



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

E-News



2021-22 *Quarter 3 & 4*

Social Relief of Distress reaches more communities

By Witness Tiva



Limpopo MEC for Social Development Nkakareng Rakgoale in October visited the Greater Tzaneen and Letaba Municipalities to provide relief in the form of food parcels, school uniforms and other basic amenities to two families that have lost their houses due to fire and to one child-headed household. This was part of the department's social relief of distress program aimed at supporting families during this difficult period as well as other crisis situations. MEC Rakgoale said social workers were to remain with the affected families to provide them with support until their lives were restored.



GLENCORE BRINGS HOPE TO LIMPOPO

By Adèle van der Linde

Significantly, during the month of October, the Head of Department Mr. Desmond Mahopo, delivered a message of support at the sod-turning ceremony of the R4 million Dilokong Thuthuzela Care Centre building site, donated by Glencore Alloys SA. The site is on the premises of the Dilokong Hospital in the Sekhukhune District, Fetakgomo-Tubatse Municipality.

Thuthuzela Care Centres are hubs for addressing Gender Based Violence, that care for victims and ensure successful prosecution of the perpetrators of GBV and especially rape.

The funding of this new centre is Glencore's answer to calls by communities for such facilities and further comes on the back of President Cyril Ramaphosa's undertaking of the funding of crisis centres for GBV.

Mr. Mahopo in his message on behalf of MEC Nkareng Rakgoale, indicated that incidents of GBV in



Mr. Mahopo joins other dignitaries in turning the sod for the new multi-million Rand project.

Limpopo are not only devastating for the moral fibre of society, but is also costing the country billions. He stated that the Dilokong Thuthuzela Care Centre should be staffed and utilised to the full by all partners involved.

Glencore Alloys SA is a commodity trading mining company with operations across Limpopo, Mpumalanga and the North West Provinces and the donation is part of the company's Corporate Social Responsibility Department led by the Chief Corporate and Social Responsibility Officer, Conroy Van Der Westhuizen.

The event was also graced by Fetakgomo-Tubatse Local Municipality Mayor Cllr. Ralepane Mamekoa who delivered the keynote address as well as representatives of the NPA, Department of Health and SAPS.

Families Matter



In a significant ceremony for the Families Matter Programme, which is an initiative of the Limpopo Department of Social Development, 50 citizens from all walks of life graduated from the Programme on 15th November 2021. The Programme is aimed at imparting care givers and parents with social skills that are facilitated through six interactive sessions. Some of the core topics which were touched on during the sessions include parenting skills, educating children about sexuality and

skills in discussing sex with children in a broader context. Ms. Martha Sekhuto who is one of the Programme participants said that the implementation of this initiative has vastly changed their lives as they are now able to confidently spark critical conversations with their children on issues that are often regarded as uncomfortable or taboo to discuss.

The graduation and certification ceremony was conducted at Mamoriswane, Mmotong village just outside of Polokwane in the Capricorn District. In attendance were the Department of Social Development representatives, a member of the local traditional council, various Programme leaders and the Families Matter Programme participants. Over 50 participants who completed the Programme received certificates of recognition on the day. Ms. Mkhabela who is one of the Pro-





programme facilitators urged the graduating class to take it upon themselves in ensuring that the skills they have acquired are transmitted to their various places of residence so that the knowledge does not only become limited to them but to those around them as well. Ms. Patricia Ntjie speaking on behalf of the Department expressed words of gratitude to the men who participated as she said that it is unlikely to find men engaging and taking part in such socially restorative movements. She furthermore encouraged the graduating participants to invite other individuals so that the Programme can gain more momentum in reaching greater heights in its impact.





Restorative Justice Week

By Khutšo Molokela

The Limpopo Department of Social Development launched Restorative Justice Week at the Ravele Community hall, in Tshilwavhusiku under the Makhado Local Municipality. The Launch was officiated by MEC for Social Development Mme. Nkakareng Rakgoale on the 21st of November 2021 as a key role to raise awareness on finding amicable ways to deal with crime offenders in a morally humane way as well as to offer the victims thereof support and closure through activities that minimize the trauma caused by crime. The event attracted a number of representatives from various organizations and sectors such as the South Africa Police Services, members of the local traditional council as well as representatives from the South African correctional Services. Prof. Ann Skelton from the University of Pretoria also gave an insightful look into probation services, mentioning that Charlotte Maxeke, who was celebrated in 2021, was a probation officer with a passion for her work.

The week showcases government services aimed at giving support to both victims and perpetrators of crime, reintegration of crime offenders back into society, as well as protecting children who are in conflict with the law. A civilian who was in conflict with the law during her childhood and now a social worker, provided a testimonial during the gathering whereby she expressed her gratitude for the social services and counseling she received during her correctional term. She alluded that had it not been for the restorative justice system that she went through, her life would still be entangled in acts of crime. She also encouraged those who are at the forefront of restorative justice to keep up the good course for moral regeneration.

Restorative Justice Week

MEC Rakgoale highlighted that the significance of hosting the launch in Tshilwavhusiku was also propelled by the growing numbers in acts of crime committed by children as young as ten years old in the area. The MEC furthermore stated that social ills are some of the contributing factors to the high number of contact crimes that are still persistent in the community. In her closing remarks, she made a call to communities, the civil society and individual community members to join hands with the government in order to build and nurture a crime free society.



Sanitary towels were also handed over to local schools, to leave a lasting legacy after the event.

Deputy Minister lets sex workers have their say



The Deputy Minister for Social Development, Ms. Hendrietta Bogopane Zulu, as part of World Aids Day build-up activities, had a dialogue with sex workers on 29th November 2021. The Deputy Minister and sex worker advocacy groups facilitated a robust engagement between sex workers, government, civil society, developmental partners and the general public about challenges that continue to plague the sex work trade.

Sex workers are a vulnerable group as defined in Goal 3 of the National Strategic Plan for HIV, TB and STIs. The Goal stipulates that, in order for the country to succeed in its quest to end HIV as a public health threat, all key and vulnerable populations such as sex workers need targeted interventions designed for challenges



unique to them. The National Sex Worker HIV Plan also calls for similar interventions geared towards addressing structural drivers of HIV within the sex worker context.

This dialogues also took place during the 16 Days for No Violence against Women and Children campaign which is commemorated between 25 November and 10 December.

SPECIAL OLYMPICS SUMMER NATIONAL GAMES LAUNCHED



SPECIAL OLYMPICS SUMMER NATIONAL GAMES LAUNCHED

By Witness Tiva

Limpopo MEC for Social Development Nkakareng Rakgoale says all government departments, the private sector, civil society and general members of the public must always strive for the advancement and socio-economic inclusion of people with disabilities. MEC Rakgoale was speaking on behalf of Premier Chupu Stan Mathabatha at the official launch of the Special Olympics Summer Games says although significant strides have been made to cater for people with disabilities, more still needs to be done to meet the 2030 agenda in dealing with the triple challenges of poverty, inequality and unemployment.

The Chairperson of Special Olympics South Africa Dr. Matthews Phosa says about 53 thousand people with disabilities in the country will participate in next year's special olympics to be hosted in Limpopo. The launch also formed part of the commemoration of International Day of Persons With Disabilities. He added that the event will boost the economy of the Province immensely.



STOP THE VIOLENCE!

By Witness Tiva and Adéle van der Linde

Limpopo MEC for Social Development Nkakareng Rakgoale says government will only be able to clamp down on GBVF if civil society and individual community members can join hands in the fight against the scourge. MEC Rakgoale was speaking at Dark City village outside Burgersfort where she visited the family of six -year old Boithakgatso Komane who was raped and killed in December 2021. A 28-year old man was arrested and appeared in court.

In the same week, a 15-year old girl was also found murdered at Vhondwe village in the Vhembe District . “These incidents happen at the time the country is still commemorating 16 Days of Activism for No Violence Against Women and Children”, MEC Rakgoale said and urged all members of the public, men in particular, to come on board and shun GBVF as it violates the rights of women and children.

Earlier in the 3rd Quarter of 2021-22, angry Polokwane and Seshego residents gathered at the Seshego Magistrate’s Court where a suspected serial killer appeared for the first time. 34-year old Themba Dube admitted to murdering several women in and around Polokwane and pointed out seven scenes where the bodies of the women were dumped.



Mourners gather in Mosesetjane village outside Mokopane, where MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale visited the family of 25-year old Lebogang Matlou (left), who was brutally killed, allegedly by her boyfriend and female accomplice.



STOP THE VIOLENCE!



MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale joins Women and Children Minister Maite Nkoana-Mashabane, MPL Rosinah Semanya and Polokwane Executive Mayor, Cllr. John Mpe at the Seshego Magistrates Court, where hundreds of community members called for no bail for alleged serial killer Themba Dube.



STOP THE VIOLENCE!

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with the crimes and appeared in court. The MEC was accompanied by the Sekhukhune District Executive Mayor Stan Ramaila and Councilors from the Fetakgomo-Tubatse Municipality. MEC Rakgoale has urged all members of the public, men in particular, to come on board

STOP THE VIOLENCE!

At Mosesetjane village outside Mokopane MEC visited the family of 25-year old Lebogang Matlou, who was brutally killed, allegedly by her boyfriend and another female suspect. Meanwhile, in a sad turn of events on Christmas Day, seven family members of the Ndou family were shot and killed allegedly by another family member in a family feud incident. In yet another incident, a 13-year old girl was raped, allegedly by a 74-year old man in Matswale township in Musina.

However, October 2021 will forever be remembered by Limpopo residents for the bold and perfectly executed kidnapping of three children of the Moti family, an affluent family who resides in Polokwane. The children were grabbed from the vehicle that was transporting them to school daily and their disappearance without a trace left South Africans countrywide on their knees, praying for the safe return of the children. The children were left, unscathed, next to the road in Vhembe, three weeks later.

Throughout the third quarter, social workers had their hands full in offering psychosocial support throughout the Province, as the scourge continued unabated. The high incidence of GBV and especially rape, led to an awareness campaign and community mobilisation on Gender Based Violence and Femicide being held at Mentz sports ground. MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale joined Transport and Community Safety MEC Mavhungu Lerule Ramakhanya and the SAPS at the event.



MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale addresses the SAPS Community Mobilisation and Awareness Campaign on GBV in Mankweng.



STOP THE VIOLENCE!



MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale joins Deputy Minister of Police in officially opening the new Victim Empowerment Centre in Thabazimbi, donated by Anglo Amandulbult.



STOP THE VIOLENCE!

REPORT GBV and Child Abuse:

**SAPS Crime Stop: 08600
10 111**

SMS Crime Line: 32211

**DSD 24-hour Command
Centre: 0800 428 428 (toll-
free) or request a social
worker *120*7867# (free)
from any cell phone.**

**Child Welfare South Africa:
0861 424453.**



A GOOD GESTURE FROM GLOBAL FUND BEYOND ZERO

By Kanakana Mantshimuli and Khuts'o Molokela

The 18th of February 2022 symbolized a very jubilant day for the Limpopo Department of Social development. The Department received personal protective equipment donated by the Global Fund Beyond Zero at an auspicious handover ceremony held at the Andrew Mehlape Social Development offices in Mankweng in the Polokwane Municipal area. The same gesture has already been extended to four other districts.

The Head of Department Mr. Desmond Mahopo received the PPEs on behalf of the MEC for Social Development, Mme Nkareng Rakgoale. "We are grateful for the partnership with Global Fund Beyond Zero NPO even in these trying times when Covid-19 is still prevalent amongst us, and we therefore believe that such generosity will help curb its spread even in our local and vulnerable communities" said Mr. Mahopo in his message of appreciation. The Capricorn District Director for DSD Ms. Mable Sethosa expressed high commitment in en-



From left to right Ms. Patricia Ntjie (Acting Social Work Manager: HIV & AIDS Programme), Mr Desmond Mahopo (HOD) and Dr. Bulumko Futshane (Director: Global Fund Beyond Zero)



From left to right: Dr. Futshane officially hands over the PPEs to Mr Mahopo with Ms. Kgomo Mabile (Director: Restorative Services) looking on

A GOOD GESTURE continued

ensuring the safe keeping and the employment of strict logistical security measures in the cargo transportation and distribution of the PPEs.

Several representatives from various offices at the Department and the generous donor were in attendance to witness the ceremonial handover. The PPEs are being distributed to 733

None Profit Organizations across the 5 districts of Limpopo province. The NPOs that will benefit from the donations include service centres for older persons, VEP centres, protective workshops, child and youth care centres as well as stimulation centres.

The Personal Protective Equipment include boxes of masks, sanitizers, disinfectants, and thermometers.

Speaking on behalf of the Global fund Beyond Zero, Dr Bulumko Futshane stated that they are excited to have established a relationship with the department of Social Development and they believe that this is the beginning of great engagements because

this will assist NPOs working on the ground with communities. He furthermore alluded that this initiative will add practical value even during the home visits by caregivers.



In Memoriam

In the third and fourth quarter of the 2021/2022 financial year, we lost a number of colleagues due to various reasons including roads accidents. May their souls rest in perfect peace. We miss them every day



**Takalani Nemagovhane
and Kgabo Mpja**



Miyeleni Mabunda



**Dikeledi Lucy
Boloka**

ECD FUNCTION SHIFT

By Witness Tiva

Limpopo MEC for Social Development Nkakareng Rakgoale has officially handed over the Early Childhood Development function to the Department of Education's MEC Polly Boshielo. Speaking during the event, MEC Rakgoale indicated that the Department of Social Development will continue to give all the necessary support to the Department of Education as it takes over the ECD function.



"I must emphasize that although the proclamations have been signed, at both national and provincial levels, the Department of Social Development will remain in the space of ECDs to ensure that necessary support is



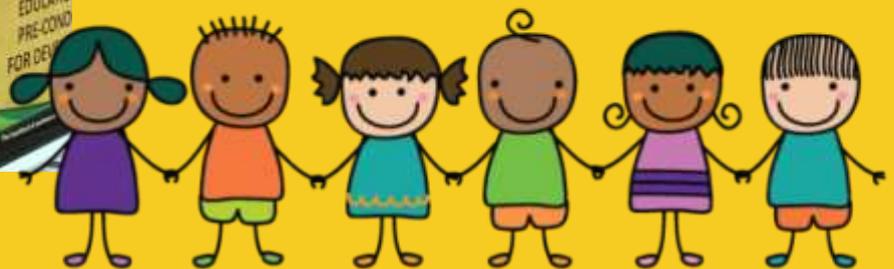
ECD FUNCTION SHIFT

provided to our counterparts from the Department of Education in the spirit of cooperative governance. The Department of Social Development will remain responsible for the functions related to social support and care and support to ECD programmes like the support currently provided to learners in schools." says MEC Rakgoale.



In her acceptance remarks, MEC Boshielo emphasized that the Department of Education will continue to focus on the foundation phase, as this will assist the Department to have improved matric results.

"As various stakeholders, we all have a stake in the essential work that must be done for our children to reach their maximum potential. We must see this as a good investment and the educational returns ac-



Limpopo celebrates World Social Work Day

By Khutšo Molokela



Jubilance at Provincial World Social Work Day

MEC for Social Development Mme Nkakareng addressed the Limpopo Provincial leg for world social work day commemoration that took place on the 18th Of March 2022. The auspicious event was held at the Bela-Bela multipurpose center, Bela-Bela municipal area in the Waterberg District. Bela-Bela Mayor, Gloria Seleka and the acting executive mayor Matsotsa Ledwaba as well as several local councilors and speakers were amongst the dignitaries in attendance.

The 2022 theme for world social workday is titled, “Co-building a New Eco-Social World: Leaving No One Behind” as stated by the International federation for Social Work. The provincial leg follows a series of events that took place across all the five districts within the Limpopo Province. Sekhukhune district was the first to host the commemorations which attracted social work professionals and Department officials. Speaking at the provincial leg, Head of

Limpopo celebrates World Social Work Day



department for DSD Limpopo, Mr. Desmond Mahopo highly commended the dedication of social workers in their practice by continuously staying committed to their work even in the most unfavorable circumstances that can often put their lives in danger.

"Notwithstanding all this, the job descriptions of our social workers and social auxiliary workers demand that they be at the forefront of responding to the needs of communities in times of natural disasters. We therefore call upon all our people to unite and work together with social work practitioners towards ensuring that we all participate in initiatives which promote the value of the environment in psychosocial needs of people as well as a key component of sustainable socio-economic development of the country." said MEC Rakgoale during her official address in Bela-Bela. The social workers present at the gathering were also given an opportunity to recommit to the credo of their profession.







World Social Work Day In the districts:



New leader for Central Drug Authority

By Witness Tiva

The newly appointed member of the Central Drug Authority (CDA), Elna Japisa Mathonsi has visited the Department of Social Development's Seshego Treatment Center to monitor compliance and to meet management at the center. The CDA is an advisory committee to the Minister of Social Development on Substance Abuse matters. Their main task is to ensure the implementation of National Drug Master Plan. The NDMP is a five year plan by the department to tackle the issues related to substance abuse. Mathonsi recently had a meet and greet session with MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale and the Head of the Department Desmond Mahopo.

The meeting was about self introduction and to make the MEC aware that she's part of the CDA deployed to Limpopo province for a period of five years. Mathonsi will develop a tour plan to the funded NPOs providing services related to substance abuse services in the province.

From left to right: Ms. Kgomo Maibele (Director Restorative Service, Head of Department Mr. Desmond Mahopo, Ms. Mathonsi (CDA), MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale and the Manager of the Seshego Treatment Centre, Mr. Phuti Cholo.



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Old Parliament Building Zone F
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Tel; 015 632 9900
Fax; 015 633 7113
Postal Address:
Private Bag X80

MOPANI DISTRICT

Unigaz Road, Giyani
Tel: 015 811 4300
Fax: 015 811 4357
Postal Address:
Private Bag X9689

VHEMBE DISTRICT

Old Parliamentary Building
Thohoyandou
Tel: 015 962 4958
Fax: 015 962 4623
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Private Bag X5040

CAPRICORN DISTRICT

Moolman Building
34 Hans Van Rensburg Street
Polokwane
Tel: 015 290 9069 | Fax: 015 291 5917
Postal Address: Private Bag X9709
Polokwane, 0700

WATERBERG DISTRICT

Cnr. Elias Motsoaledi & Thabo Mbeki Drive
Modimolle, Opposite Hoer Skool Nylstroom
Tel: 014 718 1700 | Fax: 014 718 1780
Postal Address:
Private Bag X1051
Modimolle, 0510



COVID-19

Together, we can beat
Coronavirus

REPORT GBV and Child Abuse:

**SAPS Crime Stop: 08600
10 111**

**SMS Crime Line: 32211
DSD 24-hour Command
Centre: 0800 428 428 (toll-
free) or request a social
worker *120*7867# (free)
from any cell phone.**

**Child Welfare South Africa:
0861 424453.**

A Caring and Self-Reliant Society

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