



LIMPOPO
PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA



**DEPARTMENT OF
SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT**

E-News



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A Caring and Self-Reliant Society

MEC WELCOMES NEW HOD AND DIRECTORS

By Khutso Molokela and Johannes Mothapo

On the 9th of April 2021, MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale officially welcomed the newly appointed Head of Department and six new directors in the department.

The newly appointed directors include the director in the HoD's Office, Mr. M.S Mothapo, who will be responsible to primarily support the HoD, whereas Mr. J.M Mohopo has been officially appointed as the Head of Department—the accounting officer and administrative head of the Department.

Furthermore, the Department instated the new director for Polokwane Welfare Complex, Mr. M. E Monyamane to render holistic social welfare services at the Complex.

To add onto the number of appointees, Ms. K.A Maebela is the new director of Restorative Services, in which she will focus on the minimization of substance abuse and crime.

Early Childhood Development and Partial Care has also been prioritized by appointing its new director, Ms. D.L Khwinana Moloto who will deal with the provision of Early Childhood Development and Care.

Among the number of appointees Mr. M.L Maphutha is the new director in the Sekhukhune District in which he will be coordinating its social development services.

In order to combat the ongoing social ills including Gender Based Violence, the Department has appointed a director for Youth and Women under the directorate of Community Development. Ms. K.A Phukhubje will have this very crucial responsibility within the Department.

In the MEC's welcome message to the new appointees, in the presence of the Executive Management team, she used the opportunity to congratulate the Department for obtaining an unqualified audit opinion. She praised the team for their teamwork and for being innovative and proactive, especially during the difficult period of the National Lockdown. MEC Rakgoale further officially welcomed the new and wished him well in leading the team. The HoD in his response thanked everyone for having faith in him to lead the Department and serve the people of the Province.

The Department is confident that the new appointments will have a positive impact and bring about sustainable growth.



MEC WELCOMES NEW HOD AND DIRECTORS



The newly appointed directors are (front from left to right): Ms. Moloto, Ms. Maebela, Mr. Monyamane, Ms. Phukhubje and back: Mr. Mothapo, HOD Mahopo, MEC Rakgoale and Mr. Maphutha.

Disaster relief after floods

By Adèle van der Linde

The months of January and February usually brings with it heavy rain in the Northern provinces and neighbouring countries of South Africa. Although the rain seemed to have stayed away in the past couple of years, meteorologists and residents alike predicted some good rains for Limpopo early in 2021. However, nobody could foresee the advent of Cyclone Eloise. The storm made landfall in mid-January in Mozambique and brought with it heavy rains and winds to the Mopani, Vhembe, Sekhukhune and Capricorn districts. The Department through dedicated officials and social workers, along with disaster management teams and municipalities had their hands full with assessing the damage and losses suffered by communities, but the necessary relief of distress was offered to those who suffered as a result of the storms.

In the Musina municipal area, one community was even cut off from the rest of the world after a bridge was washed away by flood waters. This necessitated the SANDF to offer assistance in the form of a military helicopter, which allowed for social workers to be flown into the area and assess the situation, before relief aid was offered.

Also in the Vhembe District, MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale visited the Madimbo area, where several households were affected by the disaster and assessed by social workers. While visiting the affected families, she handed over food and care parcels.



Back to school

By Adèle van der Linde and Witness Tiva

One of the Department of Social Development's annual programmes is that of providing school uniform to vulnerable learners during or before the start of the school year in January to February. This year, although the same procedure was followed namely identifying vulnerable learners in all 5 districts and distributing uniform, the official handover ceremonies had to be adjusted to adhere to COVID-19 protocols. Beneficiaries, guests and officials could only total a number of 50 at each venue. Therefore, the handover was merely symbolic and the actual distribution continued regardless. A total of 1380 sets of uniforms and other school necessities like school bags were distributed this year for the 2020-2021 financial year.

The programme kicked off in Vhembe on a rainy day in Ha-Rabali, Makhado Municipality where a small group gathered at the Londonani Care Centre, to listen to MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale's words of encouragement and to receive their gifts. In Vhembe, 300 learners benefitted from the gesture. Next in line was Mopani, where the handover at Khakhala Village, Greater Giyani Municipality, was coupled with the handing over of food parcels through the Department's COVID-19 food distribution program, targeting 37 288 families in the province.

The symbolic handover marked the distribution of parcels to 7 500 in the Mopani District. The families left vulnerable due to the economic downturn brought about by COVID-10, were also identified and assessed by the department's community development practitioners and social workers. A total of 521 learners in Mopani District benefited from the handover.

The handover process moved from Mopani to the Sekhukhune District at Ga-Phaahla, Makhuduthamaga Municipality (total of 225 beneficiaries), then to Moshate Village in the Mogalakwena Municipality (total of 256 beneficiaries) and finally to Slaaphoek Village, Blouberg Municipality (78 beneficiaries).

In each of the handover ceremonies, MEC Rakgoale who is very fond of children, expressed her disappointment at not being able to hand over the uniform to each and every recipient. She once again urged the private sector and other stakeholders to match government's efforts to keep children in school by supplying them with the necessary tools such as school uniform, which has proved to be an equalizer and a way in which to restore the dignity of these learners.

"Let us all join hands in ensuring that our precious children

from all walks of life have access to all possible opportunities, by giving them the basic tools to do so", MEC said.



Left: MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale reaching down and reaching out to learners in Mopani.

Back to school photo board



Happy Birthday Deputy Minister

By Witness Tiva

Social Development Deputy Minister Hendriëtta Bogopane-Zulu in partnership with the National Lotteries Commission (NLC) and eSimphiwe Child-care Centre embarked on a campaign to assist ECD centres in rural areas to comply with the Covid 19 regulations and enable ECD centres to open their doors to children while the country is still on Level 1 of the risk-adjusted strategy. This to also mark her birthday in the month of March.

The Deputy Minister, accompanied by MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale and other dignitaries visited Ntekuma Day Care Centre in Ga-Kama, Mmabolo in Capricorn District, to hand over the PPEs and celebrate with the children of the Centre.

In 2019, President Cyril Ramaphosa during the State of the Nation Address (SONA) announced that Early Childhood Development will move from the Department of Social Development to the Department of Basic Education and the two Departments are working together towards this realisation.

The Department of Social Development is still responsible for the registration, provision and the administration of the ECD services.

To assist unregistered ECD programs, the Department launched the Vangasali campaign to ensure that all ECD centres are registered. On 5 February 2021, the Department of Social Development launched the Early Childhood Development Employment Stimulus Relief Fund, which is supported by the Presidential Employment Stimulus Fund. The fund is part of the DSD's intervention to assist ECD services by cushioning them against the impact of the COVID 19 pandemic. The Department received R496 million to assist the sector which was amongst the hardest hit by the pandemic. By the end of the closing date, 4319 ECD programs in Limpopo had applied for the fund. DSD is in the process of finalising the ECD Employment Stimulus Relief Fund payments.



Right: Deputy minister for Social Development, Mme. Hendriëtta Bogopane-Zulu and top: MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale.

Foundation reaches out

By Witness Tiva

Limpopo MEC for Social Development, Mme. Nkakareng Rakgoale has recently expressed her appreciation towards a commitment by the Mahlasedi Foundation to distribute food parcels to 12 thousand households in identified areas of the Province. This was announced during meeting held at the Premier's Office between the MEC and the Foundation's representatives.

MEC Rakgoale, who represented Premier Chupu Stanley Mathabatha, said the food parcels will go a long way in assisting families that have been left food insecure during the lockdown period. She said the food parcels will aid in augmenting the Department's COVID-19 Food Relief Programme, which is targeting 37 thousand households.

"On behalf of the Limpopo Government, in particular the honourable Premier who mandated me to be part of this session, we really want to appreciate this gesture by Mahlasedi Foundation, who will be distributing the food

parcels themselves. We thank them from the bottom of our hearts, as it happens at a time when our economy is crippled and our people are suffering. As government, we will be working together with them to ensure that our people benefit from this gesture", concluded MEC Rakgoale.

Mahlasedi Foundation Director Bert Pretorius says the level of vulnerability in rural communities prompted them to come on board and join hands with the Limpopo Provincial Government.

"We have seen the tremendous need and people's desperation and something we have realized is that there are urban areas in other provinces but Limpopo was found to be the most rural area and that's why we realized that we needed to make a decision. Our hearts are in rural areas and we want to say to the rural communities that we see you and we hear you", said Pretorius.



Acting Head of Department Mr. Desmond Mahopo, MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale and Mahlasedi Foundation Director Bert Pretorius.

MEC INSPECTS NEWLY BUILT OFFICES

By Adèle van der Linde

MEC Nkakareng Rakgoale made a quick stop at the construction site of the Saselamani DSD offices in the Vhembe District, while on duty in the Collins Chabane municipal area, to observe the progress there. She identified a number of small issues that needed to be addressed before the building is officially taken in use and occupied. The offices will be officially opened as soon as the process has been completed. The offices will enable the Department and its agencies to render services closer to the people.



DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

HEAD OFFICE CONTACT DETAILS

**Olympic Towers
21 Biccard Street
Polokwane 0699
Private Bag
X9710**

DISTRICTS

SEKHUKHUNE DISTRICT

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

MOPANI DISTRICT

Inigazi 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
Postal Address:
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



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Department of Social Development Limpopo—DSD.

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E-mail: info@dsd.limpopo.gov.za | Website: www.dsd.limpopo.gov.za | Contact us: 0152304300/ 4330 | Fax: 0152912335/ 2182