



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

E-News

**DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**



2021-22 *Quarter 1*

A Caring and Self-Reliant Society

BUDGET SPEECH 2021-22



MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale tabled the departmental budget speech at the Limpopo Provincial Legislature on Tuesday 13th April 2021.

Herewith some of the highlights from the speech:

INTEGRATED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT SUPPORT SERVICES

The National Department of Social Development has transferred R6.6million as part of a function shift to Provincial DSD during 2020/21. This was to ensure provision of food and nutrition security to the most vulnerable citizens of the Province.

An additional R5 million was allocated by the Provincial Government to provide an additional 14 250 food hampers as part of food relief.

SUPPORT FOR PERSONS WITH DISABILITY

In our effort to support persons with disabilities, the Department has set aside R82 million towards the three residential facilities in our Province namely Shiluvani Frail Care Centre in the Greater Tzaneen Municipality, the Centenary Home in Polokwane and Epilepsy SA in the Moutse area in Elias Motsoaledi Municipality.

ON GENDER BASED VIOLENCE

The Department, in collaboration with the Department of Public Works identified two buildings in the Thabazimbi and Thulamela Municipalities, to be used as shelters for victims of violence and the Department is in the process of identifying other buildings.

The Department set aside R11.5 million for the prevention of domestic violence, R14.9 million for Gender Based Violence and R13.5 million is earmarked for victim empowerment programmes.

ON SERVICES TO OLDER PERSONS

In the year under review, a total of 579 older persons received care and support in eight residential facilities. Unfortunately, we have lost ten older persons due to COVID-19 in our residential facilities and may their souls rest in peace.

During the new financial year, the Department will subsidise 568 older persons in our residential facilities and 3 751 in Service Centres. To that effect, an amount of R28.6 million has been allocated towards the care and protection of older persons.

ON ECD AND PARTIAL CARE SERVICES

Early Childhood Development remains one of the apex priorities of the ANC-led government. In the 2020/21 financial year, 187 894 children accessed ECD services.

As part of adhering to the norms and standards, the Department registered 125 ECDs through the Vangasali Campaign to ensure that no one is left behind. The Department delivered 2 559 PPEs and 293 water tanks to ECDs which enabled the centres to reopen and adhere to COVID-19 protocols.

Charlotte Maxeke Celebrations

By Khatso Molokela and Johannes Motshapo

In the commemoration of Charlotte Maxeke's 150 years anniversary, the people of Botlokwa were graced with the presence of Mme Maite Nkoana Mashabane, Minister of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities. The Limpopo Provincial Treasury in collaboration with the Ministry of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities cemented their relationship with the Botlokwa Special School by donating 81 boxes of sanitary towels. After the handover of sanitary towels, the minister visited the homestead of Charlotte Maxeke where she was accompanied by Deputy Minister for Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities, Mme. Hlengiwe Mkhize and Limpopo MEC for Sport, Arts and Culture, Thandi Moraka. Upon the visit, Mme Nkoana Mashabane men-



Sport, Arts and Culture MEC Thandi Moraka, Minister Maite Nkoana Mashabane and Deputy Minister Hlengiwe Mkhize hand over a historical photo of Charlotte Manny Makgomo Maxeke to the Manny family.

tioned Charlotte Maxeke as one of the struggle icons who was selfless and resilient. She further said that her unique character enabled her to become the first black woman to attain a Bachelor of Science Degree in South Africa despite colonial hardships. In the continuation of the celebration, the minister as well as the present dignitaries made their way to the Botlokwa African Methodist Episcopal Church to honour the memory of Charlotte Maxeke as she played a crucial role in the religious and political spheres respectively.

Limpopo Department of Social Development through the Directorate of Women, Youth and Persons with Disabilities contributed positively to the day by handing over food parcels to one of the disadvantaged families in the community.

Charlotte Maxeke Celebrations



Handing over of sanitary towels to Botlokwa Special School.



The Department of Social Development and Molemole Municipality Cllr Nakedi Seakamela (left) handing over food parcels to the Senwamadi family.

Stop the bullying!

The death of 15-year old Lufuno Mavhunga of Tshirenzheni village outside Thohoyandou in Limpopo, shocked a nation. The grade 10 learner of Mbilwi Secondary School committed suicide after a video depicting another learner assaulting her, went viral. Limpopo MEC for Social Development, Mme. Nkakareng Rakgoale condemned the incident and the spate of bullying incidents and violence at schools that have surfaced in the Province recently – especially via videos on social media. MEC Rakgoale has called on children who experience physical, verbal, social and cyber bullying to immediately report such to their parents and to their teachers: "Incidents of bullying will not come to an end until parents, civil society and government join hands and teach children and society at large about the dangers and consequences of this social ill", she said. MEC Rakgoale, Deputy Minister in the Presidency Thembu Seweya, Limpopo Education MEC Polly Boshielo, MPL Florence Radzilani and Mayors were among the mourners who bid a final farewell to Lufuno. MEC Rakgoale on the day vowed that relevant departments will be running awareness campaigns in a bid to avert more incidents of bullying and violence at schools.

By Witness Tiva

"The Children's Act 38 of 2005 places emphasis on protecting children against abuse and neglect and this law also works to eradicate bullying in schools. It gives every South African child the right to bring a case of bullying to court. It's important to note that the Act's aim is not to punish a bully but to restore the balance thrown off when one child caused harm to another. So, the focus is on restorative justice through specific programmes and processes.



Dignitaries' last respects to Lufuno Mavhunga



MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale consoles one of Lufuno Mavhunga's friends

Bullies will be held accountable for their actions, but the aim is to rehabilitate and not punish them".

MEC also encouraged the reporting of bullying and fights to authorities and pleaded with children not to record these incidents on their phones for social media distribution: "This also violates section 154 of the Criminal Procedure Act, which warns against the identification of children who are accused of crimes or are witnesses as some of these bullying incidents might end up in court."

MEC also encouraged the reporting of bullying and fights to authorities and pleaded with children not to record these incidents on their phones for social media distribution: "This also violates section 154 of the Criminal Procedure Act, which warns against the identification of children who are accused of crimes or are witnesses as some of these bullying incidents might end up in court."

Celebrating Africa Day



MECs console families



By Adèle van der Linde

On 16th April 2021, six learners of the Jim Chavani High School in Ximixoni village, Collins Chabane Municipality in the Vhembe District, died a horrific death when a bakkie they were being transported on, crashed into a house in the village. A whole community

was immersed in grief. MEC for Education in Limpopo, Mme. Polly Boshielo and Social Development MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale visited the school and the grieving families on Monday 19th April, to show support and offer their condolences. The duo were accompanied by Member of Parliament Mosa Chabane, Vhembe District Executive Mayor Dowelani Nenguda and Collins Chabane Municipal Mayor Moses Maluleke.

After having visited the families, MEC Rakgoale indicated that the Department will be continuing to assist the families by way of psychosocial support that had started shortly after the incident. "A task team has been established which is led by the municipalities and of which the two departments are part. The task team will assist the families to prepare for the funerals and advise them. Discussions will also be held to establish whether the funerals will be held together or on separate occasions. We are here to support them because we are all shocked, so imagine what the families are going through", MEC Rakgoale concluded.



Both photos: MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale and Collins Chabane Municipal Mayor, Cllr. Moses Maluleke, console family members of the six high school learners who passed away in a horrific vehicle accident.

Presidential Stimulus Package serves

By Adèle van der Linde, Kanakana Mantshimuli, Witness Tiva and Khatso Molokela



The Limpopo Department of Social Development has made significant strides in assisting Early Childhood Development Centers, through the COVID-19 Presidential Stimulus Package. The fund is aimed at assisting ECDs that have taken a knock from the negative economic impact brought about as a result of the pandemic. A total of R58 241 000 has been allocated to the Province, intending to benefit 17 600 ECD practitioners. Thus far, approximately R13 million has been paid out to 3058 verified employees.

The ECDs that have already benefited from across the Province are delighted that government remembered them, as some of the parents have withdrawn their children from attending at the centres due to COVID-19 and some can no longer afford to pay for the kids.

Sanitising time at Mpipi Crèche

Nestled among the majestic rock formations of the Sekhukhune District, lies the village of Gampahlele, home to the Mpipi Creche, which caters for the early childhood development of 57 children aged between 18 months and four years.

But even this seemingly quiet and peaceful village bore the brunt of the COVID-19 pandemic and subsequent hard lockdown in the country. ECD practitioner Rebecca Mathabatha (37) proclaims:

Nestled among the majestic rock formations of the Sekhukhune District, lies the village of Ga-



Presidential Stimulus Package serves

“It was so bad. We received no income whatsoever. I am the mother of three children aged 9, 15 and 18. The stimulus grant really changed my life for the better and now things are looking up”.

Mokiti Kanyane (54) agrees. Her children are already grown up, but due to the lockdown, paying parents could no longer contribute their fees and the general workers at Mpipi such as kitchen staff and groundsman lost their jobs. “We do everything ourselves. The additional money will never be enough but it really helps. I love my job and will be doing this until I go on pension.”



From left to right: Mme. Masetswane, Mme. Mathabatha, Mme. Kanyane

A visit to Mpipi proves that the staff are doing a sterling job of looking after the children’s needs while cleaning and cooking at the facility. The classrooms, office and playground are immaculately clean and neat and the children are happy and energetic.

The sanitising stations and other protocols are also impressive. “We have not had a single case of Coronavirus among the children or staff, since the onset of the pandemic”, says Kgaditse Masetswane (35), mother of three children aged 11, 12 and 17. Even for her, the stimulus grant has been life changing, although she received some income during the lockdown.

The conditions at the creche are really satisfactory and it is heart-warming to know that the practitioners are assisted to continue with their lives. The hope is that soon, things can return to normal and all ECD facilities can operate as before, to build a generation of patriotic and school-ready young people.

In the Vhembe District, one of the ECDs that have successfully applied for the stimulus fund is Gudani Community Crèche which is situated in Maebani village in the Makhado municipal area.

One of the practitioners, Glory Mavhulawa says the COVID-19 pandemic brought about difficulties for them since the first declaration of the state of emergency by President Ramaphosa over a year ago. “The stimulus relief fund package has contributed positively to our wellbeing as we have also been affected by the pandemic. This situation has also contributed to the decline of the enrolment of children at our center. Before the pandemic, the enrolment of children here was 86, which then dropped to the current number of 68. We are however delighted that government came to our rescue, we really want to appreciate the intervention by the department”, said Muvhulawa.

Presidential Stimulus Package serves



Gudani ECD in Vhembe District



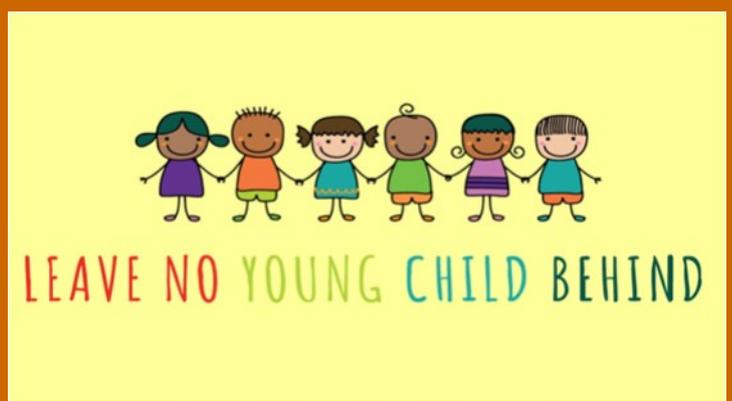
In addition, the center adheres to the prescribed protocols, after the Department of Social Development issued them with protective equipment and water tanks to ensure that the safety of children and staff is not

compromised.

In Mopani, one of the identified centres is Tondani Day Care Centre located in Giyani Section -A. The center largely depends on DSD funding and parents contributions for its operations. The center employs nine practitioners and it caters for 109 children.

Recipients of the grants and management also welcome the gesture saying that it keeps them going and they hope for more funding as the situation in which the centre is operating, is still dire, due to the current situation brought about as a result of the continuing lockdown period.

Still in the Mopani area, nine ECD practitioners from Ntsako ECD also got their money through the same presidential intervention.



International Day of Families

By Adèle van der Linde

International Day of Families, a day proclaimed by the United Nations to focus on the importance of the family unit, was well celebrated at Nesengani Royal Palace in the Thulamela Municipality, Vhembe district. Various stakeholders including learners with disabilities made their voices heard and MTN donated tablets to needy children in the community, which was accepted by Thovhele Vho-Nesengani. Deputy Minister Hendrietta Bogopane-Zulu also handed over toiletries and PPEs to ECDs in her personal capacity as part of her 50 birth year celebrations. In their addresses, MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale and Deputy Minister Bogopane-Zulu reminded the gathering that bullying is not limited to children at schools but that it sometimes starts at home or work where even parents are bullied by co-workers and family members.



Heroes save lives

In the month of May, employees from the Departments of Social Development and Sport, Arts and Culture, who share the Olympic Towers office building, donated blood. The departments have a number of regular donors who can now donate blood in the comfort of their office building every 56 days. If you are over the age of 16, weigh more than 50 kilograms, are in good health and consider your blood safe to donate, you should consider becoming a blood donor. Just one pint of your blood donated, can save three lives as the blood is divided into three products namely plasma, platelets and red blood cells. These products are not only given to vehicle accident victims or patients who undergo surgery, they are also used for patients with chronic conditions, cancer, burn victims and even in maternity cases. The SA National Blood Service has thanked those officials who donated on the day, for their selfless gift of life.





COVID-19

Vaccination drive

Social Development MEC Mme. Nkakareng Rakgoale, together with her Health counterpart Dr. Phophi Ramathuba monitoring the vaccination of elderly people at the Sekutupu Old Age home in Lebowakgomo. The two MECs urged elderly persons to be vaccinated to minimise the effects of the COVID-19 virus as they are vulnerable to the disease.



STAY

HOME

SAVE SOUTH AFRICA

Farewell Lizzy

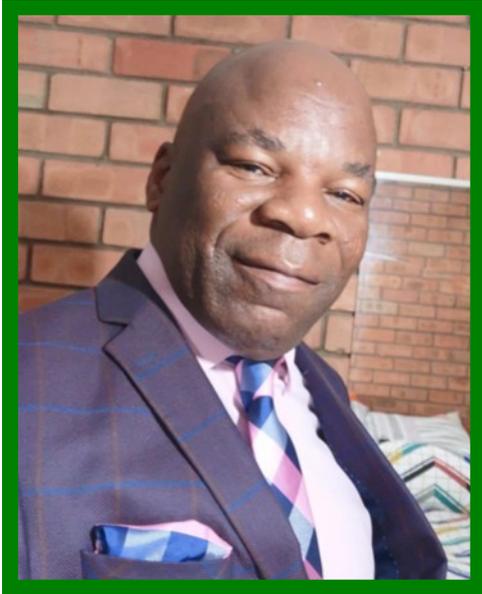


Head of Department, Mr. Desmond Mahopo, hands over a bouquet of flowers to Mme. Mashimbye, as a small token of appreciation on her last day at the office.

By Witness Tiva

The Limpopo Department of Social Development recently bid a fond farewell to the Chief Director for Social Welfare Services, Ms. Lizzy Mashimbye. Mashimbye had 36 years of uninterrupted service to the people of Limpopo, with diligence. The Head of Department Mr. Desmond Mahopo wished Mme. Mashimbye all the best with her retirement and well deserved rest after she dedicated most of her time to help the Department in its effort to create a self-reliant and sustainable society. MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale has urged officials who are still remaining in the service to emulate Mashimbye, who always had the interest of communities at heart.

MEET THE TEAM



KENNY MATHIVHA (Editor)



WITNESS TIVA



KANAKANA MANTSHIMULI



ADELE VAN DER LINDE



KHUTSO MOLOKELA

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Remember to like
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COVID-19

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Coronavirus

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10 111

SMS Crime Line: 32211
DSD 24-hour Command
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from any cell phone.
Child Welfare South Africa:
0861 424453.

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