head of Human Settlements, Mr Kebone Masange during the official hand-over of Mr Zimu's house.

South Africa has become a better place to live in since the attainment of freedom which ushered democracy. This is thanks to the many struggles, sacrifices, and resilience of valiant men and women who fought to achieve the hard earned freedom. Of these courageous heroes are the Military Veterans who also played a pivotal role and participated immensely in the fight for freedom.

Two decades later, it appears that some of these freedom fighters face the possibility of living in appalling conditions without proper shelter. To circumvent this disgraceful possibility, the Department of Human Settlements in its new broadened mandate has taken a conscious step as part of government's efforts to deliver sustainable

integrated human settlements to the needy including the Military Veterans.

Working in conjunction with the Department of Military Veterans (DMV), the Department has prioritised to deliver houses for military veterans across the province. These projects which are upgraded low cost houses, are between 50 and 60 square meters with a total value not exceeding R 188 884.00 whereby the DMV will contribute an amount of R 78 884 for the subsidy per military veteran or household.

In order for a beneficiary to be eligible for a house, they should be a military veteran with a force number, registered on the DMV database, earn an annual gross income less or equal to R 125 000, and not have benefited a housing subsidy previously. During the

official launch of this programme last year in Cape Town, Minister of Human Settlements Ms Lindiwe Sisulu affirmed that all provincial governments will be prioritised for the provision of houses for military veterans.

"Housing delivery for military veterans is one of government's priorities. Military veterans played a central role in pushing the apartheid government to start negotiating with the ANC. We owe our freedom to them; it is my mission to ensure that in this financial year all military veterans have houses, decent houses fit for the sacrifices they have made for us as a nation," confirmed Minister Sisulu.

MEC for Human Settlements Mr. Speed Mashilo recently rolled out this programme throughout the province where there are a number of military veterans in need. He reiterated Sisulu's remarks that this feat by the Department is a token to show and provide decent shelter for all veterans that were previously involved in the struggle towards the liberation of the country. A befitting decent project which delivered a total of 21 newly build houses was realized at Siyanqoba Integrated Human Settlements Project at eMalahleni Local Municipality.

One of the beneficiaries was Mr. Lastborn Zimu (49) who has been staying in a shack for a long time expressed his joy and said, "Life was very difficult staying in a one-room with my kids. I am grateful to our government for reaching out to us and for building me and my family such a wonderful house. This makes me proud for showing me that you have not forgotten our contributions to this country, I thank you." The Department has committed to build 78 of these houses this financial year and have so far completed 37 of them, including the ones at eMalahleni.

Young people equipped for the construction industry

No matter how trendy and impressive the youth's social fabric might have become and how secure and stable they might feel under the new dispensation - unemployment, poverty, public unrests and the call for adequate education amongst the youth continue to be their thorny daily challenges. These contemporary challenges facing the youth are not a mythical denomination or some journalistic flourishes; rather they are the vociferous voices of a vast section of the society that seeks transformation in order to evade suffering an all-round erosion and wreckage of their dreams and goals.

In a bid to ensuring that most of these precious young lives get the desired transformation to pursue their dreams with confidence, the Department of Human Settlements in Mpumalanga is moving with steam with the Youth Brigade Programme aimed at capacitating the youth in the province with construction skills and assist them craft a better way in the industry to beat unemployment, distress and inequality, among others.

The programme which is in collaboration with the National Home Builders Regulation Council (NHBRC) is aimed at motivating young people to take advantage of opportunities in the built industry and assist them to gain work-related skills which will sustain them economically. The programme caters for unemployed out of school youth between the ages of 18 to 35.

To date, the Department has been able to train a minimum of 400 youths in the province since the



A group of learners who have successfully completed their training programme and ready for the outside world at the ceremony held at Nkangala District Municipal Offices.

inception in 2015. Of the previous selection, the province has seen participants from Bushbuckridge and Nkomazi receiving their accolades for completing the programme. These learners undergone training in the previous financial year and are now construction professionals who are ready to go out there and build proper houses for the nation. They will either start their own companies or get employment in companies within the built industry.

During the recent graduation and dialogue session, MEC Speed Mashilo made emphasis on the Social Enterprise Development Model and said, "The government is ready to assist the youth since it has adopted the Social Enterprise Development Model, where it encourages communities to form Community

Cooperatives and SMMEs. The cooperatives and SMMEs will have to produce construction material and supply to construction companies who have human settlements projects. Human Settlements has a collateral agreement with Standard Bank, the surety is to a total of R500 Million to fund the youth with machine to produce supplies."

The ceremony was used to celebrate the accomplishments of the current participants in the programme. MEC Speed Mashilo reminded the graduates of the importance of the programme and that they must take it seriously in order to improve their lives. "The government is doing whatever it takes to assist you. Be willing to participate so that tomorrow you can become the one to change the world by creating more opportunities to help others," he said.

The Department has set aside a budget of R1,5 million to train the next batch of learners. The learners have been recruited from eMalahleni, Thembisile Hani, Lekwa, City of Mbombela, Dr Pixley Ka Isaka Seme, Govan Mbeki and Steve Tshwete Local Municipalities. These learners are currently in class for theory training undertaken by NHBRC and will later do practical training on human settlements projects rolled out in their respective municipalities. The training is an NQF level 03 with modules such as bricklaying, plastering, roofing and plumbing, amongst others and will run for twelve months. The Department has so far transferred nearly R1 million to NHBRC for the learners' stipends.



Inkhosi Sandile Ngomane and Ikosi Cecil Mahlangu will now serve as Chairperson and Deputy Chairperson of the Mpumalanga House of Traditional Leaders respectively for five years.

New office bearers for MPHTL elected

Inkhosi Sandile Ngomane has been elected as a new chairperson of the Mpumalanga House of Traditional Leaders taking over from Kgoshi Lameck Mokoena. This happened during the recent election of new office bearers that took place at the Mpumalanga Provincial Legislature. Ikosi Cecil Mahlangu was appointed as his deputy along with other members who are will serve the house for five years. MEC for Co-operative Governance and Traditional Affairs (COGTA), Ms. Refilwe Mtshweni said that she believed the new leadership will strengthen the partnership between the provincial government

and the institution of traditional leadership in Mpumalanga. The MEC said working together between government and traditional institutions will assist to improve the lives of communities in tribal areas. "Communities in tribal areas bear the brunt of unfavourable economic conditions. As we pursue efforts to improve their lives and the delivery of basic services, traditional leaders are a crucial lever for these efforts to produce the desired results. We look forward to the new executive in this term to advance the gains made by the previous executive," Ms Mtshweni said.

Ms Mtshweni commended the role of the previous executive members led by the former Chairperson, Kgoshi Lameck Mokoena for strengthening the role of traditional leaders in the promotion of cultural practices and working closely with government in the implementation of developmental projects for tribal communities.

Members of the new executive are:

1. Inkhosi Sandile Ngomane (Chairperson).
2. Ikosi Cecil Mahlangu (Deputy Chairperson).
3. Kgosikgadi Anastacia Mohlala.
4. Ikosi William Mahlangu
5. Inkhosi Bheki Mnisi.

Over 100 learners enrolled for internships at Public Works

The Department of Public Works, Roads and Transport has recently placed 120 young graduates on a 12 months internship programme. The interns will be placed in various sections in the department to equip them with relevant experience and give them practical experience in the chosen fields of study.

The recruitment is part of government's efforts to push back the frontiers of poverty, unemployment and inequality which continue to affect many young people. The recruitment of these young graduates is part of MEC Manzini's undertaking during her Policy and Budget Speech presentation in May 2017, that young people will be prioritised for empowerment.

"While we have a responsibility towards our workforce, we also have a broader responsibility to build the skills and professional ethos required by the public service. We are at an advanced stage in our endeavour



Some of the 120 internship candidates recently recruited by the Department to acquire much needed experience in preparation for the job market.

to recruit 120 interns and 70 learners before 30 June 2017. Not only are these young people going to be given on-the-job-training but we also hope to benefit from their fresh ideas and enthusiasm."

The internship programme will run for 12 months and participants will receive a stipend of stipend of R4500 for those with diplomas and R5 000 for degree graduates. Hopefully this will also assist the candidates on their various social responsibilities while they navigate the job market.

One of the graduates, Mbali Zulu in Communication Sections indicated her excitement over the opportunity which she believes will open many doors on her career path as a Communication Specialist. "Since I have joined the Department. I have learned and have realised that theory is completely different from the practical application of skill. Each and every day I am becoming more confident and better in what I do," stated Zulu.



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Premier of Mpumalanga
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