



LIMPOPO

PROVINCIAL GOVERNMENT
REPUBLIC OF SOUTH AFRICA

DEPARTMENT OF SOCIAL DEVELOPMENT

ONLINE NEWSLETTER

QUARTER 1 2018/19

The biggest event on the calendar of any government department undisputedly is the tabling of its budget speech at the Lebowakgomo Legislative Chamber. This year, the Department tabled together with the Department of CoGHSTA. In her address, MEC Mapula Mokaba-Phukwana



MEC Mapula Mokaba-Phukwana and guests celebrate the tabling of the departmental budget speech.

HOD Daphne Ramokgopa is flanked by Messrs Mathale Mothapo (left) and Pheto Ramalepe.



Event Ushers pose with the MEC and HOD.



Event Ushers assist guests to register.

quoted from Oliver Reginald Tambo’s narration in Lusaka on the 21st April 1979 about: “A vision of a future in which we shall no longer experience the haunting spectacle of a child digging through refuse heaps, searching for rotten pieces of food’.

“In tandem with that vision”, she continued, “the Department of Social Development in Limpopo envisage and remain committed to the creation of a Caring and Self –Reliant Society. This embodies the constitutionally enshrined obligation to provide for the right to access social assistance and social services to those unable to support themselves and their dependents.

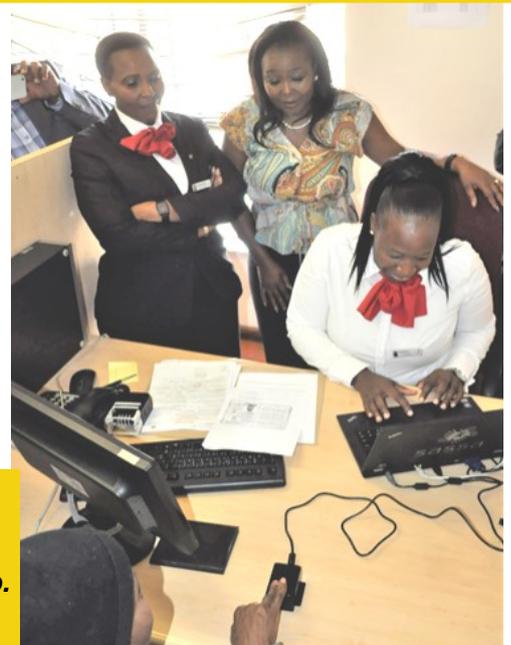
The same sentiments were well articulated by our country’s founding President Nelson Mandela when he said: ‘*There is nothing I fear more than waking up without a programme that will help me bring a little happiness to those with no resources; those who are poor, illiterate and ridden with terminal disease.*’ This budget vote is thus a program aimed at breathing life to our citizens, who are still unable to access appropriate care, basic nutrition, shelter, health care and social services and continue to stare the scourge of poverty in the eye.”

SASSA INTRODUCES NEW SYSTEM



MEC Mapula Mokaba-Phukwana is introduced to the new registration system for SASSA grant recipients, by Regional Executive Manager of SASSA Limpopo, Ms. Matshidiso Mamabolo.

Photos: Adele van der Linde



MESSAGE FROM THE MEC



The commitment to serve our people must show on the very first day of work. It is what we do at the beginning that will not only demonstrate the determination to serve but also propel the delivery of services and yield results when the end nears, when we take stock of our annual achievements in the third and fourth quarters. Hence, as a Department we have started on a high note.

We have begun this financial year by hitting the ground running, crisscrossing the province such that we have already visited each of our districts not less than twice. This vast and rural province of ours requires more services than could be pro-

vided within one financial year, but we strive to reach out and touch as many people as possible with the minimal resources allocated to us.

Through this quarterly online newsletter, we hope to reach as many stakeholders as possible, to highlight the work we do and share in the experiences of building a caring and self-reliant society with all our people. We hope that through this channel we will build an understanding of what we

MESSAGE FROM THE HOD



The first quarter of this Financial Year is over and we are proud to display some of the programmes and projects we have rolled out to communities in the Province. As we continue to strive to build a caring and self-reliant society, we have once again highlighted the importance of protecting our children, during Child Protection Week as well as International Children's Day. International Day of Families was celebrated together with the launch of Child Protection Week as we believe the family unit remains key in ensuring the protection and nurturing of our children.

Furthermore, the official handing over of tools of trade to districts in the MEC's recent Road Shows, once again shows our commitment to ensuring that services are taken to all of our people, even on the periphery of the Province. We will continue to find ways in which to innovatively spend the budget allocated to the Department.

We trust that this newsletter will give the public some insight into what we have achieved thus far and we believe that we will complete the tasks we have set ourselves out to accomplish, before the end of this Financial Year. Our focus remains the people of Limpopo!

HANDING OVER TOOLS OF TRADE



Waterberg district officials receive tools of trade, in the form of laptops and vehicles, from MEC Mapula Mokaba-Phukwana.

Photos: Adele Van Der Linde.

The MEC for Social Development, Mapula Mokaba-Phukwana recently visited districts in Limpopo to address issues such as a shortage of equipment and transport for officials, poor infrastructure, support to social service professionals and many other challenges that the officials face in their daily operations at the workplace.

The purpose was to ensure that the Department of Social Development supports officials in such a way that any hindrances in

assisting the public is alleviated and a firm support initiative is cemented.

The MEC's message to DSD officials: **“Never be reluctant to reach out to me concerning work related issues, I will most definitely welcome your queries”**.

The MEC's overall aim with the programme is to portray her empathy, support and involvement to all the departmental employees' endeavours. During the sessions, MEC Mokaba-



The of Chief Director: Service Delivery Coordination, Ms. Bella Mohale (left) with the Head of Department Ms. Daphne Ramokgopa, at the Vhembe District Handing over tools of trade. (Right) Vhembe District Social Development Officials in uniform



Photos: Phaniel Mamabolo

HANDOVER CONTINUED

Phukwana addressed the challenges that were distressing officials and especially social services professionals. After each session, a symbolic handover of new working tools was conducted.



Sekhukhune District Road Show.

Photos: Adele van der Linde



Mopani District Road Show.

Photos: Adele van der Linde



Capricorn District Road Show

Photos: Adele van der Linde

CHERISH & NURTURE OUR CHILDREN– NOT FOR JUST A WEEK!

CHILD PROTECTION WEEK 27-03 JUNE 2018

The aim of Child Protection Week is to raise awareness and unite all South Africans to collectively care for and protect children by upholding their constitutional rights as enshrined in both the Constitution and the Legislative Children’s Act 38 of 2005.

This year’s child protection week was launched at Tshifulanani in the Thulamela Municipality, Vhembe District and was commemorated together with Family day.



The MEC posing with children at Little Blessings in Polokwane.

Photo: Adele Van Der Linde.



MEC enjoying some fun time, dancing with the children of various schools around Tshifulanani.

Photo: Phanel Mamabolo.

A play about a doctor and a patient at Provincial launch of child protection week.

Photo: Phanel Mamabolo.



TAKE A GIRL/BOY CHILD TO SCHOOL



Future social services professionals from Kotola & Kutuka Secondary School.
Photo: Phaniel Mamabolo

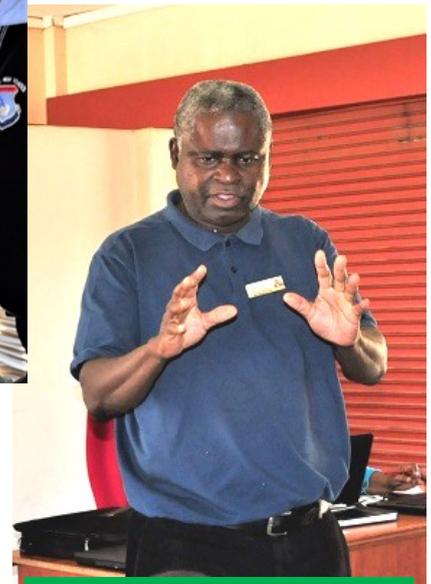
The “take a girl child to school” campaign’s aim is to educate learners about the importance of going to school and daily duties of a Social services professionals so that they can serve their communities on challenges and pressure that drive the focus of youth astray.

The Sekhukhune District edition saw the invitation of the Kobola and Kutuka Secondary Schools’ learners, to visit the Matlala Office and get first hand experience on the daily duties of social services professionals.



Learners jumped right in and “worked” with their seniors and were also very eager to look for answers to their questions.

Photos: Phaniel Mamabolo



Mr. Mphahlele exhorting the importance of “Take a Girl/Boy Child to Work”

INTERNATIONAL CHILDREN'S DAY



International child protection day was celebrated in Waterberg District, at the Antioch River church in Bela-Bela township. The day was first recognised on the 1st of June 1925 during the World Conference for Protection of Children in Geneva.

It is a global campaign that honours and recognise children's rights and protection wherever possible. The key issues addressed covered the vulnerability of children especially females including, trafficking, abuse be it; sexually, emotionally, mentally or physically.

Children deserve the right to survival, develop to the fullest, be protected from harmful substance abuse and exploitation and the right to participate freely and fully in family, social and academic life.

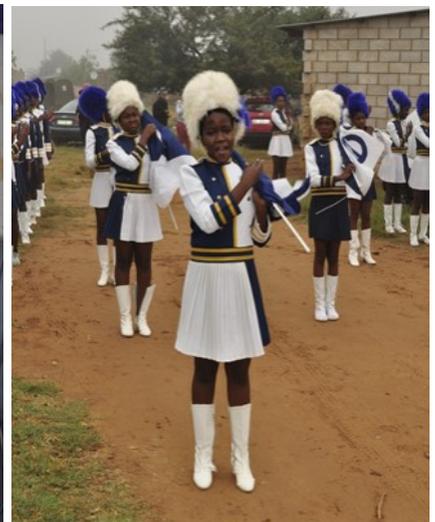
Nelson Letoka from Childline Limpopo demonstrating what happens when emotionally abusing a child.

Photo: Phaniel Mamabolo



Waterberg District Director Mr. Matome Makwela with the programme director of the day, Basetsana Lhutjo from Mmamakwa Primary School

Photo: Phaniel Mamabolo



Drum majorettes led the march through the streets.

Photo: Adele van der Linde



LAUNCH OF YOUTH MONTH

The launch of youth month in Ga-Mashashane, Mhlonong stadium attracted various stakeholders (the provincial government Department, the locals and school learners).

The exhibition was to address key issues on youth educational, lifestyle and career support programmes and to announce which district will host the Youth day event.

The learners were given youth month T-shirts, goodie bags with stationery inside, and the aim is to encourage the learners to study hard, respect themselves, elders and others.



The initiative's goal is to ensure majority of youth in the country are exposed to greater paths that would improve their lives and the economy of the country as a whole.

***“TODAY’S YOUTH, IS TOMORROW’S LEADERS”
- NELSON MANDELA***



Ready to sing the National Anthem.

Photo: Adele Van Der Linde



Youth Day T-shirts and a DSD magazine.

Photo: Adele Van Der Linde

FAMILY DAY AT NOAH'S ARK



Parents, family members and guardians with their children. (By law, we are not allowed to show the children's faces.)

Photo: Cedrick Sekhula

There is a need to make families in all communities aware that children deserve a safe, secure and loving home, rather than to be placed in a centre. They tend to lose a sense of belonging, identity and participation in community activities while they should be given opportunities to grow and develop in a conducive environment. With this in mind, a family day was held at the Noah's Ark Place of Safety in Mopani District, on the 14th of June 2018. The Centre assists vulnerable children that need shelter and guidance.

A great number of children placed in the centre due to different kinds of abuse and maltreatment or neglect, is an indication that society is failing to take care of and protect their children and that society has shifted from *Ubuntu* to individualism. There's a saying that, "*it takes a village to raise a child*".

The placement of children at a centre should be the last resort and it has been proven that the more these children are reunited or integrated with their families, the more they find themselves build a positive self image and a feeling of security and belonging.

The theme of this year's Family Day was **Families and inclusive society**. The focus was on the importance of ensuring equal justice for all family members in attaining sustainable development goals. Children need to be loved, understood and respected, even though some families might not see it as a priority.

REPORT CHILD ABUSE, NEGLECT & EXPLOITATION!



Childline
SOUTH AFRICA

08000 55 555

40TH IASWG INTERNATIONAL AWARD

The 40th annual symposium of the International Association for Social Work with Groups, was recently held in Skukuza, Kruger National Park. The symposium presented a great opportunity to honour the selflessness of strong and proficient social work professionals.

The celebration was opened with a performance by an older person's choir in remembrance of the "Mother of the Nation", the late Winnie Madikizela-Mandela, who was not only an anti-apartheid activist but also a social work professional.

At the event, the Department's Chief Director: Social Welfare Services, was honoured for her contribution towards social development in the Province and the country. She was further honoured for being instrumental in transforming the focus of service delivery from a curative model to a developmental approach and for promoting active ageing programmes, resulting in Limpopo being the first province to have an older persons soccer club and older persons choir competitions.

Lisebo (Lizzy) Mashimbye grew up in Soweto in poverty. She lost her father at the age of nine and her mother was a domestic worker. She took active part in the 1976 uprising of the youth and realised the power of groups fighting social injustices and in addressing issues of social development and economic change. Inspired by social workers at the forefront of the struggle against Apartheid like Winnie Mandela, Ellen Khuzwayo and Mot-



lalepula Chabaku, she studied social work at the University of Fort Hare.

She worked in impoverished rural areas in the Limpopo Province and was deeply touched by the plight of women who were abused emotionally, physically and psychologically because of a lack of education, unemployment and economic power. She initiated numerous projects with vulnerable groups to empower them, using social group work as a vehicle to drive change.

Presently, more than 18 thousand older persons and more than 4 thousand people with disabilities are accessing services provided by the Department under her leadership. She is driven by the need to change the lives of people for the better and convinced that social group work is the prime vehicle to bridge divides.

DSD BEST DEPARTMENT AWARD

Social development was nominated by Fulufhelo Special School as the best department in supporting the school with their Casual Day event for persons with disabilities.

Deputy director of HRP & EE, Mr Ruben Mabilu, received the award on behalf of the department. The accolade paints a clear portrait of consistent involvement and the support by the department to the institution and an effective interactive communication between the employees and top management.

The Department remains committed to reach out to stakeholders and to address issues of critical importance together with members of the community in order for the community to feel worthy, respected and valued.



Deputy director of H.R.P & E.E and the H.O.D with the award.

Photo: Phaniel Mamabolo



Mr Mabilu with the awards.

Photo: Phaniel Mamabolo

**BUILDING A CARING
SOCIETY. TOGETHER.**

FROM THE DESK OF EMPLOYEE HEALTH & WELLNESS**TIPS ON HOW TO QUIT SMOKING**

31 May was World No Tobacco Day. Nicotine is addictive both physically and psychologically. Smoking can harm yourself and or those next to you. Both active and passive smoking are equally dangerous. However, quitting smoking is a challenging process.

SELF HELP TIPS TO QUIT SMOKING:***Tip #1: Get rid of your cigarettes and other smoking paraphernalia***

Remove cigarettes and tobacco from home or your pockets. Eliminate all items such as ash-trays, lighters that will make you think less of cigarettes.

Tip #2: Avoid Peer Group

Stay away from other smokers as much as possible as they are likely to tempt you.

Tip # 3: Try use smoking cessation devices

Smoking cessation devices such as patches or gums may divert your attention from smoking.

Tip # 4: Quit with a friend

A close friend or family can provide you with the support needed to quit to fight cigarette craving.

Tip # 4 Avoid smoking triggers

Triggers are things you do or places you frequently visits which are associated with smoking.

FROM THE DESK OF EMPLOYEE HEALTH & WELLNESS CONTINUED***Tip # 5: Stay Active***

Do some light or moderate exercise which help the body to get rid of excessive nicotine. Join DSD aerobics, soccer or netball teams.

Tip # 6: Take a deep breath

Stress is one of the triggers for nicotine cravings. Whenever you feel carving for smoking, take a deep breath in and slowly let it out to help you relax and calm down.

Tip # 7: Drink plenty of water

Water speeds up the nicotine detox and eases cough.

Tip # 8: Meditate

Meditation is a form of deep breathing and relaxation. This help to handle some of the psychological aspects of nicotine withdrawal.

Tip # 8 Reduce your caffeine intake

Nicotine suppresses the effects of caffeine which after quitting smoking will have stronger effect on you. Coffee is a stimulant which increases your heart rate and make dealing with stress more difficult.

Tip # 9 Get a stress Ball

Buying a stress relief ball may assist towards developing new healthy habits for dealing with stress

Tip # 10 Keep healthy Snack

Quitting smoking may increase your appetite. When smoking carving strikes eat a snack like baby carrot, celery sticks etc. This will help busy to ignore the carving.

Tip # 11 Clean your home

The smell of tobacco smoke even when stale can trigger your cravings. As soon as you have quit smoking, freshen up your home, wash clothes, steam the furniture and thoroughly clean all the carpet including in the car.

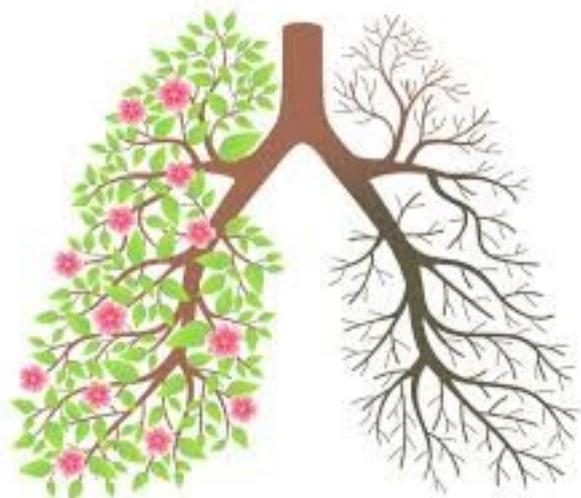
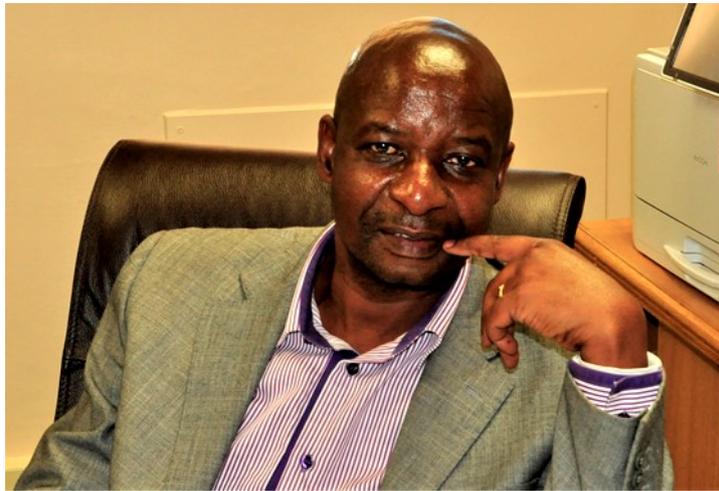


PHOTO GALLERY



MEET THE TEAM

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